



# **Parliamentary Debates**

**(HANSARD)**

FORTIETH PARLIAMENT  
FIRST SESSION  
2017

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, 16 May 2017



# Legislative Council

Tuesday, 16 May 2017

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House) took the chair at 2.00 pm, and read prayers.

## FORTIETH PARLIAMENT

*Statement by President*

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House): Members, welcome back and welcome to the fortieth Parliament.

## HON KIM CHANCE

*Condolence Motion*

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [2.01 pm] — without notice: I move —

That this house expresses its deep regret at the death of Hon Kim Chance, a former member of the Legislative Council for the Agricultural Region; and places on record its appreciation for his long public service, and tenders its profound sympathy to members of his family in their bereavement.

I will start by referring to the biographical details about Hon Kim Chance that are available for everyone to read and then I will talk about Kim Chance the man. Hon Kim Chance was born on 16 November 1946. He was the son of farmers, Geoffrey and Hazel. In 1974, he married his beloved Sue, and they went on to have two much loved children, a daughter and a son. He was educated at Doodlakine Primary School—as it turns out, as were other Labor luminaries—and he went on to Wesley College. His listed occupation was as farmer and truck driver. His employment history is that he started as a share farmer at Doodlakine in the 1960s and ended up as chair of the Dandaragan Camel Dairies Association. He was a member of the Labor Party since 1971. He held a range of positions in the Labor Party, including at the Kellerberrin branch and the O'Connor Electorate Council. He was a former president of the Rural Labor Association, a delegate to state executive and various state and rural conferences over the years.

He was first elected to this place on 18 March 1992, and he retired in 2009. He served as the member for the Agricultural Region. During his time in Parliament, he served in a number of positions on behalf of the party and indeed on behalf of the Parliament. He was shadow Minister for Lands, at various times; shadow Minister for the Midwest; Primary Industry; the Wheatbelt; Fisheries; and assisting the shadow Minister for Health; Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council; leader of the government in the Legislative Council; and Minister for Agriculture; Forestry; and Fisheries. He served Parliament well on committees and, indeed, he told me when I entered Parliament that committees are where I would forge my closest relationships with people across the chamber and where I would learn the workings of Parliament. He served on many of those committees, including the Public Administration Committee, the Select Committee on Batavia Relics and the Select Committee of Privilege and a variety of select committees on privilege matters.

He was a member of a range of organisations as eclectic as the man himself. He was a member of the Transport Workers' Union of Australia and a member and former general treasurer of the Western Australian Farmers Federation. I do not know whether any other members of the TWU have gone on to hold elected positions in the Western Australian Farmers Federation, but I would be interested to find out. He was the delegate to the National Farmers' Federation. He was the director of the *Farm Weekly* newspapers between 1979 and 1980. He was a member of the board of the Water Authority of Western Australia. He was a member of the Kellerberrin Football Club and director of the Avon Football Association. During his time in Parliament, he was chair of both the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council and the Australian Landcare Council.

As I said at the outset of my comments, those facts tell us the kind of statistical information on his time in Parliament, but they do not tell us what we need to acknowledge about the man. I was really shocked at the news during the election campaign that Kim had suddenly passed away. I was shocked because he was a giant of a man who I just assumed would be around forever. He had a giant intellect and giant generosity. He was a giant physically. He had a giant work ethic, a giant love of his state, a giant grace, a giant commitment to progressive politics and a giant love of his family. I assumed he had a certain amount of invincibility about him.

He entered Parliament 21 years after he joined the Labor Party and after he had fought many campaigns; notably, he stood five times for the federal seat of O'Connor. His first speech in this place in 1992 told us a few things beyond the subjects it traversed. The man could write. The man was eloquent. The man was very well read. The man respected those who went before him in this place and in his party. The man was the modern farmer, well across the complex economics of agribusiness and international markets and their drivers, while literally driving for a living and carrying out physically hard work on the land. Kim went on to do the hard yards in the dark times of parliamentary opposition. He did policy consultation, held the government to account with scarce

resources and maintained relevance when no-one wanted to engage. Whenever I crossed paths with him in those years, he was always entertaining and great company, and at least gave me the impression he earnestly listened to the bolshie views of a young woman with red hair who thought she knew more than she did.

When he rightfully got a leadership position when Labor came to government in 2001, I as a new backbencher in this place got to see the well-rounded parliamentarian and politician that Kim was. Kim was the most regularly confronted by those who were anxious and therefore sometimes angry about the social and environmental agenda of the new government. His former staffer and good friend “Daggers” described it this way: “He didn’t rage. He rarely got it wrong”. Very occasionally he would stand in this place after what might be described as outrageous or nonsensical argument from the other side and forcefully call the contribution for what it was. When he did, everyone listened because he did not do it very often.

I remember when one night as a parliamentary secretary I was handling a particularly difficult piece of legislation. I think it was one vote, one value but I do not recall. It had been a long night in committee. I was sitting at the committee table against the considerable skill and wrath of Hon Norman Moore, Hon Peter Foss and Hon Derrick Tomlinson. When combined, they were nearly lethal—not quite but nearly. At the end of the night, I was exhausted and the thought of doing it all again the next day was overwhelming to me. He took me aside and talked me off the metaphorical ledge. He told me that he knew I could do it, he had seen me fight tougher battles inside the Labor Party and that between the two of us we would get the job done—and we did.

I liked Kim’s judgement, expressed in his valedictory speech, about his relationship with the Labor Party. I will quote from his valedictory speech. He said —

I also want to thank the Australian Labor Party. I have been a continuous member of the Australian Labor Party since 1971, some 38 years. In that time I never lost faith in Labor’s ability to somehow find the right answer, be that to a local, state or national issue and particularly so in our global region. It does not mean that I do not think that Labor never made mistakes. It has made some spectacular mistakes, as everybody and every group of people do. In the end it has been my view that Labor has been able to overcome those errors and to move on to try to find the right answers because it has a system that enables it to do that.

Somehow Labor never lost faith in me. I guess in many ways I was not regarded as a classical Labor candidate, although I have to say that if that was Labor’s view, it managed to hide it pretty well because I never felt anything but welcome in both the Labor lay party and the parliamentary party. Things were very difficult for me and my family in 1991, the year before I came here to the Legislative Council. The Australian Labor Party picked me up, dusted me down, pointed me in the right direction and enabled me to get on with my life. It is something I will never forget.

It is a funny relationship that exists between an individual and a political party. It is somehow different from the relationship between a person and an organisation almost anywhere else. I can imagine that there would be some military units and possibly even the police service that might have similarities to political parties in the way they build loyalties. The relationship between a person and his political party, particularly for a member of Parliament or a player in the political system, is a two-way loyalty thing that defines this unusual relationship. I can only begin to imagine the pain that is felt when people feel that those bonds of loyalty have been broken and broken unreasonably. I have enormous sympathy for people who find themselves in that position. At one level I have that sympathy; at another level I have nothing but contempt for those people who accept everything a party gives them and then, because they do not get everything they want, set out to destroy the people and the party that put them there in the first place. It is a fine line between that sympathy and contempt. It is a very personal thing. Somebody said the other day that the Labor Party—I imagine the same applies to all political parties—functions as a family. Sometimes in a family the boys might have a punch-up when they are playing cricket in the backyard at mum’s house. Perhaps it is not a family one would want as neighbours; it is dysfunctional as a family, but it is a family nonetheless. That is the kind of relationship I am referring to and that is why I feel that sympathy and, indeed, that is why I feel in some cases that degree of contempt.

It is impossible for an ALP member to recognise the role that Labor has played in his life without also recognising the role that the union movement has played. The union movement has been the reason for the Labor Party’s existence for over 110 years. It is the reason for our beginning and it is the reason for our future. Every affiliated union warrants my thanks and my ongoing support, but in particular I thank the left unions—the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union and the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union WA and their left affiliates—for the uncompromising support they have given me through my entire political life and long before I became a member of Parliament.

Kim’s generosity to me when I took over from him as Leader of the Opposition was outstanding. He prepared documents for me about how an opposition can use the resources available to it and the parliamentary tools that

work most effectively. He also told me of his regret that, while leader, he had not been able to really socialise and get to know the newer members of the team. The role of leader and the time pressure just meant something had to be sacrificed and that was it, and he regretted it.

I will do my best to honour him by ensuring I develop relationships with the new MPs who will join us next week. The best advice he gave me was that even on the worst and bleakest days of opposition—there were plenty—find something to laugh about. I have kept that tucked away. There were a few such days and I tried to do just that.

I will go back to Kim’s valedictory speech. He had one further reflection that I want to refer to. Kim said —

I go back to the beginning of my reflections; that is, why I came here in the first place. I wanted people to feel that their government cared about them—whoever they are, wherever they are and whomever they voted for. In the end, it is that trust and confidence that forms the very basis of our principles of democracy. When people feel that their government is dishonest, that is bad; but it is even worse when people feel that their government is disinterested in them, because if we get to that point then our whole system is challenged.

Kim ended his valedictory speech by telling us that, after leaving this place, he intended to continue to chase the dreams to make rural WA vibrant and full of thriving communities—he did just that.

I will now refer to two elements of what Kim did after leaving Parliament. In an article published in *The West Australian* at the beginning of February 2016, Kim was asked about his new venture involving camel dairies. That is not something that one would immediately think of as a new and emerging industry in Western Australia, but it turns out that it is. The article stated —

Retiring from politics in 2008, Mr Chance has since been further afield looking for the next challenge, including working as a consultant in the Middle East.

I will stray from the article for a minute. About half an hour ago I spoke to one of Kim’s former staff members. She advised me of a particular relationship that Hon Kim Chance had with the Middle East. Members might think it was the opportunities afforded to Western Australia to broaden its economic links or the opportunities afforded to Western Australia to make the very best of our agricultural business, but in fact Hon Kim Chance’s special relationship with the Middle East, particularly when he was a minister, was because he loved that whenever he went to the region they all called him “Excellency” and he could smoke wherever he wanted!

Kim undertook a series of interviews after leaving Parliament. He explained part of what he was doing then when he said —

I am the executive director of Habitat for Humanity, which is a housing solutions non-government organisation here in Western Australia. And that doesn’t leave me much time to spend in my shed, which was the only reason I moved from Guildford ... so that I could have a shed to play with my toys in ... that’s the one disappointment I’ve got.

The interviewer said to Kim, “Your toys of course being your motorcars?” Kim was then asked —

So are you going to win any more Targa events or that sort of thing?

Kim said that he did not race in 2010 and went on to talk about how he was preparing to race again. He said —

So we’ll be well and truly ready, because we’ve had two years to get ready this time ... I intend to keep racing as long as we can. I mean, I’m 65, the driver’s 63, we’re pretty much “Team Geriatric” now.

Hon Kim Chance was a Labor soldier to the end. As I was leaving the memorial service for him in Mt Lawley and saying my farewells to Sue, his wife, she leant forward and told me that Kim had voted before he passed away. The McGowan government will be its own Labor government but it is built on the building blocks of the government that Hon Kim Chance served in with distinction. We will miss him and we know that Sue and the family will be missing him terribly too. We want them to know that we stand with them as they create a life without him right smack bang in the middle of it because we loved him too.

