



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>
E-mail: hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au
Phone: (07) 3406 7314 **Fax:** (07) 3210 0182

Subject **FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT** Page

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT	1
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Proclamation, dated 26 April 2012, summoning the Legislative Assembly to a session on 15 May 2012.	
COMMISSION TO OPEN PARLIAMENT	2
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Commission, dated 26 April 2012, to open the session of the Legislative Assembly on 15 May 2012.	
COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH OR AFFIRMATION	2
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Commission, dated 26 April 2012, to administer the oaths or affirmations.	
RETURN OF WRIT	3
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Writ, dated 19 February 2012, for the General Election of Queensland.	
MEMBERS SWORN	4
ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF SOUTH BRISBANE	5
Resignation of Member	5
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 2 April 2012, from Ms Anna Bligh to the Speaker advising of resignation as the member for South Brisbane.	
By-Election, Return of Writ	5
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Writ, dated 3 April 2012, for by-election in the electoral district of South Brisbane.	
MEMBER SWORN	5
ELECTION OF SPEAKER	5
PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER	10
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	11
Official Photograph	11
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	11
ADJOURNMENT	11
ATTENDANCE	11



Legislative Assembly

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

Appointed to meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF MAY, IN THE SIXTY-FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2012

TUESDAY, 15 MAY 2012

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

 Pursuant to the proclamation by Her Excellency the Governor, dated 26 April 2012, 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, PENELOPE WENSLEY, 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 15 May 2012 at Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane.

(Sgd)

Signed and sealed with the Public Seal of the State on 26 April 2012.

By Command

(Sgd)

C Newman

RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 48 page 111, on 26 April 2012.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Proclamation, dated 26 April 2012, summoning the Legislative Assembly to a session on 15 May 2012 [\[13\]](#).

COMMISSION TO OPEN PARLIAMENT

 The Clerk informed the House that Her 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. Campbell Kevin Thomas Newman, the Hon. Jeffrey William Seenev and the Hon. Timothy James Nicholls 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 CAMPBELL KEVIN THOMAS NEWMAN and the Honourable JEFFREY WILLIAM SEENEV and the Honourable TIMOTHY JAMES NICHOLLS.

I, PENELOPE WENSLEY, 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 15 May 2012; 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 26 April 2012.

By Command

(Sgd)

C Newman

RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 48, page 112, on 26 April 2012.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Commission, dated 26 April 2012, to open the session of the Legislative Assembly on 15 May 2012 [[14](#)].

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH OR AFFIRMATION

 **The SENIOR COMMISSIONER** (Hon. Campbell Newman—Ashgrove): I produce a commission under the public seal of the state authorising myself, the Hon. Jeffrey William Seenev and the Hon. Timothy James Nicholls, 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 CAMPBELL KEVIN THOMAS NEWMAN and the Honourable JEFFREY WILLIAM SEENEV and the Honourable TIMOTHY JAMES NICHOLLS.

I, PENELOPE WENSLEY, 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 26 April 2012.

By Command

(Sgd)

C Newman

RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 48, page 113, on 26 April 2012.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Commission, dated 26 April 2012, to administer the oaths or affirmations [[15](#)].

