



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTIETH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2017

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 17 May 2017

Legislative Council

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THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House) took the chair at 3.00 pm, and read prayers.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Question without Notice 25 — Ruling by President

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House): Yesterday during questions without notice, I undertook to provide a ruling in relation to standing order 104, which relevantly states —

104. Questions to Ministers and Members

Questions may be asked of —

- (a) a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary relating to public affairs with which the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary is connected, to proceedings in the Council, or to any matter of administration for which the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary is responsible;

Hon Alyssa Hayden had asked the following question without notice of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Training —

What is the parliamentary secretary's role and what will it entail, considering she is assisting the Minister for Education and Training, who is in this chamber?

The issue before me is whether such a question without notice may be directed to a parliamentary secretary. At the time I ruled that —

Members cannot ask a question without notice to a parliamentary secretary. They can ask only ministers a question without notice; therefore, a question to a parliamentary secretary has to be a question with notice.

I subsequently allowed Hon Alyssa Hayden to redirect her question without notice to the Minister for Education and Training, who is a member of this chamber, and the minister provided an answer. The Leader of the Opposition has subsequently requested a more detailed ruling on the application of standing order 104 to Hon Alyssa Hayden's question without notice to the parliamentary secretary. Standing order 104 clearly states that questions may be asked of a minister or parliamentary secretary. I note, however, that standing order 104 must, like all standing orders, be read in the context of the customs of the house and past rulings.

In a ruling dated 22 March 2016, I previously considered the appropriate role played by parliamentary secretaries in this house during questions without notice as representatives of ministers, and I then stated —

Ministers and parliamentary secretaries answering questions on behalf of the minister they represent are responsible to this house ... for the answer that they give. When given in this place, it is their answer and they are responsible for its accuracy. However, the representative minister or parliamentary secretary is not individually responsible in any legal or parliamentary sense for the department of state of the minister they are representing. This is made clear by the practice for oral questions when questions are answered in a representative capacity. In these cases the member asking the question is required to give some notice.

Parliamentary secretaries act as representatives of ministers. The custom and practice of ensuring that all questions to parliamentary secretaries are given with some notice facilitates the responsible minister having an opportunity to approve any answer that is to be given by his or her representative. This approval is traditionally provided by the responsible minister signing the answer. In this instance, the responsible minister also happened to be a member of this house, so it was appropriate that the question without notice was redirected at the time to the minister. I therefore uphold my previous ruling.

PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT INFORMATION BOOTH

Statement by President

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House): Members may have noticed yesterday and today a Parliamentary Services Department information booth in the courtyard. I advise that next week, on Tuesday and Wednesday between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm, the information booth will again be attended by Parliamentary Services Department staff. This booth will deliver a range of information and answer your questions about PSD services such as Hansard, the library, education, reception services and catering. Through this booth, you will be able to pick up an education pack for your office and book a library training session on POWAnet. And I might be down at the beach!

MIDLAND OVAL — REDEVELOPMENT*Petition*

HON BILL LEADBETTER (East Metropolitan) [3.05 pm]: I present a petition containing 185 signatures couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned residents of Western Australia respectfully request that the Legislative Council recommend that the Minister for Local Government conduct an inquiry into the plans of the City of Swan Council (“The Council”) to sell and develop the Midland Recreation Ground Reserve (“Midland Oval”), a public asset.

We request that the following concerns be addressed:

- (1) Records from 1891 to 1901 show Midland Oval was dedicated in perpetuity to the community as a Recreation Ground Reserve and that The Council has ignored this.
- (2) The Council plan to subdivide & sell Midland Oval and to construct new roads through it. This will mean that accessible public open space in central Midland will fall well below the 10% Public Open Space recommended under ‘Livable Neighbourhoods’.
- (3) The Council’s Midland Oval Redevelopment Master-Plan (MORM) does not truly reflect the desires of the local community with respect to Midland Oval.
- (4) Community Consultation on the retention of Midland Oval was entered into only after a Letter of Intent had already committed Council and/or a developer to sell or excise part of Midland Oval.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 180.]

HON SUE ELLERY

Members of Parliament — Electorate Staff — Union Solicitation — Question without Notice 14 — Statement by Leader of the House

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [3.07 pm] Yesterday I provided an answer to Hon Liz Behjat’s question without notice 14 that directed the honourable member to the public sector award 1992, specifically clause 36(5)(e), which states that union representatives will be provided with “notification of the commencement of new officers, and as part of their induction, time to discuss the benefits of union membership with them.”

Although the reference to the award was incorrect, the provisions of the relevant clause are the same. I have been advised that the answer should have directed the honourable member to the Electorate Officers Award 1986, specifically clause 27(5)(e), which states that union representatives will be provided with “notification of the commencement of new employees, and as part of their induction, time to discuss the benefits of union membership with them.”

Hon Nick Goiran: Not a very good start, is it?

HON SUE ELLERY: What? I corrected a record. That is what I was asked to do. I think that is a very good start. Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! That statement will be available to all members as soon as it can be copied.

PAPERS TABLED

Papers were tabled and ordered to lie upon the table of the house.

EDUCATION CENTRAL POLICY — PERTH MODERN SCHOOL*Notice of Motion*

Hon Donna Faragher gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That this house notes both the significant concerns being raised across the community and the lack of consultation undertaken by the McGowan government on its Education Central policy, particularly the proposed relocation of the state’s only fully academically selective senior high school, currently at Perth Modern School, to a high-rise inner-city school within the Perth City Link, and calls on the Government to —

- (1) reverse its Education Central policy and maintain Perth Modern School as a fully academically selective school; and
- (2) revert to the comprehensive western suburbs secondary schooling strategy announced in September 2016.

CLIMATE CHANGE*Notice of Motion*

Hon Robin Chapple gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move —

That the house note the impact of climate change and give consideration to measures that may be introduced to ameliorate its damaging and long-term effects on Western Australia's social, economic and environmental prosperity.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT — FORMER LIBERAL–NATIONAL GOVERNMENT*Notice of Motion*

Hon Sally Talbot gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That this house condemns the former Liberal–National government for its reckless mismanagement of the state's finances.

Hon Donna Faragher: Some things never change!

Hon Sally Talbot: I'm looking forward to your contribution.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! That was just the notice of the motion, not the debate. We will come to that later.

TAB — PRIVATISATION*Notice of Motion*

Hon Col Holt gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move —

That this house calls on the McGowan government to immediately test the market for the sale of the Western Australian TAB and, if favourable to the industry, proceed with the sale and ensure all proceeds of the sale are returned to the racing industry.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY*Motion*

Resumed from 16 May on the following motion moved by Hon Sally Talbot —

That the following address be presented to Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the state of Western Australia and its dependencies in the commonwealth of Australia —

May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

HON MARK LEWIS (Mining and Pastoral) [3.22 pm]: Today I rise to bookend my inaugural speech with my valedictory speech in the Address-in-Reply to the Governor. Obviously, one is a bit more sombre than the other but, conversely, one is a bit more wizened than the other, and I say that hopefully. One generally sets out what one intends to do; the other sets out what one did do. At the outset, I say that it has been a privilege and an experience for me and one that I will always be grateful for.

On looking back, I can report that although I did not fully complete most of the areas that I wanted to pursue in my inaugural speech, I have progressed many of the issues that I identified. I say that I did not fully complete them as I do not think there ever stops being jobs to do in this role. I am mindful of Hon Norman Moore's final speech in this place when, even after 36 years, he had unfinished business. I guess it is unlikely that in my four short years the list that I outlined in my inaugural speech will be fully completed.

In my view, there are probably two areas in which I have unfinished business—that is, tenures and approvals. On Monday I attended a local government forum in Kununurra. By far and away, they are still the two most outstanding issues that are causing impediments to growth and, more particularly, jobs, particularly for Indigenous people from the north. It is with some regret that I leave this place without fully dealing with those issues. Unfortunately—or fortunately!—I will have to leave these two issues in the capable hands of Hon Alannah MacTiernan. With her known history of dogged determination, she will be needed to deal with these issues. It is a very recalcitrant issue and it is a very, very important issue. I am pleased that Hon Alannah MacTiernan has taken over my role. If anybody can push this stuff through, she might have a crack at it. I wish her well with that. As I said, it is critical that those things get progressed for jobs in the north.

As an MP, I have represented many issues in the Mining and Pastoral Region to ministers, governments, bureaucrats and probably anybody else who would listen. Again, I am eternally grateful to have been able to do that, as all members do within their own electorates, particularly around the issues we become quite passionate about in moving forward. As members know, the Mining and Pastoral Region is a very large area, and it takes a lot to get around it. The six of us here in this house know that more than anybody. I guess the interesting thing about it is the diversity of the issues that we face out there. In my term, it was from Esperance to Kununurra to Carnarvon. There is a broad range and diversity of issues and we deal with a broad range of industries and sectors.

As an interesting aside, people probably do not understand what it is like to represent the Mining and Pastoral Region, particularly within government. As an upper house member in government, which has no members of the same party in the lower house seats, that member ends up being the lower house member as well. I notice Hon Stephen Dawson nodding his head, but there is more to come. When a constituent feels like their issue has not been dealt with by their local lower house member—that is nearly everyone with a long-term recalcitrant, difficult or complex issue—they will bring these issues to the upper house member, as that member is in government and that government is in power. As such, they think that member can fix the issues. If that member cannot fix them, they can just pick up the phone to the Premier and the Premier will fix them. Again, I congratulate Hon Stephen Dawson on being a minister. I am glad that he is there because it is important that we have more ministers in this place. I am very happy for him to be there representing the Mining and Pastoral Region in any shape or form. This next comment will be particularly relevant too. If the minister thinks he is busy now, there is another avalanche to come when people work out that as a minister and an upper house member in an electorate where there are non-Labor Party members in the lower house, the minister by default will now be the lower house member, effectively, given that Josie is already over there. I raise this because it is a peculiarity and a quirky thing that happens for us upper house members. In this case, I am talking only about the Mining and Pastoral Region. I am sure it happens in the Agricultural Region. It is interesting and it is the quirky nature of being a member in this house.

Where was I? I was talking about representing constituents and looking back. One passion of mine has always been the north and the opportunities it brings; not that the south of the Mining and Pastoral Region is less important, but areas like Kalgoorlie and Esperance have more mature industries, whilst we could always say that the north is virtually still the frontier and offers a huge number of opportunities for growth, particularly for jobs.

I was fortunate to continue to pursue where I left off in my old job, particularly around water resource development. When we do the numbers, we see that the things that give the biggest multiplier effect to jobs and employment, and that are the biggest internal multipliers for an economy, are effectively water resource development and agriculture through the development of things like abattoirs. I was particularly grateful that I was able to continue to pursue those interests, particularly the ones I started while I was out there. Those areas across the north are now well known. They have had major resources assessments done on them and if they have not been already, are in the process of being fully developed. For example, there is the completion of the northern bore field in Carnarvon, which will give Carnarvon the risk management required to manage future droughts going forward and obviously add value to the size and scale of that district. There will be better utilisation of water onto agricultural areas for mine dewatering in the Pilbara. Hopefully there will be a more sustainable utilisation of the magic artesian water on the north coast, east of South Hedland. There is also the identification of the huge resource of the West Canning and La Grange aquifers, which are now properly understood. In my time there has been further definition of water at Knowsley, Fitzroy River and other known resources around them. We have also targeted Cockatoo Sands in the Ord and Bonaparte regions in the far north. I mention this because all those in total add up to an area 10 times the size of the amount of water currently in the Ord Valley, so it can be done outside the Ord, and if those developments across the north from Carnarvon through to Kununurra are fully developed, we will see, as I said before, the multipliers of agriculture working. As I said, those multipliers are real jobs and real dollars, particularly where they are needed in the Indigenous areas.

As members know, things turn far too slowly, and delivering core services of government is always another critical part of what we do as MPs. Delivering things like housing, health, schools and policing et cetera is difficult, particularly in regional and remote areas. There are moments when we get a win in this job that really makes things worthwhile. They are few and far between, but they do come and we cherish them when we get them—as I said, even wins like the Carnarvon Community College finally getting across the line in full. What makes those wins important is seeing the relief that comes from the community stalwarts who have for many years fought bravely, ferociously and tirelessly for such an outcome. To all those committee groups out there, thank you for bringing those issues to me, and I guess the message is to never give up.

I go from electoral matters to what I mentioned before, which is the very privileged point in my life of being offered the position of Minister for Agriculture and Food. I have to tell members a little story about the time leading up to that. I was in the electoral office and a phone call came from the Premier's office. I do not think I had ever had a call from the Premier's office before and I thought, "What's going on here?" I presented myself on time at the Premier's office fully expecting an absolute bollocking over something—I did not know what, but

I was expecting a bollocking. Members can imagine my surprise when I picked myself up off the floor after the Premier offered me the portfolio of agriculture and food. I think I will always remember that moment. I did not know what to say. In fact, I think it took about 30 seconds for me to respond, because I was absolutely stuck for words. The thing that struck me was the honour that the Premier had placed upon me to be a minister. To those members who have been ministers and those who have not, it is a very special moment.

