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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 13 February 2018

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Legislative Assembly

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT


Appointed to meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, IN THE SIXTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2018.

TUESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2018

001

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

 Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 25 January 2018, appointing parliament to meet this day for the dispatch of business, the House met at 10 am in the Legislative Assembly chamber.

The Clerk read the following proclamation—

Constitution of Queensland 2001

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God,

Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, acting under sections 15(1) and 18 of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, in the name of Her Majesty summon the Legislative Assembly of Queensland to a session to commence at 10.00 am on 13 February 2018 at Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane.

(Sgd)

Signed and sealed with the Public Seal of the State on 25 January 2018.

By Command

(Sgd)

A Palaszczuk


RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 51, page 44, on 25 January 2018.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Proclamation, dated 25 January 2018, summoning the Legislative Assembly to a session on 13 February 2018.

COMMISSION TO OPEN PARLIAMENT

 The Clerk informed the House that His Excellency the Governor, not being able conveniently to be present in person this day, has issued a commission under the public seal of the state authorising the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, the Hon. Jacklyn Anne Trad and the Hon. Cameron Robert Dick to cause the opening and holding of this session of parliament.

The Clerk read the following commission—

Queensland

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God,

Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

To the Honourable ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK and the Honourable JACKLYN ANNE TRAD and the Honourable CAMERON ROBERT DICK.

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, authorise you, or any of you—

- (a) in my name and on my behalf to open the session of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland to commence on 13 February 2018; and
- (b) to do in my name and on my behalf anything required to be done in the name of Her Majesty or of the Governor in relation to the opening and holding of the session.

(Sgd)

Signed and sealed with the Public Seal of the State on 25 January 2018.

By Command

(Sgd)

A Palaszczuk


RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 51, page 45, on 25 January 2018.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Commission, dated 25 January 2018, to open the session of the Legislative Assembly on 13 February 2018.

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH OR AFFIRMATION

 **The SENIOR COMMISSIONER** (Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk—Inala): I produce a commission under the public seal of the state authorising myself, the Hon. Jacklyn Anne Trad and the Hon. Cameron Robert Dick, or any one of us, to administer to any member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office that is required by law to be taken or made by every member before the member is permitted to sit or vote in the Legislative Assembly. I ask the Clerk to read the commission.

The Clerk read the following commission—

Queensland

Constitution of Queensland 2001

To the Honourable ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK and the Honourable JACKLYN ANNE TRAD and the Honourable CAMERON ROBERT DICK.

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, acting under section 22 of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, authorise you, or any of you, to administer to any member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and of Office that is required to be taken or made by every member before the member is permitted to sit or vote in the Legislative Assembly.

(Sgd)

Signed and sealed with the Public Seal of the State on 25 January 2018.

By Command

(Sgd)

A Palaszczuk


RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 51, page 46, on 25 January 2018.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Commission, dated 25 January 2018, to administer the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and of Office.


RETURN OF WRIT

 The Clerk informed the House that the writ for the various electoral districts had been returned to him, and was endorsed as follows—

Algester—Leeanne Margaret Enoch	Mackay—Julieanne Claire Gilbert
Aspley—Bart John Mellish	Maiwar—Michael Craig Berkman
Bancroft—Christopher Guy Whiting	Mansfield—Corrine Patricia McMillan
Barron River—Craig Daryl Crawford	Maroochydore—Fiona Stuart Simpson
Bonney—Samuel Thomas O'Connor	Maryborough—Bruce Mark Saunders
Broadwater—David Frank Crisafulli	Mermaid Beach—Raymond Alexander Stevens
Buderim—Brent Andrew Mickelberg	Miller—Mark Craig Bailey
Bulimba—Dianne Elizabeth Farmer	Mirani—Stephen Seymour James Andrew
Bundaberg—David John Batt	Moggill—Christian Andrew Carr Rowan
Bundamba—Jo—Ann Roslyn Miller	Morayfield—Mark Thomas Ryan
Burdekin—Dale Raymond Last	Mount Ommaney—Jessica Claire Pugh
Burleigh—Michael James Hart	Mudgeeraba—Rosslyn Mary Bates
Burnett—Stephen Andrew Bennett	Mulgrave—Curtis Warren Pitt
Cairns—Michael Patrick Thomas Healy	Mundingburra—Coralee Jane O'Rourke
Callide—Colin Einar Boyce	Murrumba—Steven John Miles
Caloundra—Mark Francis McArdle	Nanango—Deborah Kay Frecklington
Capalaba—Donald Jon Brown	Nicklin—Martin Andrew Hunt
Chatsworth—Steven James Minnikin	Ninderry—Daniel Gerard Purdie
Clayfield—Timothy James Nicholls	Noosa—Sandra Leigh Bolton
Condamine—Patrick Thomas Weir	Nudgee—Leanne Maree Linard
Cook—Cynthia Lillian Lui	Oodgeroo—Mark Andrew Robinson
Coomera—Michael John Crandon	Pine Rivers—Nikki Anne Boyd
Cooper—Kate Jennifer Jones	Pumicestone—Simone Marie Wilson
Currumbin—Janet Anne Stuckey	Redcliffe—Yvette Maree D'Ath
Everton—Timothy Leonard Mander	Redlands—Kim Elizabeth Richards
Ferny Grove—Mark Lionel Furner	Rockhampton—Barry Leonard O'Rourke
Gaven—Meaghan Alana Jenkins Scanlon	Sandgate—Stirling James Hinchliffe
Gladstone—Glenn James Butcher	Scenic Rim—Jonathan Mark Krause
Glass House—Andrew Cary Powell	South Brisbane—Jacklyn Anne Trad
Greenslopes—Joseph Patrick Kelly	Southern Downs—James Paul Lister
Gregory—Lachlan Lucas Millar	Southport—Robert Molhoek
Gympie—Anthony John Perrett	Springwood—Michael Christopher de Brenni
Hervey Bay—Edward John Sorensen	Stafford—Anthony Joseph Lynham
Hill—Shane Andrew Knuth	Stretton—Duncan Andrew Pegg
Hinchinbrook—Nicholas Dametto	Surfers Paradise—John-Paul Honore Langbroek
Inala—Annastacia Palaszczuk	Theodore—Mark Andrew Boothman
Ipswich—Jennifer Ruth Howard	Thuringowa—Aaron David Harper
Ipswich West—James Edward Madden	Toohey—Peter Samuel Russo
Jordan—Charis Mullen	Toowoomba North—Trevor John Watts
Kawana—Jarrod Pieter Bleijie	Toowoomba South—David Carl Janetzki
Keppel—Brittany Louise Lauga	Townsville—Scott James Stewart
Kurwongbah—Shane Roderick King	Traeger—Robert Ignatius Katter
Lockyer—James John McDonald	Warrego—Ann Leahy
Logan—Linus Patrick Power	Waterford—Shannon Maree Fentiman
Lytton—Joan Ellen Pease	Whitsunday—Jason Noel Costigan
Macalister—Melissa Fay McMahon	Woodridge—Cameron Robert Dick
McConnel—Ignazia Grace	

