



Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Welford, Hon. RJ

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.41 am): I rise today to speak briefly on the condolence motion for the Hon. Rod Welford. Whilst not knowing Rod well, as a former long-term member for Everton and previously Stafford for nearly 20 years, I bumped into him occasionally and of course heard good reports from constituents about his time as our area's state member. His legacy is deeply woven into the fabric of our community. Locals spoke highly of his assistance to Everton community organisations and his presence at local events. He was a champion for our local schools and ahead of his time with regard to caring for the environment. He was instrumental in securing funding for critical infrastructure projects, from improvements to our local roads to supporting sporting clubs and community groups.

One thing I had in common with Rod was his commitment to physical wellbeing. His daily swim at the Everton Park State School pool was legendary, where, I was told, he would swim roughly 2.5 kilometres every morning. Rod's partner, Gayle, told me just before we came into the House that after that he would also go to the Albany Creek swimming pool, not satisfied with doing laps by himself at Everton Park, to train with the Olympians who trained there.

In his role as education minister, his passions in the area of sport and physical activity also came through. This is reflected in the number of programs he introduced. The Smart Moves program mandated 30 minutes a day of physical exercise in primary schools and two hours a week in secondary schools. He initiated the Year of Physical Activity for Queensland state schools, the first 'year of' theme for state schools, which would continue for years to come.

Beyond his local contributions Rod fulfilled many senior ministerial roles, as has been mentioned by previous speakers. In all of these roles he was guided by a strong sense of duty and the desire to build a better future for all Queenslanders. Rod Welford was a politician of conviction. Rod's was a life of service and commitment to his community and his state. On behalf of the people of Everton, I offer my deepest sympathies to Rod's family.