



Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 24 June 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Stuart, Lt Gen. S

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.26 pm): I rise to acknowledge the distinguished service of Lieutenant General Simon Stuart AO, DSC, who is about to conclude his tenure as Chief of the Australian Army. Lieutenant General Simon Stuart's career is one of dedication, leadership and service at the highest level, having provided almost four decades of military service to our nation. Beginning his career in 1987 with the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart rose through the ranks to become Chief of Army in July 2022.

Over the course of his military career, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart has commanded Australian soldiers on operations in East Timor, Afghanistan and the Sinai. His leadership in Afghanistan earned him the Distinguished Service Cross, recognising his exceptional command and distinguished service in combat operations. Importantly, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart's service has also had a strong connection to our state of Queensland. He commanded the 8th/9th Battalion at Royal Australian Regiment, one of the Australian Army's most distinguished Queensland-based battalions, which is headquartered at the Gallipoli Barracks at Enoggera. Under his leadership, the 8th/9th Battalion was prepared for deployments to Afghanistan, demonstrating the professionalism, readiness and resilience that have become hallmarks of his career.

As Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart has overseen one of the most significant periods of transformation in the Army's modern history including during a period of significant strategic change and geopolitical instability. He has guided the Australian Army's adaptation to an increasingly complex strategic environment, helping to reshape capabilities, strengthen readiness and ensure the Australian Army remains prepared to meet future challenges.

Lieutenant General Simon Stuart's legacy is one of outstanding service, dedication and professionalism. Throughout his tenure Lieutenant General Simon Stuart consistently emphasised the importance of leadership, character and strength. He championed the values that underpin military service—trust, integrity, teamwork and stewardship—whilst maintaining a steadfast commitment to the welfare and development of the men and women who serve our nation. Those who have worked alongside Lieutenant General Simon Stuart speak not only of his strategic vision but also of his genuine care for his soldiers and their families. That commitment is a defining feature of effective leadership and one that has earned him widespread respect across the Australian Defence Force. His service has been recognised through his appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia and through numerous Australian and international honours. However, his greatest achievement is the enduring contribution he has made to strengthening the Australian Army and preparing it for future challenges.

On behalf of the Queensland government, I extend our sincere appreciation to Lieutenant General Simon Stuart for his outstanding service to our state and nation. I also acknowledge the support and sacrifices of his family including his wife, Katy, and two adult children, Charlie and Evelyn (Evie)

throughout his military career. I know that all in this House wish him every success for the next chapter of his life. We thank him for his extraordinary contribution to our nation.

Finally, I want to congratulate Lieutenant General Susan Coyle AM, CSC, DSM on her appointment as Australia's next Chief of Army.