Tabled paper: Writ for the General Election held on 25 November 2017.

MEMBERS SWORN

 The commissioners, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, the Hon. Jacklyn Anne Trad and the Hon. Cameron Robert Dick, administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office to themselves and, having been sworn, signed the Roll of Members.

The commissioners administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office to the following members, who then signed the Roll of Members—


PALASZCZUK, Anastacia	KELLY, Joseph Patrick
TRAD, Jackie	KING, Shane Roderick
DICK, Cameron	KNUTH, Shane Andrew
JONES, Kate Jennifer	KRAUSE, Jonathan Mark
D'ATH, Yvette Maree	LANGBROEK, John-Paul Honore
MILES, Steven John	LAST, Dale Raymond
GRACE, Ignazia	LAUGA, Brittany Louise
BAILEY, Mark Craig	LEAHY, Ann
LYNHAM, Anthony Joseph	LINARD, Leanne Maree
de BRENNI, Michael Christopher	LISTER, James Paul
FENTIMAN, Shannon Maree	LUI, Cynthia Lillian
ENOCH, Leeanne Margaret	MADDEN, James Edward
RYAN, Mark Thomas	MANDER, Timothy Leonard
O'ROURKE, Coralee Jane	MCARDLE, Mark Francis
FURNER, Mark Lionel	MCDONALD, James John
HINCHLIFFE, Stirling James	MCCMAHON, Melissa Fay
FARMER, Dianne Elizabeth	MCMILLAN, Corrine Patricia
CRAWFORD, Craig Daryl	MELLISH, Bart John
ANDREW, Stephen Seymour James	MICKELBERG, Brent Andrew
BATES, Rosslyn Mary	MILLAR, Lachlan Lucas
BATT, David John	MILLER, Jo-Ann Roslyn
BENNETT, Stephen Andrew	MINNIKIN, Steven James
BERKMAN, Michael Craig	MOLHOEK, Robert
BLEIJIE, Jarrod Pieter	MULLEN, Charis
BOLTON, Sandra Leigh	NICHOLLS, Timothy James
BOOTHMAN, Mark Andrew	O'CONNOR, Samuel Thomas
BOYCE, Colin Einar	O'ROURKE, Barry Leonard
BOYD, Nikki Anne	PEASE, Joan Ellen
BROWN, Donald Jon	PEGG, Duncan Andrew
BUTCHER, Glenn James	PERRETT, Anthony John
COSTIGAN, Jason Noel	PITT, Curtis Warren
CRANDON, Michael John	POWELL, Andrew Cary
CRISAFULLI, David Frank	POWER, Linus Patrick
DAMETTO, Nicholas	PUGH, Jessica Claire
FRECKLINGTON, Deborah Kay	PURDIE, Daniel Gerard
GILBERT, Julieanne Claire	RICHARDS, Kim Elizabeth
HARPER, Aaron David	ROBINSON, Mark Andrew
HART, Michael James	ROWAN, Christian Andrew Carr
HEALY, Michael Patrick Thomas	RUSSO, Peter Samuel
HOWARD, Jennifer Ruth	SAUNDERS, Bruce Mark
HUNT, Martin Andrew	SCANLON, Meaghan Alana Jenkins
JANETZKI, David Carl	SIMPSON, Fiona Stuart
KATTER, Robert Ignatius	SORENSEN, Edward John

STEVENS, Raymond Alexander
 STEWART, Scott James
 STUCKEY, Janet Anne
 WATTS, Trevor John


WEIR, Patrick Thomas
 WHITING, Christopher Guy
 WILSON, Simone Marie

008


ELECTION OF SPEAKER

 **The CLERK:** Honourable members, pursuant to the requirements of section 14 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, members must immediately elect a member to be the Speaker before proceeding to any other business. Standing order 39 provides that the Clerk shall call upon the member present in the House who has served in the House continually for the longest period and who is not a minister to take the chair for the purpose of the election of a Speaker. This member is known as the Presiding Member in the Legislative Assembly's standing orders for the purposes of the election of a Speaker.


The longest continually serving member of the Legislative Assembly is Ms Fiona Simpson, the member for Maroochydore, who was elected on 19 September 1992 and sworn in as a member of the 47th Parliament on 3 November 1992. In accordance with standing order 39, I call upon the member for Maroochydore to take the chair as the Presiding Member for the purpose of the election of a Speaker.