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—

Albert: Mark Andrew Boothman	Logan: Michael Joseph Pucci
Algester: Anthony Shorten	Lytton: Neil Aaron Symes
Ashgrove: Campbell Newman	Mackay: Timothy Sean Mulherin
Aspley: Tracy Ellen Davis	Mansfield: Ian Bradley Walker
Barron River: Michael John Trout	Maroochydore: Fiona Simpson
Beaudesert: Jonathan Mark Krause	Maryborough: Marguerete Anne Maddern
Brisbane Central: Roberto Anthony Cavallucci	Mermaid Beach: Raymond Alexander Stevens
Broadwater: Verity Mary Barton	Mirani: George Edward Malone
Buderim: Steven Lance Dickson	Moggill: Bruce Stephen Flegg
Bulimba: Aaron Stuart Dillaway	Morayfield: Darren John Grimwade
Bundaberg: John Mark Dempsey	Mount Coot-tha: Saxon Rice
Bundamba: Jo—Ann Roslyn Miller	Mount Isa: Robert Ignatius Katter
Burdekin: Rosemary Norma Menkens	Mount Ommaney: Tarnya Lisa Smith
Burleigh: Michael James Hart	Mudgeeraba: Rosslyn Mary Bates
Burnett: Stephen Andrew Bennett	Mulgrave: Curtis Warren Pitt
Cairns: Gavin Ryan King	Mundingburra: David Frank Crisafulli
Callide: Jeffrey William Seeney	Murrumba: Reg Gulley
Caloundra: Mark Francis McArdle	Nanango: Deborah Kay Frecklington
Capalaba: Stephen William Davies	Nicklin: Peter William Wellington
Chatsworth: Steven James Minnikin	Noosa: Glen Wayne Elmes
Clayfield: Timothy James Nicholls	Nudgee: Jason Ross Woodforth
Cleveland: Mark Andrew Robinson	Pine Rivers: Seath Andrew Holswich
Condamine: Raymond Gordon Hopper	Pumicestone: Lisa Nicole France
Cook: David Kempton	Redcliffe: Scott Nicolaus Driscoll
Coomera: Michael John Crandon	Redlands: Peter James Dowling
Currumbin: Janet Anne Stuckey	Rockhampton: William Stephen Byrne
Dalrymple: Shane Andrew Knuth	Sandgate: Kerry Natasha Millard
Everton: Timothy Leonard Mander	South Brisbane: Anna Maria Bligh
Ferny Grove: Dale Shuttleworth	Southern Downs: Lawrence James Springborg
Gaven: Alexander Douglas	Southport: Robert Molhoek
Gladstone: Elizabeth Anne Cunningham	Springwood: John Bramwell Grant
Glass House: Andrew Cary Powell	Stafford: Christopher Karl Davis
Greenslopes: Ian Scott Kaye	Stretton: Freya Ostapovitch
Gregory: Vaughan Gregory Johnson	Sunnybank: Mark Adrian Stewart
Gympie: David Francis Gibson	Surfers Paradise: John-Paul Honore Langbroek
Hervey Bay: Edward John Sorensen	Thuringowa: Samuel Victor Cox
Hinchinbrook: Andrew Peter Cripps	Toowoomba North: Trevor John Watts
Inala: Annastacia Palaszczuk	Toowoomba South: John Joseph McVeigh
Indooroopilly: Scott Anthony Emerson	Townsville: John Damien Hathaway
Ipswich: Ian Morley Berry	Warrego: Howard William Thomas Hobbs
Ipswich West: Sean Kenneth Choat	Waterford: Michael Latter
Kallangur: Trevor John Ruthenberg	Whitsunday: Jason Noel Costigan
Kawana: Jarrod Pieter Bleijie	Woodridge: Desley Carleton Scott
Keppel: Bruce Cameron Young	Yeerongpilly: Carl John Judge
Lockyer: Ian Phillip Rickuss	

Tabled paper: Writ, dated 19 February 2012, for the General Election of Queensland [16].

MEMBERS SWORN

 The commissioners, the Hon. Campbell Kevin Thomas Newman, the Hon. Jeffrey William Seeney and the Hon. Timothy James Nicholls, administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office to themselves and, having been sworn, subscribed the Roll of Members.

