

Hon Stephen Dawson; Hon Dr Steve Thomas; Hon Martin Aldridge; Hon Dr Brian Walker; Hon Alannah MacTiernan; Hon Tjorn Sibma; Hon Wilson Tucker; Hon Kate Doust; Hon Donna Faragher; Hon Sophia Moermond; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Shelley Payne; Hon Steve Martin

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**HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

*Condolence Motion*

**HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral — Deputy Leader of the House)** [2.02 pm] — without notice:  
I move —

That this house expresses its profound sorrow and sincere condolences on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and pays tribute to her remarkable life and devotion to public duty.

Members of the Legislative Council join with others around the world in remembering Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Since she passed away peacefully on 8 September 2022, there has been an outpouring of grief and mourning unlike anything we have seen in our lifetimes. Queen Elizabeth II was dearly loved by many.

The longest reigning monarch of the commonwealth, she dedicated her remarkable life to service in the role for more than 70 years. By virtue of her longevity, Queen Elizabeth II has meant different things to different generations, but what was common for all was that she represented strength, service and, above all, a beacon of stability in an ever-changing world.

Through giant leaps in technological development, changing geopolitical environments, wars and peace, and significant social and cultural change, she has been with us through both good times and darker times. Since she ascended the throne in 1952, we have seen 15 Prime Ministers of Australia and 14 Premiers of this state. Many, such as myself, have never known another monarch.

The Queen first visited Western Australia in 1954, during a visit to Australia that was actually the first time a reigning monarch had toured the entire country. As has been pointed out by the Parliament education officers, I am told that we have to thank the prospect of the Queen's visit for the front half of this Parliament building being finished. Even more interestingly, we also have her to thank for having a proper Black Rod. Prior to her visit, the Black Rod was simply a pool cue painted black. Both the building and the Black Rod were completed in preparation for her visit. Unfortunately, her visit to this Parliament never occurred; a polio outbreak at the time cut the visit short. She visited Western Australia a further six times during her reign, with her final visit in 2011, which I am sure that many of us in this chamber remember.

Those fortunate enough to have met her always speak glowingly of the person they met. They talk about her stoicism, her graceful manner, her knowledge of the people and the location she was visiting and, of course, her humour. Her humility and dedication to her people have been admired by all and are an example to leaders not only in her kingdom, but also across the world stage. Hon Paul Keating once remarked —

Queen Elizabeth ... instinctively attached herself to the public good against what she recognised as a tidal wave of private interest and private reward. And she did this for a lifetime. Never deviating.

On behalf of the government and the Parliamentary Labor Party, I offer our condolences to her family and Buckingham Palace, and I wish the new King Charles III all the best in his future endeavours.

**HON DR STEVE THOMAS (South West — Leader of the Opposition)** [2.05 pm]: The opposition joins with the government to offer our deep condolences to the family of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the people of her commonwealth.

As individuals and as a society, we must undergo change, but we also have an abiding need for continuity. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had the longest reign of any monarch in recorded history, aside from the 72-year reign of King Louis XIV of France, who ascended the throne as a four-year-old. From the age of 25, the Queen has been a constant presence in the lives of the 88 per cent of current Australians who were born since her accession.

In 1952, Robert Menzies was Prime Minister of Australia and Ross McLarty, a veteran of the First World War, was Premier of Western Australia. Australia has had 15 subsequent Prime Ministers and seven changes of government. Western Australia has had 14 Premiers and nine changes of government. In Britain, the record is even more dramatic. The Queen's first Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, was born in 1874, entered public life during the reign of her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria and was the right age to have been Queen Elizabeth's grandfather. Her fifteenth Prime Minister, Liz Truss, was born in 1975 and is only two years older than the Queen's eldest grandchild.

Right to the end, two days before she died, she fulfilled her constitutional duty in accepting the resignation of her fourteenth Prime Minister and commissioning his successor. Boris Johnson, as her penultimate Prime Minister, attested to her unflagging interest and dedication at the very twilight of her life —

We think of her deep wisdom, and historic understanding, and her seemingly inexhaustible but understated sense of duty. Relentless though her diary must have felt, she never once let it show, and to tens of

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thousands of events—great and small—she brought her smile and her warmth and her gentle humour—and for an unrivalled 70 years she spread that magic around her Kingdom.

At her accession, Queen Elizabeth was the ruler of an extensive colonial empire and the head of a commonwealth of four original dominions, together with newly independent India, Pakistan and Ceylon. After 70 years, the 14 remaining overseas possessions of the British Crown have a total of 272 000 inhabitants, whereas the commonwealth comprises 56 sovereign nations with a combined population of 2.4 billion people. Contrary to some recent offensive and unhistorical remarks, Queen Elizabeth has in fact been the great decolonising monarch. Of the 56 nations of the commonwealth, 15 have the Queen as their monarch, five have their own monarchies, and the remaining 36 are republics. Although 43 nations gained their independence during Queen Elizabeth's reign, another four African nations with no British colonial legacy opted to join the commonwealth, and three nations that had earlier left the commonwealth rejoined it.

Queen Elizabeth has actively fostered a multiracial commonwealth, sometimes in the face of indifference by British governments. In the early 1970s, both the right and left of politics derided it, and it had an uncertain future. However, her special brand of diplomacy has been crucial to its survival and evolution into an international club that confers a degree of legitimacy and respectability to its members—partly because today it would not tolerate an Idi Amin or perhaps a Robert Mugabe. As early as 1961 on a visit to Ghana, the first significant African colony to gain independence, she showed notable respect and friendliness to its militantly anti-western President Nkrumah. The Queen and the other members of the royal family ensured that decolonisation occurred with the minimum of bitterness, and the nations of the commonwealth demonstrated their respect for the role played by the Queen when in 2018 they agreed that she should be succeeded as the head of the commonwealth by King Charles III.

On the broad international scale, Queen Elizabeth has exerted a healing role. In 1958, she received the President of West Germany and in 1965, she was the first reigning British monarch to set foot on German soil for many decades. This work of reconciliation continued through to her last visit in 2015. We should not forget that the Queen herself was part of the wartime generation. In early 1945, aged 18 years, she was the first female member of the royal family to wear uniform and train as a mechanic on active service with the Auxiliary Territorial Service, the ATS.

There were equally significant visits to Japan in the 1970s, to China in 1986 and to Russia in 1994. In 2011, she was the first British monarch to pay a state visit to Ireland since it gained independence 90 years earlier, a difficult exercise in apology and forgiveness.

Her Majesty's reign has encompassed the terms of 14 Presidents of the United States, commencing with Harry Truman. Again, her personal rapport with successive Republican and Democrat presidents has strengthened an essential and enduring alliance. It was of course Queen Elizabeth who, in the wake of the September 2001 terrorist atrocity, expressed the memorable words that “grief is the price we pay for love”.