 **The PRESIDING MEMBER** (Ms Simpson): Honourable members, before calling for nominations for Speaker, I draw the attention of honourable members to the standing orders which provide that any member present in the chamber may be nominated as Speaker. The proposer of a nomination must move that the member take the chair of the House as Speaker. All nominations are to be seconded. Members who have been nominated are required to indicate if they accept the nomination. After all nominations have been made, seconded and accepted, debate will then ensue.

Debate on nominations shall be relevant to the question. In accordance with past practice, debate will occur regardless of the number of nominations received and a time limit of five minutes will apply to all speeches. I remind honourable members that the provisions of the standing orders apply to this debate. I also remind honourable members that, whilst in the chair, the Presiding Member has all the powers and authorities of the Speaker. I now call for nominations.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.50 am): Madam Presiding Member, I nominate the honourable member for Mulgrave, Curtis Warren Pitt. I move—


That the honourable member take the chair of the House as Speaker.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (10.50 am): <Mad am Presiding Member, I second the nomination and the motion moved by the Premier and Minister for Trade.


The PRESIDING MEMBER: Does the honourable member accept the nomination?

Mr PITT: Madam Presiding Member, I accept the nomination.

The PRESIDING MEMBER: Are there any further nominations?

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.50 am): <Mad am Presiding Member, I nominate the honourable member for Caloundra. I move—


That the honourable member take the chair of the House as Speaker.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.51 am): <Mad am Presiding Member, I second the nomination and the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

The PRESIDING MEMBER: Does the honourable member accept the nomination?

Mr McARDLE: Madam Presiding Member, I accept the nomination with relish.

The PRESIDING MEMBER: There being no further nominations, I call the Premier.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.51 am): I rise to nominate Mr Curtis Pitt, the honourable member for Mulgrave, as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. If the House elects Mr Pitt as Speaker, I know that he will fulfil the role with distinction and dignity. He is a man of integrity and honesty. He has the values that will bring credit to the office of the Speaker of this parliament. I believe Mr Pitt is one of the most respected members of parliament our state has seen and is well versed in the demands of a political life. He is committed to serving the community he represents and bettering the lives of all Queenslanders. He follows on from his father, the Hon. Warren Pitt, who represented the people of the Mulgrave electorate in the far north for 17 years.

Mr Pitt earned his degree, a Bachelor of Arts in politics, at the James Cook University campus in Cairns. After graduating, he was the regional marketing manager for Birch Carroll and Coyle. He also worked for Cairns radio stations 4CA and Hot FM.

006 Prior to announcing his intention to run for parliament, Mr Pitt was appointed head of the Queensland government's Indigenous jobs and enterprises task force. He had previously led the government's business and skilled migration program. As a freshman MP, he came into this place with a well-grounded knowledge and understanding of human nature and a firm commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues.


Mr Pitt is a proud father. Today his wife, Kerry, and children, Tristan, Layla, and Kobi, are here. Having now represented the people of Cairns in this chamber since 2009, both in opposition and in government, he is well versed in the parliamentary and legislative process.

Mr Pitt has worked tirelessly in the demanding role as a minister in two governments and was instrumental as spokesman for multiple portfolios when we were in opposition. As Treasurer he handed down three surplus budgets, improved Queensland's credit rating and lowered unemployment with the creation of more than 140,000 new jobs through our partnership with business and industry. Mr Pitt remains one of our most experienced and senior MPs, and will continue to play a leadership role in the Far North and will continue being a voice for regional Queensland more generally.


The position of Speaker was last held by a member for Far North Queensland a century ago. Then member for Cairns and former Speaker, William McCormack, took on the job at a relatively young age too—36. The parliament needs a person of energy, integrity and experience as its Speaker. I know Curtis will bring his well-known diligence, fairness and attention to detail to the role as Speaker of this House. As I have noted, he is well versed in the parliamentary and legislative process. These will be crucial qualities in this 56th Parliament.

Mr Pitt, a self-confessed Rugby League tragic, is quick to criticise any referee who fails to strictly apply the rules governing the code. As anyone who has enjoyed his company watching a State of Origin game will tell you, he employs his knowledge of the most complex of Rugby League rules with forensic vigour. If he is elected Speaker and presides as the ultimate referee of this House none of us should be in any doubt that Mr Pitt will employ that great passion to uphold our rules, to interpret them fairly and to act impartially and in the best interests of all Queenslanders.

He also has the essentials so vital to ensure continuing respect for our Queensland parliament and to ensure the contribution all members make here is of the highest standard. I therefore have very much pleasure in moving that Mr Curtis Pitt, the member for Mulgrave, take the chair of this House as Speaker.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (10.54 am): I rise to make some brief comments on the nomination of the Speaker. The government of the day has the right to elect a Speaker—as convention has had it in the past. This is the person they believe will give the role due respect. We acknowledge that right and we further acknowledge the role of the crossbench in this parliament and the constructive role we can play in working with both sides of the House.