As a minister coming in with the fuse burning to an election, I was conscious I had to go really hard. I am proud to say I was able to build on the work of previous ministers in bringing the ag department budget back to a more sustainable position. I am proud that in the six months I was in cabinet we delivered \$300 million into driving agriculture forward. The important thing was that it was across six portfolios; it was not just to the agricultural portfolio.

All levels of government need to work together to pursue agriculture development, for the reasons I alluded to earlier. As part of that \$300 million, \$54 million was dedicated to grains research and development to make sure that the fantastic grains industry—the staple that underpins not only Western Australia, but also human life—could go forward with confidence. I am also proud that we finally got the wild dog strategy off paper and into action. Even though I had six short months, I was pleased to be able to drive the re-engagement of the department back to the industry, and I hope this continues. I think it is a good idea that the Department of Regional Development and the Department of Agriculture and Food will be under the same roof, as I think it can only be a good thing for agriculture and the regions. I wish Hon Alannah MacTiernan well, and in the spirit of bipartisanship I am very happy to have a chat anytime, because I think it is such an important industry going forward. Wherever I can help, I am pleased to do so.

As I was putting my tie on this morning—do not visualise this too much!—I was thinking about what I was going to say today, particularly about the benefits of learning I have had since coming to this place. There I was looking in the mirror doing up my tie and I became aware that probably the first real learning I had coming to this place was how to do a double Windsor knot. You never know where your learnings come from on a journey. Another moment of reflection this morning was when I was putting on my suit—the suit I am wearing now. I noticed that I have lost weight. As we all know, one of the occupational hazards of this joint is gaining kilos. I suspect that the weight loss was due to being a minister for those short six months, racing around all over the place being hyperactive and whatnot. I also think it was due to the election, when we did not have time to breathe. I guess the message and learning from that is that even though you might lose elections, they can be good for you because your suit fits a lot better than when you first came in!

It is customary to thank a range of people in a valedictory speech and I would like to do that. Firstly, I would like to thank to the staff of this place, Parliament House, but more specifically the people in the chambers. I am sure other members in their valedictory speeches will put this more eloquently than I, but the first thing I noticed when I came here was the culture. Coming out of the public service, and without denigrating the public service, I found that this is a different place, a special place, and the culture is very different; it is unusual even. People actually go out of their way to help you. It is striking in that sense. I still find it extraordinary and wonder why this place has a different culture to, say, the Department of Regional Development or the Department of Agriculture and Food. It is unique to this place and most valuable. As an outgoing member, I thank you all for your efforts, help and assistance in this place while I was here.

I want to also mention the committees. We have an unusual set of talents and skills in committees. Given the complexity of the issues and the time those guys have available to get over the top of them, I find it incredible. How they do it, I do not know; all I know is that I am grateful for their services and I pass my thanks on to them.

To my staff, both in the ministerial office and in the electoral office, one can forget how staff also put up with the vagaries of politics, just as members do. We are all looking for new jobs, given that there are rents, mortgages and school fees to pay. I thank you all. You all stuck by me to the end, as is attested by the presence of Georgia and Brian up in the gallery. The last supper for you two will be Friday, so could one or both of you please book the dining room for Friday, so we can all enjoy our last supper!

To my family I say that public life takes an incredible toll on families, too. All I can say is that I am very, very grateful to Michelle, who is here today as well, and to Matthew, my son, and Bridget, my daughter, for their support and time. The pain they have to put up with, particularly going around a region like Mining and Pastoral Region, is incredible, so I thank you very, very much for that.

Politics is a strange and fickle beast. We are roosters one day, feather dusters the next, as I think the saying goes. But so be it; we all know that to be the case when we come in here. We know that that is what happens. It is incredible when the moment finally arrives that we exit stage left. The phone stops, the emails stop; the silence is deafening. To those who rang in the aftermath of the election, I thank you for your good wishes. To those who are still ringing: stop! But seriously, if you are yet to ring, please keep in contact, and thank you for your ongoing support. That is the thing about being a member of Parliament—you pick up a whole range of people and contacts who will be with you for the rest of your life.

I must make special mention, as I did in my inaugural speech, of a past member of Parliament, Hon Ian Laurance, AM, a former member for Gascoyne. I guess he was a mentor to me. It is probably his fault, along with Hon Ken Baston, that I am here! But be that as it may, Ian was almost the first person to pick up the phone and offer me his experience of life after politics, because we all go through it. I thank Ian for that. He also has a wide range of networks and people out there in commerce who I am sure I will be able to contact and lean on, and hopefully one of them will take desperate pity on me and give me a job going forward! I thank Ian; that is the sort of bloke he is. He will always be the first on the phone and, as I said, I have worked with Ian and been his friend for probably 20 years, so I thank him for that.

To you, my parliamentary colleagues, I can seriously say I have enjoyed this place immensely. It is an experience that you just cannot replicate, and I know that that is one of the benefits of being in this wonderful institution called the Legislative Council. I made a very conscious decision to come here rather than to the other place, and that is again because of the way this place operates. It is more collegiate; it is a house of review. We have the odd blue here now and again, but at the end of the day, we are here to make sure good legislation passes through this house, and we do so in a way that is civil. That is the sort of environment that I want to work in. I do not know whether I could have got into the other place; I did not particularly want to but, as I said, I am grateful to have been here with you all.

Finally, Mr President, I thank you for your support and your stewardship of this place and Parliament more generally. You can probably leave here on Friday knowing that you have added considerable value to this Parliament. I will always remember you probably more than anybody because we share the same birthday! It is not that the rest of you mob are less memorable, but I will probably remember him more than the rest of you as I get to my dotage!

Hon Col Holt: He looks a lot younger!

Hon MARK LEWIS: A lot younger!

The PRESIDENT: You did not mention what year, though!

Hon MARK LEWIS: Ah-ha!

With that, I wish all members the best of luck for the future. As I said, it has been an absolute privilege to be here and I bid you all adieu.

[Applause.]

HON LIZ BEHJAT (North Metropolitan) [3.46 pm]: I am another feather duster; I would like to be a nice ostrich boa, actually!

I rise this afternoon to fulfil a duty that I do not yet want to carry out, but circumstances are such that here I am. I am delivering my valedictory speech, and it is an understatement to say that I am reluctant to do so. It gives me no pleasure to be standing here today, summarising what I think has been my contribution to the workings of this chamber and to the political landscape of Western Australia over the past eight years. It is, however, important that those of us who have had the privilege of being a member of Parliament should be given the opportunity, if circumstances allow, to place on the record what we believe our highlights and achievements have been, and to give thanks to those that have helped us on our journey. I was going to take this opportunity to make a speech without using detailed notes and speak from my heart with a few dot points, but today I must rely on more detailed notes and not speak off the cuff, because emotions run high and I do not want to leave out anything important.

However, even though I am not delivering this speech off by heart, I can assure you that all my comments are heartfelt and that whilst I am deeply disappointed, I am not heartbroken. I am made of sterner stuff than those who engineered my demise, but I do not want to forget the most important points and highlights, so forgive me if I breach standing orders and refer to these notes from time to time.

It was my ambition to serve one more term as a member for North Metropolitan Region and then retire at a time of my choosing, but unfortunately that is not going to happen. I am not leaving you this week because of the defeat at the recent election of a government I was proud to be a member of, but because of a brutal, factional preselection battle in which I fell victim to a ruthless group of people—a group of people who had determined that I was not the sort of person that their faction of the Liberal Party wanted to represent them in this chamber. If you want to know more about the events of the preselection battle, I humbly suggest you take it up with my successor in the future. I do not propose to waste anymore of my time talking about people who are not worthy of my attention, but I did want to put it on the official record that my departure has nothing to do with the democratic election process of this state, and I am a reluctant retiree from this institution—for the moment.

On Tuesday, 16 June 2009 I gave my first speech to this chamber, and today, Wednesday, 17 May 2017—232 speeches later—I am giving my last. In that first speech, I said the usual things and thanked previous

members of North Metropolitan Region for the wonderful contributions they had made, told you a little of my family background and earlier working life, and spoke about female representation in the Legislative Council, which unfortunately is going down, down and down. We have to do something about that, particularly on this side of the chamber.

I spoke about the virtues and values of our society and the importance of educators and the role they play in the lives of our most precious commodities—our children. I also gave my perspective, as a migrant married to a migrant, of the wonderful contribution that migrants and ethnic communities make to the rich tapestry that makes up our society here in WA and, indeed, throughout Australia. I gave members an insight into my experiences living in the Pilbara, as I did for 18 months, and how my experiences there would no doubt help me when making decisions on legislation and other matters that directly affected those who choose to live in the rural and remote regions of our wonderful state. Penultimate to thanking all those who played a role in helping me to achieve my long-held ambition to become a member of Parliament, especially my family, friends and colleagues, I commented on how excited I was about the plans that the Liberals had taken to the 2008 election to improve areas in North Metropolitan Region, the development of what is now Elizabeth Quay, the sinking of the city rail line to create the city Northbridge Link and the redevelopment of the Scarborough foreshore, all projects that are now completed or will soon be nearing completion.

I want to quote some exact words from the final paragraphs of my maiden speech because I think they affirm what small contribution I have made during those eight years. On that day, I said the following —

I do not bring to this place any fantastic blueprints, plans or grand schemes for the future of Western Australia. I will leave that part to others more qualified than me. However, I am certain that under the guidance and with the foresight and planning of our current Liberal government, I will be able to contribute to the groundwork that will see some wonderful advancements and developments made to both the physical and social infrastructure that will improve our already great way of life.

Looking back on the eight years I have been here, I believe that I have always kept foremost in my mind, when making members' statements, contributing to second reading debates or undertaking inquiries and hearings through our committee process that everything we do should be for the benefit and advancement of the people of Western Australia.

My contribution to the proceedings of this chamber started with the tabling of a petition asking for a pedestrian crossing to be installed on Scarborough Beach Road near Gildercliffe Street, Scarborough, a project I am happy to say was completed a few years ago so that the residents of the area can now safely cross the road, which is a very busy road indeed.

Soon after I moved a motion in the house urging the then opposition, now government, to reconsider its decision not to support an extension of retail trading hours and give the people of WA what they wanted—more hours during the seven days of the week to shop when they wanted. Again, I am very pleased to say that over the past eight years we have indeed seen sweeping changes to those trading hours and WA has finally caught up with the rest of Australia and we can just about shop whenever we want to. I would like to see further deregulation in this area but for now I am happy to have played a small part in the current retail landscape.

In 2010, I think I made what is my most significant contribution to second reading debates in this house and that was to join with a majority of members of the chamber to speak out and vote against the Voluntary Euthanasia Bill, a private member's bill introduced by Hon Robin Chapple. It was a highly emotionally charged time in the chamber, but the debate was carried out with a maturity and respect sometimes not seen during second reading debates in this place and I was proud to make my contribution to the negative arguments. I was happy when the legislation was defeated because I believed then, as I do now, that no person has the right to end the life of another in the manner prescribed in euthanasia legislation. As we have seen throughout the world, the misuse of this type of legislation in other jurisdictions demonstrates that we are not mature enough as a society to ensure that proper safeguards are in place and that only those who have absolutely no hope of recovery have access to that final solution. I note that there may be another move afoot to introduce euthanasia legislation in this Parliament and I urge all of you who will be charged with the decision-making process to look back on the contributions that were made in 2010 and bundle them together with your own current opposition and do not place in the hands of legislators and the medical profession the role that must remain in the hands of our creator.

What we must strive to achieve is to improve and adequately fund the best possible system of palliative care to ensure that those who are nearing the end of their lives are doing so with dignity and comfort in the loving company of their friends and family until the very end. I know my good friend and colleague Hon Nick Goiran, through the work of the Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care, of which I was a member and hope to remain involved in, will continue to fight to ensure that euthanasia is never legalised in Western Australia.

There are, of course, a few more occasions when I made what I think were valuable contributions to second reading debates but time does not permit me to elaborate on these in today's contribution.

What I would like to speak about next is the importance of the committee work that is done both here in the chamber and in the formal standing and select committees and it is my fervent hope that this system will remain strong and be very well utilised in this coming and future Parliaments. I think given what the make-up will be of the fortieth Parliament in the Legislative Council, the Legislation Committee will be kept very busy scrutinising legislation that will no doubt be referred to it in large numbers. I wish the new members on that committee good luck and best wishes.

In my first term I served on the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations and the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review, and in this current term I was privileged to serve as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Administration. I also served on the Parliamentary Services Committee, or as it is more colloquially known, the “Tea and Cakes Committee”. In 2009, in my first term, Hon Norman Moore appointed me to the Estimates and Financial Operations Committee and my first reaction was, “Norman, why would you want to do that? I can’t even balance my chequebook! Why would you put me on the Estimates and Financial Operations Committee?” But I soon learnt that as a government member on that committee it meant so much more than just being able to read a set of books. It certainly was an interesting four years on that committee and I was happy to serve alongside former members Giz Watson, as the chair; Ljiljana Ravlich; Ken Travers; and Phil Gardiner, all now former members, as I will be in the days to come. They were all very interesting and strong members in their own way. I think the highlight of my time on that committee was participating in the inquiry into Peel Health Campus and I am very pleased to say that largely due to matters that were brought to light through that inquiry, the management of the hospital changed and today it is a thriving, world-class, well-respected facility servicing the needs of the residents of the Peel region in a wonderful manner.

As I mentioned earlier, I also served on the Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review committee in my first term. It was a privilege to serve on this committee with Hon Adele Farina as chair, and two other members, one from the government and one from the opposition. As a staunch federalist, I was always keen to ensure that our state’s sovereignty was not being totally eroded by way of national schemes and I recall that on at least one occasion, because of the careful scrutiny of the committee, the government withdrew one of its bills from the notice paper as it was demonstrated that enacting the legislation in the form it had been tabled would indeed impact on Western Australia’s sovereign rights.

Unfortunately, during the time I served on the committee our terms of reference under the standing orders were amended and the committee lost its ability to commence inquiries of its own motion. That meant that an important inquiry on federalism and subsidiarity that had been commenced was not able to be finished. Perhaps it still may be revisited in future years.

During the thirty-ninth Parliament I was privileged to have been appointed as Chairman of the Public Administration Committee. It is a role I was very proud to accept and I thoroughly enjoyed the four years in which I served as the chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank my fellow members of that committee, Hon Darren West, Deputy Chair; Hon Jacqui Boydell; Hon Nigel Hallett; and Amber-Jade Sanderson, now a member of the other place, who was also substituted on the committee for a period by Hon Sally Talbot. I am very proud of the way in which this committee worked together. Given that we all have fairly strong personalities and represent different political parties, we were certainly able to adopt the “leave your party hat at the door” philosophy that I often speak about to students when I am giving guest lectures on the parliamentary committee system.

Hon Rick Mazza was co-opted onto the Standing Committee on Public Administration for the inquiry into recreational hunting systems. It was a controversial inquiry that came about as a result of a motion moved in this house by Hon Rick Mazza, and I think, perhaps indirectly, because of the recommendations of that report we now see a better managed scheme of recreational hunting in place to help alleviate the problem of feral animals in this state. There is a long way to go, but I think we have made some progress.

During this Parliament the committee also inquired into pastoral leases in Western Australia and the patient assisted transport scheme. Our final report handed down last year was on an inquiry into the transport of persons in custody. These reports covered very different topics and they gave me an insight into areas and organisations that I previously knew nothing about.

I would like to place on the record my deep appreciation and thanks to all the staff who assist the committees in their work. They are too numerous for me to thank individually, but to all the advisory officers, committee clerks and the support staff a heartfelt thank you for providing us with your expertise, professionalism and, above all, sense of humour in what sometimes can be very trying times when dealing with MPs who all have very well developed egos and a sometimes-lacking sense of humour. You are a wonderful group of people who service this Parliament in an exemplary manner.

As members of Parliament we are given amazing opportunities to broaden our knowledge of other cultures, religions and peoples from other countries, especially through the various community groups and through the

diplomatic corps based here in Perth. We are also given wonderful opportunities to travel to other countries to learn about different parliamentary systems, attend conferences, deliver speeches or participate in a process, and I have been very lucky in this regard. As a committee member undertaking inquiries, I have travelled extensively throughout Western Australia and have met some incredible people living in the rural and remote regions of this vast state. As part of the oversight duties of the Standing Committee on Public Administration, I was invited, along with our committee, to visit most of the corrections facilities in WA, which, although probably not high on the list of things you think you might like to do as an MP, were nonetheless informative and insightful—and hopefully the only time I get to see the inside of a prison!

During my tenure I attended a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association seminar held in London that dealt with public accounts committees, at which I delivered a paper on the procedures of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations. It was attended by over 60 delegates from different commonwealth Parliaments and I made some wonderful connections with other MPs, some of whom I remain in touch with today. I was also very fortunate on this trip to be introduced to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at a state reception held at Marlborough House. As a monarchist, this meeting is a stand-out moment of my parliamentary career.

The other stand-out moment was in 2014 when I was fortunate enough to be in Turkey on a privately funded tour at the time of the ninety-ninth year of the Anzac commemorations and was given the immense honour of representing Western Australia at Gallipoli on Anzac Day and, in particular, laying a wreath on behalf of the government and the people at the Australian service held at Lone Pine Cemetery. It is something I will never forget. I was also proud on that day to have my son Ali standing at my side during those commemorations.

In 2010, together with seven other MPs, including Hon Michael Mischin, Hon Kate Doust and Hon Adele Farina from this chamber and others from the other chamber, I travelled to Israel and spent 10 days seeing firsthand what life is like in Jerusalem and other more remote parts of a most fascinating region of the world. We also spent a short time in the West Bank visiting Bethlehem. Visits to this region are unforgettable and I am grateful to the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council for its partial sponsorship of this trip. Thanks go to Steve Lieblich and John Schaffer for their support of this visits program. If anybody gets the opportunity to undertake one of these programs, I can certainly highly recommend it to them.

I returned to that Middle East region in 2014 with the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network and went to not only some of the places I had previously visited, including Jerusalem and Bethlehem, but also Hebron, Nablus and Ramallah. I also visited refugee camps in Beirut and Amman in Jordan to see firsthand the plight of refugees from several countries. It was an extremely interesting trip to learn more about the fascinating region from a different perspective.

On another occasion, Mr President, you will recall that I visited India and became part of a parliamentary delegation from the south west region made up of you, Mr President, Hon Adele Farina and Hon Col Holt. Hon Kate Doust and I were made honorary southerners for the duration of that whirlwind trip, which in eight days took in Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore, together with a 24-hour stopover in Colombo. During this trip, we not only participated in a promotion of south west region produce in Bangalore, but also attended the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Chennai Business School and Curtin University that resulted in a student exchange program being developed between our two cities. Upon our return from this trip, at your suggestion, Mr President, Hon Adele Farina and I, as co-convenors, formed the Parliamentary Friends of India. This friendship group has been very popular with members from all sides of politics and we have developed a very strong bond between our Parliament and the successive consul generals of India. Up until 2011, India had only an honorary consul in Western Australia, but I am pleased to say that for the past five years we have had a full consulate office here, and both previous Consul General Subbarayudu and current Consul General Amit Kumar Mishra have become close associates of our friendship group. I trust that this friendship group will continue, and I know that the opposition leader, Hon Dr Mike Nahan, is very keen to see this group flourish. I am aware that in the new intake of members in the other place, at least two members are proud to boast Indian heritage, so hopefully they, too, will become involved in this friendship group.

On the topic of parliamentary friendship groups, I have also been responsible for the formation of two other groups. The Parliamentary Friends of Tourism and Hospitality, affectionately known as FROTH, was formed, again on a nonpartisan basis, to allow organisations and individuals involved in tourism and hospitality in this state to showcase their product to members by arranging in-house functions or site visits. These have always proved to be very popular functions, well supported by all members. I encourage those members with an interest in developing the tourism industry in WA to continue to interact with the industry on an informal basis at every opportunity. My thanks go to Bradley Woods of the Australian Hotels Association and Evan Hall of the Tourism Council Western Australia for their support of this friendship group.

More recently, I formed the Parliamentary Friends of Azerbaijan after I visited the capital city, Baku, in September last year as part of a delegation invited to be official observers of a referendum process held to make constitutional change in that country. Again, it was a most interesting visit and I honestly believe that Azerbaijan

has the potential to become one of the world's leading economies and is a great example of how religious tolerance and multiculturalism can prosper in a region not renowned for either peace or tolerance. Members will recall that I have spoken in this house on a couple of occasions about Azerbaijan, and again I encourage those members remaining to consider joining the friendship group and help to develop our growing relationship. The honorary consul in WA, Aydan Rzaeva, is keen for this group to grow.

On the subject of tolerance of multiculturalism, I have been proud to be the co-host, together with Bill Johnston, of the parliamentary iftar dinners held in the dining room of Parliament House each Ramadan since 2011. Iftar dinners are held each night during the holy month of Ramadan and have become a way that those from the Muslim faith can share their beliefs and delicious foods with non-Muslims in the spirit of reaching a better understanding. Previously, these functions, although still titled parliamentary iftar dinners, were held off-site because it was thought to be difficult to hold it at Parliament House because of the need to have a place to carry out the iftar prayers and to serve halal food. Nothing is too hard if we put our minds to it, and I want to thank all the staff at Parliament House who have worked closely with me and the organisers of the event, the Intercultural Harmony Society, to ensure that each year it is a success. I know that the member for Geraldton, Ian Blayney, is going to co-host that event once I have left Parliament. Through activities such as these taking place with our support and sponsorship, we can work towards a more tolerant and understanding society, and I hope that these events and more of them continue.

Another area in which I have been very pleased to have made a contribution is science and medical research. I was not a student of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects during my school days, but during my time here I have been introduced to the world of medical and scientific research and I find it fascinating. Again, I have been given tremendous opportunities to visit the outstanding research facilities we have in Western Australia, especially the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, which is a world-class facility right here in our home town. I know that the incoming government places medical research high on its agenda, as did our government, and I hope that these outstanding research facilities will continue to be the recipient of generous government grants. It is easier for these organisations to attract philanthropic funding if the government has some skin in the game. I know firsthand that it can sometimes be difficult to convince the executive that it needs to continue a funding stream in times when belt-tightening measures are in place.

Four years ago I was appointed as the government representative on the Neurotrauma Research Program executive. This group is very ably chaired by Professor Bryant Stokes, a man I am in constant awe of with his capacity to take on projects and programs as though they were the only things on his plate at the time. Other members of the executive are Nobel laureate Professor Barry Marshall; CEO of the Harry Perkins Institute, Professor Peter Leedman; and community representative Anton Zappelli, who suffered a spinal cord injury as a result of a car accident many years ago. The NRP brings neuroscientists, neurosurgeons and clinicians together in collaborative research programs to improve the lives of people affected by brain and spinal cord injuries in Western Australia through a contestable grants program that receives \$1 million funding from the government directly from the health budget. The funding was not always guaranteed and did not come directly from the health budget in previous years. During the time of my involvement, the funding used to be cobbled together partly from the road trauma trust fund and partly from non-specific project allocations and other funding streams. This was not acceptable to me or the others on the executive, and I made it my mission to secure the funding for the group by having it appear as its own line item in the health budget. My mission involved me staging a sit-in outside the former Premier's office until he saw my side of the argument and found the money in the budget. I am very pleased to say that I achieved this feat at the last budget when I saw \$1 million in that line item for the Neurotrauma Research Program. It really did make my heart sing and I thanked the Premier very much for it.

I feel honoured and privileged to be able to sit as an equal at the table with the other members of the NRP executive and also to count other amazing scientists such as Professor Lyn Beazley and Professor Peter Klinken amongst my friends and mentors, and I hope that my post-parliamentary life will allow me to remain involved in this space. In that vein, I am delighted to say that I have recently been asked to be a member of the management committee of the newly opened Ralph and Patricia Sarich Neuroscience Research Institute building—a pro bono role that I am very happy to accept.

Earlier in this speech I made the comment that if circumstances allow, all retiring members of Parliament should use the opportunity available to them to make a valedictory speech. Unfortunately, for some of my former colleagues from the other place, our party's defeat at the election meant that, apart from those who knew they were retiring, there was a large group who were not given the opportunity to make a valedictory speech, which I think is a shame.

As part of team North Metro—at least for the next three days—I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all the defeated North Metro Region Legislative Assembly members for their service to our state and to our party during their time as members of Parliament. I would like to mention my very good friends and former colleagues, Andrea Mitchell, Eleni Evangel, Chris Hatton, Jan Norberger, Albert Jacob and Paul Miles, all of whom devoted themselves to the service of their electorate but were not able to stave off the wave of rejection

that hit us like a tsunami on 11 March. We were a great team. Who knows? Perhaps one day the old team may get back together to continue to serve the people of WA in either this place or in some other capacity. I wish them all well in their future endeavours and I am sure that the friendships we made during our terms will endure.

To my colleagues from this house who are also retiring on 21 May, I wish you all the very best and thank you for your friendship and support during my eight years, especially to Hon Alyssa Hayden. Not many know that our friendship was originally formed in a different Parliament House on the other side of the country. I still remember that plane ride home from Canberra when we had both been preselected for the first time and the conversation we had about what our chances were of ending up as parliamentary colleagues instead of being staffers together—also together with Hon Donna Faragher. We have had some amazing times together and I know we will stay in touch no matter what the future throws up for both of us.