Queen Elizabeth has always been a great consoler, visiting the survivors of terrorist outrages or of natural disasters, and sending heartfelt messages of support in the wake of tragedies in our own nation. ABC news on Friday saw an emotional Mr Jeff Edwards, one of the few children to survive the 1966 Aberfan disaster in Wales, bear witness to the Queen's support of him and his community over ensuing years.

Her Majesty was never concerned with, or guilty of, the unhealthy contemporary obsession with self-esteem. What she had in abundance was self-respect. It requires a great natural dignity for a political leader or monarch to send oneself up for public enjoyment, without diminishing the standing of their office. Yet in 2012, the year of the diamond jubilee and the London Olympics, the Queen and her corgis performed flawlessly in a sketch with Daniel Craig in his role of James Bond. Again only a few months ago for her platinum jubilee, the Queen was filmed in a sketch trading marmalade sandwiches with Paddington Bear, concluding with his heartfelt “Thank you, Ma'am—for everything.” This polite if fictitious bear speaks for many millions of people today.

President, Queen Elizabeth II ruled for 70 years, beating the second-longest serving monarch in Great Britain, who served for 63 years, Queen Victoria. I note that the longest serving king, King George III, managed only 40 years. The level of service over such a long period demonstrates a consistency that we all admire. I do not think that there is anyone in the chamber today who can remember an alternative monarch, and that speaks volumes for the consistency that the Queen delivered as a public statesperson throughout her 70-year reign. We wish the best of luck and best wishes to her successor, King Charles III. I note that some King Charleses did not historically fare all that well in the political system, but he has started with grace and compassion. May he remain in that mode for the rest of his reign. We congratulate the royal family on the dignity that they have shown.

**HON MARTIN ALDRIDGE (Agricultural)** [2.14 pm]: I rise to support the motion before the house on behalf of the parliamentary Nationals WA. In preparing for this contribution, I have pondered: how does one do justice in recognising the passing of our sovereign the Queen, a person who was Queen of Australia for more than 70 years? She has reigned for longer than I have been alive and longer than my parents have lived. For many, we have known

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no other sovereign. Her service to her country and to the commonwealth is truly remarkable. Boris Johnson said just recently how difficult it was for many who feel almost a familial loss, despite not having any personal connection or any connection at all with the late Queen. Although many around the world are sharing in the grief of the death of the Queen, our condolences and sympathies must first and foremost be with the Queen's family. Although we often focus on one's public life and service, we often overlook the Queen as a person, a mother, a grandmother and a great-grandmother. This can only be a difficult time for them, not only grieving the loss of Her Majesty, but also doing so in such a public sense.

In pondering my remarks today, I came across an article that was published in the *National Geographic*. It was a short excerpt from a brief interaction with Her Majesty, and, according to my notes, it said —

On a recent low-key trip to Scotland, she met some American tourists while walking. When the tourists asked if she lived locally, she mentioned that she had a house nearby, and when asked if she'd ever met the Queen she simply pointed at her security guard and said, "No, but he has!"

These personal anecdotes are what the Queen is so well known for—her ability to engage with all, regardless of their import, their wealth, their education or their pursuit. I am sure this is the reason why so many people connected with her when ordinarily a connection between a monarch and her people may have been more distant. The commonwealth consists of 54 member nations, comprising some 2.4 billion people, or one-third of the world's population. This is even more remarkable when we consider that at the start of her reign, the commonwealth numbered just seven nations.

I was moved by the recent contribution by former Prime Minister Theresa May, who said —

This is indeed a sad day, but it is also a day of celebration for a life well spent in the service of others. There have been many words of tribute and superlatives used to describe Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, but these are not hype; they are entirely justified. She was our longest-serving monarch. She was respected around the world. She united our nation in times of trouble. She joined in our celebrations with joy and a mischievous smile. She gave an example to us all of faith, of service, of duty, of dignity and of decency. She was remarkable, and I doubt we will ever see her like again. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

President, although none of us will ever know what it means, nor how it feels, to experience the demands of devoting yourself to service for life, I think it would be without controversy to say that it would not be an easy path to follow. The service given by our late Queen was nothing but extraordinary. The pledge that she made on her twenty-first birthday to serve for life, however short or long that might be, was truly honoured. "Grief is the price we pay for love." They were the wise words of the Queen herself. Most never had the opportunity to meet the Queen; however, many are grieving her, for she was loved. In the words of our King: in our sorrow, let us remember and draw strength from the light of her example.

May she rest in peace.

**HON DR BRIAN WALKER (East Metropolitan) [2.18 pm]:** Around the world, many words have been uttered listing the countless attributes of the late Queen. On behalf of the Legalise Cannabis WA Party, I would like to give some personal feelings. The loss that we have suffered can be seen at several different levels. On the government level, of course, is the international relationships. But for myself, my first memories are of a woman, born the same year as my mother. As a toddler, I looked at a fairy princess, seeing pictures of an achingly beautiful young Queen, who was revered in my family. My family, of course, had served in the war under the command of her father, and here was his daughter, ruling in a way that was quite remarkable; I think little comparison can be found in this world. What I saw was a fairy princess mother substitute wearing, as my mother wore, long gloves, the hats and the dresses, and carrying the handbag, at garden parties, all of which mirrored what women at that time wore, including my mother. So I had a fairy princess godmother, if you like, but over the course of time, the years and decades, I went through various emotions—the rebellious teenage years, up to the kind of conservative political life I am in now—and in all that time I have learnt from her three principles: service, duty and sacrifice.

Service was a promise alluded to and that has been remarkably kept. She promised to serve until the end of her days, and she did so with immaculate grace. That is a guide and example to us all and to me. I swore an oath to live or die at her behest as a member of the military; that was simply the natural way. This is what happens; this is my sovereign. But I also went into service as a medical practitioner, so that is four decades, if you like, of serving the population, and she would indeed show us how to serve. I followed that example. Now, of course, all of us in this political realm have sworn, in one form or another, to serve our sovereign. It seems very right and natural that we learn from a great exemplar.

There is not only that, but also duty—following duty in service to the people, which again is something we could all aspire to emulate. The difficulties she overcame in her life are things that we could appreciate through the difficulties we have experienced. Difficulties always emerge, so how do we respond? Can we respond with the

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same grace and the same facility that our late Queen showed us? Indeed, it is an example that we should all seek to follow. It is another example of how our late sovereign has led us by example.

The third merit is that of sacrifice. The humility and dedication that the Deputy Leader of the House spoke of we can heartily agree with. In that, we also see that she had a family life that she had to sacrifice to some degree. She could not be the mother she needed to be to her children; she had people who would help her with that. She could not be the wife to her husband because she was in the position of being so much more exalted above her husband, and there are also the sacrifices that he had to make in that relationship in those times. We can say that her social life was not all about garden parties and eating cucumber sandwiches, but also having to go to places where she did not want to be, to socialise in ways that we would find difficult. She showed us how to do that. That is something that members in the other house might learn how to do as well.