I acknowledge the member's roots lie in North Queensland, which is a favourable attribute in the eyes of any other North Queensland MP, like my colleagues the member for Hill and the member for Hinchinbrook. We expect the member for Mulgrave will fulfil the role of Speaker responsibly, with respect and with objectivity. In such a tightly balanced parliament it is important that members from all sides of politics have an opportunity to put the interests of their constituents forward. We have confidence that the member for Mulgrave will be able to fulfil his role adeptly and to the high standards held by this parliament.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.56 am): As I have said, I nominate the honourable member for Caloundra to the high position of Speaker in this House. Honourable members, today we make a decision that will shape the life of this parliament. The role of Speaker is historic and it is central to the working of this parliament. It is also historic that today, for the first time since 1979, the government has not been able to find one of its members to second the nomination. We see in a unicameral parliament—

The PRESIDING MEMBER: Order! Members!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: In a unicameral parliament especially, a Speaker who is honest and above reproach and not under the control of the executive is vital. Labor love to talk themselves up when it comes to accountability and transparency. Labor's claims are hollow mockeries, cheap tricks and nasty cons. Without a house of review to monitor their powers governments can overstep their

mandate. They can push the limits of power and survive without scrutiny. A Speaker is an important check in maintaining control over that executive, so the Speaker must be someone who is independently minded and not the lapdog of cabinet. They must preside fairly over debates, ensuring the government is always held to account. The Speaker also ensures the integrity of members and must examine allegations of unparliamentary behaviour of members. These are serious responsibilities. They can only be fulfilled by individuals of real integrity.


This parliament has had many Speakers in its history. We cannot elect a member who has treated this parliament with anything less than integrity and honesty. The choice revealed by the government today reveals their arrogance. They do not appreciate that the Speaker should be an independently minded person. They think the Speaker's chair is the way to keep a humiliated man happy. Becoming Speaker should not be a consolation prize for a failed Treasurer. Let us not forget that it was this Premier who told Queenslanders that the member for Mulgrave would be the Treasurer after the election.

A year ago the member for Mulgrave, during the rail fail, told parliament that he did not issue a direction to the QR board. He said the agreement had been signed off and recommended by the board. RTI documents have revealed the true role in this matter. The QR board never recommended the deal. It was ordered to sign. The only people who recommended that deal were the union bosses. This government did exactly what it was told by their union bosses.

That is why this parliament needs a better candidate for Speaker and that is why I have nominated the honourable member for Caloundra. He is one of our most respected men in this House. He is a man who has always placed the best interests of Queenslanders above all else. He has served the seat of Caloundra for 14 years.

007 He has held important positions in both government and opposition. He was the leader of the Liberal Party from 2007, he was the first deputy leader of the LNP and from 2012 he was the minister for energy and water supply. He is a great parliamentarian. He is popular and an effective member for Caloundra—but he is so much more than this. He is warm-hearted, he is a generous man and he listens. I, like many others, have been inspired by his strength he has shown in fighting cancer. I am pleased to see the member back in good health and ready to serve this state. His character is above question. He is wise, fair and a passionate believer in this parliament. We are fortunate to have him in this place, and I am pleased to commend him as Speaker.

Those opposite have an important decision to make today. Do they value a functioning democracy with a Speaker who will provide checks and balances, someone who will diligently and carefully monitor the executive power, or do they just want someone they can control, someone who has been proven to bend to the will of the union movement or someone who risks the very worst of government overreach? I urge all members to put their faith in the member for Caloundra.


 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.01 am): <Mad am Presiding Member, I rise to second the nomination moved by the Leader of the Opposition for the member for Caloundra to take the chair as Speaker. The role of the Speaker is the most prestigious and important in the life of the Queensland parliament. In the Westminster system the role predates almost every office including that of prime minister and premier. The position has enormous responsibilities and represents all of us in this chamber, and in fact the people of Queensland, on many ceremonial and regal occasions. The position needs to be fiercely independent, even more so since the Labor Party scrapped the upper house in 1922. We have no second chamber to hold this government to account. If governments are not held to account there will not be proper scrutiny. That is why the Speaker needs to be an independent figure. That is why the Speaker needs to be trusted by both sides of the House. That is why the Speaker must be beyond reproach.

Nobody in this House is more qualified for this role than the member for Caloundra. With 18 years experience in the Queensland parliament he has the perfect pedigree for this prestigious position. He has held numerous roles in those 18 years. He has been a minister of the Crown, has held various shadow ministries, has served on at least 10 parliamentary committees and has been a party leader and deputy leader of the opposition. This is the breadth and knowledge of parliament that is necessary for anybody to fulfil this role. He also possesses the personal traits that are necessary. He is always calm, considered and courteous. The member for Caloundra's health battle has shown us all his courage, his humour and his strength.

The member for Caloundra would make an outstanding Speaker. In total contrast we have the government's nomination of the member for Mulgrave. The LNP cannot support a nomination when there is such a dark cloud hanging over his head. The member for Mulgrave's account of his

involvement in the Queensland Rail pay deal with the unions is totally unconvincing. We all now know what happened. The QR board did not want a bar of the deal, a deal to satisfy the Labor Party's union masters. The Labor government needed a political solution, so the then treasurer ordered the board to sign the deal. There was no discussion, there was no debate and there was no reasoning with him. He wanted the QR board's fingerprints on this dodgy deal and not his own. The member for Mulgrave's statement to parliament on this issue puts a stain on his integrity. Then we have the member for Mulgrave's record as treasurer, and we all know that that was weak. Obviously the government agrees with that assessment. If it did not, he would still be in the ministry and we would not be having this debate about his nomination to Speaker.

I do have some sympathy for him. The Premier promised during the election campaign that his job as treasurer was safe—and what a hollow promise that has turned out to be. His dumping would have come as a shock to him. To be dumped from cabinet is bad enough. To be dumped from this cabinet is embarrassing. If this Premier thinks you are incompetent you really have problems. As has already been mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition, to add to this humiliation the Deputy Premier could not even bring herself to second his nomination. No doubt the Premier wanted to soften the blow and that is why she has nominated him as Speaker. Members, it is not the parliament's responsibility to compensate the member for Mulgrave for being sacked. Our duty is to elect a Speaker with experience and unquestioned integrity. It is clear that the best candidate is the member for Caloundra.


