



Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Beard, Mr PF**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.44 am): I was not going to speak on this condolence motion but then I reflected back on my career. I actually knew Peter Beard. I was a member of the Young Liberals in 1986 when Peter took the world by storm and certainly took Queensland politics by storm as a Liberal who won the seat of Mount Isa. Peter was a Liberal who proudly wore his liberalism on his sleeve. He did not pretend to be anything other than what he was. He believed in free enterprise, he believed in small government, he believed in the power of the individual and he stood up and proclaimed those values no matter where he was. He participated in the full political life of the Liberal Party for the three years that he was a member here. I remember him speaking at conferences about the challenge of being a Liberal who had won the seat of Mount Isa and was continuing to represent that area. I note that a former leader of the Liberal Party, Angus Innes, is in the gallery today. No doubt he would have equally fond memories of Peter.

I heard the Premier say that upon Peter's passing his former students, now in their 70s, contacted the family to express their regard and appreciation. I remember the regard and appreciation with which he was held by a now older generation of Young Liberals from that time—much older, I might say—and the inspiration he provided because he did take up the cudgels in a tough area. He showed that, with personality, perseverance, hard work and the right attitude and by bringing everyone along with him, he was able to win in a seat that no-one would ever have contemplated could be held by the Liberal Party.

I remember that Peter spoke with fondness of his home city of Mount Isa, for what it was able to contribute to Queensland and what he thought it would continue to contribute to Queensland. When we think back on representatives in this place, it is important to look at what they said and what they did and the passion with which they brought their case to this place. Even in the short time that he was here, Peter brought that passion. As he did in his roles as an educator and an employee in Mount Isa, he brought that passion to politics and he inspired another generation of politicians. Vale, Peter Beard.