#### *Distinguished Visitors*

**THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House):** I welcome to the President’s gallery members and friends of Hon Kim Chance and also two former members, Hon Tom Helm and Hon Alannah MacTiernan.

#### *Motion Resumed*

**HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition)** [2.18 pm]: I stand to support the condolence motion and make a few comments on behalf of the Liberal Party.

Kim Chance was born into a farming family. He was the nephew of the late Edgar Prowse, a Country Party Senator for Western Australia from 1962 until 1973. Kim was educated at Doodlakine Primary School and at

Wesley College. From 1964 until 1991, he was a share farmer and farmer at Doodlakine and Carrabin. His farming career was varied by a stint as a builder's labourer in 1970 and as a truck driver from 1991 to 1992. Kim Chance was a member of both the Transport Workers' Union of Australia and the Western Australian Farmers Federation, where he served as treasurer and as a delegate to the National Farmers' Federation. From 1979 to 1980, Kim was a director of *Farm Weekly* and from 1985 to 1992 he was a board member of the Water Authority of Western Australia. He was a member of the Kellerberrin Football Club and a director of the Avon Football Association in 1992.

In 1971, Kim Chance joined the Kellerberrin branch of the Australian Labor Party; also the political home turf of the late Peter Walsh, who was a distinguished Labor Senator and minister. At the 1983 federal election he was endorsed for the division of O'Connor and polled 35.9 per cent of the final vote against Wilson Tuckey. He stood again in the subsequent federal elections of 1984, 1987 and 1990 with predictable results for a Labor candidate in what was a relatively safe conservative seat. However, at each of these elections he finished in second rather than third place. He also carried the Labor banner at the 1986 state election in the Central Province of the Legislative Council, comprising the seats of Avon, Mount Marshall and Merredin. He polled 26.1 per cent of the vote in a three-cornered contest with Hon Mick Gayfer, MLC, and future Liberal Senator John Panizza. With the introduction of proportional representation for the Legislative Council in 1989, he ran in the second position for the Australian Labor Party team for the Agricultural Region. In 1992, when Hon Jim Brown, MLC, resigned from the Legislative Council, Kim Chance was elected to his Agricultural Region vacancy. His long and tough political apprenticeship and his experience in rural organisations gave him an assuredness and confidence not always possessed by new members of this chamber. For the next four elections he was re-elected at the head of his party's ticket as the sole Australian Labor Party MLC for the Agricultural Region. In opposition after 1993 he served as a shadow Minister for Lands; MidWest; Wheatbelt; Primary Industry; and Fisheries. He was briefly Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council in late 1996.

Hon Kim Chance was Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council and a senior minister from 2001 until 2008. He held the portfolios of Agriculture and Food; Forestry, along with responsibility for the Midwest, Wheatbelt and Great Southern. From 2001 until 2005 he was Minister for Fisheries. It was the first time for many years that a Labor minister had directly represented the state's broadacre farming regions. He had decided not to contest the 2008 election and stepped down from the front bench for the remainder of his term.

After leaving Parliament in 2009, Hon Kim Chance maintained his contribution to the rural and regional community of Western Australia. From 2010 he was chairman of the Australian Landcare Council and national director of the Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry, having become principal of Gulf Australia Trading in 2009. In this role he was food security adviser to the government of Abu Dhabi, and as chair of Dandaragan Camel Dairies, he was actively engaged in creating a new rural export industry from what had been a feral pest. From 2015 he was chair of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council, and he has been praised for the independence and experience that he brought to this role. At the time of his premature death, he had intended to fly to Abu Dhabi the day after a WAFIC meeting and had only recently appeared on ABC television extolling the advantage of camel milk.

Hon Kim Chance had the courage and perseverance to represent his political party consistently in the most adverse electoral circumstances. He served Western Australia, and especially the rural community, most effectively as a minister and a business leader. In Parliament he will be remembered for his good humour and lack of partisan rancour.

Personally, I always held Hon Kim Chance in extremely high regard. As an incoming member of the Legislative Council in 2005, I first met Hon Kim Chance who was then the Leader of the House. I was immediately attracted to his warm, affable and welcoming nature. The notion of a tribal and confrontationist environment that I had been expecting rapidly dissipated. Although inevitably there were periods of tension and hostility in the chamber during that next term of government, I never found Kim Chance to be unreasonable or aggressive. He always treated us on the other side of the chamber with genuine respect. Outside of the chamber I got to know Kim extremely well and met with him on a number of occasions in the years following his retirement from Parliament in 2008. The positive judgement that I had made of him on that very first day of my parliamentary career was reinforced over these years. He was an outstanding man in so many ways. He was an interested, compassionate and sincere man who had an altruistic outlook on life; that is, an endeavour to assist all members of the community, particularly those less fortunate. I will always reflect very fondly upon Kim Chance.

The Liberal Party extends our sympathy to Mrs Sue Chance, his son, Tom, and daughter, Ceridwen, and their families.

**HON JACQUI BOYDELL (Mining and Pastoral — Deputy Leader of the National Party)** [2.24 pm]: On behalf of the National Party, I rise today to make a brief contribution to this condolence motion for Hon Kim Chance. Firstly, I would like to express our condolences to his family and friends who join us in the President's gallery today, and to the Labor Party for the loss of its former member.

Hon Kim Chance was a member of the house before I became a member of the house, but in doing some research on this condolence motion, I read his inaugural speech and valedictory speech. I learnt that Kim was a great advocate for country people. It is important to me, as a member for country people, that people continue to advocate on behalf of the regions represented in the chamber. He was determined to bring a better political understanding of the challenges country people faced, as well as their aims and desires as he served as a member for Agricultural Region. In reading his speeches, it was also evident that he considered the opportunity to represent the people of the Agricultural Region—with which he had a close connection, being a farmer himself—to be an immense privilege. Any person who can run for Parliament the number of times that he did deserves a medal; that is not easy. All members of this house understand the support that our families give us in undertaking our role, and I want to share with the chamber the role that his family played in supporting him. On 21 May 2009 Hon Kim Chance gave his valedictory speech to this chamber, and I quote —

My family, of course, has to come first in that list. My family were there when we ran all of those tough campaigns out in what was pretty much tiger country for a Labor candidate—electorates like O'Connor, where I ran for election five times, Central Province, and eventually the Agricultural Region. My family would stand all day on their own at isolated country polling booths—some of which were pretty remote—knowing that I had no chance at all of winning.

All members for regional Western Australia can relate to that. For your family to come out and do that on your behalf is a great thing that you share in supporting each other as a family. He continues —

They did that because they thought that one day I might get here.

And he did. He also went on to say —

My daughter, when she was five years old, fronted and stared down the local Liberal Party branch president because she thought a comment that he had made about me in my absence was inappropriate. She was five years old, and she has just got tougher.

I do not know whether his daughter is in the President's gallery today, but I thought that was a beautiful reflection on the role that family, and children in particular, do play to us as members.

I also want to quote from a story from *The West Australian* of 24 February this year, relating a comment that his son, Tom, posted on Facebook. It states —

“I am heartbroken to say that we have lost a great man, my dad,” he wrote. “I think many of us grow up thinking our dads are the smartest and strongest people in the world. Some may grow out of that notion but I never did.”

I think that that tells the chamber what sort of a man Hon Kim Chance was. On behalf of the National Party, I want to express our condolences at the passing of Hon Kim Chance and thank him for his service to the people of Western Australia. As a member for regional Western Australia, I hope to emulate that sort of history. Thank you.

**HON ROBIN CHAPPLE (Mining and Pastoral) [2.28 pm]:** The Greens also pass on their sympathy to the family of Hon Kim Chance. In 2001, I was very privileged when entering this chamber to find Hon Kim Chance as the Leader of the House. He was a gentle giant. He provided guidance to us in many ways and we were not even with his party. He took upon himself a role in this chamber that was one of consensus, in many ways, because he had really established the role of meeting behind the Chair to work through the legislative agenda between all parties that were in this place at that time.

In 2001, as Leader of the House in the thirty-sixth Parliament, he extended an incredible amount of support and compassion to all us newbies. I then went on to work with Kim on matters that were affecting Western Australian herbicide workers. Looking back at some of the debates and around the establishment of committees and inquiries on that matter, Kim genuinely brought to the fore a sense of compassion for those workers in this place. Over a three-year period, something like 30 debates on the Derby herbicide workers took place. He was genuinely a gentle giant. To a large extent we had entered the chamber very much like rabbits caught in the headlights. We did not know what we were up to and because of his compassionate nature, Kim genuinely took us under his wing. He was a great mentor to many of us because he showed us that we could enter this place and genuinely debate and discuss matters without rancour. I and my colleagues at the time really appreciated that.

The humour that often arose in the chamber between 2001 and 2005 was a result of continual chatter about Doodlakine. Hon Jim Scott was also from Doodlakine, as was Senator Peter Walsh and Kim. Just down the road near Doodlakine, from Bullfinch, came Noel Crichton-Browne and Norman Moore and obviously some difference lay between those two towns that led to a political divide. There was a lot of banter in this house about that divide. Unfortunately, when Frank Hough entered the chamber, he ruined it. Frank came from Doodlakine as well, but there was a lot of chatter that he had broken the mould. There was genuine humour in the debate in the chamber at that time.

At a personal level, I will miss Kim. I was unaware of his passing until we literally resumed sitting and I saw the notice on POWAnet. Personally, I am sad to hear of his passing. I pass my condolences on behalf of the Greens to his family and friends gathered here. He was a mountain of a man, but a very compassionate man.

**HON ADELE FARINA (South West)** [2.32 pm]: Kim Chance was not only big in stature; he had a big heart, he was genuinely interested and he cared. Speaking to a condolence motion for Kim Chance was the last thing I thought I would be doing as a member of Parliament. Kim died far too young and his passing is our loss.

Kim had a deep commitment to the Labor cause. He first contested the federal seat of O'Connor for the Labor Party in 1983 and contested three more federal elections. At the 1989 state election Kim ran in second position on Labor's ticket in the Agricultural Region, a position we did not win; however, with Hon Jim Brown's retirement in 1992, Kim filled the vacancy.

Over the years that Kim was a member of Parliament he worked hard to get a second Labor person elected in the Agricultural Region. It is with great sadness to me that Kim did not get to see Labor win the number two position on Labor's ticket for the Agricultural Region in our most recent election. Although Kim did not get to share this victory, I am sure most will agree with me when I say that it was Kim's hard work over many years that made this win possible. Kim was a shadow minister under opposition leaders Ian Taylor, Jim McGinty and Geoff Gallop. Labor's victory at the 2001 election saw Kim Chance become a minister and Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, positions he held until 2009, having decided not to recontest the 2008 election.

Kim's portfolios were a perfect fit. They were directly relevant to my South West Region and, hence, I had the privilege of working more closely with Kim than perhaps others did. His knowledge of and experience in agriculture made him the perfect choice for the agriculture portfolio. He had served on the executive of the Western Australian Farmers Federation and was well respected by industry. He became agriculture minister at a time of great hardship for many farmers caused by many years of drought. The personal tragedies of these farmers and their desperation weighed heavily on Kim. He understood the investment in and hard work of farming. He ensured the government acted to provide financial support for farmers and improved the system for accessing this assistance. Kim made a significant contribution to promoting WA agriculture overseas and providing a firm foundation for agriculture in this state. He understood the challenges of farming and genuinely believed that although mining makes a big contribution to our state's economy, agriculture would always be a significant economic driver. He saw opportunities to grow the industry, and after his political career Kim pursued a number of those opportunities, including camel dairy farming.