 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.06 am): Madam Presiding Member, let me say that I think the comments from those opposite should stand as a reflection of the poor contribution that they will make throughout the term of the 56th Parliament. They stand on their own as a very poor reflection of the contribution that we will see from members opposite.

When the member for Everton talks about a dark cloud he needs to go back to the Table Office and pick up the former Speaker's ruling in relation to this matter which took them almost six weeks to submit to the then Speaker, Mr Peter Wellington. Yesterday, Peter Wellington, as the outgoing Speaker, tabled for the benefit of all members of this House the fact that the member for Mulgrave had no case to answer, that this issue was not going to be referred to the Ethics Committee. For those opposite to come into this chamber and to re prosecute this after knowing that the Speaker had made that determination is nothing less than smear and gutter politics.

Let me say for the members in the chamber, for those opposite to present the member for Caloundra as an independent voice in the Speaker's chair is something that borders on the ridiculous. I am sure that many in this chamber remember when those opposite held the position of Speaker in this House. Despite the overwhelming numbers of the Liberal National Party in this place at that time, the member for Mulgrave was the leader of opposition business in this chamber and he conducted himself with the utmost dignity and the utmost respect for the government of the day, for the opposition and for the person who held the position of Speaker.

Madam Presiding Member, I do not believe there is a single person in this chamber who could or would do a better job as Speaker of this House than the member for Mulgrave. Let me say that there are not 48 members on this side of the House that would jump at the chance to second the nomination of the member for Mulgrave; there are 49 members of this chamber who would jump at the chance to second the member for Mulgrave's nomination as the Speaker. Those opposite should do their simple arithmetic before they come into this place to smear, to dig dirt and to run gutter politics in this chamber on the first day of the 56th Parliament.

008 The member for Mulgrave conducted himself with integrity, dignity and respect for this place not only in opposition but also as a minister of the Crown. He extended that dignity, respect and integrity to people in this chamber regardless of their party affiliation. In briefings to the crossbench and the opposition, the member for Mulgrave always conducted himself to the highest standard of anyone in this chamber. He will absolutely bring those traits and that approach as the Speaker of this House. I join with the Premier and 49 members of this chamber at least in saying that the member for Mulgrave is not only the best qualified but also the man with the most integrity and dignity to be the Speaker of the 56th Parliament.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.10 am): There are 48 Labor members over there. We get it; we did the maths too. Why couldn't any of the 48 members stand up five minutes ago and second the nomination? There are 48 of them. Any one of them could have stood up and seconded the nomination, but they had to rely on the Katter party to second the nomination. Was it the member for Mulgrave who requested that Robbie Katter second his nomination, or was it the Deputy Premier who refused to

second the nomination? I would have loved to have been a fly on that wall. Was it at the request of the member for Mulgrave that he did not want the Deputy Premier to second his nomination? I suspect it is the latter. I suspect the member for Mulgrave did not want the Deputy Premier's hands on this at all, and he went as far away from the Deputy Premier as he could in this chamber and he found the member for—

An opposition member: Traeger.

Mr BLEIJIE:—Traeger, the new seat of Traeger, to second his nomination. Another thing we have learnt in this place is that, when the Premier backs you, you are doomed. When the Premier kisses you on the cheek and says, 'Good job, pal,' you are done. Just ask the member for Bundamba. Ask the former member for Bundaberg. Ask the member for Sandgate. Every time the member for Inala stands up and backs you, you should be quivering and shaking because you are done. That is what the Premier did in the election campaign. She stood and looked the people of Queensland in the eye and said, 'Curtis Pitt is a great Treasurer. Curtis Pitt will make a fantastic Treasurer in the future,' but now it has all changed. Who made the decision that Curtis Pitt was not going to be a good Treasurer or the greatest Treasurer? Who made the decision that he was not going to be sitting in the Treasurer's seat?

We know it was not the member for Inala. We know that she is only Premier by name. We know the Deputy Premier, who now occupies the Treasury seat and the Deputy Premier's seat, runs the show. We know the Premier is there in name only. We know the Deputy Premier runs the show. The real Premier is sitting in the middle chair. We know that the Premier always acts busy as if she is doing Premier stuff. Every time we are in parliament when we are debating and asking questions the Premier has her BlackBerry out and she is buzzing away. We all know that the phone is turned off but she is still typing away.

This is the reality: this government is divided before we even start this parliamentary session. It is a divided government. It was divided when it was last in government and its division is starting now. For the Deputy Premier to stand up now and wax lyrical about how great the member for Mulgrave is going to be but not second his nomination is a testament to the division and divisiveness we see from this Labor government. Nothing has changed since the last term. Nothing has changed. The Deputy Premier is running the show and we know it.

I now move to the member for Caloundra. I have good things to say about the member for Caloundra. The member for Caloundra is my neighbouring MP—

Honourable members interjected.

The PRESIDING MEMBER: Order! Honourable members, it is becoming difficult for Hansard, I am sure, to hear and understand the debate.

Ms Jones interjected.

The PRESIDING MEMBER: I warn the minister and member for Cooper.


Mr BLEIJIE: Member for Caloundra, what I say to you today is this: you may just get up. There are 48 members sitting over there but I reckon the Deputy Premier might back you today. I reckon the Deputy Premier might back the member for Caloundra.

