

**MARY DURACK — TRIBUTE**

*Statement by Member for Landsdale*

**MS M.M. QUIRK (Landsdale)** [3.43 pm]: I acknowledge the courageous death of my friend Mary Durack in Kununurra. I extend condolences to her family: Sarah, Jeremy, Isabelle, Julia, Thomas and Margaux. Mary had a full, peripatetic and interesting life as a scientist and teacher; in communications, public policy and community and government relations; and in selling and promoting Aboriginal art in France. Mary's passing in her beloved Kimberley was made feasible by the support and solicitude of not only her indefatigable sister Sarah, but also palliative care nurses Marian Carpenter and Grace Conrick.

Mary's ancestors drove cattle from Queensland to Miriuwung–Gajerrong country in the 1880s. Since that time, the Durack dynasty has been inextricably linked with traditional owners, but not always in a positive light. Mary, however, consistently demonstrated a close affinity with our First Nations people. Last year, Mary, Perpetua Durack Clancy and Michael Clancy initiated the recognition and celebration of Aboriginal family connections. This led to the installation of a revised Durack family tree at the Durack Homestead Museum at Lake Argyle.

Earlier this year, Mary was honoured as the Non-Aboriginal Person of the Year at the 2021 East Kimberley Aboriginal Achievement Awards in recognition of her strong leadership, mentorship, advocacy and activism for Aboriginal people. It was surely a life well and passionately lived.