Kim was a popular fisheries minister at a time when a lot of changes were needed and there was great tension between commercial and recreational fishermen on how those changes were to be implemented. Kim impressed me with the considered way he handled these challenges. He was always listening to stakeholders and understanding the science and the ramifications of any decision he was making. Those changes had an impact on my region as they did on other regions around the state. Kim always made himself available to listen to me and my constituents. Although not everyone agreed with the decisions he made, Kim genuinely believed he was making the right decisions and genuinely tried to do right by stakeholders and the wider community. Kim understood that Western Australians enjoy eating fresh fish, but he needed to ensure the future sustainability of the commercial fishing industry while also understanding the passion of recreational fishers, the role recreational fishing plays in tourism, especially in the south west, and the need to ensure its sustainability. I know many fishers in my electorate warmly welcomed Kim's appointment as chairman of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council, a position he held at the time of his death. Kim brought a wealth of knowledge of the fishing industry that he obtained during his period as Minister for Fisheries to the WAFIC board and, with no direct pecuniary interest in fishing in WA, he was able to bring independence to the position.

Although I often turned to Kim in his roles as agriculture and fisheries minister in advocating for the needs of my south west community, it was perhaps in the forestry portfolio that I had the privilege to work most closely with Kim. Labor came to government in 2001 on the back of its policy to end logging in old-growth forests. Although it was a position hugely supported by the wider community, it was a huge kick in the guts for the forestry industry and a very difficult period that imposed significant changes for the forestry industry, with many job losses and huge upheaval for timber communities. As forestry minister, it was left to Kim to take the lead in implementing these changes.

As the newly elected member for the South West Region in 2001, the region most impacted by this policy position and election commitment, I saw firsthand how hard Kim fought to ensure cabinet understood the impact of the decision on timber workers, their families and timber communities. Kim fought hard to ensure that cabinet dealt reasonably and fairly with the industry and timber communities, including compensation and retraining packages for those forced out of the industry. He also ensured those businesses left in the industry were provided with a 10-year supply guarantee to enable businesses to continue to obtain financing.

These were difficult times. As the local Labor member, it fell on me to attend the numerous public meetings in timber communities throughout the south west immediately following Labor's election win and through the many years over which the policy was fine-tuned and implemented. Timber workers and their families were understandably very upset as they faced an uncertain period of not knowing many of them would be out of a job at the end of the process. The policy impacted on not only families, but also timber communities in such a significant way that many questioned whether those towns would survive the implementation of the policy.

Of all the ministers responsible for the implementation of this policy position, Kim Chance was the only minister to attend as many of those public meetings as his busy ministerial diary permitted. He understood, like I did, that those affected by this decision had a right to be heard, and we had a duty to be honest, transparent and provide what reassurance we could at each stage of the process in an effort to minimise the fear and uncertainty in the timber communities.

I learnt a lot from Kim Chance during this period. Kim was genuinely interested and he cared. Even though we were implementing changes the timber workers and timber businesses did not want, Kim had a way of letting people know that he was in their corner, fighting for them. They always felt that Kim gave them a good hearing. Listening to worker after worker and their families tell their stories and their fears for the future at these public meetings was gut-wrenching. For some, their fear drove them to verbal abuse and tempers flared at some of these meetings—all perfectly understandable. Having Kim at the meeting he was able to attend and knowing he was always available and genuinely took on board my representations on behalf of my timber communities was a great comfort, especially in those early dark days when workers accused us of selling out on a core Labor value of supporting the workers.

During Kim's time in that portfolio, a statutory review of the Forest Products Act 2000 was required. Kim asked me to chair the review, a decision that was unpopular with many of his colleagues in the left. Kim never wavered in his support, reassuring me that my knowledge of the industry and the competing pro-green interests made me the right person for the job and that I should ignore the protests. I will always be grateful to Kim for the opportunity and his faith in me.

Often the position of undertaking a legislative review is a poisoned chalice, with the minister holding very firm views on the outcomes of the review process. That was not the case with Kim. He gave me and the committee free rein to listen to the stakeholders and make genuine recommendations as we believed best. Kim was as interested in the stakeholder feedback as he was in our recommendations. As always, Kim was interested and open to considering different options. I thought I knew the forestry industry, but through that review process I learned more about all aspects of the industry and the Forest Products Commission than most people in the industry think they know. It was one of the most interesting and fulfilling tasks I have undertaken as a member of Parliament, even if the government did not implement all our recommendations.

Despite all the challenges and controversial issues Kim had to manage in his portfolios, he earned the genuine respect of those in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries and of his colleagues. He always gave everyone a good hearing and was a fair and honest person. Kim left big shoes to fill in each of these portfolios. However, perhaps the biggest shoes he left to fill were in his position as Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. He took this position in 2001, the same year that I started as a member of Parliament. As a new member I could not have asked for a better leader. Kim did not lead with a heavy hand; he guided and nurtured.

Kim had a heavy portfolio load with significant and controversial policy changes in his forestry portfolio, which he had to manage together with his responsibilities as Leader of the House. Lesser people would have struggled with this workload and perhaps lost their temper on occasion, but not Kim. Regardless of his work pressures, Kim was always a gentleman, always approachable and always retained his sense of humour.

With formidable and experienced opposition members such as Norman Moore, Peter Foss and George Cash, Kim had his job as Leader of the House cut out for him. Regardless, Kim made it all look effortless. He handled everything in his stride, making it look like a well-oiled machine, when that was not always the case. Labor's lack of a majority in the house during the period that Kim was Leader of the House made the job of Leader of the House more challenging than anyone holding the position would want it. Although I have not undertaken a thorough review, I am confident that more bills were referred to committees for scrutiny during Kim's time as Leader of the House than ever before or since.

Although Kim always had to have an eye to progressing government business through the house, he never felt threatened by the scrutiny of legislation process and believed the committee process added value. He respected the opinions of others, even if he did not always agree with them. He was always willing to explain the government's decisions and to try to persuade the opposition of the merit of the government's decision without reverting to personal attacks. When he did not agree with a committee recommendation, he did not mount a personal attack on the committee, its chair or its members; he respectfully put his reasons for disagreeing with the committee report.

The adversarial nature of the house means that, despite our best intentions, we sometimes find ourselves in heated debate with passions running high. When this happens, some members resort to playing the person rather than the ball. I do not recall Kim ever being guilty of this. He was always respectful and always focused on the ball.

As a new member, Kim helped me enormously to settle into my role as a member of Parliament, providing support, encouragement and the occasional word of advice. He was always approachable to explain process and procedure and to listen to alternative suggestions. He was never threatened by an alternative viewpoint. He sought and respected his colleagues' opinions.

As Leader of the House, Kim provided opportunities for us, his colleagues, to develop our talents. Kim provided me with a number of such opportunities. I have already spoken about Kim's decision to appoint me to lead the legislative review of the Forest Products Commission and how rewarding I found this opportunity.

Kim was never quick to judge; he always chose to believe the best in a person and their motives. He trusted people to do the right thing and people responded to that trust by doing right. Under Kim's leadership, there was always a strong sense of unity of purpose, inclusion and that Kim had our backs.

There was one task Kim asked me to undertake that I did not want to do and was determined not to do for good reasons. Over a number of respectful discussions—no bullying, no pulling rank, no direction—Kim persuaded me to take on the task despite my strong reservations. Had someone asked me at the beginning of that process whether Kim would have succeeded in persuading me, my answer would have been, "No way." Yet, he did. When Kim asked you to do something or not do something, you knew his motives were pure, he had faith in you and he would have your back. He had the qualities of a good leader and was difficult to say no to.

Kim's respectful manner, his openness, fairness, honesty and good humour earned him the respect of his colleagues, including opposition members, and is a credit to Kim. He lifted the bar high and encouraged us all to follow his lead. Kim made a significant contribution to the Labor cause and to this state. This was reflected in the huge numbers that turned out to pay their respects at his memorial.

If Kim were here today, I am sure he would agree that his achievements were made possible with the support of his wife, Sue. Sue was often by Kim's side supporting him and it was obvious that this meant the world to him and that attending all the events his job required was made more enjoyable with Sue by his side. Sue was also his campaign manager and ran a local branch.

I am sure that Kim would also want to acknowledge, as he did in his valedictory, John D'Agostino, who worked for Kim for 13 years and whom Kim often referred to as his right hand.

To Sue, Kim's children, grandchildren and extended family, I offer my sincere condolences and consider myself fortunate and a better person for having known Kim, worked with him and learned from him as a friend and a colleague.

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan)** [2.46 pm]: It is with a great deal of sadness that I rise today to offer my comments in support of this motion. I do so in the hope that my remarks might offer some further degree of comfort and pride to the loved ones of the late Hon Kim Chance and also provide some insight for colleagues here in the chamber, now and in the future.

I did not know Kim Chance outside of this Parliament, its precincts and what goes on here. However, I felt that I knew him very well indeed. I felt it personally when I received the news of his, in my view, untimely passing. I was saddened not only for his family and loved ones, but also for me—that I would not have the pleasure again of enjoying conversation and his company. Already this afternoon, a lot has been said about his achievements professionally in so many occupations and disciplines. I will not seek to add further to that now. I want to talk about the other dimensions, which are about him as a human being.

Even though my contact with him was only in this chamber and these immediate environs, I felt I knew him very well. That was how engaging he was for so many people. That is something that we can all learn. Perhaps part of his legacy is that I have tried, at least in a little way, to follow his example in how he treated other members of this place. He understood that there are certain things here that have to be put firmly to one side to create the capacity to get on with the things that have to be done for the good of the state. He understood that there is no point in arguing and bickering with people for the sake of parochialism or political pointscore. Mind you, he was a pretty tough player when the need arose. He understood that we have to interact, that we have to get on, that the house has to work and that we may as well be civilised about it.

My offering this afternoon to colleagues here and to the extended circle of Kim's family and friends is a couple of examples of his essential humanity that I experienced. They may help provide an illustration and understanding of my affection for him. I think it was very early in my career, maybe on my first day in this place, that I was sitting over there. I hope the record does not confuse this, because I was going to say that I was to the left of Hon Lynn MacLaren, in that seat over there. I was describing, in the face of Kim's interjections, how, although I was on the government side of the house in those days—this was in 1997—I was not of the

government. The government started with Hon Peter Foss, who was to my left, and I said that the seat cushion was a very wide barrier indeed. Hon Kim Chance interjected, saying, “You’ll get there.” That was the sort of encouragement, as we have already heard this afternoon, he offered to every member. It did not matter what party, colour or creed we were, that was the advice he gave, and that is what helped us get on. I never served on a committee with Hon Kim Chance, apart from the Committee of the Whole, which is hardly the same thing, but I have served on committees with just about everyone else, and we got to know each other very well. However, I felt I knew Hon Kim Chance very well indeed, because we got together to share some explicit or implicit exchanges within the chamber, and also behind the Chair and outside in other places around here.