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

SPRINGBORG, Lawrence James	HOPPER, Raymond Gordon
LANGBROEK, John-Paul Honore	JOHNSON, Vaughan Gregory
BLEIJIE, Jarrod Pieter	JUDGE, Carl John
EMERSON, Scott Anthony	KATTER, Robert Ignatius
FLEGG, Bruce Stephen	KAYE, Ian Scott
DEMPSEY, John Mark	KEMPTON, David
MCVEIGH, John Joseph	KING, Gavin Ryan
POWELL, Andrew Cary	KNUTH, Shane Andrew
CRIPPS, Andrew Peter	KRAUSE, Jonathan Mark
MCARDLE, Mark Francis	LATTER, Michael
CRISAFULLI, David Frank	MADDERN, Marguerete Anne
DAVIS, Tracy Ellen	MALONE, George Edward
BATES, Rosslyn Mary	MANDER, Timothy Leonard
DICKSON, Steven Lance	MENKENS, Rosemary Norma
STUCKEY, Janet Anne	MILLARD, Kerry Natasha
ELMES, Glen Wayne	MILLER, Jo-Ann Roslyn
BARTON, Verity Mary	MINNIKIN, Steven James
BENNETT, Stephen Andrew	MOLHOEK, Robert
BERRY, Ian Morley	MULHERIN, Timothy Sean
BOOTHMAN, Mark Andrew	OSTAPOVITCH, Freya
BYRNE, William Stephen	PALASZCZUK, Annastacia
CAVALLUCCI, Roberto Anthony	PITT, Curtis Warren
CHOAT, Sean Kenneth	PUCCI, Michael Joseph
COSTIGAN, Jason Noel	RICE, Saxon
COX, Samuel Victor	RICKUSS, Ian Phillip
CRANDON, Michael John	ROBINSON, Mark Andrew
CUNNINGHAM, Elizabeth Anne	RUTHENBERG, Trevor John
DAVIES, Stephen William	SCOTT, Desley Carleton
DAVIS, Christopher Karl	SHORTEN, Anthony
DILLAWAY, Aaron Stuart	SHUTTLEWORTH, Dale
DOUGLAS, Alexander	SIMPSON, Fiona
DOWLING, Peter James	SMITH, Tarnya Lisa
DRISCOLL, Scott Nicolaus	SORENSEN, Edward John
FRANCE, Lisa Nicole	STEVENS, Raymond Alexander
FRECKLINGTON, Deborah Kay	STEWART, Mark Adrian
GIBSON, David Francis	SYMES, Neil Aaron
GRANT, John Bramwell	TROUT, Michael John
GRIMWADE, Darren John	WALKER, Ian Bradley
GULLEY, Reg	WATTS, Trevor John
HART, Michael James	WELLINGTON, Peter William
HATHAWAY, John Damien	WOODFORTH, Jason Ross
HOBBS, Howard William Thomas	YOUNG, Bruce Cameron
HOLSWICH, Seath Andrew	

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF SOUTH BRISBANE

Resignation of Member

 **The CLERK:** Honourable members, I inform the House that the Speaker received a letter of resignation dated 2 April 2012 from Ms Anna Bligh, member for the electoral district of South Brisbane. I table the letter for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 2 April 2012, from Ms Anna Bligh to the Speaker advising of resignation as the member for South Brisbane [17].

By-Election, Return of Writ

 **The CLERK:** Honourable members, I inform the House that the writ issued by Her Excellency the Governor on 3 April 2012 for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of South Brisbane has been returned with a certificate endorsed thereon by the returning officer of the election on 28 April 2012 of Jacklyn Anne Trad to serve as such member. I table the writ. Will the honourable member please come forward and take the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office.

Tabled paper: Writ, dated 3 April 2012, for by-election in the electoral district of South Brisbane [18].

MEMBER SWORN

 The Senior Commissioner administered the affirmation of allegiance and of office to Ms Trad, who then subscribed the Roll of Members.

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 the Speaker.

The longest continually serving member of the Legislative Assembly is Mr Howard Hobbs, the member for Warrego, who was elected on 1 November 1986 and sworn in as a member of the 45th Parliament on 17 February 1987. Under the provisions of standing order 39, I call on the member for Warrego to take the chair as Presiding Member for the purpose of the election of a Speaker.

 **The PRESIDING MEMBER** (Mr Hobbs): Honourable members, before calling for proposals 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 whether 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 practices, debate will occur regardless of the number of nominations received and a time limit of five minutes will apply to all speeches.

I remind all honourable members that the provisions of standing orders apply to this debate. I also remind honourable members, including the member for Gregory, that whilst in the chair the Presiding Member has all the powers and authorities of the Speaker. I now call for nominations. I call the Premier.

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (10.49 am): Mr Presiding Member, I nominate the honourable member for Maroochydore, Ms Fiona Simpson. I move—

That the honourable member for Maroochydore do take the chair of the House as Speaker.

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.49 am): Mr Presiding Member, I second the motion moved by the Premier for the nomination of the member for Maroochydore.

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

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Presiding Member, I accept the nomination.

The PRESIDING MEMBER: Are there any further nominations? If not, I call the Premier.

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (10.49 am): Honourable members, the role of parliamentary Speaker is respected and admired and is a role steeped in history. By formal definition, a Speaker is elected to preside over sittings and to maintain orderly proceedings. The Speaker sets the tone, calls the shots and refs the rulings, and if you see them on their feet you know they are not impressed.

Since the formation of the first Queensland parliament in 1860, 35 Speakers have presided over this Assembly, most recently the former member for Logan, the Hon. John Mickel. Often praised for his fairness, firmness, patience and integrity, his service was a great credit to the role. On behalf of all members of the 53rd Parliament, I acknowledge the contribution of the former member for Logan in the role of Speaker.

Just like the immediate past Speaker, whilst all 35 former Speakers brought to the role different qualities and personalities, they all had one thing in common: they were men. In 1986 the federal parliament elected its first female Speaker of the House of Representatives and almost 20 years later the Victorian parliament did the same. Today it gives me great pleasure to nominate the member for Maroochydore as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Queensland parliament's first female Speaker.

The member for Maroochydore was born in a bush nursing hospital at Sea Lake in the semi-arid Victorian Mallee region to a pioneer family. I actually know where Sea Lake is, having been in the grain industry. With our nominee at the age of three, the family—parents Gordon and Norma, along with three siblings—chose to become Queenslanders when they moved to the Sunshine Coast in 1968. There, the member attended Cooroy and Yandina primary schools and later Nambour State High School, one of our fine state schools which has educated numerous senior politicians from across the political spectrum.

Harbouring a love of language, the Speaker elect lived in Japan as a Rotary exchange student and later majored in Japanese language at university. This overseas experience created an advocate of the importance of Australian students learning foreign languages, both to contribute to bridges of cultural understanding and to develop our economic strengths. Whilst a passion for music also featured in early years, the member chose to pursue a career in journalism, allowing her to exercise her other creative love: writing. It was a choice that saw her awarded the state Dalgety Excellence in Rural Journalism Award in 1989.

The member for Maroochydore won the newly created seat in 1992, cementing her first record milestone: the youngest woman elected to the Queensland parliament. Her approach to public life has been influenced by both her parents and the example they set of service above self—the member's father having served in the Queensland parliament between 1974 and 1989 as the member for Coorooora and her mother as a former nurse.

Her understanding of the diversity and size of this great state has come about through many years and thousands of kilometres travelled meeting with ordinary Queenslanders through shadow ministry roles for health, transport, main roads, tourism, small business, communities, housing and women, to name just a few. It is her reputation for hard work and diligent service for her electorate of Maroochydore, the Sunshine Coast and, indeed, all Queenslanders that has seen her re-elected eight times.

Honourable members, the 54th Parliament has serious and significant business ahead. Our nominee for Speaker is committed to restoring the powers and authority of the role, to truly return to the Office of the Speaker the independence it requires to execute its crucial functions—and that is about leadership. We must work dutifully and responsibly to improve the lives of the people of Queensland. In this work we must all take personal responsibility for maintaining—indeed exceeding—the standards expected of all of us. I have full confidence that, as the custodian of our conduct, the honourable member for Maroochydore will assist, support and guide us while holding us to high account. We must rebuild ourselves as a parliament in which the people of Queensland can be proud. The member for Maroochydore subscribes to the motto of service above self, the ideal quality to have in a parliamentary Speaker. I commend the member for Maroochydore as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.55 am): Honourable members, in seconding the motion moved by the Premier and the nomination of the member for Maroochydore for the high office of Speaker of this parliament, I want to reflect, as the Premier has done, on the role of the Speaker. It is often said that the role of the Speaker is the most important role in the parliament, but few of those who say it fully understand the implications of what they say. Having seen a number of Speakers serve in this parliament, I think I can say that whoever takes the chair of the Speaker of the parliament does more than just keep order in the House. Some of them do that better than others. Whoever takes the chair of Speaker of the parliament sets the tone, defines the character and sets the personality of the parliament. In a very real way, they establish whether or not this parliament can serve the purpose that it must in a real democracy. That purpose is often misrepresented.

Many people who come here make the comparison between this chamber and a school classroom or a university lecture theatre. Those who do that fail to understand the purpose of this parliamentary chamber. It is a place of challenge. It is a place of contest. It is a place where the government must come to be tested and it is the role of the opposition in the parliament to test the government. The extent to which that purpose can be served is, in a very real way, defined by the Speaker.

I know that the member for Maroochydore has served in this parliament for 20 years under good Speakers and bad Speakers. Members who have served in this parliament for periods of time cite two names as illustrations of Speakers who have done a good job. Speaker Neil Turner is the most revered of the Speakers who have served in this parliament in recent times—and the member for Maroochydore served in this parliament when Speaker Turner was in the chair. I know from my discussions with the member for Maroochydore that she will use that experience as a good example. Equally, as the Premier has referred to, Speaker John Mickel, our most recent Speaker, is universally respected for the character that he brought to this parliament and the way he allowed this parliament to do its job and perform its role. Equally, there have been other Speakers in between those two whom I will not name but who, I will suggest, failed to understand the purpose of this parliament and failed to ensure that this parliament was able to perform its role. I will cite a couple of examples.

I well remember the day that my colleague the member for Southern Downs, who was then the opposition leader, was warned twice: once for yawning and once for laughing—not at the same time, mind you. It illustrated the level of absurdity to which the parliament had sunk. The second example I would cite is that unfortunate day when the member for Maroochydore and I were both ejected from this parliament—quite unjustly—within a few minutes of each other because we chose to stand up for the communities of Queensland and resist the government's absurd attempts to amalgamate councils across Queensland. How right we have proven to be as communities still struggle with the fact that their heart and soul was torn from them by that legislation. We were ejected because the government could not withstand the pressure and the test that was the rightful use of this parliament.

So I know that the member for Maroochydore will bring to the chair of this parliament those experiences and those examples, and she will ensure that the 54th Parliament—which is a little different from some of the others that I have served in—will also fulfil the role that the people who elected each and every one of us to this House expect it to. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion moved by the Premier and I have much pleasure in endorsing the nomination of the member for Maroochydore for the position of Speaker in the 54th Queensland Parliament.

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.59 am): The opposition will be supporting the nomination of the member for Maroochydore as the first female Speaker of the Queensland parliament.

 **Mr MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.00 am): I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition and others in this House in supporting the nomination and I second the motion.

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (11.00 am): On behalf of the crossbenchers, I also support the member for Maroochydore's nomination as Speaker. Previous speakers have referred to John Mickel, the former member for Logan, and Neil Turner, the former member for Nicklin, both of whom I think set a proud record in this chamber in terms of their even-handedness in presiding over some very difficult times, particularly the former member for Nicklin when the numbers were so close.

I also support the member for Maroochydore because she is well qualified to preside. She is a person of great personal value. She is a woman of purpose and a member, I must say, well versed in interjections. So I would hope that as Speaker she shows some latitude to those of us who feel the need to interject on very valid grounds.

On behalf of the crossbenchers, I congratulate the member for Maroochydore for her promotion to the position of Speaker but, more importantly, we look forward to working not only with the first woman Speaker but for a Speaker who has all of the qualifications and indeed, I am sure, a willingness to see this chamber not only perform appropriately but protect and enhance the values of the community of Queensland.

 **The PRESIDING MEMBER:** Honourable members, as there are no further nominations, I declare the honourable member for Maroochydore, Ms Fiona Simpson, to be the Speaker.

Ms Simpson submitted herself to the pleasure of the House and, on being called, was conducted to the chair by the mover and the seconder.

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet. Audax at fidelis—bold but faithful is the motto of our great state of Queensland which appears on the walls of this magnificent parliamentary building and on our coat of arms. It calls us to actions of courage but with trustworthiness and integrity. It reminds us to stand up for what is right and to speak truthfully with hearts submitted to the service of others above self.

Courage without care can damage. Boldness tempered with faithful love for others empowers and unleashes greater opportunity for all. That is why I am truly humble to take this chair and the position of Speaker of the 54th Parliament of Queensland, as you asked me to fulfil a role to fairly adjudicate within this chamber and to defend our parliamentary democracy outside of it. I acknowledge and thank the Premier and Deputy Premier for the words in nominating me and the House for its support in my appointment.

Let me also extend my congratulations to Premier Campbell Newman as the first to contend and win this role from outside of parliament and to the Leader of the Opposition, Anastacia Palaszczuk, who becomes the first woman Leader of the Opposition. I acknowledge all members of parliament—the Liberal-Nationals, Labor, Katter's Australian Party and Independents. I particularly congratulate our 50 new members in our 89-seat parliament. You are part of an extraordinary class of 2012.

As members know, I am a member of the ruling party and I hold the seat of Maroochydore, which I will continue to strongly and passionately represent. However, my role as Speaker is an appointment of the parliament, not of the executive, and hundreds of years of convention dictate that in this role I must act in the interests of all parliamentarians, not partisan interests, to defend the rights and responsibilities of the parliament as a whole. You have been elected to this parliament to be the voice of your electorates and to deliver good government. As members of parliament, you will quickly find that some people assume you only work while in this chamber. But a member's duties in and outside of the chamber are inextricably linked, as they are in my role as the new Speaker.

Last year there was public controversy when laws were passed to significantly alter the duties of the Speaker by transferring the powers over the precinct and its services as well as oversight of ethical policy issues, such as the code of conduct and the register of pecuniary interests, to a Committee of the Legislative Assembly and making the Speaker's role and office subject to the deliberations of a committee rather than in the first instance the scrutiny of the whole House. I believe the Speaker's role needs to be unambiguously restored in keeping with Westminster conventions to ensure that there is respect for the parliament as a whole and an understanding that it is not an arm of executive government so that fairness not only occurs but is seen to occur.

As this state has no upper house, the role of Speaker is arguably even more important to ensure proper and fair dealing with scrutiny of legislation and the delivery of services which support a parliamentarian in the course of their work—services such as the library, office space and support staff—as well as oversight of the setting of the standards of ethical policies for parliamentarians for the benefit of all Queenslanders. The fact that the current legislation provides no effective protection or safeguard for the Speaker's own staff and office could be viewed as an unacceptable mechanism for compromising a Speaker's independence and the oversight of fairness in this place.

Eminent constitutional and parliamentary legal expert Gerard Carney, now the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Queensland, provided a learned insight into the impact of these laws upon the multifaceted rights and responsibilities of the Speaker. In his advice to the former scrutiny of legislation committee on 28 June 2011, tabled by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly on 2 August 2011, Mr Carney remarked 'that the Executive should not be allowed to intrude on the control of the House or its management'. He went on to say—

The position, in which a Speaker will find himself or herself under this Bill, will be one of reduced status and unwarranted compromise in terms of his or her ability to perform the functions of office. This in turn will impair the effective management and functioning of the House. It also threatens the maintenance of an appropriate level of separation between the House and the Executive by undermining the delicate role of a politically appointed Speaker who must try to retain the trust of both government and opposition.

He summarised by saying—

... the management of the parliamentary service, which is there to serve all members of the Assembly, is now vested in a committee which does not adequately represent the vast majority of the members of the Assembly. So long as that role is vested in the Speaker, there is a tradition and expectation that the Speaker will act in the best interests of all members. That tradition and expectation cannot be translated to the CLA constituted as it is with "executive" members.

The parliament must operate fairly, and thus the Speaker's role needs to be re-empowered to ensure this occurs without executive interference.

Today you have honoured me with the opportunity to serve as Queensland's first female Speaker of the Parliament. In turn, I wish to honour a great Queensland woman—Eliza O'Connell, who proved decades before women had the vote here in Queensland that leadership is about legacy, not a title, and great leadership impacts for the good of others beyond a generation.

Among other things, Eliza started a training school for women to help them gain employment and an orphanage in the 1860s and 1870s. She was a founder and president of a maternity hospital which later became the Royal Women's Hospital and was also the founding vice-president and later president of the Hospital for Sick Children, which is now the Royal Children's Hospital. Eliza was responsible for choosing the scripture Psalm 127, which is written in stained glass behind the main staircase of this building. It says—

Except the Lord build the house, they labour but in vain that build it.

Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

I believe that she was the very epitome of our state motto, boldly and faithfully reaching out of her comfort zone for the love of others. She is an inspiration we can all draw upon—audax at fidelis, bold but faithful.

It is a great privilege to be elected as Speaker. I will seek to ensure that every voice has the opportunity to be heard and that we value our democracy enough to respect its operation so that we who have been chosen to watch this state and labour for the benefit of all Queenslanders do so not in vain but for lasting good.

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (11.12 am): Madam Speaker, I think during my remarks on your nomination I expressed my thoughts on the qualities that we all saw and that have seen us support you into this role today. I would like to say on behalf of all members that it is a delight to see you there in the position—the first female Speaker this House has ever seen. It is long overdue.

I think you will do a fantastic job. I know that you have the strength, the integrity and the values that will allow you to run the proceedings of this House in an impartial and very careful way. On behalf of the House, congratulations and our very best wishes for the whole of this term. We are looking forward to the exercise of democracy that the Deputy Premier spoke about. There will be robust debate in this place. That is what it is all about, but I will be 100 per cent supportive of you in your efforts to make sure that it is run in an orderly and proper way that meets the standards of all Queenslanders and is particularly consistent with the things that I have been saying about trying to lift the institution of parliament in the eyes of the Queensland public. Congratulations, Madam Speaker.

Government members: Hear, hear!

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.13 am): Madam Speaker, I join with the Honourable the Premier and others in this House to congratulate you on your appointment. I thank you for your opening address, and I confirm the cooperation of the opposition in the appropriate use of the standing and sessional orders during the 54th Parliament.

This is the first time since 1998 that an opposition has supported the government's nomination for this important position. The role of the Speaker in a Westminster parliament has a long and dignified history, dating back to the appointment of Sir Thomas Hungerford to the position in 1377. Until the 17th century, the Speaker was often an agent of the King. This meant that they were open to suffering the King's disdain when delivering news from parliament that the King was not likely to receive well.

The role of the Speaker has changed with historical developments but has today retained certain characteristics, powers and responsibilities. The most enduring of these are independence and dignity. The Speaker of the Queensland parliament, based on the position of the Speaker of the House of Commons, plays a very important role in the democratic life of this state. The Speaker's role in interpreting and applying the standing orders to proceedings in this House is crucial to the success or otherwise of the sittings of parliament, and I have every confidence that the member for Maroochydore will apply an impartial and respectful approach to her role.

Madam Speaker, I note that your election as Speaker of this House is also an historic one, it being the election of the first female Speaker of the Queensland parliament. Since 1929, when Irene Longman was the first woman to contest a seat at a Queensland election and was also the first woman elected to the Queensland parliament, women have slowly increased their representation in this parliament. The election of the first female Speaker is another important step in the long journey to equal representation over the years by women in the parliament.

Today is a unique day and one that you will always treasure. It is a great honour to be appointed Speaker of the Queensland parliament. You have served on numerous parliamentary committees, you have held numerous shadow ministerial posts, and you hold Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees. You are eminently qualified to hold this position.

Since your election in 1992, you have seen some very robust debate in this House. That is only to be expected in any parliament where members are passionate about the causes they support. This is the people's house, where we have the honour to represent the views of our constituents. Laws which are passed for the benefit of the people of Queensland need the utmost scrutiny in this chamber, and members of this House have a clear right to be heard.

We are fortunate to have a parliament here in Queensland where opposing ideas can be aired, differences explored and resolution reached wherever possible. That is why some robustness must be allowed in the debate. The role of the Speaker is to allow this debate within the confines of our standing and sessional orders, and I trust that the member for Maroochydore, because of her experience in this House, will achieve this.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Hon. John Mickel for his stewardship of this parliament during the past three years. His tenure as Speaker has coincided with some of the greatest changes to the operation of this parliament, and I take on board what the Deputy Premier has said: he was very well respected on both sides of the House. I believe that he was always fair and always reasonable, and I know that our new Speaker will do just as well as the former Speaker did. I note in the member for Maroochydore's first speech to this House she stated—

... I am here to work and to be a servant for my electorate.

She went on to state—

I look forward to working very hard to serve the people of my electorate without fear or favour and without deferring to people's political beliefs.

These characteristics, when brought to the role of Speaker, will define her as a fair, impartial adjudicator who will make decisions based solely on the standing orders and the merits of the argument and not in a politically partisan way. Never will these qualities be more important than in this 54th Queensland Parliament.

Madam Speaker, I know that through your family's long association with this place you have developed a strong interest in and appreciation of the history and traditions of this great House. This should stand you in good stead for maintaining the important traditions and conventions that have become an important part of the way this House operates. On behalf of the opposition, I congratulate you on securing the support of this parliament for the position that you now hold. I know that you will undertake your duties with the diligence and commitment that you have previously displayed in this House. Once again, congratulations and good luck. We look forward to working with you.

 **Mr MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.18 am): Madam Speaker, I join with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and others in the House to support and congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker and on your opening address. As the opposition leader has pledged, we will support you in the position of Speaker and trust that you will uphold the appropriate use of standing and sessional orders of the 54th Parliament. As the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have also stated, your appointment as Speaker makes you the first female to serve as Speaker in the Queensland parliament, and I congratulate you on this historic appointment. As you have been a member of this House since 1992, you have the experience to approach the role with the utmost dignity, impartiality and fairness that the Office of the Speaker deserves. During your time as the member for Maroochydore in this House you would have participated and observed many robust debates. As I have during my time in the House, you would have also observed the various characteristics of a number of different Speakers and would have formed an idea of the qualities a good Speaker of the House must uphold.

The previous Speaker, John Mickel, served this House well. He respected the position of the Speaker and the institution of the Parliament of Queensland. Mr Mickel was regarded as being fair and impartial by both sides of parliament. I would think that these are worthy attributes that any Speaker would aspire to. As the new Speaker, you certainly have a unique task ahead of you: with the 54th Parliament, we see the largest majority of any party in Queensland's parliamentary history. In performing your new role as Speaker, you must allow vigorous debate of legislation while at the same time keep the large LNP majority in check by being fair and impartial and allowing a voice for the opposition.

This brings to mind one of the Queensland parliament's finest Speakers, as the Deputy Premier said, Neil Turner, who sadly only passed away last year. Neil was Speaker from 1996 to 1998 and was regarded by both sides of politics as a fair and independent Speaker. Neil was a National Party member but always treated everyone fairly, regardless of party affiliation. He would allow feisty debates but would not let discussions get out of hand. We would hope that this even-handed approach would be taken by you as the new Speaker and that the decisions that are made are impartial in a manner based on the standing orders and the debate, not political bias. Neil's fair and objective approach to the role of Speaker resulted in effective debate and effective functioning of the parliament. It also earned him the reputation from both sides of the House as being one of Queensland's best-serving Speakers. If you as the new Speaker approach the parliament in the same balanced manner, I am sure you will earn a similar worthy reputation. I look forward to your stewardship of the 54th Parliament of Queensland. Once again, I congratulate you on this historic appointment.

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (11.22 am): I desire to inform honourable members that Her Excellency the Governor will receive the House for the purpose of presenting the Speaker to Her Excellency at Government House tomorrow at 10 am. All members are invited to be present. Transport has been arranged and will leave Parliament House at 9.30 am sharp. The member for Gregory will help our side with that. Honourable members should be at the main entrance of Parliament House no later than 9.25 am.

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I thank you for your comments and also add my words of acknowledgement with regard to my predecessors: John Mickel, who has been gracious in his assistance with this transition and served this parliament well; as did my former colleague, the Hon. Neil Turner, whose electorate used to form part of my own electorate of Maroochydore. These gentlemen provided very worthy service as to the traditions of the Speaker.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Official Photograph

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

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (11.23 am): I move—
That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 2.10 pm Wednesday, 16 May 2012 in the former Legislative Council chamber.
Question put—That the motion be agreed to.
Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (11.24 am): I move—
That the House do now adjourn.
Question put—That the House do now adjourn.
Motion agreed to.
The House adjourned at 11.24 am.

ATTENDANCE

Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Byrne, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Cunningham, Davies, C. Davis, T. Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Douglas, Dowling, Driscoll, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Hopper, Johnson, Judge, Katter, Kaye, Kempton, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mulherin, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Palaszcuk, Pitt, Powell, Pucci, Rickuss, Rice, Robinson, Ruthenberg, Scott, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trad, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Woodforth, Young