An opposition member: It's a secret ballot.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is a secret ballot; you never know. The member for Caloundra is an honourable man. He has served the people of Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast with distinction. He never shies away from fighting the good fight on the Sunshine Coast and for the people of Caloundra. I looked up to the member for Caloundra when I was a Young Liberal and I remember—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: It was not that long ago. I remember the member for Caloundra coming to see me at my home with Sally, my wife, and we had our young child there, and the member for Caloundra said to me that he was intending to run for Caloundra. I could not have supported and backed a better person as the member for Caloundra. The member for Caloundra will make a fantastic Speaker in this parliament. I would ask all honourable members to support you, including the Deputy Premier. I think you are going to get her support, member for Caloundra.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.16 am): To everyone in the gallery and everyone in Queensland who ever wanted to know why the LNP was on the opposition benches, they have seen it all on display this morning. I welcome the contribution by the Manager of Opposition Business because every time he

stands up in this place and his face and his voice are on Queensland television we know more votes are coming towards the Palaszczuk Labor government.

I rise this morning to provide my very strong and unequivocal support to the motion moved by the honourable Premier and the member for Traeger that the member for Mulgrave take the chair as the Speaker of this parliament. Every member elected to this House understands that we operate in an adversarial system; that politics is at its heart a contest of ideas and competing visions for our state's future. The nature of the political contest foments debate which in this parliament is always willing, frequently robust and sometimes even enlightening even though we have not seen that this morning.

But this is the people's house, and the ideological and legislative battles we wage here are subject to rules. Those rules are interpreted and arbitrated by and through the Speaker. When we—as every member in this House has always done—give due deference to the authority of the Speaker's role, we are doing more than honouring the position. We are recognising its centrality to our parliamentary system; that the struggle has structure and that the fight has form.


It is a position that our system places rightly above the fray—a leadership role in the parliament that looks beyond the partisan to the order of process, supported not merely by convention or tradition but by the respect each and every one of us has for the nature of democratic governance. For the role of the Speaker is not political; it is institutional. The Premier and the member for Traeger—a member who I might remind all honourable members is not a member of the government and who sits on the crossbenches—have nominated the member for Mulgrave to fulfil this august role. He is a person who, like his father, who is in the gallery this morning with his mother and the member for Mulgrave's wife and children, has committed a significant proportion of his adult life to public service and has served in this parliament with distinction.

The member for Mulgrave is a man of integrity and capability—a member whose fitness for office was recently validated by his constituents at the ballot box who returned him to this House with an increased majority. They recognise, as does every fair-minded member of this House, that the member for Mulgrave is a person driven by the ideals of fairness and social justice who has, including in the last parliament as Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, generated an impressive record of achievement for the people of our state.

009 He could point to his record as treasurer, when he delivered three consecutive surplus budgets, reduced debt, helped reduce unemployment and helped turn the lights back on, as did everyone in the first Palaszczuk Labor government after the dark, grim years of the Newman LNP government. He could point to those things as his most significant achievement. However, for many of us, his work supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities stands as some of the most telling about his character. On this special day, the 10th anniversary of the national apology to the stolen generation delivered by the then prime minister Kevin Rudd, leader of a federal Labor government, we know that in the member for Mulgrave the Indigenous people of our state have an unwavering champion for their cause.

What have we heard from the members opposite? Just when we had begun to hope the reset button had been pressed—it had been pressed and pressed by the Leader of the Opposition—we see nothing. We thought there might be something behind their rhetoric about a fresh approach, yet all we have had is the same old negative whining, the same old negativity. Just when we hope they might seize the chance to be noble, they flip the switch to nasty, led by the Leader of the Opposition, and remind us yet again of their inexhaustible capacity to disappoint. It may be a new LNP cast, but it is the same LNP movie: tired, worn out, meandering, finishing in failure.


There is one candidate that all fair-minded members of this House should support for the position of Speaker of the 56th Parliament and that is the member for Mulgrave.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.21 am): It is with much honour that I also rise to support the nomination and the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition in putting forward the member for Caloundra for the role of Speaker. In common with the member for Kawana, I have the honour of being a neighbour of the member for Caloundra and I can attest to what the member for Kawana has already shared about the member for Caloundra. Let me go one step further. I have had the privilege of recently acquiring a part of the Caloundra electorate in the seat of Glass House, that of the village of Mooloolah. The village of Mooloolah speaks incredibly highly of the representation they have had by the member for Caloundra. In fact, it has been quite a task to convince them that, whilst we represent the same political persuasion, I will represent them in a way similar to the standard that the member for Caloundra has set.

He has the honour and respect of his community. He has the honour and the respect of his fellow members on the Sunshine Coast and, indeed, across the LNP party room—those of us represented on the opposition benches. He has the respect of the LNP more broadly. It was he as the leader of the Liberal Party, alongside the then leader of the National Party, Lawrence Springborg, who brought our two parties together. We here thank him for that. We know that he did that through demonstrating high integrity and taking forward a position that we could support. I have no doubt that the member for Caloundra will bring the gravitas needed in the role of Speaker, that he will demonstrate an ability to control the House in a way that you, Madam Presiding Member, have just demonstrated from your experience, that he will be able to undertake the regal duties required of the role and that he will have the respect of the entire chamber including those sitting on the government benches.


In common with the member for Kawana, I call on those opposite, including the Deputy Premier, to come on board with the LNP. Let's vote in the member for Caloundra as the next Speaker of this parliament. If they cannot and if many, I suspect, do not want to support the member for Mulgrave, let me give them another alternative. There is an alternative. There is a Labor member who has demonstrated gravitas, who has demonstrated the ability to control this chamber, who has had the respect of this chamber including those on the opposition benches, who was well respected in his electorate and who I think if their electorate were polled today would wish he was back there, and that is the Honourable Speaker John Mickel. If members opposite cannot support the member for Caloundra, as we in the opposition will; if they cannot support the member for Mulgrave, as we suspect they cannot; and if they cannot support the current member for Logan, as many here cannot, then let's start the campaign. Let's bring back John, someone who represents Labor values but who can stand in this place with the respect and the gravitas that this chamber deserves. They certainly will not get that under the member for Mulgrave. As speakers on this side have already presented, he will not have the respect of this chamber. He certainly does not have the respect of some sitting on the front bench. He certainly will not have the respect of the opposition benches because of what he has dealt with during his term as treasurer and in presiding over the 'rail fail'.