I will fast-forward from when I first came into this place to just before Hon Kim Chance departed from the Parliament. By then I was actually a minister, and I was sitting over there next to Hon Norman Moore, who was Leader of the House. The election was not really due until 2009, but it had been held early, in 2008. I do not think that Kim would have been very happy with the outcome or the timing, as he had contemplated retiring in 2009. There was a change of government, so he came back, not as the Minister for Agriculture and Food, but as a backbencher. Parliament was reformed and there was plenty of time between the election and the following May, and he found himself as Deputy Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. That is how he came to rise from his seat just here on Thursday, 2 April 2009, and gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move, at the direction of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation —

That the Seeds Amendment Regulations 2008, published in the *Government Gazette* on 16 September 2008 and tabled in the Legislative Council on 25 November 2008 under the Seeds Act 1981, be and are hereby disallowed.

It was a delicious moment, as I said, with a twinkle in my eye, “Hang on, aren’t they your regulations?” He said, with a big grin and a twinkle in his eye, “Yes, they are.” That is what happened. He had created the regulations and then he had come around again in the committee and directed that a motion be put forward that they be disallowed. I do not think they were disallowed; I think they went through in the end.

Those are some examples of Hon Kim Chance. I am sure those of us who knew him, whether intimately outside of the political processes or in the capacity that I have described, will never forget the twinkle in the eye and the sense of humour, the sense of good fellowship, the gentlemanliness and the friendship. I will miss him, as will all of us. With those thoughts very much in mind, I give my condolences to his family on his untimely passing.

**HON LYNN MacLAREN (South Metropolitan)** [2.54 pm]: I too rise to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Hon Kim Chance, and also to the Labor Party. I know that many members were very close to him, and it is indeed a tragic loss, and an unexpected one, which makes it all the more difficult to cope with.

I first met Hon Kim Chance as an activist. I think he might have been the first minister I ever lobbied. He took my delegation into the strangers’ bar. It was a small delegation, and he was a very busy minister at the time, finding it difficult to fit in meals. He had got up early and had to be in a meeting straightaway, so he needed to have something to eat, so he took us into the strangers’ bar for morning tea. As we bent his ear about our issue, he hoed into some sausage rolls. I was with the delegation from People Against Cruelty in Animal Transport, and we bent his ear about the long-distance transportation of sheep and cattle. That was his sense of humour, but he was such a lovely guy to work with, and of course we just had to go along with it, and we had a cup of tea or whatever. I was either lobbying him as an activist or dealing with him; I was also on the staff of Hon Jim Scott, and we dealt with Kim quite a bit. He was the Minister for Fisheries, which was a big issue in the Fremantle region, and there was a lot to do with rock lobsters, as I recall. Of course there was the issue of genetically modified crops, and the boys from Doodlakine would always talk and banter about where they stood on that issue.

Ten years after the time I was lobbying him as the honourable minister, he was kind enough to mention me as a future legislator, in response to my first valedictory speech. I served for three months in 2005, and he was very kind to mention me in his remarks, and I felt that I should do him the same favour. I knew him best when I was working for Hon Jim Scott. He and Hon Chrissy Sharp—two Greens who were passionate about changing the law on genetically modified crops—worked with Kim, and I want to reflect on his legacy in that area. Although neither opposed to nor in support of GM technology, he was increasingly aware of the lack of proof of safety, the need for independent science and the clear rejection of GM foods by consumers and markets. He said that the government was not anti-GM, but responded to voter concerns about the health impacts of the technology. Following a meeting with a Japanese consumer delegation, he remarked that the only important group, as always, is the customer and that next to no effort had been made to convince consumers that this was a technology that they should adopt.

His concerns on GM safety grew after examining 137 feeding studies and finding that not one concerned a long-term feeding trial that was dedicated to assessing mortality and morbidity in the animals subject to the feeding trials. More independent studies on GM food showing health concerns led him to remark that consumers were right to be suspicious about claims from GM companies that the foods are safe to eat. This led to him allocating, in 2007, \$92 000 to Dr Judy Carman and the Adelaide-based Institute of Health and Environmental

Research to help resolve the information gap on GM food safety. His stance, and that of the WA Labor Party, was not inflexible. He invited the GM industry to hold small trials to enable farmers to judge for themselves, but in four years none took place. He also set up industry reference groups for GM cotton and GM canola. He was open to GM canola being grown as a biofuel as long as segregation could be guaranteed. He said that the government was not short-sighted, but was taking a cautious, long-term view. He felt it was the responsibility of the government to work with farmers and industry to understand the impacts of the technology prior to its release, not afterwards when it is too late. Kim introduced the Seeds Amendment Bill 2007 to further protect the state's moratorium on the growing of GM crops and intentional or inadvertent GM contamination. He was unconvinced that there were agricultural benefits in growing GM canola and called on Australian companies to undertake independent performance trials before recommending GM crops as a viable alternative to Western Australian farmers.

Doubts about the safety of GM foods soon led to former Premier Hon Alan Carpenter repeating Kim's concerns and calling for the nationwide suspension of approval of foods from GM crops until more health research was carried out. He said at the time —

There are still unresolved issues and questions about the effect of GM foods on human beings and we believe in the absence of absolute crystal clear knowledge and unequivocal reassurance to the consumer that GM foods are not potentially dangerous or harmful, GM foods should be labelled.

The doubt eventually permeated to the Nationals. Just prior to the 2008 state election, the then Leader of the National Party, Wendy Duncan, threw her support behind the Labor stance when she called for a halt to the approval of all GM foods in Australia until, to quote her words, "independent scientific trials had been completed". Wendy Duncan was also quoted as saying, "As far as GM food is concerned we believe that caution is the best way to go at this time"—a move that concerned GM lobbyists.

The change of state government in 2008 soon led to GM cotton and GM canola being approved for commercialisation. In the final days of the Barnett government, the moratorium was removed. Consumer concerns were dismissed, markets were ignored, and GM-free farmers were treated with disdain.

At Hon Kim Chance's memorial service, his former principal policy adviser, John D'Agostino, remembered Kim as having defended the GM moratorium from corporate onslaught for over a decade. For consumers, Hon Kim Chance will be remembered as an influential minister who listened to people and understood their concerns, and for that we will be eternally grateful.

I express my sincere condolences to Kim's family and friends.

**HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary)** [3.00 pm]: I, too, rise with a rather heavy heart to support the motion before us today on the passing of our colleague and friend Hon Kim Chance. As has been mentioned by previous speakers, Kimberley Maurice—Kim—Chance was born on 16 November 1946. He was the son of Geoff, and Hazel, who was the daughter of Country Party senator Ed Prowse. Kim grew up in Doodlakine, an area of hot political activity, which, as has been mentioned, was also the home of former federal Minister for Finance Peter Walsh. Kim attended Doodlakine Primary School, and Wesley College in South Perth. He returned to Doodlakine to go share farming and then ran his own farm at Doodlakine and Carrabin.

As has been mentioned by earlier speakers, Kim had an eclectic and varied life. I want to point to a few things that are unusual. It was relatively unusual that a Labor member of Parliament and Leader of the House in the Legislative Council would serve as treasurer of the then Western Australian Farmers Federation. However, that is the sort of fellow Kim was. He was able to be a jack-of-all-trades and turn his hands to whatever was required of him and do whatever he was asked, and he did that throughout his life.

I did not realise until much later that Kim was also on the board of the then Water Authority of Western Australia—now the Water Corporation—from 1985 until 1992. That was at a time of tremendous change within that organisation. Kim had many skills. He had great oratory skills, as anyone who has heard him in action in the house would know. He also had an affinity and empathy for people, which is very rare in today's world. Kim will be remembered as not only a strong parliamentary performer but also a person who, as Tom said—I will get to that later—stood up for the little guy. The most endearing part of Kim for me was that he had time for everyone.

Kim joined the Labor Party in 1971. I am told—I will stand corrected on this story—that Kim's father was a Liberal voter. However, after Malcolm Fraser was elected leader of the Liberal Party, Kim's father swore that he would never vote Liberal again, and Kim became a Labor man. As was mentioned earlier, Kim ran for the federal seat of O'Connor four times. What an effort that was! For the benefit of people who read *Hansard* in years to come, O'Connor is a very, very conservative seat. It is always difficult for a progressive candidate to win that seat. On many occasions, the best a candidate can do is finish second, or, if they finish third, try to influence the result and build those votes for Senate or upper house seats, as Kim did. That was in the years 1983, 1984, 1987 and 1990. Those were all elections that Labor won. However, as was mentioned earlier, Kim had very little chance, or no chance, of winning the seat of O'Connor at that time.

I can relate to stories of having family members on polling booths in remote areas at a young age to do their bit and help out dad in his quest to become a member of Parliament. Kim eventually did become a member of the WA Parliament when he was number two on the Agricultural Region ticket, and although he did not win at that time, a casual vacancy arose as a result of the retirement of Hon Jim Brown, and Kim entered the Parliament in 1992. It was fitting that Kim put in an early vote at that election and registered his vote for Labor, and, for the first time in many years, Labor was successful in picking up two spots in the Agricultural Region. I am sure that would have made Kim very happy and very proud because, as Hon Adele Farina has touched on, the bedrock of Kim's many years of service to the Labor Party was to make people understand that Labor was there for them. Kim wanted people to understand that Labor is not the evil beast that it is often portrayed to be in regional areas but cares about regional people, and that is why Kim joined the Labor Party.

I have gone over many of Kim's speeches. There is a lot to research about Kim Chance, and members should do so if they get the opportunity. He was an incredible human being. I will read a little bit from his inaugural speech. A lot of the comments I wanted to make have already been made, so I will try to add some new material. As all members of the house would know, making an inaugural speech is a very daunting time in our lives and we often get very nervous. Kim Chance talked in his inaugural speech about how he got to be a member of Parliament and he thanked his family. He also mentioned Hon Muriel Patterson and said —

Hon Muriel Patterson said in her welcome to me that it was good to see another farmer in this place and that it was unfortunate that I was—in her words—in the wrong party. My colleagues disagreed with her in respect of one if not both sentiments. For my part, I will follow some of her line of reasoning because I believe I may have heard it expressed once or twice before. All I can say in response to Hon Muriel Patterson is that I hope that in the next few minutes I will be able to explain what I am doing here and why I am doing it. In any case, I thank her for her generosity.

Kim was very thankful and respectful to everyone. As members have heard today, Kim was highly regarded by people from all corners of the political spectrum, especially his Liberal opponents. It is a sign of success in politics when we are highly regarded and highly respected by our colleagues and opponents alike. Kim went on in his inaugural speech to make some wise utterances about the success of the wool industry and about how agriculture has been proven to have carried this country for many years and will continue to do so, and of course he was right. Kim certainly added to that strength in the agricultural sector in the way that he conducted himself as a minister.

Kim had an enormous workload in the Parliament. The Parliament of Western Australia website lists the enormous number of roles that Kim played in the Parliament. I will read from that list, because it is fitting that those roles be recorded. Kim was member for the Agricultural Region and was declared elected to the thirty-third Parliament in March 1992, following a recount for the casual vacancy consequent upon the resignation of Hon James McMillan Brown. He was re-elected in 1993, 1996, 2001 and 2005. He retired on 21 May 2009.