To those of you staying on in the fortieth Parliament, I cannot count the number of times I heard this expression in our party room and other places: your worst day in government will be 100 times better than your best day in opposition. Some of you are about to find out. For others, it is a second chance at opposition. If only I was to have the opportunity to find out! I think I might have liked to have had the shackles of being a government backbencher removed and be given free rein to speak out against a government that will no doubt make some decisions about which I will disagree.

You will be a much smaller black hand gang than the one I have been privileged to have been a member of, but you will be formidable if you remain a cohesive team. I know that you will be taking it up to the government at every opportunity to ensure that they keep all those promises made during the campaign which now allow them to occupy the government benches. Four years can seem like a long time, but if you stay together and never waver from the prize at the end, you will be able to reclaim those benches that are rightfully yours. I will be there to cheer you on every step of the way—in spirit, anyway.

To my leader, my regional colleague and my very good friend Hon Peter Collier—here come the tears—the words I speak today will not be able to adequately reflect the way I feel about the friendship, encouragement and guidance you have given to me over the past eight years. I know that ours is a friendship that has flourished and will endure outside these four walls but it will, of course, be a different type of friendship. Your dedication to the Liberal Party and to the roles you have played in the past eight years and continue to play today are an example for all of us. As the Minister for Education you oversaw one of the biggest changes in education that this state—indeed, this country—has ever seen. Thanks to you as the architect and ultimate facilitator, the independent public school system is thriving and our children and teachers have opportunities given to them that were only dreams 10 years ago. Cheers, Pete! Keep on keeping on, just like the Energiser bunny that you are!

To you, Mr President, may I take this opportunity to thank you also for your counsel and guidance throughout the past eight years and during the past four years when I have had the privilege of serving this chamber as an Acting President and Deputy Chair of Committees. It is an honour that not all the members are given and together with our Deputy President, Hon Adele Farina, you have helped me to develop my chairing skills and to learn the art of what you draw to the attention of others and rule out of order and the ones that you let go through to the keeper. Hon Stephen Dawson, on reflection I think I should have let the word “crock” go through to the keeper. I apologise.

At this point I would also like to thank the Clerk of the Council, Nigel Pratt, and all the chamber staff for the assistance you have given to me over the years. You have always been so cheerful and helpful in your duties and you are true professionals who never bat an eyelid at the strange and sometimes fanciful requests that we as members make of you. I shall miss you all very much indeed.

To Hansard, thank you for taking our mumblings and rantings and turning them into coherent speeches that when we go back and read quite often sound a whole lot better than they did when we delivered them. I apologise for the times that some of us have become so unruly that you have not been able to hear yourself think let alone take down our words, although I am sure you have found some of the interjections over the years just as amusing as I have. I have very fond memories of some of the cross-chamber exchanges between the then Leader of the House, Hon Peter Collier, and Hon Ljiljana Ravlich; as a double act they were very amusing. She used to stand here and say, “I’ll get to you, yet, sunshine. Don’t worry.”

To my colleagues on the other side of the chamber, we may not share each other’s political views but we do share a bond that brings all members of this place together. We have often said that we spend more time with each other than we do with our families and in a very strange way we are all a family. It is dysfunctional at times but nonetheless it is a family. At the end of the day we are all here trying to do our best for the people of WA and I think we do a pretty good job. We have had disagreements, for sure, but we have had laughter and tears and you have given me experiences that I will cherish for years to come.

To the staff in Parliament House, particularly in the dining room and the members’ bar, a huge thank you for looking after me so well during these eight years. I hate to think of the number of grande flat whites I have drunk and the number of meals I have eaten in the dining room. You really do spoil us all. We are so well catered for

here. To Enno, Roger, Mark, Deb, Anthony, Lee, Steve, David, Anna, Maria, Paddy, Jacqui, Jill and all the others, who I apologise for not naming, a huge thankyou and no doubt as a former member I will still be seeing you all from time to time.

For one of my final thankyou's I want to pay tribute to Lisa Yarwood, my wonderful electorate officer—the best electorate officer that any member could ever wish for. Lisa joined team Behjat on day one and she has stayed with me until the very last day. Lisa, you are an amazing woman who has never once complained about any of the crazy ideas I came up with and you have always carried out your work in the most professional manner, even when it comes to the full moon constituents that we all know who contact our offices on a regular basis. I always admired the way you could handle them while still maintaining your professional demeanour. We have been colleagues and friends for nearly 20 years now and I wish you and Scott well on your next adventure as you hitch up the wagons and head east. I am truly blessed to have you remain as a friend in my contacts list. Will you still keep that up to date for me? Also, thank you to Amy Yelash, who was part of our team for several years and although employed with a federal member now is still a great friend. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. In these last few months I have also been very fortunate to have Emma Withers as part of my team. Thanks for your great sense of humour when it has been needed.

This brings me to the end, and all that remains is to thank my wonderful husband, Reza—who I could not have here today because I really would have broken down completely—my gorgeous son, Ali, and my fabulous mum, Sylvia, for putting up with me and loving me all these years. For all the times I could not do something or go somewhere because of my parliamentary duties, thank you for understanding. For all the times I may have acted a bit precious and you grounded me, thank you. For putting up with all the ranting when things did not quite go to plan, thank you. Who knows what the future holds for any of us? I do know that if I have you guys by my side I will be happy and content and nothing else will matter.

Here they are, the final words: as I have said to several of you since I found out that my time would be up on 21 May 2017, the President of the United States only ever gets eight years; why should I be any different? All that remains now is to label myself as Obama Behjat and say, “It has been an honour and a privilege to work together with you side by side to strengthen our democracy. With that, I just have two more words to say, “Behjat out!”

Sitting suspended from 4.20 to 4.30 pm

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN — MOTOR VEHICLE ALLOWANCE

32. Hon PETER COLLIER to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer the Premier to his response to question without notice 7 asked on Tuesday, 16 May 2017 in which he confirmed that he had written to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal requesting that the tribunal reconsider its determination on ministerial car allowances.

- (1) What was the precise date the Premier wrote to SAT?
- (2) Will the Premier table a copy of the letter to SAT; and, if not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The precise date was 12 May 2017, a very auspicious date. Everyone in this chamber will know why that is an auspicious date.
- (2) Yes. I table the attached document.

[See paper 181.]

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL DETERMINATION — REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

33. Hon PETER COLLIER to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the motor vehicle allowance determination made by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal that came into effect on 11 March 2017.

- (1) Was this determination listed in the *Government Gazette*?
- (2) If so, on which date was it listed?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) The determination was published in the *Government Gazette* of 23 December 2016, special edition 232.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE CABINET — APPOINTMENT

34. Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

The first Commission on Government report of August 1995 advised on processes to ensure that, among other things, the abuses of the era of the Burke Labor government would not recur. I refer to recommendation 3.5.3.5, which urged the abolition of the position of Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet and its replacement with a Cabinet Secretary who “should be a senior level public servant appointed on the basis of merit with extensive experience in government, parliamentary and cabinet matters”.

- (1) Why has the McGowan government reverted to a practice that was criticised by not only the commission established to reduce the prospect of abuses by the executive, but also former Labor Premier, Hon Dr Geoff Gallop?
- (2) Was it so that the Premier could have in his gift a position that carried an increased salary?
- (3) What merit criteria did Ms Amber-Jade Sanderson, MLA, meet to warrant appointment and what is her extensive experience that has given her detailed knowledge of the operations of Parliament, government and cabinet?
- (4) What functions does she perform for the additional \$42 260 above the salary of a parliamentary secretary?
- (5) Given that she is the sort of political appointment the Commission on Government specifically deplored and recommended against, what confidence can the public have that political imperatives and loyalties will not influence the manner in which she performs her functions?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(5) The position of Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet is an important part of the cabinet, as it was in the Court Liberal government. The Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet’s role includes working with the Premier and ministers to coordinate cabinet submissions, ensure government priorities are progressing through cabinet and working with the cabinet to ensure government election commitments are being delivered as they were promised to the people of Western Australia. The position is also in place to avoid the dysfunction that characterised the former Liberal–National government. The position of an independent note taker has been maintained.

The PRESIDENT: Hon Donna Faragher.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I called Hon Donna Faragher. There are three other deep voices that do not sound like Hon Donna Faragher’s.

EDUCATION — FEDERAL FUNDING

35. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the Minister for Education and Training:

Why thank you, Mr President! I refer to the 2017–18 commonwealth budget.

- (1) Will the minister advise the funding contributions from the commonwealth government to Western Australian public schools as a result of the recent funding announcement for the following years —
 - (a) 2017–18;
 - (b) 2018–19;
 - (c) 2019–20; and
 - (d) 2020–21?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Commonwealth funding is not allocated directly to Western Australian public schools, it is allocated to state governments to distribute. In Western Australia, the funds are put into our student-centred funding model and allocated to public schools dependent on the students’ characteristics at those schools. The funding includes allocations for social disadvantage, locality, disability, Aboriginality and English as an additional language/dialect. It is based on a twice-yearly census of all students. The commonwealth government provided the following figures as its contribution to Western Australian public schools in its federal budget on 9 May 2017.
 - (a) In 2017–18, \$647.9 million. This is a \$91 million shortfall based on previous published commitments by the commonwealth.

- (b) In 2018–19, \$710.5 million. This is a \$171.11 million shortfall based on previous published commitments by the commonwealth.
- (c) In 2019–20, \$780.3 million. This is a \$152.257 million shortfall based on previous published commitments by the commonwealth.
- (d) In 2020–21, \$854.9 million. This is a \$414.637 million shortfall based on previous published commitments by the commonwealth.

MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT — REMUNERATION AND ALLOWANCES

36. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's appointment of Hon Alannah MacTiernan as a minister of the Crown, notwithstanding that she is not a member of Parliament.

- (1) Has this minister been paid any remuneration or allowances?
- (2) If yes to (1) —
 - (a) was such payment made under the Members of Parliament — Determination No. 2 of 2016; and
 - (b) was advice obtained prior to the making of any payment?
- (3) If yes to (2)(a) —
 - (a) which of the part 2 section payments have been made; and
 - (b) which of the parts 3 to 6 allowances have been paid?
- (4) If yes to (2)(b), when will the Premier table that advice?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

Payment of remuneration and allowances in accordance with the determinations of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for members of Parliament is administered by the Parliament of Western Australia. The question is better directed to the appropriate Presiding Officer. I note that questions cannot be asked of the Presiding Officer, and I note the information you so helpfully provided yesterday to the house, Mr President, which is that the member could write to the Presiding Officer.

STATE AGREEMENT ACTS — AMENDMENTS

37. Hon JACQUI BOYDELL to the minister representing the Treasurer:

I refer to the proposal of the Nationals WA to increase the special lease rental charge for BHP and Rio Tinto and to the Treasurer's comments that it was not possible to get agreement from those mining companies to change their state agreements.

- (1) Has the Treasurer requested or received formal advice that state agreements can only be changed by mutual agreement; and, if so, will the minister table this advice?
- (2) If no to (1), on what premise does he base these comments?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Treasurer.

- (1) No.
- (2) The iron ore production rental is specified in the relevant state agreements. The state government does not intend to unilaterally amend such agreements, as this would clearly be contrary to their spirit and intent and undermine Western Australia's reputation as a safe and stable investment destination.

COCKATOO ISLAND AND KOOLAN ISLAND — SEAWALLS

38. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the collapsed seawall at Pluton Resources' Cockatoo Island iron ore mine, and to Mt Gibson Mining's announcement on Thursday, 27 April that it would spend \$100 million to repair the seawall at Koolan Island.

- (1) Is the damage to the seawall at Cockatoo Island comparable to the damage to the seawall at Koolan Island?
- (2) What is the estimated repair cost of the seawall at Cockatoo Island?
- (3) In light of Mt Gibson Mining's announcement of its intention to spend \$100 million to fix the Koolan Island seawall, is the figure for Cockatoo Island realistic?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

- (1) No. The Cockatoo Island seawall has not collapsed.
- (2) The Department of Mines and Petroleum has no information on costs for any repairs to the seawall on Cockatoo Island.
- (3) See answer (2).

NATIONAL PARKS — DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

39. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the article in *The West Australian* of 10 May 2017, entitled “Open national parks to tourism”, in which the minister reportedly said that he wanted to encourage more people to use Western Australia’s conservation estate, rather than lock it up for the sake of it. Does the minister intend to consider development proposals from the private sector that will encourage more people to use our world-class national parks?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for the question. It is great that he was paying attention to my comments in the media. Yes, I did say in an interview with *The West Australian* that I do and would welcome people using national parks in Western Australia. In fact, I had a conversation outside this afternoon with an honourable member of this place about the very same issue. I do not think there is any reason to simply lock up national parks for the sake of it. I want to see our national parks used by the community. For that reason, I made those comments. At this stage, there are no development proposals. Obviously, any proposal would need to go through proper processes. I really want to see Western Australians use our parks, and I want to see us protect our unique environment for future generations.