We can appreciate all that she has done, but this also gives us in this house an opportunity. We have all felt sorrow, and I personally have felt to some degree an inordinate amount of grief at the loss of someone who has been part of my life since before I was born; I have known no other sovereign. I can appreciate what she has done as an individual and a servant, if you like, of my liege lord. I give thanks for all that she has done for us and thanks for the way that she has shown for us in the future. More than that, there is also this magnificent spectacle of continuity and a life well lived and the pageantry of handing it on—for me particularly, the breaking of the rod when the service was finished and being placed on the coffin—and someone else taking over. That happens smoothly, without any of the horrible things we might anticipate when people seek power. In fact, in this case, power was not sought.

We see the continuity now with our new King, leading us, one hopes, with the same degree of attention to duty and sacrifice that our Queen has shown. I say in this place: thank you, your Majesty, and long live the King.

**HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN (South West — Minister for Regional Development)** [2.24 pm]: So much has been said about Queen Elizabeth II's extraordinary life of service. I would like to focus on just one aspect of that service: namely, her meticulous commitment to the monarchy's constitutionalism, which has helped underpin and ground parliamentary democracy. The Westminster system of representative democracy is a great legacy for Britain and many commonwealth countries. The institutional mechanisms that ensure fair elections and peaceful transition of power are essential to the stability and endurance of the system. The monarchy is a deeply embedded component of that institutional architecture.

Queen Elizabeth II came of age in an era during which democracy was being subverted in much of Europe. She swore in 15 British Prime Ministers over 70 years. She had a profound understanding that her role was to ensure that governments were installed in accordance with the will of the people, as expressed through the ballot box. That may seem to be a trite observation, but contesting of election results and resistance to peaceful transitions of power are now being experienced even in mature democracies. Queen Elizabeth II projected unquestionable political neutrality that was never mistaken for disinterest. She was also a powerful unifying force in Britain because of her consistency and her dedication to duty that so many have spoken of here today. Her role in bringing a nation together and being the symbol of a nation is also important for underpinning democratic practices. Obviously, a constitutional monarchy is not the only possibility for grounding or entrenching stable democracy, but Queen Elizabeth II will be forever admired for her contribution to the Westminster democratic system, and we here have every confidence that King Charles III will continue that steadfast commitment, and we wish him the very best in these endeavours.

**HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan)** [2.27 pm]: I rise to make a brief contribution to this condolence motion, and in so doing, attempt not to cover ground already substantially and comprehensively delivered by the excellent speakers who have preceded me today, other than to say on behalf of some of the community of the North Metropolitan Region—I know Hon Peter Collier will also make a contribution—that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a dignified model of devotion to duty in times of great peril, trial and tribulation. She was a source of great comfort and reassurance to millions upon millions of people globally, in the UK, throughout the commonwealth and, of course, here in Australia and Western Australia.

Much has been said about the longevity of her reign. Something that has, I think, gone unspoken today is that Her Majesty was not predestined to be the monarch. She obviously succeeded her father, King George VI, who had in turn succeeded his brother, who abdicated the Crown. When Her Majesty was born, it was never a foregone conclusion that she would be the monarch and, needless to say, the longest serving monarch. Something of her service, in terms of its length, has been remarked upon by Hon Dr Steve Thomas in that she swore in every British Prime Minister from Churchill to Truss. A point that Hon Dr Steve Thomas also made was that those two Prime Ministers were born a century apart, so that is something to reflect upon. The Elizabethan age we have lived through actually reaches back and forward in time in a way that we probably cannot comprehend.

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The other thing to remark upon about her audience with Prime Minister Truss is that that audience was granted two days before Her Majesty's passing. Her commitment to provide lifelong service was fulfilled until the final moment. That, to my mind, and to the mind of many others, is extraordinary. Obviously, there has been some reflection upon the very personal and deep significance that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II played in the lives of people who never had the chance to meet her, but for many she was a permanent fixture in their lives.

With some indulgence on a condolence motion, I reflect upon this: at 211 Harborne Street, Wembley, in the entry room of the house of my grandparents, William and Bernice Hay, above the telephone near a fixed telephone line were two portraits—one of Her Majesty and one of His Holiness John Paul II. That, to me, although it was not intended in any obvious sense, was a sectarian cessation of hostilities in that household. There was a chance for reconciliation. That is something that I will continue to treasure, as were the endless Christmas dinners and celebrations that were formally adjourned—I will not say interrupted—to take note of the Queen's message. I think my story was probably repeated the length and breadth of this state. I say this as well, because in a strange yet compelling sense, the passing of Her Majesty gave me the opportunity to formally personally farewell my grandparents who passed away a decade or so ago, and also my recently departed Dutch grandmother, my Oma, Elizabeth Sibma, who lived an age about as long Her Majesty and was a vociferous consumer of royal stories—I will not say trivia, but anecdotes. She was very, very compelled to keep up to date with the toings-and-froings. To a Dutch Protestant immigrant to this country, Her Majesty served as a beacon of devotion, interest and compulsion.

I think that very deep and personal connection still resonates with us and probably goes some way to describing the depth of feeling of grief and sorrow felt not only by the millions who queued up in London to watch the formal funeral procession go past them and to pay their respects in the way that they could, but also more keenly by people throughout the commonwealth. The commonwealth, in its modern iteration, I think is an enduring legacy of Queen Elizabeth II, and it went a large measure of the way to restoring fairness and justice to and ending apartheid in South Africa. I do not think that that positive legacy of the commonwealth, and Her Majesty's role in that, should go unremarked. With the passing of this monarch, quite sadly, I think we have seen the passing of an age, and, as strange as it sounds, I think the formal end of the twentieth century, 22 years into the next.

Her Majesty will be missed. We wish King Charles III the best of luck. God save the King.

**HON WILSON TUCKER (Mining and Pastoral)** [2.32 pm]: I, too, rise to support this motion and pay my respects to our former head of state, the late Queen Elizabeth II. I, personally, was not fortunate enough to have seen or met the Queen in her previous visits to WA, and therefore I do not have a personal affiliation or connection with the Queen other than the standard Australian upbringing that I think we were all a part of, and that was seeing the Queen and the Royal Family portrayed on the television and in the media always as the reliable and dependable figurehead, albeit far removed from our everyday lives. So reliable were they, in fact, that it was hard to imagine that the Queen would one day leave us and we would have a new monarch.

The Queen's passing has been met with the expected media firestorm and has sparked debate about the future direction of this country and what the commonwealth really means for Australia. The Queen's passing represents a significant milestone in the history of this country and it represents a change, however small or large, for all of us, which I believe should be reflected on and also respected. Whatever your views on the commonwealth and the Queen as a former monarch and head of state, I think we should all be cognisant and respectful without conflating her passing with the larger questions and opportunistic commentary. Although I personally welcome a future discussion on whether Australia should become a republic, I know many share my views that we should first take some time for reflection and be respectful of the long public service and dedication to the commonwealth of our late Queen.

**HON KATE DOUST (South Metropolitan)** [2.34 pm]: I also add my words on this condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I listened very carefully to the words of a number of colleagues around the chamber. I think that we all acknowledge that we have noted the passing of an extremely amazing woman who stepped up unexpectedly at the age of 21 and committed her entire life to the service of her people, her country and the commonwealth. As has already been noted, she continued to do so until a day or two before she passed. We all saw the photos of her meeting with incoming UK Prime Minister Truss and were quite shocked at her physical appearance. But then, two days later, to hear that she had passed I think was a much harder shock for everyone to bear, because I do not think people anticipated the speed of her demise.

Although we made comments about her service to her country, the fact is that she took on a role as a woman in the 1950s that was uncommon. She raised a family of four children and had grandchildren and an extended family. She had to make significant and difficult decisions not only in her role as a monarch, but also certainly towards her family and her community. I think that is to be admired. I noticed the reference to the changes in South Africa and other places. I do not think she was afraid to tackle the difficult issues and she certainly was not one to buckle to

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perhaps the male advice that would have been dominating at the time. She set her own agenda. We all know that she was well renowned for being across her brief across all her portfolios. Stories abound about her catching out ministers or Prime Ministers across particular issues when she knew what was happening but they were not necessarily across their own matters. Having watched the last few days, and particularly last night when, like I imagine a lot of members, I sat up and watched the funeral proceedings on television, I was struck by the volume of people who came to pay their respects and watch the procession all the way through to Windsor Castle. It was quite a visual spectacle, one that I do not think we will see repeated, certainly not in our lifetimes. I listened to the stories that people told about their interactions with her in various ways. I suppose that the pomp and ceremony that was attached to the whole process was foreign to us in Australia, but it was indeed an interesting spectacle. I think that was a part of the sign of respect that people across the commonwealth wanted to pay to her for her service to the commonwealth. I note that she played a significant role there.

As we know, she was the patron of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, of which nearly all of us, if not all of us, are active members. During the last visit she made to Perth, I was fortunate enough to attend her keynote speech at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and was quite struck by her commentary in that speech. It was not a quiet or passive speech. She was quite forceful in her comments of the day about the issues she was interested in. I understand that the speech that she gave to CHOGM on each of those occasions was perhaps the only time in her role that she was able to craft her own words and to put on the public record her thoughts on particular issues. It was not necessarily a speech driven by others; it was her words, language and view of issues. I thought that was a really interesting experience to see and to listen to her on that stage.

The other opportunity that some of us may have had during that 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting was the garden party held at Government House. I think, for a lot of people in Perth, that was a first. The event was attended by hundreds of people, and I know that for my two daughters, who were fortunate enough to go, it was a very special event. I had to restrain my youngest daughter from jumping the fence to meet the Queen. People were very enthusiastic. Those sort of events, although unusual and rare for us, are memories that we can sustain. The Queen made 16 visits to Australia, a number of those here to Western Australia. Different people have different memories of each of those occasions and will hold on to those.

The Queen had a remarkable life. She gave all the way through her life, from being a mechanic in the army during the war to taking up her role as monarch across the commonwealth, building those relationships, and, as has already been referred to, holding that ship stable through times of challenging crisis. We will not see the like of her again. The new King of the commonwealth and the United Kingdom, Charles III, has significant shoes to fill—those of his mother. I hope that her memory will be a blessing.

**HON DONNA FARAGHER (East Metropolitan)** [2.41 pm]: I also rise to say a few words of condolence. Over the past few days, and certainly last night, people from all parts of the world have paused to reflect on and pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

On the Saturday immediately following her passing, I was returning home from an event in the electorate and listened to the former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who was speaking in the House of Commons. I will reflect on his speech a couple of times. In his tribute to her late majesty, he used the phrase “Elizabeth the Great”, a phrase that I and I am sure others have subsequently heard many times in the past few days and I think is a very apt description for Queen Elizabeth II. The history books will record that her reign was the longest of any British monarch. Her late majesty celebrated her silver, golden, diamond, sapphire and platinum jubilees. To say that out loud in just one sentence reminds us how exceptional her reign was.

Notwithstanding the importance of each milestone, her late majesty was always humble in her response. In fact, on 9 September 2015, the day she overtook Queen Victoria’s record reign, she was opening the Scottish Borders Railway and reflected only briefly on this most significant milestone by simply saying —

Many including you, First Minister, have also kindly noted another significance attaching to today, although it is not one to which I have ever aspired. Inevitably, a long life can pass by many milestones; my own is no exception. But I thank you all, and the many others at home and overseas, for your touching messages of great kindness.

In my view, these words encapsulate her late majesty’s view on life. She was humble and modest; she was kind and thoughtful. She recognised the achievement of others and was thankful and always appreciative when others thanked her for her service. Of course, she grew up in the shadow of the Great Depression and World War II, during which King George VI insisted that his family should adhere to the rations that his people were subject to. She has at times been referred to as being thrifty and wanting to make things last. Indeed, it was perhaps characteristic of Her Majesty that her preferred mode of transport when off duty, if you could call it that, was driving herself,

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apparently often at lightning speed, in old Land Rovers across the estates of Balmoral and Sandringham. As Boris Johnson said —

... I can tell you as a direct eyewitness that she drove herself in her own car with no detectives and no bodyguard, bouncing at alarming speed over the Scottish landscape to the total amazement of the rambles and the tourists we encountered.”

In mentioning these and other places, it always seemed that it was on the land, in the countryside, that Her Majesty appeared happiest. I have read a few times now words to the effect that when she came up to Balmoral, the Queen would “leave her crown at the door”. It was clear in the aftermath of her passing that the local people living near Balmoral Castle were mourning not only their sovereign, but also a friend and neighbour.

Her late majesty served in World War II and was the first female monarch in 1 000 years to have served full-time in wartime. She undertook a massive 21 000 official engagements and travelled the length and breadth of the world. She presented 380 630 honours and awards, held 459 investitures, gave royal assent to 3 135 acts of Parliament, undertook 250 official overseas visits to 128 different countries, and gave 88 state banquets during her reign. Of course, throughout all that, she would regularly meet with other world leaders, but she was just as comfortable meeting ordinary people doing everyday things. Her broadcasts at Christmas and other times throughout her reign brought people and families together in both good and not so good times. She was, as others have said, a constant and a source of stability. Sir William Heseltine, who, as I understand, is the only non-Briton she had as private secretary in her long reign, and who is a Western Australian at that, was quoted in the paper the other day. He said —

One never felt anything but the better for conversation with her. And it applied to quite casual conversations, you could even see the casual interchange with people in the street when she was doing a walkabout.

“Everybody felt uplifted by this extraordinary personality.”

I also saw an interview on 7.30 a couple of days ago with one of the Queen’s former assistant private secretaries, Samantha Cohen, also an Australian. She said that Her Majesty loved Australia because she found Australians so direct and fun. Her Majesty visited Australia 16 times. Her 1954 coronation tour with the Duke of Edinburgh represented the first time a reigning sovereign had visited our country. They visited 57 towns and cities in 58 days, with the National Museum of Australia stating that almost three-quarters of the Australian population took advantage of the opportunity of seeing the Queen at least once during the visit.

We have much to be grateful for during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. She was a strong, dutiful and reassuring monarch who followed in the footsteps of her late father. We never knew what her personal views were on matters of controversy. She instinctively knew that if she expressed her view, however benign, it could be used to divide. As Western Australians, we can be proud to remember that it was in our state, when the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting was held in October 2011, which was attended by her late majesty as head of the commonwealth, that one momentous and important private meeting took place. That was the meeting of the 16 Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth of Nations. It led to a document known in some settings as the “Perth agreement”. This historic agreement most significantly determined amongst other things that succession to the crown should not depend on gender.

More personally, I will always fondly remember the Queen’s visit for another reason. After stepping down as Minister for Environment; Youth in 2010 to have my daughter, Clare, then Premier Colin Barnett asked me to be his parliamentary secretary. The first responsibility he gave me was to be his representative on the various committees and meetings tasked with the state’s preparations for both CHOGM and the Queen’s visit. There was, of course, much to organise, and after such an experience, I can only but imagine how hard it would have been to organise that 1954 coronation tour without the use of emails and mobile phones. There were many events at that time, both public and private, and logistics to be worked through, but for all Western Australians, the Queen’s barbecue was, I believe, a very fitting and very Australian way to celebrate our Queen. I will also remember almost falling off my chair and being speechless, which does not happen often, when the then Premier told me that my husband, Scott, and I would be presented to Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh at Government House ahead of the garden party. That was indeed a very precious moment in time that we will never forget.

I saw an interview with the New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Saturday when she recounted one of her first meetings with the Queen. She had asked the Queen how she managed juggling being a world leader with being a mother and having a family all at the same time. Apparently, her response simply was, “Well, you just get on with it.” That response perhaps sums up the Queen to a tee—devoted, dignified and humble, and always about service above self. The Queen also said at another time —

I want to show that the Crown is not merely an abstract symbol of our unity but a personal and living bond between you and me.

Hon Stephen Dawson; Hon Dr Steve Thomas; Hon Martin Aldridge; Hon Dr Brian Walker; Hon Alannah MacTiernan; Hon Tjorn Sibma; Hon Wilson Tucker; Hon Kate Doust; Hon Donna Faragher; Hon Sophia Moermond; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Shelley Payne; Hon Steve Martin

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Her late Majesty's unwavering devotion and loyalty to the Commonwealth of Nations and to millions of people around the world throughout her extraordinary 70-year reign will forever be an inspiration to us all.

We, of course, now have a new sovereign, King Charles III, and it is my view, and I am sure that of many others, that he could not have had a better example to follow than his late mother, Elizabeth the Great. God save the King!

**HON SOPHIA MOERMOND (South West)** [2.50 pm]: I rise to make a brief contribution to this condolence motion. I wish those who loved and cared for her my condolences; may their wonderful memories of the Queen soothe their grief. For me, personally, I have not found the royal family particularly relatable. They have such a different life to mine—much influence, power, wealth and possibly a somewhat wayward family at times—yet, here she was, providing guidance and making decisions for so many people. Her journey could not always have been easy and I appreciate that. She was so young when she was crowned and developing responsibilities and skills over the years and navigating many challenges showed strength, insight, intelligence and resilience.

The following anecdote is what really humanised Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for me. In 1998 she had a visit from the crown prince at the time, and, after that, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia at her Balmoral estate in Scotland. She offered a tour of the estate in the royal Land Rovers. Here was a king from a country where women were not allowed to drive! He was hesitant to take up her offer of a tour. He certainly was not expecting the Queen to be the driver. I have heard that she was a very good driver, although I suspect she might have been driving somewhat fiercely over her property in Balmoral. The interpreter then asked the Queen—actually implored the Queen—to slow down and focus on the road. I have giggled about that. It is such a delightful example of a creative protest.

**HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan)** [2.52 pm]: I stand today to pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. When Her Majesty passed away on 8 September 2022, it was met with a universal sense of sadness. The global outpouring of grief and sense of personal loss for a public figure is something that we have never previously experienced. To put it succinctly, Her Majesty's passing represented the end of certainty.

For all members of this chamber, and indeed a vast majority of the international community, the reign of the Queen exceeded our lifetime—70 years and 214 days. She was the only sovereign, head of state or indeed long-term authority figure that we have ever known; she was a constant component of our lives. Of course, it almost did not occur at all. Her father, Prince Albert, later King George VI, was the second son of King George V. The first son, Edward VIII, succeeded his father when he died in 1936. However, when Edward abdicated after he proposed marriage to Wallis Simpson, Elizabeth's father became King and, as she had no brother, she became heir presumptive.

The next 16 years were internationally tumultuous, consumed with World War II and the postwar political restructuring. Established allegiances were swept aside with the onset of the Cold War and the emergence of the superpowers, the USA and the Soviet Union. Princess Elizabeth gained enormous respect with the British public during this period, with her “hands on” approach to her responsibilities during and after the war. She gained enormous kudos for a speech she made on her twenty-first birthday, which said, in part —

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong. But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.

The Princess was true to her word.

Public adulation developed even further following the Princess's marriage to Prince Philip in November 1947 and the birth of their first child, Prince Charles, on 14 November 1948. Almost without warning, Princess Elizabeth's life changed forever with the death of her father, King George VI, on 6 February 1952. She was subsequently proclaimed Queen of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as head of the commonwealth. Thus began the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

As we reflect upon the long reign of Her Majesty it is appropriate to acknowledge the enormity of change that has occurred over that period. Socially, economically, and politically, on every level, we are a dramatically changed world in 2022 than existed in 1952. The extraordinary capacity of Her Majesty to adjust over this period is without peer.

Emanating from a tradition of tightly established values and protocols, she was flexible. Evolving from a heritage of absolute rule by a monarch, she was fastidiously politically impartial. From an environment steeped in social hierarchy, she was compassionate and benevolent. During her reign, she endured a sustained period of constant global political uncertainty, social revolution and economic restructuring, and yet she was able to seamlessly traverse all before her.

The time of her ascension to the throne in the early 1950s was generally regarded as a conservative, austere period. While marriage rates had marginally declined, they still accounted for a vast majority of relationships.



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Church attendance was high and almost exclusively Christian based. It was a period of the baby boom following the uncertainty of the war years. Migration was restricted to movement within a confined theatre of nations. Governments were overwhelmingly right of centre and support for the monarchy was strong. However, the might of the British Empire was questioned as a yearning for independence by a number of former sovereign nations led to the decolonisation of these countries.

The 60s saw a remarkable shift in attitudes and values. The development of the contraceptive pill ushered in the swinging sixties and with it a marked change in values. Women became more prominent in the workforce, although their opportunities for senior positions remained scarce. Rock and roll heralded a newly liberated youth voice to test the resolve of authority. International turmoil was prevalent with the Cuban missile crisis, the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King and the Vietnam War, while the civil rights movement had global traction. The decade ended when man landed on the moon.

The 70s ushered another significant change on the political sphere with terrorism emerging as an unfortunate aspect of negotiation. By the 80s the global landscape had again shifted, and the decade concluded with the disintegration of the Soviet Union. While political allegiances continued to diversify over the ensuing decades, Britain always remained a pivotal player, particularly within Europe with the establishment of new allegiances and finally the European Union. Of course, the political uncertainty continued in this sphere and in fact Brexit consumed Great Britain for the decade prior to its decision to leave the EU in 2020.

Equally as significant over this period has been the changed international social and economic landscape. There has been a noticeable shift in the fabric of our society, which has become much more egalitarian. A more entrenched middle class has emerged at the expense of a hereditary aristocracy and working class. This has been coupled with a seismic shift in our social norms. The traditional family structure has been in steady decline, unmarried and single parents are commonplace, divorce is no longer stigmatised, church attendance has declined, and legalised abortion and same-sex marriage are supported in most countries, just to name a few.

Throughout this entire period, there has been one constant—Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She has been flexible, she has been impartial, she has been compassionate. Whatever period to which I referred over the past 70 years, she has been a woman of our time.

Her Majesty has survived 15 British Prime Ministers—all of whom have expressed nothing but respect and admiration for their Queen. Her Majesty has survived 16 Australian Prime Ministers—all of whom have expressed nothing but respect and admiration for their Queen. Her Majesty has survived 14 US Presidents—all of whom have expressed their respect and admiration for the Queen. Her Majesty has transcended the period of rule of all before her. Her capacity to evolve in an international environment that has shifted enormously and become increasingly complex over her tenure is testament to her character. It is this unique aspect of Her Majesty's character that has been responsible for the love and affection for her that has consumed the world since her passing. There has been an enormous outpouring of grief and despair across the globe. The spontaneous tears of millions are a sign of genuine affection. They represent a helplessness that the Queen has gone—that life without her will not be the same.

We all have our personal views on the passing of the Queen, even those who are not advocates for the monarchy. Almost without exception, since her passing there has been universal support for Her Majesty. From Prime Ministers to Presidents, from celebrities to everyday men and women and their children, the message has been unambiguous—Her Majesty has been a constant positive presence in our lives. Life without her appears unimaginable.

Over the past week, I have watched and listened as countless people have explained what impact the passing of Her Majesty has had on them. In a way, it has been quite therapeutic to witness so many grown men and women openly weep when asked about her passing. In effect, for many of us, whether or not we are monarchists, it justifies our own emotional response. Without attempting to explain this response, I suggest that it is grief. We have been grieving the loss of a woman who has been our Queen for all our lives and who has been a constant vehicle for comfort when faced with adversity. We may not have met her; however, she was a symbol of stability, security and comfort. I definitely sympathise with this emotion.

I feel that I was born a royalist, in particular, a committed devotee of Her Majesty. As a child of the 1960s, I was infatuated with the Queen and the royal family. Perhaps I inherited that devotion from my parents and wider family, all of whom held deep affection for the Queen. In fact, my mother gave birth to my elder sister, Diane, on 26 March 1954, the day the Queen visited Kalgoorlie. Merely hours after giving birth, my mum insisted on being wheeled outside of her ward at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital to watch Her Majesty pass by. Inevitably, this devotion to Her Majesty would filter through to my two sisters, Di and Kerry, and me. Regardless of the genesis of my belief, unapologetically, I declare myself a committed monarchist.

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I vividly remember the excitement that I felt when the Queen, Prince Philip and Princess Anne visited Australia in April 1970. They arrived on the *Britannia* and spent several weeks visiting numerous places on the east coast. Acknowledging that there was no way that the *Britannia* could be swept off course and find itself in Kalgoorlie, I took every opportunity to watch the Queen on television. From the small grainy black and white screen of our first television in Ward Street, Her Majesty was everything that I had imagined and more. As I could not be there in person, I took multiple photos of her from the confines of our television screen with my small Kodak Instamatic and then insisted that my mum rush them immediately into Skipworth's Camera Shop in Hannan Street to be developed. It took an agonising two weeks before they returned from the central processing department in Perth. For obvious reasons, the photos were less than perfect. However, to me, as a 10-year-old devotee of Her Majesty, they were sublime.

Some years later, in 1984, I was in London walking through Trafalgar Square with a friend when we noticed a large crowd congregating around the National Gallery. We walked up and inquired what was going on. We were told that the Queen would be arriving at any moment to open an exhibition. We could not believe our luck; we had gone to London and we were going to see the Queen! Although my friend was somewhat ambivalent, I was absolutely euphoric. After a short wait, the big white vintage Rolls-Royce arrived and drove slowly past the awaiting crowd. Her Majesty looked at us and waved. We were in awe, even my somewhat sceptical friend. We could not believe it. Those around us were full of excitement, convinced that the Queen had singled them out and waved to them. Of course, they were completely mistaken. Without a shadow of a doubt, Her Majesty looked directly at me and waved at me—no-one else; she definitely waved at me. I wanted confirmation and I received it. As she emerged from her vehicle, prior to being escorted into the National Gallery, she stopped, turned around and waved once again. This provided me with the validation that I so desperately sought. There was absolutely no doubt whatsoever that she sought me out, looked directly into my eyes and waved. Her Majesty waved at me.

Many years later, I had the unique opportunity to engage with Her Majesty once again. It was in 2011 during her last visit to Western Australia. As the then Minister for Training and Workforce Development, I was fortunate enough to participate with Her Majesty in the opening of the Clontarf Residential Centre in Manning. It was a magnificent occasion in all respects, made even more special by the presence of the Queen. During the proceedings, Her Majesty signed the attendance manuscript and I followed, sitting in the same chair and using the same pen. Then, as the Queen rose to leave the event, she turned and waved to those in attendance. However, it was not a general wave to all in attendance; she most definitely looked directly at me, even though I was seated several rows from the front. She then, quite pointedly, waved at me, directly at me. She evidently remembered our previous exchange at the front of the National Gallery in 1984.

My intention in recalling these personal memories of Her Majesty is not intended to be flippant nor disrespectful. They are the thoughts of a man who has had a lifetime devotion to the Queen, and I am confident that they would be replicated by literally millions of people who have had the opportunity to engage with her. She had an extraordinary capacity to make every single person feel significant—that was her nature. For example, I attended a function last week at which Justin Langer was a guest speaker. He gave a very emotional account of a treasured memory that he had of Her Majesty. As a member of the Australian men's cricket team, he had the opportunity to meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace. To him, like me, it was a time that he would never forget.

Her Majesty is not being revered across the globe purely because she was the Queen for over 70 years. Of course, her title brought with it an automatic status; however, this was not the justification of her phenomenal personal appeal. Queen Elizabeth II was literally a living manifestation of the word “majestic”; she was magnificent, dignified and captivating. It is for this reason that the outpouring of grief across the globe since her passing has been so profound. Her adoring public has lost much more than its Queen; it has lost a woman upon whom, for more than 96 years, it grew to trust, respect and love. She has been a constant element in the lives of several generations. Her innate capacity to face adversity with strength, be it war, economic turmoil, personal tragedy or even a pandemic, has provided the public with a level of security that they could not attain from any other forum. For example, as we recently faced the challenges of COVID, with millions of people losing their lives and hundreds of millions having their livelihoods irreparably damaged, once again, Her Majesty managed to provide comfort through articulating a short and yet appropriate message. In part, she said —

While we have faced challenges before, this one is different. This time we join with all nations across the globe in a common endeavour, using the great advances of science and our instinctive compassion to heal. We will succeed—and that success will belong to every one of us.

We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again.

At a time when the public desperately sought reassurance, Her Majesty, through a few simple words, was able to deliver.

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Over the past few days as we have witnessed hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of people queue for hours and solemnly walk past the Queen's coffin as she lay in state at Westminster Hall, we understand why. When people of all ages spontaneously weep when asked how they felt at the passing of the Queen, we understand why. When accolades from across the political divide provide glowing reflections of Her Majesty, we understand why. When a young child places some flowers and a handwritten note to the Queen at the gates of Buckingham Palace, we understand why. It is because the Queen had the innate capacity to touch each and every one of us through her words and actions. In an increasingly complex world, she had been a constant symbol of comfort and certainty. Although the human spirit is strong, inevitably it has its vulnerabilities, and the Queen consistently provided certainty and comfort.

From another perspective, there has always been, and there will continue to be, a distinct international infatuation with the monarchy. Perhaps C.S. Lewis got it right when he said that the monarchy "satisfies our craving for inequality". Perhaps the public at large is satisfied with the heritage that the monarchy represents. Although this respect almost certainly would not extend to a return to monarchical rule, there remains strong admiration for the pomp and ceremony associated with the royal establishment and most definitely for Her Majesty.

This devotion towards Her Majesty evolved considerably in her later years. Her commitment to a life of service was admired and respected, and for the millions who have lined the streets throughout the United Kingdom over the past week, it has been an opportunity to return the favour—to say, "Thank you".

Another example of this level of affection towards the Queen was on vivid display just 18 months ago following the death of her beloved husband, Prince Philip. On 17 April 2021, the Queen, along with just 30 other mourners, sat in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle for the funeral. COVID had severely restricted the attendance at funerals, meaning that devoted family members were not provided with the opportunity to say goodbye. The Queen was no exception. On this occasion, while typically stoic in public, during the service, as she sat alone in the pew, the grief on the face of Her Majesty was palpable. As she bowed her head, there was a collective desire across the globe to sit by her side, to put our arm around her and say, "It's okay, we're here." For that moment, she ceased to be our Queen; she was a grieving widow whom we all loved and admired.

Now it is time to say goodbye. In doing so, I recognise the extraordinary role that Her Majesty has played in her lifetime of service. It was a role she did not choose and yet she performed with impeccable allegiance. Last night, many of us watched Her Majesty's funeral. Although the occasion was sad, a little sombre and poignant, and the emotion was raw, there was a serenity that epitomised that moment in time. It captured the reality that life is finite and that when our time has come our departure should not be met with anguish, despair nor regret, but rather it should be a time of grateful reflection whereby we can move on, secure in the knowledge that those who we love and cherish are with us at the end and will be so forevermore.

Her Majesty was magnificent. Two words are hopelessly inadequate, however, they represent a lifetime of gratitude from a humble servant: thank you.

**HON SHELLEY PAYNE (Agricultural)** [3.10 pm]: Growing up in Canada to British parents I have been touched by Queen Elizabeth II's rule. My parents immigrated to Canada from England after they were married at a time in the 1960s when many people from the UK were exploring the world. My dad's brother immigrated to Australia and his sister remained in the UK so we truly have a family spread across the commonwealth. I am grateful for the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution Queen Elizabeth II has made to people's lives across the commonwealth, whether that be here in Australia, in Canada where I grew up, in New Zealand, or in any other realms of the commonwealth. Our connection to our history and our heritage is so important for our sense of place, no matter where we come from and no matter where we move to in the future.

In fact, I think my words to my children last night were, "Watch the funeral because grandma would have wanted you to do that." My son texted me this morning at 10 o'clock to say that he had only just woken up because he stayed up until midnight to watch the funeral and all I could say was, "Okay." I do not think most of my Canadian schoolfriends listened to the Queen's annual speeches at home because Canada, particularly the capital of Ottawa, is very multicultural, but my mum listened and, therefore, so did we. Her sister would post us news articles from UK papers, particularly about major milestones and events. We loved seeing the horses and carriages and soldiers. Interestingly, the capital city of Ottawa also has ceremonial guards outside the Houses of Parliament. During summer, people can watch the changing of the guard each day as they can at Windsor Castle and in London. Marching along the street beside the soldiers with their big black caps and hearing the band play is something I recall vividly from my childhood.

I think back to what it has meant to people across the commonwealth to have heard a consistent voice year on year for the past 70 years, while our democratically elected Prime Ministers and state Premiers change so frequently. It

**Extract from Hansard**

[COUNCIL — Tuesday, 20 September 2022]

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Hon Stephen Dawson; Hon Dr Steve Thomas; Hon Martin Aldridge; Hon Dr Brian Walker; Hon Alannah MacTiernan; Hon Tjorn Sibma; Hon Wilson Tucker; Hon Kate Doust; Hon Donna Faragher; Hon Sophia Moermond; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Shelley Payne; Hon Steve Martin

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has given us all across the commonwealth a sense of balance, a sense of consistency and belonging, and positive direction—something I am not sure we truly appreciate. At her coronation in 1952, the Queen called us a family.

The Queen's visits to the capital city of Ottawa, where I grew up, was always a time of excitement, as it was here, I am sure. I recall when she visited on her Silver Jubilee tour. My mum had my sister and I draw pictures for the Queen to bring down to see her as she paraded past. We were able to give her our drawings and received a letter from her thanking us sometime later.

As Canadians, we benefited greatly from being part of the commonwealth. Easy access to travel and work across the commonwealth made the world seem like a smaller, friendlier place. That is something we probably take for granted when we compare our privileges to people in other countries around the world. I had opportunities for university exchanges to Australia and the UK. It was easy to travel to countries like Australia, the UK, Canada and New Zealand. My sister was a pharmacist and she easily transitioned to working in her profession in New Zealand for a decade. Teachers from Canada can easily come to Australia and work. Those arrangements were no doubt helped along by our commonwealth bond. The Queen has been instrumental over the past 70 years in retaining and strengthening the bond between our countries. I have been pleased to see our Prime Minister actively posting and commenting about the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. We are all tackling similar issues; we can learn from each other and support each other, particularly when it comes to issues such as reconciling with our traditional owners, whether it be us, Canada or New Zealand.

Throughout her reign we saw, most notably, the peaceful handing back of Hong Kong in 1997 and, most recently, the voluntary withdrawal of Barbados as one of the commonwealth realms. This was all done in a way that demonstrated peace, understanding and support, from the peak of the Queen's reign as sovereign of 32 independent countries to 15 at the time of her death. We can be very grateful to look back at this period of peace among our commonwealth partners, compared with what is happening right now elsewhere in the world, like Russia and Ukraine, and even the China–Taiwan relationship. The Queen dealt with similar issues in a very different manner, gracefully moving forward with the times and modernising her views alongside us, for which we are all grateful.

The grouping of our countries associated in this manner has been called an achievement without parallel in the history of international relations or constitutional law. The past was a different time and so too will the future be different than it is now but we can be grateful for Her Majesty's dedicated service as we have moved through such change in such a peaceful way over the past 70 years. We cannot really imagine it any differently or any less peaceful, but it certainly could have been. We can look back on the Queen's life as an example of how we can all live our lives. She declared at just 21 that no matter whether her life was long or short it would be dedicated to serving her people, and that she did.

The fact that it is estimated that over four and a half billion people around the globe watched her funeral yesterday is a testament to the high regard she is held in. She ruled the commonwealth for 70 years with steady, positive guidance. She was the epitome of duty, stability, wisdom and grace. She accepted criticism; in fact, she invited it and famously encouraged it with a bit of gentleness. There is a historical bond that joins us across the commonwealth and always will. Her dedication to duty can guide us for the future. Wherever we move forward to as a country in the future, one thing is certain: her reign over the past 70 years has shown us a lot about commitment, service, dignity and dedication. She was a role model for conducting ourselves on the world stage. I think about how young she was when she became Queen at 25, in a time very different from today, and the struggles she must have faced as a young woman, as well as the struggles she faced publicly but always with grace throughout her life. She raised her family while balancing her duty as a queen. She is to be commended for her commitment and dedication and for the sacrifices she made for us all as the longest recorded female head of state in history. As women, we have journeyed in the fight for equality over the past few decades, and she was a role model among us. How strange it will be to see new coins emerge next year without the Queen's face and hear the new UK national anthem played at world sporting celebrations without the word "Queen". It is all most of us have known, even for me, growing up in Canada with coins that also have her face on them.

I thank Her Majesty for her service.

**HON STEVE MARTIN (Agricultural)** [3.17 pm]: I rise to make a contribution and support this motion of condolence for Queen Elizabeth. There have been some fine words from others members in this place. I will take just one of the tens of thousands of events that Hon Dr Steve Thomas mentioned that the Queen attended over the last 70 years to highlight her connection to this state. During the 1954 world tour of Australia, the Queen visited Northam. As part of the civic reception on that day in March, she received a posy of flowers from 12-year-old Beth Christensen. Beth still lives in Northam. The event in 1954 was recently brought to the attention of Northam Shire President Chris Antonio. With only a couple of days' notice before the Northam Show, Chris thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to recreate that event where Beth presented the flowers to Queen Elizabeth. At the opening of the Northam Show, now 80-year-old Beth Visioli, who still lives in town, was delighted to take part in laying a wreath of flowers with Chris to show her respect to Her Majesty.

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Beth told *The West Australian* about her preparation for the original event. She said she had been selected to present the flowers to the Queen because she was a Legacy ward. Beth recalled being very nervous and having to practise curtsying for weeks in the lead-up to the event. I think we can trace the enormous affection that Western Australians had for Queen Elizabeth back to that royal tour. As many have said, that was more than 60 years ago, when the Queen was a very young woman. As we have heard from others, that was the Queen's first visit to Australia and the first ever visit of a reigning Australian monarch to these shores. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese observed that the 1954 tour was the largest single event ever organised in Australia and it remained a defining moment in our nation's history.

I will give members a glimpse of the impact of that visit. We had seven million Australians, or 70 per cent of our population at the time, turn out to catch a glimpse of the young Queen passing by. When the 27-year-old Queen Elizabeth arrived in Sydney, it was estimated that one million people, out of a population of 1.86 million, came out to see her arrival. The royals visited 57 towns and cities during the 58 days that they spent in Australia. They travelled by plane, train, ship and car from Cairns in the north, to Hobart in the south and Fremantle in the west.

The Northam appearance was on the second-to-last day of the tour, and, as we have heard from other speakers, it came during a polio outbreak in Western Australia. I spoke to Beth about the impact of that, and she said that she could not physically present the flowers to the Queen; she had to leave them on a table beside the Queen, who was sitting, so there was no direct contact. I think Beth had a brief moment to talk to Prince Philip on the day. In my discussion with Beth at the Northam Show, those vivid memories were really clear to her all these years later. The impact that the Queen had on the young 12-year-old Beth Christensen has been shared by many thousands of people across the commonwealth in the past 70 years. We got a glimpse of the impact of the Queen's service and dedication on that tour. In fact, her very young children were both left behind for the eight-week tour, around the other side of the world, on which she visited Australia.

President, Australia's great affection for the Queen can be traced back to that 1954 visit. That affection only grew over her lifetime of service and dedication.

May she rest in peace.

**The PRESIDENT:** Members, the question is that the motion be agreed. I request that in demonstrating your support for the motion, you stand for one minute's silence.

Question passed; members and officers standing as a mark of respect.