His ministerial appointments were as follows. He was Minister for Agriculture; Forestry; Fisheries. He was Minister for the Midwest, Wheatbelt and Great Southern. He was Leader of the House in the Legislative Council. He was Minister for Agriculture; Forestry; Fisheries. He was Minister for Local Government and Regional Development. He was Minister for Heritage. He was Minister for the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne. He was Minister for Goldfields–Esperance. He was Minister for Agriculture and Forestry. He was Minister for the Midwest and Wheatbelt. He was Minister for Agriculture and Food. He was Minister for Forestry. He was Minister for the Great Southern.

Kim also had parliamentary party and shadow ministerial appointments. He was the opposition manager of business and parliamentary secretary in the Legislative Council. He was shadow Minister for Lands; Mid West and Wheatbelt; assisting the Minister for Health. He was shadow Minister for Primary Industry, Mid West and Wheatbelt; assisting the shadow Minister for Health. He was shadow Minister for Fisheries. He was Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council. He was shadow minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries; assisting the shadow Minister for Health. He was shadow minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries; Mid West and Wheatbelt.

Kim also served on many parliamentary committees. He served on the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. He was a member of the Standing Committee on Public Administration and he was chairman of that committee for a while. He was a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. He was also on the Select Committee on Batavia Relics, the Select Committee of Privilege on Hon Reg Davies' Telephone Tapping Concerns, the Select Committee of Privilege on Petition presented by Hon John Halden; and Select Committee of Privilege of Non-compliance of Brian Easton with an Order of the House. He was chairman of the Select Committee of Privilege on Documents held by the Royal Commission into the Use of Executive Power. He was a member of two select committees on failures to produce documents under summons. He was also a member of the Select Committee on Rules, Orders and Usage of the House. He was a member of the Select Committee into the Appropriateness of Powers and Penalties for Breaches of Parliamentary Privilege and Contempts of Parliament.

He had a very extensive parliamentary role. But, members, I love how when we look near the bottom of Kim's biography, we see that it states —

**Occupation before entering Parliament and Qualifications**

Farmer and truck driver.

What a pearler. That goes to the show the extent of the man's knowledge and capacity that he could come from being a farmer and truck driver and fulfil those very important and specific parliamentary roles. I think that is great because that is very similar to my background and it gives me great confidence that these things are achievable.

I also want to speak a bit about Kim's family, who are here with us today in the main. It is great to have them here with us to celebrate this great career of Kim's and to see this condolence motion passed. Of course, we wish we were not here, but we are. It is great to have you along today. Welcome. I hope that the occasion is as good as it can be. To Sue, Tom and Ceridwen, and all the extended family, friends and colleagues—I note Hon Tom Helm is also with us to be part of what we are doing—it is terrific to have you all here.

I first met Kim at a meeting of the Northam branch of the Labor Party in about 1999 and I hung around after the meeting because I wanted to talk to this bloke. I was just becoming interested in Labor politics and to me Kim was the go-to man from a similar background. Surprisingly to me, Kim stood and talked in the car park with me for about half an hour after the meeting had finished. We discussed all kinds of ways I might go about getting involved in the Labor Party and the pathways to Parliament that he had found; it was always an ambition of mine. He was very generous with his time both then and throughout his time as a minister.

I contested the state seat of Moore in 2001. Through Kim's encouragement I sought preselection for that very safe conservative seat. I think the margin was about 28 per cent. I worked with Kim, John D'Agostino and Judy Riggs. On that campaign Kim was a member for Agricultural Region and oversaw all those lower house campaigns. I was like a sponge. I could not hang around Kim enough and spend time with him enough to pick up all the things he knew. He was a great influence on my early career. I watched Kim as an ag minister handle very difficult issues. As Hon Adele Farina mentioned earlier, the forestry reforms were extremely challenging and very few people could have got through that process in the way that Kim did. He also took up the tough challenges of dairy deregulation. Challenge Dairy went into administration when he was the minister and 40 dairy farmers needed to find a new home for their milk. Kim was able to navigate that.

As Hon Lynn MacLaren pointed out, Hon Kim Chance was never sold on the value of genetically modified crops. He could always see the little guy, the consumer, was not convinced by genetically modified crops and he stood firm throughout his entire parliamentary career and stood up for the little guy. I think that is what was most notable about his position on that. Kim also fought the good fight against the deregulation of the potato industry. He held out on that for many, many years. We noted today at lunch that Kim always enjoyed having some chips with his lunch, so we all had some today even though they were deregulated potato chips, rather than regulated potato chips.

I always felt that Kim had a great belief in me as a young up-and-coming person with political aspirations. I am not the only one, of course. He had belief in all whom he worked with, but when we start out it is heartening to work with that person who knows that we have a chance and sticks with us and gives us every opportunity and piece of advice that we need. I think it is safe for me to say that the reason that I stand here today is because of Kim Chance, and I am eternally grateful for that.

Kim always had time for us. He had time for everyone who wanted his time. He made time for them. I can remember a story at his memorial service when Ceridwen made an outstanding contribution and said that the family was sitting around about to have lunch on Christmas Day and the phone rang. Kim went out and took the call and the family was waiting for Kim to get off the phone and come back and join them for Christmas lunch, but it turned out that the person who made that call on Christmas Day had no-one else to call. That person called Kim and he took the call and gave his time at lunchtime on Christmas Day. That is the kind of guy he was. Ceridwen also told us that the only time Kim ever got angry, which I never saw, was the one time he had to assemble flat-pack Ikea furniture.

Kim was a great bloke and in country politics that is what we want to be. We just want to be great blokes that everybody likes. He was respected by his political opponents, the general public and Liberal and National Party voters, and by all of us in the Labor Party as a soldier and good man to lead us. To make it in country politics, we need to be straight with people and make sense to them, and Kim did both those things. He was straight up and down with people. If he did not have good news, he would deliver it straight and people respected that. He always made sense to people. He was always able to put an argument in a way that country people could understand. He had commonsense and he used it regularly.

He always offered me good advice. I knew that when Kim Chance gave me a piece of advice or information, it was rock-solid and I could trust him and rely on his judgement; I always did. I sent Kim a text message before the 2013 election and said, "I have the best offer you've had in years. I would like you to stand on the Wagin

polling booth for two days at the Woolorama and talk to all these non-Labor voting farmers. There's no pay and you've got to bring your own lunch and water." He said that it sounded like a great idea to him and asked me to let him know when I needed him. He went and stood on the polling booth at the Wagin Woolorama, which happened to be the Friday before, and the Saturday of, the election. Thousands of voters went through. We had to run down extra absentee how-to-vote cards. Kim made time to be there and chat to them all. He loved the day.

Kim also worked in the Middle East and passed on what he had learnt to other areas of the world that could use his advice and help. He spent much time over there. I think that although towards the end he was glad that the tenure was ending, he enjoyed his time over there immensely, working with people from other countries.

As has been mentioned, he was also chair of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council. I see Bert Boschetti, a fisherman from Geraldton, is here today. He was instrumental in getting Kim appointed to that position. Kim was an outstanding, independent, unbiased and knowledgeable chair of that council and will be missed by the fishing industry in WA.

Kim also had a love of racing cars in the Targa rally, as mentioned earlier. I remember seeing a documentary with Kim and Mike Moylan driving around in the car and they took a wrong turn and ran off the road. Mike Moylan was the driver and Kim was the navigator and Mick commented that we cannot believe a word that a politician tells us. On that occasion he was right, but it was not always that way.

Dandaragan Camel Dairies was a dream of Kim's. When he returned from the Middle East, he had this vision to set up Western Australia's first camel dairy. That venture will be a success and Kim paved the way for that success. I thought it was an incredibly brave decision, but once I talked to Kim more about it and learnt about the future of camel's milk, which does not contain lactose, I think it has enormous potential.

As I said, Kim would have been very proud to see the election of Laurie Graham to the Legislative Council, the number 2 in Agricultural Region. Laurie and Kim worked very closely together. Laurie managed Geraldton port for many years and was a long-serving councillor. Kim convinced Laurie to run for the seat of Geraldton in 1996. He did not win the seat, but decreased the margin so that the Labor Party was able to take the seat in 2001. It is a shame that Laurie was not sworn in today, but I am sure that he will also mention Kim in his inaugural speech.

Kim's death is a loss to us all. It is a loss to the political community, it is a loss to the Parliament of Western Australia and it is a loss to regional people. Kim gave much to regional WA, and he did it selflessly.

I will summarise some bits of Kim's valedictory speech that I think are pertinent. He said —

I am not entirely sure how it is we should go about this job of summing up our own parliamentary career ... There seems to be general agreement that it is a good time to reflect on why we came here in the first place, and then to comment on which of those objectives we articulated in our first speech in this place that we think we have achieved. It is also a time to pass on a few comments to people—particularly to those who are fairly new in their own careers—that we think might be helpful. Most importantly, I think it is a time to thank those who have been our supporters, our friends, our colleagues, our adversaries, our advisers and our shoulders to lean on.

That was the very first paragraph of his valedictory speech. He went on to say —

My family, of course, has to come first in that list.

As Hon Jacqui Boyde pointed out, Kim went on to talk about his children standing at polling booths in very remote places. He paid special tribute to Sue and the kids. He also talked about when he was in Algiers. He said —

There are also those wonderful people who work with me in my office. John D'Agostino was my right hand for 13 years, both in opposition and government. I once tried in Algeria to explain to government officials what John's role was.

...

Given that they do not speak a lot of English in Algiers, and my French is even worse than my Arabic, the best I could come up with was that he was my commissar. That drew understanding looks from the Algerian officers and "Daggers" assured me that he was given a great deal more respect than he previously had from those same officials.

He was able to find a way, and I loved it. That is what is done when one comes from a truck driving and a farming background.

Kim went on to make special mention of the people who worked in his electorate office. He mentioned Dianne Spowart, who had worked in his office for many years. He also mentioned Judy Riggs, who came from the community sector rather than from the political structure. Judy Riggs now works in my electorate office in Geraldton and has been a great source of knowledge and understanding of all the things that she learned from Kim.

I have already spoken at reasonable length, but with the President's indulgence I will read a eulogy. I went to Kim's memorial service and found it very moving. As a matter of fact, I do not think there was a dry eye in the place at one stage—the speeches were outstanding. I just mentioned John Dagostino, who had worked with Kim for many years and probably knew him from the political side as well as anyone. John gave an outstanding eulogy, which I will read. I think it puts Kim's parliamentary career in the best way. John's eulogy states —

In his valedictory speech, Kim asked the question of how you might best sum up your political life. It is a question, as he noted, that is difficult to answer, and we cannot do justice to all of his achievements today.

Briefly then, I will talk about Kim's public life, and talk about Kim as a person in that world: and try to give you a sense of how Kim dealt with the politics, the policies and most importantly the people in his public role.

I think for Kim you have to start with the people. Kim loved people, he loved to talk to people and he loved the people of Western Australia in all of their diversity, colour; in their weaknesses and strength. His personal experience of being a truckie and a farmer, and living in Country WA, gave him a grounding in the everyday reality of working people's lives that he never lost. He could talk to a Chief Scientist as well as a truckie, and he had a greatness about him, a ranging empathy for people that could not be quelled, a curiosity about how to make things better, and an unshakeable belief in the importance of human dignity.

All of these values and attributes were well formed by the time I met and worked for Kim in the early nineties. By then he had already served, by today's standards, an unthinkable long political apprenticeship; running for the Federal seat of O'Connor for five successive elections, and gaining long experience in agri-politics. Kim was widely read, worldly and well informed of the usual policy debates swirling around at that time. All of this experience came together in a gracefulness with people or issues, his quick mind always fair, discarding received ideas and relying on his own wisdom and convictions for judgement.

...

Kim's first year in Parliament was as a backbencher, and in talking to me of that time, I always got the idea of Kim's own modesty, for he was in awe of the Leaders around him and, it seemed to me, surprised at that time that anyone would talk to him. It added another perspective to his rich experience, and so after the election loss of 93 Kim set out on a journey that would take him through the long years of Opposition.

While the nineties now look in some ways quiet and quaint, there were emerging the many forces that would shape Kim's political life and the world we now find ourselves in. Like many farmers Kim was technically minded, an early adopter who loved technology (and also, dare I say it, Fords) and he was quick to seize the internet and email as tools essential to being a Country MP. Climate change and environmental threats emerged as processes with political force and real world everyday impacts. Kim's love of the Australian bush and its people always founded his understanding of policy decisions and the politics that ran through these issues. But if Kim had a natural home in a policy or political sense, it was in economic and industry policy, most especially for Agriculture. Kim belonged to an old Labor school that had orderly economic policy and the welfare of workers at its core. He had a far vision for Western Australian agriculture, a vision that saw opportunity to further develop the agriculture sector down the value chain, creating jobs in the country while and enabling farmers and their communities escape the vicissitudes of the commodity cycle. This vision was a bulwark against the angry populism that had begun to emerge in the nineties, a deep widespread anger against economic rationalism that Kim understood and had to deal with in community forums, at Field Days, in town halls and in the Parliament.

Apart from his vision for a bright future for country WA, another roadblock against populism that Kim carried was his love for people. Kim personified (he would hate the idea) the old Australian values of the fair go, of equal services no matter where you lived, and dignity for all. It was these values that came out in Opposition and later in Government, values that tried to minimise the very human cost of reform and change.

In Opposition he worked hard on Shadow portfolios as they came to him, firstly Lands and then Agriculture and Fisheries and assisting Regional Development. Kim quietly began to make a name for himself as an advocate who could take a constituent's concerns with Government forward, air them, and get something done. Kim believed in natural justice, and in those years he was always fair in his discernment of issues in the Parliament: he didn't rage; he rarely got it wrong and from time to time he began to achieve hard earned successes for people who otherwise would have been hurt by the blunt instruments of Government.

And there were hard lessons in realpolitik, such as in 2000 when Kim tried to frustrate the Federal Government's agenda to deregulate the dairy industry nationally. He stood alone, and was in the end outmaneuvered, although it was a near run thing in the Parliament that came down to hours. "Never try to move the world with a short lever mate" he said to me afterwards; he learnt and went on.

...

In Government, as Leader of the Legislative Council in a minority position, Kim found he was at the sharp end of a progressive Government determined to deliver meaningful social and economic reform. As Leader, in Parliament and in the community, it was Kim who took the case to those most opposed to the Government's agenda.

In Parliament his experience as a legislator equipped him well for the many long nights of debate. In the community, Kim was of the Old Flat Bed Truck Class; he really would take on and talk round an angry crowd. And as Leader he delivered passage of legislative reforms like One Vote One Value, Gay Law Reform, the delivery of the Old Growth Forests Policy, the introduction of new laws to properly regulate the clearing of native vegetation and of course industrial relations laws to replace the unpopular State system in place.

There was organized, effective and ceaseless resistance to the Government's legislation, for good reasons and for bad. I never really understood Kim's courage, his resolution and his boldness until that time. You may recall, I do well, when Kim knocked through the Industrial Relations reform legislation while the Opposition were, due to a mix up, absent from the Chamber. There was a very strong reaction; the Opposition withdrew pairs, stopped cooperating entirely in the management of the House and declared a new cold war. But the Parliament, and its performance, became the issue of the day, and many months later, Kim with the Opposition's support, oversaw a process which substantially increased the performance of the Chamber. We passed 80 odd bills in one year—I doubt that number has been surpassed since.

It sounds like dry and tedious work and it was—and Kim had the support of his Ministers and colleagues in the House. But it took courage and real personal sacrifice to lead under such relentless pressure; and he paid the price without complaint or rancour.

Outside Parliament, the world and your portfolios move on. As Minister, Kim brought energy and vigour to his portfolios; and it was wanted for the challenges were many. His concern for workers and industry helped deliver a large assistance package to minimise the reform costs of the Old Growth Forests Policy, while in agriculture he managed to save Treasury funds from NCP penalties by sensible changes to the Grain Marketing Act to liberalise the export of coarse grains, the careful deregulation of the egg industry, the merger of the CBH and the Grain Pool of WA. After years of reform when it came to the Potato's the Boss had had enough, it went to Cabinet and then Caucus and the Potato Marketing Board stayed.

And there were the hot issues, from GM Crops where he defended a moratorium for a decade against significant corporate challenge, to the near disaster of the Cormo Express, the lost sheep ship that bedeviled the State and Federal Government with its animal welfare failures until Kim persuaded the Premier to take the diseased ship back, and to say so publicly. Deadlock broken, the sheep went to Eritrea.

Then, all too often, we had the drought years: sharp, unexpected and savage, with a real human cost in the country Kim loved. His reaction to the drought, his empathy and persistence in championing the cause of those impacted, saw him deliver meaningful drought policy reform from the Federal Government and begin a process of adjustment to protect the industry against climate risk in the long term. When we were in Government cloudless skies to ANZAC day were a disaster; today, the farmers could manage as long as the rains eventually arrive. It was the small victories that mattered; the farmer who rang back two years later to thank him for advice and assistance to keep his sheep.

Kim was the most accessible Minister I have ever come across: he would meet with anyone. He was very hard working—for nearly 8 years of Government when Parliament sat he would start meetings at 7.30 in the morning and then have to manage the House up until 10 or 11pm and then get up and do it again. When Parliament was not sitting he was relentless, having up to ten external meetings a day, or getting out and about in the State that he loved. After one Dowerin Field Day I was politically and physically exhausted: Kim's stamina was undrained and he was annoyed we had to leave. I think he felt a tremendous sense of privilege and obligation in his role—he would rest on Sundays by wading through the Cabinet papers.

...

Kim had broad shoulders and overtime I think we saw a greatness develop; he had this largeness of heart that could take criticism, admit failure, find courage and persist while others despaired. In moments of supreme crisis, or perhaps in just another occasion of political snafu or administrative failure, he never once lost his nerve, never once raised his voice with his staff. Of course he was not

flawless; but who is? Many people didn't notice his emerging greatness, his centrality to the success of the whole, and for that I think he was grateful—his unaffected modesty was rarely troubled. He was the gifted and rugged fullback of the team as it organised for the contest, playing a defensive game that allowed victory elsewhere.

Perhaps not comprehensively enough, but I hope I have given you a sense of the courage, grace and personal conviction Kim brought to his political life. It came with very real personal sacrifices, both for himself and for his family, and I know he bettered many lives because of his involvement in politics.

He was in many ways the most politically graceful and dignified person I have ever met; we are lessened by his departure. But we should be grateful for his gifts and generosity of spirit:

I myself not the least: by unstinting effort he left world a better place than he found it, and devoted so much of his own life to public good. For that Kim, I thank you.

Fare well, Mate.

John Dagostino

Mate, we all thank you, Kim. You were a great member of our community, a great parliamentarian and a great man, and we will remember you for that.

**THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House):** Members, I also wish to make some comments and join other members in expressing my condolences on the sudden and untimely passing of Kim Chance. I also want to pay respects to his contribution and to his legacy. I shared many years in this chamber with Kim Chance, from 1992 to 2009, and got to know him best, I guess, in committee work. We worked together on the Standing Committee on Government Agencies and the Standing Committee on Public Administration. His death, I must admit, was a huge shock. I certainly did not expect it, just as his family and friends and other members who knew him well did not expect it.

Right from the start, there was never any doubt about Kim Chance's intellect, his capacity for work, his knowledge and his ability to express it very well and put his thoughts into effect, and the sincerity with which he approached his role as a public figure and a parliamentarian. He quickly took on prominent leadership positions in the Legislative Council in opposition and in government. As we have heard, he was Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, he was the Leader of the House from 2001 to 2008 and he was Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and many other portfolios. Kim always took his roles very seriously. He treated his portfolios, his responsibilities and members, as well as this institution, with respect. This was consequently returned to him in spades because of the way he treated other people. That is why we heard today of the many positive, pleasant memories of our dealings with Kim Chance.

After Parliament, of course, he went on to do many other very constructive things in fisheries, land care and camel farming, and he had roles in the Middle East, as well as many other things. Kim Chance was universally known and respected as a really good, capable bloke and a very good parliamentarian.

I extend my personal condolences and the condolences of the Legislative Council to his family and friends who have gathered here today. Members, as is the usual practice, a copy of the *Hansard* of this debate will be forwarded to Hon Kim Chance's family. Thank you for your attendance today. In the usual way, I ask members to stand in their places for a minute's silence out of respect for Hon Kim Chance.

Question passed; members and officers standing as a mark of respect.

### **GREYHOUND RACING BAN**

#### *Petition*

**HON LYNN MacLAREN (South Metropolitan)** [3.38 pm]: I present a petition containing 3 066 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 are opposed to greyhound racing in Western Australia and call upon the government to follow the lead of the NSW and ACT governments to ban greyhound racing.

We note the independent report into the greyhound racing industry in NSW which detailed damning evidence of systemic cruelty. Greyhound racing is in decline and has been banned in all but a handful of countries. It is time for the people of WA to act to stop this inherently cruel practice.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council recommends that the Government bans Greyhound racing, prohibits dog transfers overseas and interstate and supports adoption programmes for current racing dogs.

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

[See paper 62.]

**NON-GOVERNMENT BUSINESS AND PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS — SCHEDULES***Tabling*

**THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House):** Members, I table the schedules for non-government business and private members business allocated sessions for 2017.

[See paper 48.]

**PAPERS TABLED**

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

**CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT (DEMISE OF THE CROWN) BILL 2017***Notice of Motion to Introduce*

Notice of motion given by **Hon Sue Ellery (Leader of the House)**.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE***Standing Orders Suspension — Motion*

On motion without notice by **Hon Sue Ellery (Leader of the House)**, resolved with an absolute majority —

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as to enable the following variations to the order of business and sitting times for Wednesday and Thursday this week —

- (1) the house to commence sitting at 3.00 pm on Wednesday;
- (2) no motions on notice on Wednesday; and
- (3) the house to commence sitting at 11.00 am on Thursday.

**NON-GOVERNMENT BUSINESS — SCHEDULE***Motion*

On motion without notice by **Hon Sue Ellery (Leader of the House)**, resolved with an absolute majority —

That, pursuant to standing order 111(4), the schedule for non-government business tabled by the President be adopted.

[See paper 48.]

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS — SCHEDULE***Motion*

On motion without notice by **Hon Sue Ellery (Leader of the House)**, resolved with an absolute majority —

That, pursuant to standing order 112(4), the schedule for private members' business tabled by the President be adopted.

[See paper 48.]

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY***Motion*

Resumed from 11 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.

**The PRESIDENT:** I inform members that this is the honourable member's valedictory speech.

**HON DAVE GRILLS (Mining and Pastoral) [3.47 pm]:** To say the last four years have passed quickly is an understatement and testament to that old adage "where does the time go?" In describing my term in this place, I would like to borrow in part from that immortal giant of English literature Charles Dickens —

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness ...

My time as a member for the Mining and Pastoral Region has certainly been a remarkable, life-changing experience with its various ups and downs. Since 2013, I have travelled extensively across this massive state of ours and met with people from all walks of life. From the beautiful coastline of Esperance to the rugged frontier wilderness of Kununurra and the East Kimberley, I have spent countless hours on the road, visiting the many fascinating communities that make up my vast electorate.

I have come to appreciate that each community, no matter how small or large, has a rich social fabric stitched together by people who have chosen to make regional WA their home. It has been an honour to have so many constituents share their stories and aspirations with me and I have done my best to fight for their interests in this place. Although I certainly have not always achieved the outcomes I may have wanted, I can say with resounding confidence that I have always sought to put my constituents first. We in this place have been bestowed a great honour by the people of Western Australia—one of the highest honours in our state. Our Westminster parliamentary system may not be perfect but it has given us in Western Australia a period of uninterrupted democratic governance dating back to the early days of European settlement.

I feel humbled and honoured to have played a part, albeit small, in this great democratic tradition as a member of the thirty-ninth Parliament of Western Australia. As others in this place will attest, members of Parliament are often confronted with an array of complex issues when they take office. Constituents will often contact our offices seeking information on government programs and services or simply asking for assistance to help navigate the labyrinth of government. Others will present us with more difficult, sometimes intractable problems needing attention. Many of these problems can often not be solved by simply introducing or amending legislation. Indeed, some of the biggest issues facing WA are social in nature and not easily addressed by any one party or policy prescription. It may be that some people overestimate the power and influence of individual MPs to effect change. We are only human and do not have access to infinite resources or knowledge.

To my surprise, I found that the MLC starter kit did not contain a magic wand. But I knew there was no elevator to success, so I set off up the stairway. For the incoming members of this place I would like to offer the following piece of advice: be sympathetic and listen to your constituents. You may not be able to change the world, but you can be a voice for people who feel like they are voiceless and invisible. Simply raising awareness about a particular issue can lead to constructive public dialogue. This is often the first step in making a real change that can improve lives. I have learnt firsthand that effecting change within government takes a great deal of time and persistence.

Servicing an electorate of over two and a quarter million square kilometres presents its own unique challenges. Anyone who runs for a country seat needs to be prepared to do an inordinate amount of travelling and spend many days and nights away from home. The unfathomable vastness of the Mining and Pastoral Region meant that I could be somewhere different all the time. As my mining and pastoral counterparts will understand, some days are not long enough when we are trying to service communities dispersed over a large area—larger than New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania combined. Living in Kalgoorlie–Boulder and working from my electoral office in Esperance also contributed to keeping me away from home. To those who raise objections about so-called electoral malapportionment in Western Australia, I would ask that they consider the vast distances covered by country members of Parliament. Perth residents do not need to travel hundreds of kilometres or more to access their local MP. In contrast, regional electoral districts are already expanding as electoral boundaries change and, in my view, no amount of technology or travel options can properly compensate for this growth. Constituents in remote communities, whether it be Hopetoun in the south or Wyndham in the north, often feel detached and disengaged from governments and feel that their voices and concerns are not represented in the corridors of power. With a certain level of local government engagement, we risk denying country people adequate representation and depriving them of opportunities for involvement in our state's political process. I fail to see how a system that concentrates political power in one city can be considered fair and equitable. In my view, this country political gap is mirrored by a yawning social and cultural divide. Often people in Perth have little understanding of life in regional WA and some politicians and bureaucrats seem to forget that people actually reside outside the metropolitan area. City and country areas see the world differently and the gap is growing. To city residents, a place like Coolgardie or Halls Creek represents an entirely different environment and way of life; likewise, many country residents feel a sense of alienation when they visit the city. In some respects, Western Australia comprises two parallel societies. It is the responsibility of members in this place to help breach this gap and ensure that policy and legislation services all residents of the state. I truly hope that the new Parliament and state government do not forget about regional WA and its people.

The WA economy remains heavily dependent on agriculture, mining and energy exports that are mainly derived from the regions. The Pilbara region alone is responsible for about 70 per cent of mineral and energy production in WA. In the interests of equity and the state's long-term prosperity, it is vital that a fair share of WA's export wealth is injected back into regional communities. Regional WA is the engine room of our economy and should not be an afterthought when it comes to policy or resource allocation. Ultimately, more resilient regions mean a more resilient state.

I am very proud to have been part of a team that delivered record investment to regional WA over the last four years. From the Kimberley to the goldfields–Esperance regions, communities across the mining and pastoral electorate have shared in nearly \$7 billion invested through the royalties for regions program, created and delivered by the WA Nationals in government. Thanks to the strong regional development focus, we delivered real progress and narrowed the gap between the city and the regions in infrastructure and service provision. Since 2008, regional residents have experienced significant improvements in health, community support services, education, economic development, agriculture, tourism, telecommunications, Aboriginal development and the arts. In short, royalties for regions has changed many regional lives for the better. I cannot think of another government program in recent times that has had such a transformative effect in such a relatively short period. This strong regional development focus kindled a sense of optimism in the regions that did not exist a decade ago. But now I feel some trepidation about the future of regional WA. I vividly remember the bad old days before royalties for regions existed. I remember the dilapidated infrastructure and substandard services in places such as the goldfields. I remember how difficult it was for community groups and local governments to obtain funding for new projects and initiatives. I remember the common sentiment among country residents that we would be treated like second-class citizens by a metro-centric government. I hope we do not witness a return to those bad old days under this new government. However, there are already some strong worrying signs. According to its financial management plan released a day before the state election, the incoming Labor government stated it would slash \$2.3 billion from royalties for regions over the next three years. We are still waiting for some details on these planned cuts, but I know that any reduction in funding will hurt our regional communities. Since the election, my electoral office has been contacted by a number of concerned constituents asking whether their Country Age Pension Fuel Card will be renewed or whether their royalties for regions community project grant will be honoured by the new government. I would urge the new government to not rip funding out of regional WA in order to pay for metropolitan projects. If our regions are to develop and prosper over the long term, we need policy certainty and ongoing investment.

As I stated earlier, my team and I were involved in many projects—legislative and parliamentary business and the day-to-day operation of a busy regional electoral office. Like most members, I enjoyed getting out and about, meeting with and working alongside my constituents. From sitting in this chamber I learnt much about how Parliament operates and the business of being an effective member of the Legislative Council. At times I found it was somewhat frustrating, but by sitting in as often as I did, I became more aware of protocol and procedure. One of the unexpected privileges I came to enjoy was serving as a member on the Standing Committee on Legislation. I found the committee different from the Council in that it allowed a less adversarial, more cooperative form of decision-making. That is not to say there was no politics involved, but it felt comfortable and I believe the committee made a number of useful recommendations during the last term. I would like to thank my committee colleagues and chair, Hon Robyn McSweeney, for their professionalism and knowledge. It was particularly rewarding to work on the committee report into the Mining Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, as this bill was very important to many prospectors and small-scale miners in my home town of Kalgoorlie–Boulder. It is important that local prospectors and small miners are not squeezed out of the industry and I hope the new state government will adopt the committee’s recommendations, such as protecting the diversity of the sector by introducing a tiered approach to the mining industry. I also hope that the new state government will follow the WA Nationals in supporting a transient worker accommodation policy aimed at fostering the transformation of regional communities into thriving and sustainable population centres. Over the years, residents and local governments across the electorate have raised concerns with me about the devastating impact of fly in, fly out workforces on their communities. In earlier times, the resources sector primarily used residential workforces and this led to the growth of thriving communities in the goldfields, midwest and Pilbara. However, the shift to the FIFO model in recent decades has undermined the established towns in regional WA to the point at which their long-term viability is at risk. Supporting the continued development of the resources sector should be a priority, but it must be done in a manner that enhances rather than undermines regional communities. I do not believe that government should sit by and allow these communities to wither while a significant wealth derived from nearby resources flows elsewhere. I do not believe we should quietly wave goodbye to longstanding towns such as Norseman, Coolgardie and Wiluna when there are viable and profitable resource operations within their shires. For the sake of towns in the midwest, Pilbara, goldfields, Gascoyne and Kimberley, we need to move to a new model that encourages mining operations located near an established population centre to co-locate, engage with communities and honour their commitment as good corporate citizens. This would significantly enhance the economic and social wellbeing of those towns and provide resource workers and their families with a more stable and healthier lifestyle.

As I mentioned earlier, some of the biggest challenges facing our state are social in nature. At this time, given this will be my last speech in this place, I will take this opportunity to voice my concern regarding the safety and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable in our communities. I remain concerned that many young folk across regional WA may not be realising their full potential. Unfortunately, some still struggle through adversity and have missed out on education, employment and life opportunities. Repeatedly they end up unemployed, totally disengaged from mainstream society and, at times, in trouble with the law. I believe these young people deserve

better. Those living in the most disadvantaged areas of Western Australia are eight times more likely to have spent time in prison. Aboriginal people make up around three per cent of the state's population, yet make up 44 per cent of incarcerated adults and 78 per cent of incarcerated juveniles. The overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system remains a deep concern. As the late Western Australian historian Geoffrey Bolton observed in his book *Land of Vision and Mirage*, Western Australia will never be able to call itself a contented society while these problems persist. Despite all the symbolism and hand-wringing over past misdeeds, it seems that real reconciliation on the ground remains as elusive as ever.

During my time as a regional police officer, local government councillor and member of Parliament I have observed firsthand, in the goldfields, Kimberley and Pilbara, the well-intended but failed Indigenous policies of successive governments. The cost of failure has been high. It has been high in terms of the billions of taxpayers' dollars that have been largely wasted on ineffective programs and services over decades, but the real tragedy has been the cost in terms of human lives. Too many lives have been needlessly wasted or cut short. Sadly, despite clear evidence of failure, many in positions of power have sought to double down on the same separatist policies of the last four decades that have contributed to the dreadful living conditions in some Aboriginal communities. These policies have kept many Aboriginal people on the fringes of society and have served as a barrier to their inclusion in the Australian dream.

Confronted with these terrible conditions, the previous Liberal–National government launched the “Resilient Families, Strong Communities” roadmap for regional and remote Australian Aboriginal communities. The roadmap was clear in its objectives, stating —

We believe that all Aboriginal children in regional and remote areas should be well-nurtured and kept safe, be well-educated through to adulthood, have access to employment, and have the skills, hope and resilience to fulfil their life aspirations.

We know there is no silver bullet for dealing with these issues, and reform is neither easy nor swift. However, the status quo is clearly unacceptable. We need policymakers prepared to drive substantive reforms if we are to break the cycle of dysfunction and despair that plagues many communities in Western Australia.

One of the ways in which this dysfunction manifests itself is in the form of crime. Often we see juveniles, with no parental direction, out on the streets running afoul of the law. Following the tragic events in Kalgoorlie in 2016, in which a young man lost his life, we set out to work with communities to develop and deliver a safer communities program targeting troubled youth. This culminated in a policy aimed at reintegrating young offenders into the community, which the WA Nationals presented to the 2017 state election. Offending has many causes, as noted in the 2016 “Speaking Out About Youth Justice” report released by the Commissioner for Children and Young People. When asked about reasons for offending, the views of young recidivist offenders revealed several key themes, as stated in the report —

- problems with family
- friends who were involved in criminal behaviour
- disengagement from school
- disconnection from the broader community
- personal issues including, crime as a normal habit, drug and alcohol use, cognitive disorders and mental health issues.

Under the Western Australian Young Offenders Act 1994, the police are directed to divert juveniles away from court, with detention used as a last resort. Although there are options under the act to deal with offenders at the lower end, there are often no effective local custodial options for recidivist or serious offenders in regional areas. The only custodial option for repeat or serious offenders is the metropolitan Banksia Hill Detention Centre. Alternatives involving bail, juvenile justice system redirection and curfews are often ineffective. In essence, magistrates are essentially presented with two options—either Banksia Hill or bail, meaning young offenders are sent either back to the street or to Perth. The evidence suggests that neither of these options works particularly well in regional areas.

In order to improve justice outcomes, I believe magistrates need a third option—to remand young offenders in a local intensive behaviour management facility, where serious and repeat offenders can get the assistance they require to prevent recidivism. This kind of reform is sorely needed to catch younger offenders who are falling through the cracks, to make sure that their behaviour is punishable but also allows them the opportunity to become better members of their community through working more closely with their families, their culture and government agencies. In concert with the Young Offenders Act, appropriate youth custodial behavioural facilities should be established in regional areas. Such facilities would provide homegrown options tailored to local youth and reduce the need for young offenders to be sent to Banksia Hill at significant expense. In the case of Aboriginal young offenders, rehabilitation programs at regional youth behavioural facilities would be enhanced by engaging the local Aboriginal community to provide greater support and guidance for troubled youth.

I have consulted at length with communities and shires in the Kimberley and goldfields and I believe there is real support for this proposal. I note that the Kimberley Regional Group, comprising the Broome, Derby–West Kimberley, Halls Creek and Wyndham–East Kimberley shires, has sought to secure support from government to establish a youth justice facility in its region. On behalf of all the young folk in Western Australia struggling to make their lives better, I ask this incoming government to please continue driving change for the better and make our communities safer places to live, work and raise a family. It would be a great shame if the reform momentum in this area was lost.

As my time in this place comes to a close, I would like to briefly reflect on the March 2017 election. It is fair to say this was always going to be a tough election, especially with changes to the Mining and Pastoral Region electoral boundaries and the multimillion-dollar scare campaign waged against the WA Nationals by big multinational miners. Irrespective of the outcome, I believe the election has raised disturbing questions about the influence of multinational corporations and vested interests in WA's political process. It is my view that WA needs to secure a better deal for the use of its natural resources. I am proudly pro-mining and, as a goldfields resident, I acutely understand just how important the sector is to the economic health of many of our regional communities. However, I do not believe it is fair for ordinary Western Australians or smaller miners that the two biggest mining companies operating in WA are exempt from indexation, and continue to pay a special lease rental that has not been reviewed or updated since the 1960s. The 25c-a-tonne special lease rental may have been a fair price when Sir David Brand and Sir Charles Court were governing the state, but it is not any longer. Western Australian households and businesses face the prospect of higher fees and charges as this new government attempts to find more revenue. I would like those opposite to explain why the giant multinationals, BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, deserve to be shielded from modern economic realities when everybody else pays more year after year. Western Australia should obviously welcome further investment into our mining sector; however, such investment must be on our terms. We need to become the masters of our own finite resources and ensure we maximise the public benefit deriving from their extraction. It is my hope that WA will be able to follow the example of a country like Norway, which, through prudent and long-sighted policies, has successfully turned its non-renewable resources into a financial asset that can last forever.

As with all valedictory speeches comes the heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the marvellous folk who have joined me during this journey. It would be my wish to be able to acknowledge them all individually today, but time will not allow for a cast of thousands.

**The PRESIDENT:** Take your time.

**Hon DAVE GRILLS:** If my Army cadets could see me now, they would laugh.

Thank you to my beautiful girls, Sue and Arddun, for loving me and always being there for me. Thank you to my wonderful family. Thanks to my steadfast friends and loyal constituents across the Mining and Pastoral Region for your support over the last four years. You have helped keep me concentrated and my feet firmly on the ground. You may never know how influential and important you have been.

Thank you to my fellow National Party members and parliamentary colleagues. Thank you to our dedicated staff and dependable volunteers who worked alongside me and assisted me during my term in state Parliament. Thank you to every one of my brilliant electoral staff who worked alongside me. Thank you to my current team, Kelly McCarthy and Samantha Scott, and my trusted confidante, Rex Drabik. Our hard work speaks for itself and I believe reflects the success of the Nationals in the seat of Roe.

Last but not least, thank you to every one of the wonderful folk who make this Parliament run so smoothly and effectively. You have always been there to assist, share a laugh and have a chat. Your friendship and benevolence have meant a lot to me during my time in this place.

I would like to pass on my best wishes to all the members of the new government and those who have come to this place for the first time. I trust you will govern for all Western Australians and do what you believe is right for our state and its future.

And so it goes—still navigating the stairs. One door has closed, and I look forward to opening the next and serving the people of regional Western Australia in a different capacity. As I am fond of saying, change is a constant; development is optional. Thank you.

[Applause.]

**HON ALANNA CLOHESY (East Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary)** [4.11 pm]: As I did four years ago when I made my first speech in the Address-in-Reply debate, I stand to acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. I would also like to thank Hon Dave Grills for his contribution to this place and say that although we differed on a number of issues on many occasions, I have never doubted his concern and care for the people of Western Australia, particularly young people. Now you are making me tear up. I wish you well, Dave, and travel well.

It is a new feeling for me to be on this side of the chamber. I used to look at this side and walk across and test it out occasionally when there were divisions. I am very pleased to be standing on this side of the chamber representing the people of the East Metropolitan Region and representing the Labor Party. I got here because of the support of the people of the East Metropolitan Region, and I thank them for their support. I also got here because of the support of the Australian Labor Party. I thank all those people who have helped me over the past four years, and more recently for their support during the election campaign.

Before I go on too much more with my thanks, one of the other things I did when I made my first speech in the Address-in-Reply debate was to thank you, Mr President, for your support and wisdom. I would like to repeat that as a member four years on. You have been a great support, Mr President. You provided very strong and welcome advice to me as a new member that has stood me in good stead, not the least being to point out the difference between a parliamentarian and a politician. I will take that with me. Thank you.

I now want to say thanks to some other people. In the East Metropolitan Region—which is the region that I represent, and we all know that East Metro is “Best Metro”—there were a number of successes for the Australian Labor Party in the other place. However, before I go on to that, I want to acknowledge members in the East Metropolitan Region in this place and thank them for their contributions. I will start with Amber-Jade Sanderson. I will talk later about her success at being elected as the member for Morley. I particularly want to acknowledge the work that she did with me throughout the East Metropolitan Region. She was a great team member to work with and I wish her all the best in the seat of Morley. I also welcome as her interim replacement Hon Bill Leadbetter. I was very pleased to be at Hon Bill Leadbetter’s swearing in earlier this year. Hon Bill Leadbetter has made a great contribution to the East Metropolitan Region over a number of years, and I welcome him to this chamber and look forward to the inaugural speech that he will be making a bit later.

I also want to acknowledge the work and the contribution of two members for the East Metropolitan Region who will be leaving this chamber—Hon Alyssa Hayden and Hon Helen Morton. As I mentioned to Hon Dave Grills, we may not agree on many things. However, I acknowledge the contribution and hard work of those members on behalf of the people of the East Metropolitan Region and I wish them good success in the future. There was a significant change in the East Metropolitan Region at the last state election and all the lower house seats in that region are now held by members of the Australian Labor Party. That is a very exciting prospect, not only for me personally, but also for the people of the East Metropolitan Region.

**Hon Donna Faragher:** There will still be a Liberal representative there, you know!

**Hon ALANNA CLOHESY:** I will get to Hon Donna Faragher!

**Hon Donna Faragher:** I just need to remind you of that!

**Hon ALANNA CLOHESY:** I was talking about the lower house seats. Yes, I will get to Hon Donna Faragher!

I also offer congratulations to the member for Belmont, Cassie Rowe, who fought very hard over a long period of time to win the seat of Belmont and was successful this time around. I know that she will stand up for the people of Belmont with energy and commitment and every amount of passion that she can exude.

I also congratulate the member for Darling Range, Barry Urban. Many people could not contemplate that he could win the seat of Darling Range because of the significant margin in that seat. Barry Urban fought a very strong and good fight and is a good local representative, as the people of Darling Range have acknowledged. Stephen Price also fought a very strong election campaign for the seat of Forrestfield. Long before the election campaign he had been taking up a number of issues for the people of Forrestfield, and he will be a fantastic local member. Matthew Hughes was successful in winning the seat of Kalamunda. Matthew came in very late in the piece as the preselected candidate for the seat of Kalamunda, and he did an outstanding job. The respect of the people at the local level for Matthew was demonstrated in his election as the member for Kalamunda. As a school principal, Matthew understands in great depth the education issues in our region and particularly in Kalamunda. Matthew also has a deep concern and will continue to fight for the elderly in our community, including those in aged care. Jessica Shaw, who proudly proclaims herself to be a local hills woman, won the seat of Swan Hills by a significant margin. Jess is incredibly energetic and passionately committed to ensuring that Labor delivers on its Metronet promise of a train line to Ellenbrook. I know that she will continue to make sure that that commitment is fully implemented, and that she will be a passionate advocate for her local area.

Amber-Jade Sanderson, who I talked about before as a very fine colleague in this place, was successful in winning the seat of Morley. Similarly, she has taken up the issues of the people of Morley in a very strong and compassionate way. Now that she is the member for Morley, she is taking forward a number of issues.

Even though it is not in alphabetical order, I have left Simon Millman, the new member for Mount Lawley, until last. I welcome Simon to Parliament. He is an exciting, energetic, passionate and deeply committed local representative. He brings a very erudite and sophisticated analysis to the seat of Mount Lawley and to Parliament. I wish him well in his future career. The reason I mention Simon last—but not least—is that I was

very pleased that his campaign was successful. I welcomed the opportunity to support him. Simon doorknocked almost the whole of Mount Lawley right from the day that he was preselected. He did that not because it was something to do, but because he was genuinely interested in meeting with, listening to and talking with people at the local level. He did that every weekend in hail, rain or shine, not that we get much rain in WA! Honestly, I have never before seen any candidate with Simon's commitment and energy. It was truly great to be involved in supporting him as he doorknocked the whole of the Mount Lawley electorate as a result of that energy and commitment. Congratulations to Simon!

A lot of other people supported Simon. I would like to mention some of the people in that campaign. They include Dennis, Chris, Tim, