



Speech By  
**Jann Stuckey**

**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2018

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Rowell, Mr MH**

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (9.55 am): I rise to make a brief contribution to the condolence motion for Marcus Hosking Rowell, known to all as Marc, who passed away on Friday, 13 April this year, and I acknowledge his family in the gallery this morning.

As honourable members have heard, Marc was elected to the Queensland parliament in 1989 as the member for Hinchinbrook and held that position until his retirement in 2006. Like many National Party MPs, Marc came from a farming background, in his case sugar cane and rare fruits—those lychees. He might have been born in New South Wales but his heart was firmly in Queensland—North Queensland. In March 2006 the media reported ‘Nats veteran to quit politics’, citing a desire to spend more time with his family. After 17 years as the honourable member for Hinchinbrook, including a stint as minister for primary industries, Marc had decided it was time to pull up stumps and enjoy more time with his beloved wife, Sandy, and their family in North Queensland.

The leader of the opposition at the time, Lawrence Springborg, said, ‘Mr Rowell would be a hard member for the party to replace.’ He continued, ‘Marc gained a reputation as a champion of North Queensland with his seat of Hinchinbrook stretching just north from Townsville to South Johnstone near Innisfail.’ He said further, ‘He has been passionate about development in the north and the need to support existing industry and the need to diversify industry. It’s going to be a hard act for anyone to follow.’

I met Marc in 2004 when I was elected to the Legislative Assembly, although I hardly had any contact with him for some time as the Liberal and National parties were not in coalition and we operated in a singular fashion. It was not until September 2005 that a coalition was formed, and between that time and the 9 September state election of 2006 I was fortunate enough to get to know Marc and his knack of telling tales, as regaled by the honourable members for Maroochydore and Warrego.

I found him to be a calm, measured individual with a genuine interest in people—unpretentious, happy, eager to talk about his farming experience and keen interest in rare fruits and, of course, how to navigate the many facets of parliament. Marc’s successor in the seat of Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, spoke of the high regard that Marc was held in and of his desire to fill his shoes admirably and to advocate strongly for his region—which he did.

On the few occasions that our paths crossed since Marc retired, he was ever the gentleman. I remember him with fondness and respect, as my sympathies reach out to his family and friends. Rest in peace, old friend.