PUBLIC SECTOR REDUCTION — TRADE OFFICES

40. Hon PHIL EDMAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:

My questions relate to the comments made by the Premier and Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade, Mark McGowan, in a press conference on Friday, 28 April, in which he announced that the number of government departments would be reduced by 40 per cent. With the reduction in the number of departments, it seems that the Department of State Development will now form part of the new Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, which would include the overseas offices in London, Dubai and Japan.

- (1) Can the Premier guarantee that his government’s proposed reduction in the number of government departments will not hinder the efforts of these offices to respond to opportunities in a timely manner, unlike the bureaucratically hamstrung Department of State Development offices?
- (2) Will this new proposal adopt the same method of operation that the Department of the Premier and Cabinet offices had?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) All Western Australian public sector functions are under review, including the trade offices located overseas.

FISHING LICENCES — TRANSFER STAMP DUTY

41. Hon BRIAN ELLIS to the minister representing the Treasurer:

With respect to stamp duty on the transfer of managed fishing licences to family members, the response to question without notice 305 of 3 April 2008 stated that under clause 28 of the Duties Legislation Amendment Bill 2007, effective from 1 July 2010, stamp duty would not be charged on the transfer of fishing licences, including craypots, irrespective of whether the transfer was between family members or unrelated persons. However, the response to question without notice 444 of 30 June 2010 stated that transfer duty would continue to apply to transfers between family members after 1 July 2010, but that duty would no longer apply on or after 1 July 2013. I understand that due to budgetary constraints the July 2013 proposal did not proceed.

- (1) Will the current government abolish this stamp duty?
- (2) If yes to (1), when?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Treasurer.

- (1)–(3) The previous Labor government legislated to abolish transfer duty on non-real business property, such as goodwill, statutory licences and intellectual property from 1 July 2010. Subsequently, the former Liberal–National government delayed the abolition until 1 July 2013 and then in May 2013 indefinitely deferred the abolition until budget circumstances allowed. Unfortunately, given that the previous Liberal–National government had such a reckless attitude to the finances of the state and, as such, left the state in such a poor financial position, the state government is not in a position to abolish this stamp duty at this time.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — “INDUCED ABORTIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA: 2013–2015”

42. Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

On behalf of the excellent member Hon Nick Goiran, I ask the following question.

I refer to the report “Induced Abortions in Western Australia: 2010–2012”.

- (1) Has a further report been prepared by or for the department?

Hon Sue Ellery: Yes, you’d better hurry up and leave.

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: Excuse me? I thought you were referring to me then.

Hon Sue Ellery: Not at all. I wish you were staying.

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: I continue.

- (2) If yes to (1), when will this report be tabled?
 (3) If no to (1), when will the next report be prepared?

The PRESIDENT: Members, as you know from previous Parliaments, it is not a practice that I condone from the chair of other members asking a question in another member’s name who is in the chamber. But as Hon Alyssa Hayden is on borrowed time, we will let her get away with it this time.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:

I thank Hon Nick Goiran for some notice of the question. I am informed of the following.

- (1) No.
 (2) Not applicable.
 (3) The report “Induced Abortions in Western Australia: 2013–2015” is planned for release in the last quarter of 2017.

TAFE FEES

43. Hon JIM CHOWN to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the comments made on the Premier’s website dated 20 February 2017, in which he stated —

“Colin Barnett and Liza Harvey’s increases to TAFE fees have decimated the sector and have put TAFE out of reach for many Western Australians, adding to WA’s jobs crisis.

“This was just another arrogant and out of touch decision by Colin Barnett and Liza Harvey. They just don’t get it—something needs to be done.

- (1) In light of the Premier’s scathing comments, will the government overturn those increases by implementing a reduction in TAFE fees?
 (2) If no to (1), why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I am going to start awarding a question of the day because I so love this question. I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I am pleased to deliver this answer.

- (1)–(2) The previous Liberal government wrecked the state’s finances and the financial situation it created means we are unable to reverse the fee increases.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! Hansard has to be able to hear the answer to record it.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thank you, Mr President. I will start again.

The previous Liberal government wrecked the state's finances and the financial situation it created means we are unable to reverse the fee increases. Instead, we have frozen TAFE fees for the term of government to give students and families certainty so that they know how much they will be paying. Our announcement is affordable and we have shown how we will pay for it.

BRUNSWICK RIVER COTTAGES

44. Hon COL HOLT to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Regional Development:

Brunswick River Cottages had \$2.3 million worth of funding approved by cabinet by the previous government for the development of an additional 12 affordable retirement units.

- (1) Will the minister honour this commitment to Brunswick River Cottages?
- (2) If yes to (1), can the minister advise when this funding will be made available?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question and congratulate him on his re-election to represent the South West Region.

Brunswick River Cottages had \$2.3 million approved by Cabinet by the previous government for the development—sorry, that is the question! I am just taking a little while to change over. We are in government now. Apologies, Mr President.

- (1)–(2) The project the member refers to was rushed through cabinet in the final weeks of the Barnett government. All royalties for regions projects are being reviewed to check that sound business cases exist. Priorities will then be set in the lead-up to the 2017–18 state budget as we ensure we deliver the best outcomes for regional Western Australia in a challenging fiscal environment. The government will be prioritising the election commitments it promised to deliver in the regions.

HYDROLIC FRACTURING — ALP MORATORIUM

45. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the Natural Gas (Canning Basin Joint Venture) Agreement Act 2013.

- (1) What is the nature of the ALP moratorium on fracking?
- (2) How long will the moratorium remain in place?
- (3) How will Labor's policy to enact a statewide moratorium on fracking affect the Natural Gas (Canning Basin Joint Venture) Agreement Act 2013?
- (4) Are any test fracks proposed for any tenements in Western Australia?
- (5) If yes to (4), will they be allowed to proceed?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

- (1) The government's policy is a ban on hydraulic fracture stimulation in the south west, Perth and Peel regions and a moratorium over the rest of mainland Western Australia while a scientific inquiry is undertaken into the practice. The government is currently finalising mechanisms to implement this commitment.
- (2) The moratorium will remain in place during the scientific inquiry and until the government makes a further decision.
- (3) The Natural Gas (Canning Basin Joint Venture) Agreement Act 2013 is not affected by the policy.
- (4) At present there are no proposals to undertake hydraulic fracture stimulation either under assessment or approved by the Department of Mines and Petroleum.
- (5) Not applicable.

PUBLIC SECTOR REVIEW — REMUNERATION

46. Hon PETER COLLIER to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the government's decision to establish a Western Australian public sector review and refer to the role of Mr Iain Rennie, Mr Michael Dillon and Ms Margaret Seares.

- (1) How much is each individual being paid for this work?
- (2) Does Hon John Kobelke or Hon Jim McGinty have any formal or informal role in the review?
- (3) If yes to (2), what is the nature of their role and will they be paid; and, if so, how much?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Mr Iain Rennie, chair, will be paid \$400 an hour, up to a maximum of \$150 000, excluding GST. Ms Margaret Seares will be paid \$267 an hour, up to a maximum of \$100 000, excluding GST. Mr Michael Dillon will be paid \$267 an hour, up to a maximum of \$100 000, excluding GST.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

47. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Energy:

On 7 March 2017, prior to the 2017 state election, Mark McGowan released a statement on his website, which stated —

“Everyone knows that when you privatise State-owned utilities, power prices go up, and services go down.

The website also stated —

... Western Australians could not afford to see their power bills go up even further.

In light of these statements, can the Minister for Energy confirm to Horizon Power customers in regional WA that they will not face electricity price increases above that of the consumer price index rate for at least the next two years?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Energy.

The electricity prices paid by Horizon Power customers are currently well below the cost of supply and are subsidised by government. The Labor government is yet to make a decision on electricity prices for 2017–18. As a former minister in the Barnett–Nahan government, the member would be aware that his government left the state finances in a catastrophic state. As such, the McGowan government will need to make —

Hon Jim Chown: Let’s swap places. We’ll go back to where we were and we’ll govern properly!

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! The only place you will swap places with is outside the chamber if you do not obey the standing orders, customs and practices of this house. Minister, would you like to finish your answer?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Thank you, Mr President. I would indeed. The remainder of the answer is: as such, the McGowan government will need to make decisions that attempt to redress the eight years of financial vandalism and mismanagement that have left the state with record debt levels.

SOUTHERN INLAND HEALTH INITIATIVE

48. Hon DAVE GRILLS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the state government Southern Inland Health Initiative and in particular the stream 1 district medical workforce investment program.

- (1) Is the minister aware that funding to the SIHI ceases on 30 June?
- (2) When was the minister made aware and by whom?
- (3) How does the minister plan to maintain service delivery to key regional health programs once funding ceases?
- (4) Will the minister provide a guarantee that services will not be reduced particularly in the area of general practitioner incentives and the emergency telehealth service from 1 July 2017?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I am informed —

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Minister for Health was made aware through incoming government briefs and a recent formal briefing provided by the Department of Health and WA Country Health Service.
- (3)–(4) The Minister for Health is currently reviewing a proposal by WACHS and will discuss this with the Minister for Regional Development. The proposal includes the extension of funding to cover essential emergency and health services while royalties for regions funding priorities are reviewed by government. The new government is currently reviewing all royalties for regions funding.

ASBESTOS DISEASES COMPENSATION BILL — REINTRODUCTION

49. Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the Asbestos Diseases Compensation Bill 2013 introduced into the Legislative Council by Hon Kate Doust to which all members of the then Labor opposition gave unqualified and unequivocal support as not only important but urgent. Given that even when it came to the bill being considered at the stage of the Committee of the Whole, the Labor Party asserted that there was no need to amend the bill —

- (1) When will that bill be re-introduced in the form passed by the house in November 2016?
- (2) If it is not being reintroduced in the form passed by the house, why not?
- (3) If it is not to be reintroduced in the form passed by the house, is it because now that the Labor Party has responsibility for government it admits that the bill is flawed or, at the very least, requires improvement before it is fit to be passed?
- (4) Will legislation be introduced to achieve reform in this field; and, if so, when?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) The McGowan government recognises that asbestos-related diseases are a significant issue and is profoundly sympathetic to those suffering from such illnesses. I commend Hon Kate Doust, MLC, for her important work in this area. The government will complete the economic analysis proposed by the Law Reform Commission of WA in its final report of project 106, “Project 106—Provisional Damages and Damages for Gratuitous Services”, before making a decision to reintroduce the bill.

DEPARTMENT FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY SUPPORT —
WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS — AUDIT

50. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection:

Mr President —

Hon Sue Ellery: You’re back! Nice to see you.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Thank you, Mr President. I am pleased to return from urgent parliamentary business.

I refer to the process by which Department for Child Protection and Family Support staff receive their working with children checks through the screening unit run out of the department.

- (1) When was the last audit of that process undertaken?
- (2) Will the minister table the documents recording the outcome of that audit?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) If yes to (2), when?
- (5) When is the next audit scheduled to occur?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The last audit was the fifteenth report of the Office of the Auditor General of June 2014.
- (2) This report was tabled in Parliament in June 2014.
- (3)–(4) Not applicable.
- (5) The next audit will be at the discretion of the Auditor General.

AVONLINK TRAIN SERVICE

51. Hon JACQUI BOYDELL to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:

I ask my question on behalf of Hon Martin Aldridge, who is absent from the chamber on urgent parliamentary business.

I understand the state government holds the view that the *AvonLink* service is expensive and not economically sustainable and that the three-year trial was a failure.

- (1) Is the minister aware that a considerable portion of the trial was conducted while Brookfield Rail was conducting maintenance on the line, disrupting normal services?
- (2) Has the minister requested information from the Public Transport Authority on the impact this may have had on the results of the trial?

- (3) Has the minister requested the Public Transport Authority to provide funding or schedule information for an integrated road and rail service for the Avon Valley?
- (4) Will the state government continue funding the *AvonLink* rail service?
- (5) If no to (4), how is the government proposing to service the communities that currently use *AvonLink*?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Transport, Planning and Lands.

- (1)–(5) I am not sure where the member gained her understanding. Given the former Liberal–National government failed to fund the *AvonLink* service beyond 30 June this year, it must have been the National Party together with the Liberal Party that believed it should not be funded into the future; otherwise, funding would have been allocated. In respect to the Labor government having to clean up the many financial messes left behind by the former government, we are undertaking the budget process and considering this issue.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM — TENEMENT SCRAPING

52. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the practice of data scraping of tenements.

- (1) How many tenements have been scraped so far this year?
- (2) Which companies are doing the scraping?
- (3) Why is this practice still occurring?
- (4) What will the Minister for Mines and Petroleum do to curtail this practice?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

- (1)–(4) The information requested is unable to be provided in the time allocated; however, the answer will be provided to the member on the next sitting day.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Motion

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

HON ALYSSA HAYDEN (East Metropolitan) [5.08 pm]: I am extremely pleased to be able to stand here today and have the opportunity to give my Address-in-Reply to the speech of Her Excellency the Governor at the opening of the fortieth Parliament. I would also like to take a moment, if I may, to acknowledge the past Speaker of the lower house, Hon Michael Sutherland, and also the lower house members who have come here today to bear witness to what will hopefully be a smooth speech. I am glad they had the opportunity to witness a question time that is run in a bit more of a civil manner than that of the lower house, and they might have learnt something while they were here! I would also like to thank all my family and friends who are here today. I thought it was a good idea to invite them, but I am now having second thoughts. We will see how we go and if I can get through my speech!

It is a privilege to be able to give an Address-in-Reply, especially at the end of an election in which you have been unsuccessful. After every election we find ourselves in a strange and bizarre position. Many of my friends in the lower house were unable to give an Address-in-Reply. It was a struggle for me to decide whether they had things better or whether I did, but what I can tell you, Mr President, is that the upper house is unique and quirky, and the way we operate is a little bit bizarre and different from any other workplace. After every election we find ourselves in waiting until 21 May. I was elected to this place in 2008 and I had to wait a very long eight months before being sworn into Parliament. Now, at the other end of my term, I have to sit and wait to say goodbye. I have now found new respect for the members who had to depart after the election in 2008, because sitting here for eight months must have been extremely difficult. I recently joked that, unlike Legislative Assembly members—who were thrown from office on the night of the election—Legislative Council members go into palliative care, and our life-support date is set for when the machine is switched off on 21 May. There are some pros and cons on both sides, but as I said earlier, it is actually a very painful time.

Over the past eight years I have got to my feet and spoken many times in this place. However, today takes me back to how I felt the first time I stood here. Over time, you learn to take this place for granted. We walk in through those doors and take our seats. We feel comfortable and familiar, and I suppose we become complacent about our surroundings. But today, as I said, I have been thrown back in time to my first speech, and I feel fortunate, lucky and privileged to be a member of this chamber. However, unlike my first speech, my time, for now—and I do say “now”—has come to an end.

The experiences and friends I have made over this journey cannot be repeated, and it is certainly a special time in our lives for all of us to be a part of this democratic system and of Parliament. We form an exclusive and quirky family, and the friendships we make in this place are like no other. The diversity of this role is another aspect that I will be extremely disappointed to leave, and it will be difficult to replace. Along with the ability to help the community at this level, it is certainly unique.

The young 39-year-old who delivered her inaugural speech eight years ago—I am not asking you to do the maths, Mr President!—has no regrets. I entered this place with the goal of putting the East Metropolitan Region on the map and to represent Western Australia's small business community and the everyday people I had the privilege of growing up with in the community I grew up in in the hills. I know I have fulfilled those goals plus the many more I set for myself and that the community set for me.

As I mentioned in my first speech, the truck industry stole my heart right up front, and I cannot thank enough the many drivers and industry stakeholders I have met, worked with and who I now call my friends. Transport certainly was not a platform of mine when I decided to enter Parliament; however, my interest was sparked after attending my first public forum during those long eight months as an elected, but not as yet sworn in, member of Parliament. I had no idea that attending that forum to see the then Minister for Transport, Hon Simon O'Brien, was going to have such a massive impact on me. I am sorry; it was not about you, Simon! Nor did I think that forum would take me on two five-day, long-haul, heavy-load truck trips up north, but it did, and it was the start of my very healthy obsession with the transport sector.

The keynote speaker of this forum was an amazing individual who turned her life around against all odds, and although times were tough for her, her passion for the truck industry was, and still is, unwavering. Her name is Heather Jones, and although I have met many influential people in my life, Heather is certainly one of the main women to have had such an important, positive and personal impact—so much so, as I said, that she convinced me to travel with her for five days to Tom Price, pulling an oversize load, to see firsthand the conditions our truck drivers experience. This trip turned into another trip, and the experiences I gained from these trips and the contacts I made started my journey as a passionate advocate for our truck drivers. I share this with you, members, because it is important for us to remember that although we enter this place with our own goals, it is vital that we remain open and that we listen to the needs of our community and work towards achieving their goals as well as our own. Steve Post is another champion of the transport industry, and he has never been shy to pick up the phone when he thought my mind might have turned to another cause. He has certainly kept the needs of this industry at the forefront of my mind.

One of the major successes I am extremely proud to have been part of was when the Liberal government got involved and supported the establishment of Transafe WA. Since its establishment in 2014, Transafe has held 12 road transport industry safety forums, with each forum attracting more than 800 participants. To say that this was long overdue and needed within the industry is certainly an understatement. Transafe already has its next goal in mind, which is to deliver a safety truck to WA for the sole purpose of visiting schools and regional and metropolitan shows to educate road users on how to share our roads with heavy haulage. Of course, as with any program or project, it needs the support of sponsors and government, and I stand here today to urge the new Minister for Road Safety to get behind this important initiative—an initiative that will certainly save lives on our roads.

With the help of Heather and Steve, I believe we have achieved a lot of great things together, and as I leave this place, I encourage my colleagues to not forget this trucking transport industry that carries our state. It is the simple things we take for granted in our everyday workplace that they do not get to enjoy, and that is why I have worked with our ministers over eight years to deliver improved rest areas, facilities and upgraded roads, so that drivers can continue to do their job in a safer and respectful environment. I have said this many times in this place before, and I could not leave without repeating one last time the one main message that needs to be continually promoted across the state, which is that the general motorist needs to understand how to share our roads safely with heavy vehicles and to show them some respect. Our truck industry is vital to the prosperity of our state. Not only does it provide transport for our mining and farming industries, it also delivers three-quarters of our domestic freight, including every item on the shelves of the supermarkets we visit. Without the hardworking men and women in our transport industry, our state would come to a sudden stop.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to explore the many different industries, associations, groups and individual needs that this role introduces us to. It allows us to continue to learn and listen to the needs and wants of the people we represent. One of the industries that I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in is through my role as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism. The tourism sector became a major focus of mine over the past four years. With two of the major tourism highlights of Perth in my electorate—the Swan Valley and Perth hills—I have always advocated for their recognition and for tourism to be promoted in this sector. When I was made Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism, I can tell members I was over the moon. Many of our tourism operators are small businesses, and with my experience as a small business operator, it did

not take long to realise that red tape and bureaucracy is suffocating tourism in WA. The passion within this industry is second to none. We have amazing operators here in WA. While promoting their own businesses, they are also major champions of our state and they bring visitors not only to their doorstep, but also to many other businesses around the state.

I am extremely proud to have been a part of the Barnett Liberal government. I know that the vision and investment made by our Premier, Hon Colin Barnett, provided for the WA tourism sector a city to be proud of. It has given tourism a grand capital city to showcase and to sell across Australia and to countries around the world. Projects such as Elizabeth Quay, Yagan Square and Perth Stadium have improved Perth's attraction and global awareness and have transformed our city forever. The redevelopment of Scarborough, the upgrades on Rottnest Island, the Perth Airport expansion, the 2 000-plus new hotel rooms and the redevelopment of Busselton Airport all add to the attractiveness of WA as a holiday destination. The Liberal government backed up this investment with effective marketing and the very successful and welcome campaign, Just Another Day in WA. We experienced a massive growth in cruising, with 58 cruise ship visits last year. They brought 152 000 passengers who spent \$275 million in our state.

The past few years under the Liberal government has seen incredible change and opportunities for tourism in this state. However, the most rewarding part of my role in assisting the Minister for Tourism was working with individual operators to cut through the bureaucracy restricting their growth and their potential.

Although I succeeded in assisting with many individual requests, there is one, sadly, that I did not have enough time to complete, so tonight I have decided to raise it here as my last ditch effort to see it achieved. Although it may be seen to be a bit of a minor request in the scheme of the things we do in this place, I can assure you this is not minor to the tourism operator. The tourism industry is made up of many dynamic and usually groundbreaking businesses simply because they need to be quick to respond to the demands of their consumer. In tourism, if you are not offering something new or something exciting, you will not get that visitor to your business and we will not get them to our state. The visitor has so many options available to them and we need to offer our best. Sadly, government is not always up to speed nor does it work fast enough for many of these new businesses to succeed. One of our new operators is Segway Tours WA, which operates out of Barrack Street Jetty. Segway Tours came to me with two simple requests. One was to gain access to Fremantle port and the other was to Kings Park for their tours. I am pleased to say that the Fremantle port tour is up and running and I encourage all members to get out there and enjoy it. However, I leave with unfinished business in negotiating access to Kings Park. I guess I am pleading to the Kings Park Board and to the new minister to simply permit a designated segway pathway through Kings Park for our local community and visitors to enjoy. It is not hard. These segway tours are informative and filled with the history of Perth, and we have an exceptional story to be told and views to be enjoyed in and from Kings Park. As I said, this may seem to be a small matter in the scheme of things, but this is a prime example of government not assisting business to grow and prosper. It is ridiculous restrictions like this that can see a business either succeed or fail. It is up to you. I hope they succeed.

As members of Parliament, we remain true to our purposes and our goals. One of my personal goals was to inject as much commonsense as possible into government bureaucracy—not an easy one. Although I did win some, I can assure you the score still sits in favour of bureaucracy. Taking up the fight to our bureaucracy is a major part of the role I will greatly miss. However, I doubt they will miss me. I ask members who remain to remember that your role is not to just roll over and agree with government agencies. It is about pushing the boundaries and injecting good old-fashioned commonsense.

In the last year I led an investigation into Airbnb with the vision of forming a policy surrounding the information gathered. With the speed at which the shared economy is growing, I knew that as a government we needed to get our heads around the issue and understand the potential impact the new economy will have on tourism in WA. The most overwhelming point identified is that hundreds of Airbnb and short-stay providers operate across the state without approval. This is occurring as it is up to individual local councils to allow or disallow short-term accommodation within their boundaries. Before I go on, it is important when discussing Airbnb that everyone is talking about the same thing. The traditional Airbnb is a homeowner who decides to rent out part of their home to a visitor as a short stay and stay there and host them. That is completely different from a standalone holiday home when the owner or resident is not there and renting out the home in its entirety. It should not be confused nor put into the same category but my investigation highlighted that regardless of the stance local councils take on short-term accommodation, holiday homes and Airbnb providers are operating and open for business. That demonstrates that our existing regulatory and policy framework in Western Australia in this area is obsolete.

It is important to note there is an urgent need to acknowledge and address the modern age of technology and the establishment of the shared economy. Uber is a perfect example. If the result of this election were different, my recommendations would have been to introduce statewide policy simply to permit short-term accommodation at a state government level. It would resolve the ridiculous position we are in. The opportunity to modernise our

policy would also have meant that instead of introducing new regulations, we take this opportunity to reduce and remove the red tape associated with the traditional accommodation sector. It is important for government to be part of the solution to enable the new and existing accommodation providers to succeed. A simple statewide regulation to allow short-stay accommodation and reduce the current unnecessary and excessive oversight across the sector is urgently required. The hotel and accommodation sector is heavily over-regulated. We need to acknowledge the huge investment made in developing and operating our hotels. However, the shared economy is here and it is not going away, so a balance needs to be found to ensure that the growth of Airbnb does not impact on the viability of our existing hotel sector. The obvious approach is to develop open competition across the accommodation sector. To make this successful and to reduce red tape, the government will need to work with the hotel industry and undertake a regulatory mapping exercise of the regulations required to construct and operate a hotel. This should include consideration of potential inconsistencies in the building code requirements and classifications. By doing this, government will be on track to establish an even playing field across the accommodation sector.

I understand that the government is not seeking policy advice from this side of the chamber; however, I am encouraging the new Minister for Tourism, Hon Paul Papalia, who I know shares my passion for tourism, not to shy away from making a bold, radical and stimulating change to the way hotels and the accommodation sector are regulated. Now is the time, minister, to modernise the regulations that are restricting our tourism operators, and allow them to cater to consumer demand. The Liberal government prepared this state for growth in our tourism sector and I am begging the new government not to miss the opportunity that has been laid out for it to succeed. No matter where I end up in the future, I will continue my support for the tourism sector and the many outstanding men and women in this industry. They are remarkable people achieving extraordinary experiences and I thank them for making our state an amazing place to live.

I need to make special mention of a person who has been behind the scenes of tourism for 30 years plus, who is respected by all across the industry, and whose knowledge and understanding of the sector has helped me over the past four years, and that is Ian Johnson. Thank you for taking the late calls and for your extreme professionalism over the past four years. I hope I have not ruined your future career!

Speaking of outstanding individuals, of course, there are many more I wish to thank today. On 11 March the people of WA voted and made their decision. As a result of that decision, I and many of my friends lost our positions. I do not call them “colleagues” as this is a job we share far more. The people who make up our team become family. There is no other job like this. We rely on each other and put trust in one another. I want to thank my many lower house members who lost their seats on 11 March, especially my East Metropolitan colleagues and friends and, of course, my upper house family for their friendship, guidance and support. To our leader, Hon Peter Collier, you have been an inclusive leader and you have always encouraged each of your team members to be their best. You are a true mate and I thank you for all the support you have shown me. To my roommate, Hon Jim Chown, we have sat next to each other in this place since the day we entered. Even when faced with the wrath of our former leader, you stuck by me, buddy. We have shared a great bond and I liken it to a brother and sister relationship. We never let up on each other. We were always looking for a dig and I suppose it is because I can give as good as I get that we get on so well.

Hon Jim Chown: Only sometimes!

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: But sometimes loyal. My East Metropolitan colleague Hon Donna Faragher also shared the burden of sitting next to Jim over the past few years. I think, Donna, it is only fair that as I depart, and given you have moved from sitting next to Jim, that we should brief our chamber mates who will be taking on this burden when I leave. There is payment for sitting next to Jim and the currency is in the form of sherbies, payment of which is made by his electorate staff because they are forever grateful for our sacrifice and for keeping him out of their hair. Donna, I am sorry that I now leave you to the huge challenge ahead in looking after the East Metropolitan Region alone, but the good people of East Metro will be looking for a shining light to guide them back and I know that you will be there for them.

We make long-term and special friends in this place and without an ongoing commentary or listing them all, I would not have ended this journey as sane as I am without them: Hon Nick Goiran, confidant and awesome friend; and Hon Liz Behjat, one word—sisterhood. To all my Liberal Legislative Council, or black-hand gang, members, I know that you are all only a phone call away—I know where you live if you change your number!

To a special few in the lower house, Paul Miles and Michael Sutherland, I know our friendship will last the test of time and will continue outside these walls. To Hon Colin Barnett, the man who brought us back in 2008 and, as a result, gave me the opportunity to stand in this place and be a member of the Legislative Council, an opportunity that I will always appreciate and thank him for, being a leader is no easy feat. A leader of a political team would have to be one of the toughest and loneliest gigs around. Sadly, politics is a brutal game and although we know this before we start, I do not believe we ever really appreciate how brutal it is until it hits us. Tonight I wish to thank Colin for his support and leadership. He respected the position he held and he made it his

goal to ensure that the position of Premier was never tainted or stained. It was obvious in the first year that he had an agenda to make our state great, and I believe he achieved that and then some. Apart from the investments I referred to earlier within our capital city, Colin delivered a record spend in the East Metropolitan Region, with the new Midland Public Hospital; the Midland Curtin University campus; the Gateway WA project along Tonkin Highway; NorthLink, previously known as the Perth to Darwin highway and Swan Valley bypass—I think it still has an identity crisis; the train line to Forrestfield; and hundreds of road projects. People cannot drive around East Metro without having to go through roadworks. There were also schools and tourist attractions, and the list goes on. This, in my opinion, is one of his major achievements that he can be extremely proud of. For decades, all sides of government had neglected and ignored this region, but not the Barnett Liberal government, and for that I believe the work of the former Liberal government will be known and held in high regard across the East Metropolitan Region for many years to come. The challenge now, my friends who sit opposite, is to hope that the McGowan government does not revert to its old ways and turn its back on the eastern suburbs. I will be watching.

I had the privilege of working with Hon Kim Hames, former Deputy Premier, as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health; Tourism. I guess you can all pick which one I liked better! I wish to thank him for his friendship and guidance and Melinda in his office for helping me pronounce the big long words in question time on all the health issues. Kim's retirement saw an old friend of mine become a new member, the new member for Dawesville, Zak Kirkup. I have known Zak since he was 16 years old, so if members want any dirt, I have got it! It saddens me that unfortunately we will not be serving together—for now. Zak, you will be a massive contributor and I know you will have a long and exciting career.

I have also enjoyed working with many amazing people amongst our community and we are extremely fortunate to have such amazing volunteers and people committed to making our community better. In no particular order, because I truly value them all, I wish to place on the record the dedication and commitment of a few outstanding members of the local East Metro community: Patsy Molloy and her board at the Midland Women's Health Care Place; all the amazing men at Midland Men's Shed, in particular Dave Savage and Kevin Buckland; and the coaches and players at the Northern Redbacks Womens Soccer Club, who stole not only my heart, but also Colin's, resulting in us building the club great and fantastic new change rooms. It has made me its patron and has asked me to stay on, and that is something I will cherish and I will do my utmost to support it. There are also the many Swan Valley operators, Anthony Yurisch, James Talijancich, Daniel Pinelli, Peter Prendiville, Allan Erceg, Caroline Taylor and, of course, the godmother of the valley, Corin Lamont; the Perth Hills Vignerons Association, in particular Josh and Rachael Davenport; Mike Foley, CEO of the City of Swan; and Kieran Kinsella from the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority.

The City of Swan has been extremely professional to work with and in our role as government, we teamed up with the City of Swan on many major and small projects, from dualling Gnangara Road and major intersection upgrades on Roe and Reid Highways to the many local road and roundabout improvements, the Ellenbrook sporting complex, river restorations, anti-crime initiatives and so on. The city also worked closely and successfully with the many private developments that were undertaken by the former Midland Redevelopment Authority and now Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority. I honestly believe the work that has been achieved is a credit to the aptitude and professionalism of the two CEOs, Mike Foley and Kieran Kinsella. I wish them every success and hope that our paths cross again soon.

Of course, my respect goes to the Liberal Party of Western Australia for granting me the honour to represent our party in this chamber. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the thousands of Liberal members and young Liberals around our state for their dedication to protecting our Liberal beliefs and for the tireless support they give to our party. Of course, a special mention must go to all the branch members across the East Metropolitan Region. They worked tirelessly across the election and they have worked very hard on hundreds of campaigns. I am sorry we let you down this time around, but please keep your faith in us, because we will be back in four years. To all the candidates who stood and waved the Liberal flag on our behalf, thank you; it is a huge commitment giving up your work and your time, and I thank you for everything you have done to help us win more seats for the Liberal Party. To our small team at headquarters, both past and present, a few of whom have supported me greatly over the years, Ben Morton, Zak Kirkup, Ben Allen, Sam Calabrese, Andrew Cox, Cerena Moir, Shelbie Owen, Amy Calabrese and, of course, proby Chris Gardner, a big thankyou to you all.

I also have a few acknowledgements and thankyou's to a special team, and that is team Midland. I have been accused of being Midland-centric and I will never apologise for it. Daniel Parasiliti, I am not meant to cry over you! I have never met such a determined and dynamic individual. His compassion and enthusiasm to achieve for his communities is a trait he is well known for. Daniel has been my so-called political running partner for the past few years. I am just sorry that we were not able to get over the line together—or at least one of us. I know that there is a great future ahead waiting for you, buddy, and I will be there to support you in whatever you do. Graeme Harris has dedicated his life to supporting and promoting the business community of Midland and the Liberal Party and has been a long-term friend of mine. Ray Gianoli has been a strong supporter and will continue

to be a great friend. Henk Loochys, you are an amazing individual; we will miss you unless we can entice you back at the next campaign. Liam Staltari is a true young gentleman with a huge future.

To my three stooges, Stefan Deselys-Claite, Jessica Wright and Jasmine Lares, you guys added sparkle when sparkle was needed. I look forward to watching all of your amazing futures that you have ahead of you. There are two very special ladies who have been with me since the start of my journey and who, as usual, are sitting up the back. They are, of course, my two amazing staff, Allison McNee and Lynnne Butler. Although we have worked as a team for the past eight years, our journeys together started long before then. We have shared in each other's highs and lows. I will not lie; our friendship has been tested from the pressures of this workplace, but I know that our friendship—Jim, will you stop me; what are you good for?

Hon Jim Chown: Keep going.

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: Our friendship will last the test of time, and I am looking forward to going back to just being friends. Whenever people would ask how I managed to keep the same staff for eight years—they are sick of hearing this—my answer was always that it was because we have too much dirt on each other and we cannot part. It is not a joke! Unfortunately, they now have a lot more on me than I have on them, so I will be sticking close. Our staff are our eyes, our ears and sometimes the targets in the community we represent. They are the unsung heroes, because they do understand that it is all about us. I know that I have been extremely lucky to end my term with the same two staff I started with. I also know this is extremely rare and I cannot thank them enough for standing by my side, for having my back and for representing the community I chose to stand for. That is something that every member needs to remember: we chose this job; we chose our electorate; our staff chose us. I am looking forward to a well-earned farewell lunch together.

Our family and friends are the ones who take the brunt of the long hours and commitments of this job. I will not look up because I will lose it. I want to thank those who have stood by and given their support. To my friends who have shared a glass or two or three with me over the years: you have kept me sane. Rosalie Dolliver, I thank you very much for your friendship.

To my amazing and beautiful extended family, you know that I think you are simply the best and I look forward to spending more quality time with you. To my extremely proud parents, Arthur and Sandra Wallis, I know I could not make them any prouder, and, as a daughter, that is the ultimate. I could not ask for anything more than knowing that I have lived up to the dreams and wishes of my parents, but I need them to know that they certainly over-delivered as parents and I could not ask for anything more or anything better. I love you both so much.

Now I turn to Terry, the man who always makes me laugh, the one who thinks that it is always about him—my husband of 23 years. Our partners certainly pay the price for our choice of careers—the late nights, the early starts, and the crankiness of preparing our week and speeches like this. I will not say that I have been lucky; I prefer to mark it down to the fact that I actually made the right choice when picking my husband. Although Terry has many great attributes, which he reminds me about every day, the most important one I thrive on, and am forever grateful for, is that I never have to worry about jealousy or resentment. I have never had to apologise for working late or staying back for a drink with friends or for holding such a busy job. Instead, I have always received nothing but encouragement, humour, love and support from Terry. I know that we should not have to acknowledge or celebrate this, but, unfortunately, for many this is not the norm, and although it can cross both genders, we have come a long way in supporting women in the workplace. We still need to go a long way to enable women to reach their full potential—and it starts with our partners. I know that I am lucky to have Terry to encourage me to reach mine. The one thing that Terry hates to share is the limelight. As I step down at the end of this week—I have a couple more days here—I know that he is already planning his comeback, and that he will take his rightful place to be centre of attention once again, as he so deserves.

Mr President, I want to thank you for the friendship and support you have shown me over the years. Your wise counsel has always been appreciated, and I know this place will certainly miss your presence and wisdom. You have raised the standard and your legacy to uphold our traditional values are ones that I hope are continued. I wish you a very happy retirement and I look forward to sharing a Margaret River red with you when I pop by.

To the staff of the chamber, Parliament House security and Hansard, thank you for making Parliament run so smoothly, for assisting us to do our jobs and for making us look as though we know what we are doing. I sincerely appreciate the many and varied roles that help this place operate. I thank you all for your friendliness and eagerness to help.

I really do hope that this is not the end of my parliamentary career. As I leave this place, I am going to refer to them as my gap years. I never had a gap year as a younger person, so I figure that this is as good a time as any. I still have much more I wish to contribute and I will use this time to reflect and win back the confidence of the community that we must have lost along the way. But I cannot leave this place without placing on the record the need for a review of the preferential voting system, especially the extremely complicated system that we have in the

Legislative Council. Please do not mistake this and my points as bitterness, because they certainly are not. I understand these are the rules we operate under and how our vote is counted. However, I also value the democratic right, and I believe that in this case the system has not delivered for the voters of Western Australia. A democratic system is meant to reflect the desire of the community, with the majority's voice being reflected in the result. The result of the Legislative Council, I fear, this time did not reflect the view or the desire of the community. The fact that 12 parties with quotas ranging from 0.10 to as low as 0.01 determined the fate of the sixth position on the East Metropolitan Region ticket demonstrates exactly that. I urge this chamber to acknowledge that the current preferential voting system is not serving the people of Western Australia, and that an overhaul of the system needs to take place—not for my sake or for that of any of you in this chamber; it is for the respect of those who turn out to vote. The ticketing system that failed in the Senate in the 2013 federal election has been replaced—in effect, optional preferential voting above and below the line. In 2016, it was no longer possible for preference harvesters to engineer complex deals between micro parties such as the disgraceful win by parties with less than one per cent of the vote. In WA there was no time to change the Legislative Council voting system to bring it into line with the Senate, but, if it had been, we would have had a different result today. I encourage the powers that be to take a good, long, hard look and adopt the Senate system.

I am a positive person and although it saddens me to leave this place for now, I am looking forward to what lies ahead and to the new chapter in my life. As I ended my maiden speech, I will do the same in this speech. My mum gave me a line when I was very young—a line that I have lived my life by and that has served me well: if it is to be, it is up to me. You have not seen the last of me. I will be back.

[Applause.]

HON BRIAN ELLIS (Agricultural) [5.47 pm]: That speech of Hon Alyssa Hayden will be a hard act to follow! Not many people get the chance to serve as a member of the Western Australian state Parliament, so I am very fortunate indeed to have been here in this place for nearly 10 years. Having entered Parliament in opposition, and then been part of a government for eight and a half years, and now back in opposition, I suppose this is the time when one reflects upon what has been achieved in that time or, in some cases, upon what has not been achieved. Being in opposition is a great training ground for members, but I say to my party colleagues who have not been in opposition before, “You don't want to stay here for too long.”

The people spoke at the last election and we lost for many different reasons, but I would like to congratulate the Labor Party and I wish the new government well. One consolation of the last election was the winning of the seat of Geraldton, where my office is located. I spent a lot of time working with Ian Blayney to get him across the line, and I would like to congratulate Ian for winning that seat.

Some achievements that come to mind when I reflect on some of the achievements in the Agricultural Region include Muresk being open for business; the upgrade of the Muchea saleyards and other regional stockyards to state-of-the-art standards; the realignment of the Bindi Bindi bends on Great Northern Highway, something that I had been pushing for over 20 years—it was great to see that achieved; and the completion of the Indian Ocean Drive in our first term of government, under budget and ahead of time, compared with the situation with the previous government's 10 kilometres.

Hon Simon O'Brien: Great project, too.

Hon BRIAN ELLIS: It was due to a very energetic minister at the time, Simon.

Another achievement was the relocation of the Meekatharra School of the Air, one of the world's biggest schools, operating over 540 000 square kilometres, to Geraldton after being damaged twice by fire. This was particularly pleasing to me in my role at the time as chair of the Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council. I hope I contributed to the betterment of regional education during the time I spent as chair of RREAC. I thank those who served with me.

Sometimes there has to be pain for gain. For instance, the demersal fishing bag limits and the closure of the lobster fishery during the puerulus crisis put real pressure on fishers, the department, the minister and local members of Parliament. As a result, both the demersal and lobster fisheries remain strong. Indeed, the WA lobster industry has maintained its Marine Stewardship Council certification and I am proud to have attended a Marine Stewardship Council meeting in Brussels with former Minister for Fisheries Hon Norman Moore to argue the case for WA to keep that certification.

Of course, sometimes it takes a long time to convince people of the merits of your argument. After long debates, many speeches and many parliamentary questions, farmers can now grow GM canola if they wish. This technology is one of the greatest advances in agriculture, I believe. I am proud to have been a part of achieving this. In generations to come, when the time capsule to mark the opening of the refurbished Legislative Council chamber is opened, my packet of GM canola seed and my packet of non-GM canola seed will commemorate the

fact that 2010 was the year of choice for WA canola farmers. Who knows? We may even see GM canola grown on Hon Darren West's farm!

Hon Alyssa Hayden: We'll all turn up for that.

Hon Darren West: I'll let you know.

Hon BRIAN ELLIS: You never know!

It is always satisfying when you can change what would have been a bad decision into a good result. I am talking about the Department of State Development's intention to close the WA trade office in Jakarta. When a group of us were able to convince the Premier of the merits of keeping the trade office, he not only agreed to keep the office, but also increased the staffing. I was very pleased to travel to Jakarta with the Premier and Hon Phil Edman for the launch of the revitalised trade office.

While I am on the subject of Indonesian trade, I would like to make the case for more focus on Indonesia. Indonesia has 260 million people on our doorstep and is on track to become the fourth biggest global economy. It has a population growth rate of 1.3 per cent a year and rising living standards, yet it remains neglected as a potential export market compared with the effort invested into China's potential. I read an article the other day that surprised me. In 2015, we apparently invested more money in New Zealand than we did in Indonesia. I do not want to be critical of our New Zealand cousins, but there are only four and a half million of them, so I hope we do not miss opportunities in Indonesia because other countries are investing there. I hope the new state government also recognises the value and supports the role of our trade offices.

One of the most rewarding achievements for me in my time in this place was brought about by Hon Sue Ellery, who is now the Leader of the Government in this house. She introduced me to two very smart people, Professors Steve Wilton and Sue Fletcher. They were doing research into Duchenne muscular dystrophy, an issue close to my heart, having had a brother who died from the disease. The two professors were in need of funding to continue their research; otherwise they would have had to leave WA to continue overseas. As Hon Sue Ellery said to me, I was in government with the money so it was up to us to find the funds. With the help of Hon Nick Goiran, we convinced former Minister for Health Kim Hames to provide \$6 million over three years to keep these brilliant people here in WA. The best part of this story occurred last year, when Steve Wilton and Sue Fletcher developed a drug that essentially provides a genetic patch to combat this condition, and it has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration. To give some idea of the importance of this discovery, members may have read an opinion piece by Paul Murray in *The Weekend West* of 29 April, titled "Miracle of Duchenne drug". It tells a story of a 16-year-old American named Billy, one of the one in every 3 500 boys with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Paul wrote that Billy was here to see the two Perth researchers, who performed a miracle that sees him no longer confined to a wheelchair, or dreading dying within a decade. He had not been doing well at school, but after the treatment he started to ace his scores. His mum asked him why, and he said, "I'm not going to die next year." His mother told Paul Murray about the long struggle to get the genetic patch approved by the US Food and Drug Administration. The approval process has not even started in Australia. I join local families and researchers in the hope that the Therapeutic Goods Administration will take note of the trials taking place in America and hasten that approval. Other boys can then share in Billy's good fortune.

It has been said before that our democratic system of government may not be perfect, but it is still the best system of government. I believe that members of Parliament play a valuable role in this system of government that is not often recognised or appreciated. When I hear calls for wage freezes or cuts to members' allowances, I get annoyed. Anyone looking at MPs' salary increases over the past eight years would find that they were minimal, and in one year there was no increase at all. I know that the majority of members in both houses work very hard, and are on call whenever they are needed. They do this without any of the benefits available to the general workforce. However, I know that my comments will have little sympathy in the general community or in the media, where the common view is that MPs are underworked and overpaid. As this is my last chance to stand up for the role of members, I thought this needed to be said. I will also say that any move to take away the role of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal as the independent decision-maker on MPs' salaries is foolish, and it should remain truly independent, without government interference.

I have enjoyed my time as a member for the Agricultural Region, and I hope I have been of some service to the people of that region. I have enjoyed serving on and chairing committees of the Legislative Council with members from all parties in this house. I hope that my time on these committees, which looked into issues such as coastal shacks, sandalwood, fracking and many more, brought some commonsense and fairness to those matters. I should also mention those who helped me initially and stopped me making a fool of myself. Hon Norman Moore, Hon George Cash and Hon Bruce Donaldson in particular have been valued mentors in their time, as indeed have you yourself, Mr President, when I shared an office with you in opposition. I am indebted to those members for their friendship and advice.

In conclusion, this time is for the thankyou and goodbyes. Firstly I say thank you and goodbye to all the staff of this place. They make our lives easier and more pleasant than they otherwise would be. I have had a good working relationship with all of them, particularly Hansard. I remember the worst speech I ever made in this place. I had been asked by the then Leader of the House, Hon Norman Moore, to fill in time to take us up to the dinner break. It was full of dribble and ums and ahs. I just waffled on. Imagine my surprise the next day when I read *Hansard* and the speech was a hell of a lot better than I thought it was. They did a good job. A better job than I did of it, anyway. Also, thank you and goodbye to all members of the other parties in this place. I may not have agreed with a lot of what you have said or what you stand for, but I do respect you. Thank you and goodbye to my colleagues in the Liberal team for your friendship and support over my time as a member. I am grateful to the Liberal Party for giving me the opportunity to spend nearly 10 years serving the Agricultural Region. A special goodbye and thank you to my personal staff: Sally, Jenny, Anita, Pierra and my former staffer Lee. They have all done work behind the scenes to make me look better.

A very special thank you to my family. As we all know, it is our partners and family who miss out the most when we cannot be there when we are needed. Particularly, I would like to thank my wife, Marg, for being so understanding and supportive of me, not only for the 10 years I served in state Parliament, but also the previous 10 years in local government. I know that she has spent many a lonely night, weekend and public holiday, because that is when members are mostly called on to attend functions. With me serving as a member for the Agricultural Region, she has missed out on a lot, including a lot of my time with her, but I know that she is going to fix this, because I have seen the list of things to do in my retirement. I do not think my feet are going to touch the ground for the first 12 months. There will not be any lazing around. Unfortunately, she could not be here tonight because she is climbing mountains in Nepal at the moment. It is a prearranged booking and it could not be helped that she could not make it here tonight, but I really appreciate her support. It is your time now, Marg.

It is very pleasing to me to have my son, Toby, his wife, Peta, and the grandchildren Jack, Harvey and Olivier here tonight for my final speech. It is a pity my daughter, Lara, her husband, Bruce, and their family, Sienna and Jaz, could not be here tonight, but I promised I would get all their names into *Hansard*. I think I have achieved that!

Mr President, there will be a life for me after politics, but it has been an honour and a privilege. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Hon Alyssa Hayden**.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT (DEMISE OF THE CROWN) BILL 2017

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Hon Sue Ellery (Leader of the House)**, and read a first time.

Second Reading

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [6.04 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill proposes an amendment to the Western Australian Constitution Act 1889, which makes express provision for the demise of the Crown. The term “demise of the Crown” refers specifically to the end of the reign of one monarch by death or abdication, resulting in the transfer of sovereignty to another monarch. Such demise has legal consequences. Historically, these included the immediate dissolution of Parliament; the immediate vacation of office of all officers of the Crown; and all proceedings brought on behalf of and in the name of the Crown being discontinued. Over time, these consequences were addressed by various acts of the Parliament of the United Kingdom and, prior to that, of Great Britain. The law in this area has, however, developed in a piecemeal fashion.

Presently, neither the Constitution Act 1889 nor the Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899 fully address all concerns regarding the demise of the Crown. Currently, the Constitution Act 1889 contains only one reference to the demise of the Crown—that is, under section 54, which provides that the commissions of judges shall continue notwithstanding the demise of the Crown. The constitutions of Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand all make specific provision for the demise of the Crown.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to make clear what is presently not clear but should be: that the demise of the Crown has no impact on the Parliament of Western Australia, offices held by officers of the Crown, any litigation brought on behalf of and in the name of the Crown, or any other aspect of the law. Concerns regarding the lack of provision for the demise of the Crown have been raised on three previous occasions. First, it was raised by the Western Australian Law Reform Commission in its 1994 report in respect of project 75, “United Kingdom Statutes in Force in Western Australia”. The Law Reform Commission reviewed

those imperial statutes concerning the demise of the Crown and recommended that consideration be given to enacting a general demise of the Crown act. Secondly, it was raised by the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review in the context of considering the Succession to the Crown Bill 2014, which concerned changes in the rules for succession to the British Crown and the Crown in the 16 commonwealth realms that retain the British Crown as their head of state. The standing committee's eighty-eighth report recommended that the Succession to the Crown Bill 2014 be amended to implement the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission relating to the demise of the Crown. This recommendation was not adopted and the Succession to the Crown Act 2015 does not address the demise of the Crown. Thirdly, it was raised in August 2015 by the Standing Committee on Legislation in its twenty-eighth report regarding the demise of the Crown. The committee recommended that the Legislative Council pass a constitution demise of the crown amendment bill. The committee's report also included a recommended draft bill. The committee's bill is drafted in the same terms, although in different format, as that adopted in New Zealand. This draft bill was supported by the Attorney General on the advice of the Solicitor General and the Acting Parliamentary Counsel. The draft bill introduced today differs from that recommended by the committee only in date and minor formatting changes.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to clarify that the demise of the sovereign only has the effect of transferring all functions, duties, powers, authorities, rights, privileges and dignities belonging to the Crown to the sovereign's successor and has no other legal effect. As honourable members will be aware, section 73(1) of the Constitution Act 1889 provides the legislature with full power and authority, from time to time, by any act, to repeal or alter any of the provisions of the Constitution Act 1889 itself. This power is, however, subject to the remaining provisions of the Constitution Act 1889. Section 73(2) requires that the second and third readings of certain bills shall be passed with the concurrence of an absolute majority of members of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, and that these bills be submitted to a referendum of electors before the bill is given royal assent. The amendment does not engage the specific requirements of section 73(2) of the Constitution Act 1889 as it does not affect sections 2, 3, 4, 50, 51 or 73 of the Constitution Act 1889. Accordingly, the Constitution Amendment (Demise of the Crown) Bill 2017 is not required to be passed by an absolute majority of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly during the second and third readings of the bill, nor is it required to be submitted to the electors for a referendum.

Pursuant to standing order 126(1), I advise that this bill is a uniform legislation bill. It is a bill that, by reason of its subject matter, is part of a uniform scheme or uniform laws throughout the commonwealth. However, as the bill has previously been before the committee and reported, and there being no additional scheme or uniform law in the bill, it should not be referred. I commend the bill to the house and table an explanatory memorandum.

[See paper 182.]

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

House adjourned at 6.10 pm
