9 September 2022

Statement on the passing of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

On behalf of the Parliament of New South Wales, it is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who has died at the age of 96.

Her official title was Her Majesty Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

The people of New South Wales feel her loss deeply. Her Late Majesty served the Commonwealth and this State selflessly for 70 years, with wisdom and integrity as she bore witness to the changes of the world.

The Parliament of New South Wales has a special affinity with Her Late Majesty.

On 4 February 1954, thousands of people lined the streets of Sydney to greet Queen Elizabeth as she became the first British sovereign to open an Australian Parliament.

Her Late Majesty addressed both Houses of the Parliament of New South Wales that day and referred to the location as being the 'Mother Parliament of Australia'. She spoke of a welcome so cordial and spontaneous that she would always remember it.

Queen Elizabeth II continued to have a strong connection to New South Wales throughout her reign, visiting the State and its people on 12 occasions.

On 20 February 1992, Her Late Majesty opened the 50th Parliament of New South Wales and unveiled an oil portrait to commemorate the 40th anniversary of her reign. Her portrait remains hanging in the Fountain Court of our Parliament.

Queen Elizabeth II has been a faithful and shining light to her subjects. She offered support to communities throughout New South Wales in times of drought, flood, fire and a pandemic.

Members of the public can access the official online condolence book and find additional information at nsw.gov.au.

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC
President

The Hon Jonathan O'Dea MP
Speaker