



The Office of the Speaker

The Speaker

Historically, much of the tradition and dignity of the Parliament has centred on the office of the Speaker. References to the Speaker in the English Parliaments date back as early as 1377, when Sir Thomas Hungerford was the first to be called Mr Speaker. The Speaker traditionally came to be regarded as the spokesman of the Commons, before the Sovereign.

In the Queensland Parliament, the Speaker is elected by a secret ballot involving all Members of Parliament. This occurs when a new Parliament meets following a general election. The Government nominee is usually successful due to the Government's majority in the House.

The Speaker's duties can be categorised as ceremonial, procedural and administrative. These duties are in addition to the responsibilities that the Speaker carries as a Member of Parliament representing an electorate.

Ceremonial duties include:

- acting as the representative of the House in its relations with the Crown; and
- acting as the representative of the House in its relations with other authorities and persons outside Parliament.

Procedural duties include:

- enforcing the observance of all Standing Rules and Orders whilst the business of the House is conducted;
- maintaining order in the House;
- putting questions on which Members vote and announcing the results of each vote. The Speaker has a casting vote on a tied vote;

- voting in the House in his/her capacity as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, when not acting as the presiding officer of the House. This would occur in a hung Parliament, when the Deputy Speaker was occupying the Speaker's Chair and a division was called. The Speaker's vote would be required to carry the vote for the Government; and
- issuing by-election writs.

Administrative duties include heading the Parliamentary Service. The Parliamentary Service provides procedural, information, reporting, research and other support services to the Members of Parliament to assist them in fulfilling their constitutional and parliamentary responsibilities.



The current Speaker, Hon John Mickel MP.



Prayers and Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

During the first session of the First Parliament, Henry Jordan, Member for Brisbane North, introduced a motion to open each sitting day of Parliament with a prayer. The motion was approved 20 votes to 2. At the commencement of each sitting day, the Speaker opens proceedings with the prayer, and then acknowledges the traditional owners of the land upon which Parliament is assembled and the custodians of the sacred lands of Queensland.

Present Speaker of Queensland The Honourable John Mickel MP

John Mickel has been the Member for Logan since 1998.

Prior to being elected as Speaker, Mr Mickel was the Minister for Transport, Trade, Employment and Industrial Relations from September 2007 to March 2009 and Minister for State Development, Employment and Industrial Relations from September 2006 to September 2007.

Mr Mickel was elevated to the Cabinet as Minister for Environment in February 2004 and appointed Minister for Energy in August 2004. He gained the additional portfolio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy in March 2005.

Before entering the Queensland Parliament Mr Mickel worked as a Senior Policy Advisor at a State and Federal level. He has formerly been a university lecturer, tutor and teacher and holds a Masters Degree as well as Degrees in Arts and Education

Personal

- Born in Murgon, Queensland, 1953
- Married, three children
- Member of the Australian Labor Party since 1979

List of Speakers of the Queensland Parliament from 1859

22.05.1860 - 13.07.1870	Gilbert ELIOTT CMG
15.11.1870 - 21.06.1871	Arthur MACALISTER
07.11.1871 - 01.09.1873	Frederick Augustus FORBES
06.01.1874 - 20.07.1876	William Henry WALSH
25.07.1876 - 26.07.1883	Henry Edward KING
07.11.1883 - 04.04.1888	William Henry GROOM
12.06.1888 - 05.04.1893	Albert NORTON
25.05.1893 - 15.02.1899	Sir Alfred Sandlings COWLEY
16.05.1899 - 15.09.1903	Sir Arthur MORGAN
17.09.1903 - 11.04.1907	Sir Alfred Sandlings COWLEY
23.07.1907 - 20.01.1909	John LEAHY
29.06.1909 - 10.03.1911	Joshua Thomas BELL
11.07.1911 - 15.04.1915	William Drayton ARMSTRONG
12.07.1915 - 09.09.1919	William McCORMACK
09.09.1919 - 09.01.1920	William LENNON
09.01.1920 - 11.05.1929	William BERTRAM
20.08.1929 - 11.06.1932	Charles TAYLOR
15.08.1932 - 24.03.1939	George POLLOCK
08.08.1939 - 31.07.1944	Edward Joseph HANSON
01.08.1944 - 04.10.1950	Samuel John BRASSINGTON
10.10.1950 - 03.08.1957	John Henry MANN
27.08.1957 - 15.06.1960	Sir Alan Roy FLETCHER
23.08.1960 - 25.05.1972	Sir David Eric NICHOLSON
02.08.1972 - 28.10.1974	William Horace LONERGAN
29.10.1974 - 04.07.1979	James Edward Hiram HOUGHTON
07.08.1979 - 17.10.1983	Selwyn John MULLER
22.11.1983 - 18.09.1986	John Herbert WARNER
17.02.1987 - 25.11.1987	Kevin Rowson LINGARD
02.12.1987 - 05.07.1989	Lionel William POWELL
05.07.1989 - 19.10.1989	Kevin Rowson LINGARD
27.02.1990 - 02.04.1996	Demetrios FOURAS
02.04.1996 - 20.06.1998	Neil John TURNER
28.07.1998 - 21.07.2005	Raymond Keith HOLLIS
09.08.2005 - 10.10.2006	Anthony McGRADY
10.10.2006 - 20.04.2009	Michael Francis REYNOLDS AM
21.04.2009 - present	Reginald John (John) MICKEL