This role is an important role. It is too important a role for those opposite to be supporting the member for Mulgrave. I implore everyone in this chamber to put their vote behind my friend the member for Caloundra. I wish him all the best in this debate.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (11.25 am): It is my great privilege to stand here today and speak in favour of the motion moved by the Premier and support the member for Mulgrave to be the Speaker of this parliament. I want to start by acknowledging his wife, Kerry, and their three children who are here today as well as his parents, Wanda—Warren and Linda Pitt. They are such a team we can put their names together! I say that genuinely because last night I was actually sitting with the member for Mulgrave and we were talking about our first memories of parliament. The member for Mulgrave mentioned to me his memory of being here in 1989 when his father was first sworn in as the member for Mulgrave and how proud he was as a child at that time to be here witnessing his father attaining that great office—remembering this was 1989. Like the member for Mulgrave, I grew up in this city. I was born in the late seventies, just like him. We have seen the highs and lows of politics in Queensland. We have lived and breathed when politicians do not play by the rules, when politicians choose to believe they are above the rules. We have fought damn hard as the Labor Party to make sure we restore faith in the parliament of Queensland. It is something that we on this side of politics believe is fundamental to who we are and why we sit here today. When I was listening to the member for Mulgrave last night he talked about how much he respects the parliament.

I say today that I have absolute faith that the member for Mulgrave not only will serve as a wonderful Speaker but will serve the people of Queensland, just like his father did, just like he has wanted to do since he was a young man. I want to thank and acknowledge the support of the Katter party and their leader for backing in another North Queenslander. There is a lot of talk in this chamber—and this is my fourth swearing-in—about representing the regions. Here is the LNP's opportunity: back in the North Queenslander I say.

Today is a day of celebration. Not only do we have the important business of electing a Speaker, but I think all members of parliament here today are mindful that there are many families and children looking at us and the performance we are displaying this morning. They expect better of us. I say to each and every single member: let's end this squabbling; let's support a man of integrity, a man who has bipartisan support as nominated and seconded by the leader of the Katter party; and let's support the member for Mulgrave, my good friend Curtis Pitt.


 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.28 am): The position of Speaker of this House is a position about respect, trust and fairness and, as our representative here in parliament, someone who acts in the interests of all of Queensland. Can I say the member for Mulgrave is no friend of the north. It is a disgrace that the Katter party stood up here today and supported his nomination. Let me remind parliament that under the watch of the member for Mulgrave funding for the dredging of the Trinity Inlet at Cairns was cut, a project so crucial to that far northern region and to the Cairns economy. He could not deliver the Aquis project even though it was his new year's resolution.

010 He failed to deliver the promised parliamentary inquiry in North Queensland and he cut road funding across North Queensland, for which the Katter party voted in favour of condemning him. How important is road funding in North Queensland? The North Queensland based members know what I am talking about. The road network in the north is the vital artery that keeps our communities alive and keeps them going, yet here we have a member who cut road funding for the north. He infamously said that money spent on the Bruce Highway is a waste of money.

He is no friend of the north. He would not support a base load power station in North Queensland to reduce our power prices. If you want to talk about a contentious issue in North Queensland, go and talk to the residents up there about how much they are paying for their power. This is a member who supported repeated increases in power prices that are crippling our economy and devastating communities in North Queensland. He would not accede to the power discounts offered by Alinta because of a sweetheart deal with government owned generators. To people in north and regional Queensland he is no friend.

Who could forget his opposition to sugar marketing legislation for our hardworking cane farmers in North Queensland. The member for Mulgrave has sugar cane in his own electorate, yet he sided with those opposite to oppose sugar marketing legislation which would give our growers a choice in who markets their sugar. He sided with those opposite in trying to introduce into this parliament draconian vegetation management laws which demonised our farmers and had the potential to bring agricultural development in this state to a standstill. He lives in an area in North Queensland where unemployment has gone through the roof, crime is out of control and there has been no action on infrastructure such as dams. We on this side of the House repeatedly talk about what this infrastructure will do and the jobs it will bring, but what do we see from those opposite, supported by the former Treasurer? Absolutely nothing. The best predictor of future performance is past performance, and on all accounts the member for Mulgrave has failed to deliver.


I support the nomination of the member for Caloundra, who is a man of integrity. He has the experience, impartiality and trust to be the Speaker of this House and preside over the 56th parliament in a way which will bring integrity to the role and to this parliament. I fully support the nomination of the member for Caloundra.

 **The PRESIDING MEMBER:** Honourable members, a ballot will now be taken in accordance with standing orders. I call the Clerk to conduct the ballot.

At 11.34 am, in accordance with the provisions of standing orders 40 and 41, a ballot was taken by the Clerk, with the following result—

Mr Pitt	—	53
Mr McArdle	—	40
Informal	—	0

012 *Mr Pitt submitted himself to the pleasure of the House and, on being called, was conducted to the chair by the mover and the seconder.*

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

Honourable members, my sincere thanks for the great honour you have bestowed upon me today electing me as your Speaker for the 56th Parliament of Queensland. I thank the honourable Premier and the honourable member for Traeger for their kind words and for supporting my nomination and I thank all members who contributed to the debate. I thank former Speaker Wellington for his service and wish him well in his retirement from office.

Following in the great tradition of Speaker Wellington, my role as Speaker will see me continue to be a strong voice and advocate for people in regional Queensland, particularly in my electorate of Mulgrave. Our public institutions, including governments and parliaments not just here but around the world, face new and rapidly changing demands and expectations. My aim is to ensure continuing respect for the Queensland parliament by acting fairly and in the interests of all Queenslanders to ensure that the contributions all members make in this place are of the highest standard. As an MP from regional Queensland, I want to see as many Queenslanders as possible interact with our parliament no matter where they live.

Honourable members, I am very aware that each one of the members who has preceded me as Speaker has contributed to our parliamentary democracy through their stewardship of this House. During the Queensland parliament's first meeting more than 150 years ago, the very first Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the honourable Gilbert Elliott, urged members to display mutual forbearance and self-control during debates. Recognising this, it is incumbent upon us to act with dignity and decorum reflecting the great honour and trust the people of Queensland have placed in us.


With the indulgence of honourable members, I want to take a moment to reflect that today marks the 10th anniversary of the national apology to the stolen generations. Ten years ago, then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said sorry, a defining moment in Australian history that acknowledged the injustices and impact of past laws and policies, particularly the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families and communities. It was a national act of reconciliation that provided a new understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and I believe was but one of the first significant milestones in our nation's healing process. It is important to reflect on our shared past as we continue and consider our responsibilities moving forward to work towards reconciliation.

On a personal note, I remember exactly where I was when the Prime Minister issued that apology. Only weeks earlier my wife Kerry and I lost our first child, Isabel. I was deeply moved by the words being spoken by the Prime Minister and I remember thinking how I wished Isabel had lived and had the opportunity to grow up in such a progressive nation, particularly as an Aboriginal child, and to be a proud Kuku Yalanji woman like her mother. Which brings me to my wonderful wife Kerry who is here today in the galley, joined by our children, Tristan, Layla and Kobi, and my parents, Warren and Linda. I acknowledge that without all of their help and support it would not have been possible to achieve any of the things that I have achieved or will achieve in my life—a sentiment no doubt echoed by other members in this House in terms of their respective families.

Honourable members, in 2009 in my first speech in this place I said that during my lifetime I had observed the public's opinion of politicians diminish. I said by and large this view is not justified. Many great men and women have served in this parliament and have served with honour and integrity and have effectively served the communities they represent. Whether this view is justified or not, it does not change the fact that people's faith in their political representatives must be restored. Each member of this parliament has a crucial role to play in rebuilding that trust, both inside and outside the chamber. I plan on doing my part. We are all human, we all make mistakes, but much of what we do is within our power to control. We can do better. We will do better. The people of Queensland expect nothing less. I hope that people can look back at the 56th parliament as one that engaged in robust and profound debate but did so in the spirit of mutual respect and tolerance for the greater good of Queensland.

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To returning members I say 'welcome back' and I extend a special welcome to our new members. If you look around the chamber you will see members with many years of service and experience who can assist you in your new role. I know that the Clerk of the Parliament is always available to assist and my door will always be open to members without regard to seniority or political affiliations. Again, I thank you for the honour that you have bestowed upon me. I will serve you fairly as your Speaker.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (12.12 pm): Mr Speaker, on behalf of the government I extend our congratulations to you on your elevation to the high office of Speaker of the 56th Parliament. From the words that you spoke as you took the chair, we know that you will preside over this parliament with fairness, with grace and with dignity. I welcome your words that you will have an open door to all members of this House. I share in congratulating all members on being sworn in as members of parliament today. On behalf of the government, I welcome all new members and, of course, all returning members.


Mr Speaker, I reflect on the fact that your family is here with us today. I acknowledge your parents, Warren and Linda. As I said in my speech earlier, we know how well both you and your father have served the people of Mulgrave. I pay tribute to your wife, Kerry, and your children, who are here today.

I know how much you treasure them. I also know how hard and difficult it is for regional members to spend time away from their families. We will address that issue a little later in the week.

Finally, on behalf of the government, once again I offer our congratulations to you, Mr Speaker. We look forward to working with you during the term of the 56th Parliament.


 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.14 pm): Mr Speaker, we accept the will of the parliament. The parliament has bestowed upon you a great honour and a great responsibility. The role of Speaker is of paramount importance in our parliament. It is now your task to allow rigorous debate through scrutiny of legislation without favour to any side. The opposition hopes the Speaker will embrace the role as others have done before him. As Leader of the Opposition, I also congratulate all new members and all returning members to this House. Mr Speaker, the opposition congratulates you on your appointment and wishes you all the best for the 56th Parliament. We pledge to work with you for the betterment of Queensland.

PRESENTATION OF GOVERNOR


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (12.15 pm): I desire to inform honourable members that His Excellency the Governor will receive the House for the purpose of presenting the Speaker to His Excellency at Government House today at 2.30 pm. All members are invited to be present. Transport has been arranged for those members who have not made their own arrangements and will leave the Parliamentary Annexe at 1.45 pm. Honourable members should be at the Parliamentary Annexe no later than 1.40 pm.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT


Official Photograph

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the official photograph of members in the chamber will be taken today. I hope you are prepared. I ask all members to remain in their seats after the House has been adjourned.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (12.15 pm): I move—
That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 2.10 pm Wednesday, 14 February 2018 in the former Legislative Council chamber.
Question put—That the motion be agreed to.
Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (12.15 pm): I move—
That the House do now adjourn.
Question put—That the House do now adjourn.
Motion agreed to.
The House adjourned at 12.16 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillian, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson