




Speech By  
**Hon. Patrick Weir**

**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 December 2025

**VALEDICTORY**

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, before we officially adjourn the final sitting day for 2025, I would like to share a few reflections. We would be here all night if I were to mention every staff member individually, but I do want to extend my thanks to each and every Parliamentary Service team member for their contribution to the effective running of the service.

I wish to echo the comments made by others, and on behalf of all members thank our parliamentary attendants, led by Elicia Phillips and Lynne Richards, for the support they provide us. You are always ready to assist us when needed, and your dedication contributes to the smooth running of the chamber. Thank you to the Hansard and broadcasting team, led by Jo Mathers, who ensure the proceedings of the House are accessible to the public. I thank the outgoing Sergeant-at-Arms and Manager of Security, Andrew Hawkins, for his service and assistance over the past year, and I thank Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Phil Flaherty for his continued support and for stepping into the role of Acting Sergeant-at-Arms.

I thank Micheal Griffiths for his work coordinating the ongoing refurbishment works in the Parliamentary Annexe, with works now focused on level 5 colonnade paving and level 5 and 6 interior works. I also thank Mark Richardson and Sean Neagle and the team for overseeing the unexpected works required remediating the Old House following water ingress from Cyclone Alfred. Thank you to Lisa Rayner, Paul Wood and the property and projects team for their ongoing work ensuring the functionality of the 97 electorate offices across the state. I wish to thank our gardeners Megan Wilkinson and Mandy Lean. I think we can all agree that the parliamentary grounds are beautifully maintained.

As I have said before, as Speaker, I enjoy seeing students and members of the public visit Parliament House. Over the last year, we welcomed 60,731 visitors to the parliamentary precinct, including 22,767 students. Additionally, our education team, led by Rebecca Quinnell and supported by Maria Mead, Kirsten Murray and our First Peoples Liaison Officer Peter Yagmoor, conducted 33 virtual activities with 1,046 participants and organised another 10 activities in regional locations, including Kingaroy, Cairns, the Whitsundays and Central Western Queensland, reaching another 2,497 participants. I was pleased to join the team at several of the outreach visits where I presided over youth parliaments and engaged with students at regional schools.

Thank you to Bernice Watson, Acting Director Assembly and Committee Services; our First Clerk Assistants; committee secretaries and staff; the clerks at the table and our Table Office team. I acknowledge Monique Harmer, Director of Property and Facility Services, and the work of the entire division in maintaining our facilities and heritage buildings.

I thank the catering team, led by Kelly Baker and executive chef Anthony Naylor, for their continued outstanding service. Many members will remember the Showcasing Queensland event held recently, promoting the collaboration between the Lucinda Bar and Strangers' Restaurant with the Queensland Distillers Association. The parliamentary catering team are consistently researching and

actively pursuing opportunities to work with local Queensland businesses, continuing the focus of providing an expanded offering from Queensland producers.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all the cleaners, led by Holly Van Blerk, Azra Besic and Sanja Luscombe, for keeping our precinct and historic building spotless and welcoming. Thank you to James Rasmussen and the entire IT team for the ongoing support provided to members and Parliamentary Service staff and for overseeing our digital transformation, which is no small feat. I thank our Parliamentary Library, led by Cecelia Ryan, for their assistance in preparing research reports for members and staff and for overseeing our various catalogues and collections, which are now available online.

I wish to recognise the work of Craig Atkinson, Director of Corporate and Electorate Services, and thank the corporate services division for the important work they do, often behind the scenes, to keep the parliamentary service running. I must not forget to thank our Clerk, Neil Laurie, for his sage and trusted advice, and our Deputy Clerk, Michael Ries, and his team for their vital contribution. Thank you to the esteemed Deputy Speaker and member for Scenic Rim, Jon Krause, for all the support he provides me and for his assistance in hosting visiting dignitaries. The list is already growing for next year.

I thank the panel of temporary Speakers: James Lister, member for Southern Downs; Jim McDonald, member for Lockyer; Natalie Marr, member for Thuringowa; David Kempton, member for Cook; Mark Furner, member for Ferny Grove; James Martin, member for Stretton; Chris Whiting, member for Bancroft; and Barbara O'Shea, member for South Brisbane. I further thank Marty Hunt, member for Nicklin, for his assistance as a temporary Speaker.

I would also like to acknowledge the media gallery, led by President Marlina Whop, for the important job they do in sharing the work of this House with the public. I extend a heartfelt thankyou to the staff in the Speaker's office, Coral-Leah Kemp and Jacklyn Hale, for supporting me in my role as Speaker.

I wish all members a very merry Christmas and hope that the break provides an opportunity for you to spend some quality time with family and friends. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2026, recharged and ready for the year ahead. I now invite all members and invited staff to join me on the Speaker's Green for a very special performance by the Children's Health Queensland Community Choir. The formalities and performance will commence 15 minutes after the House rises.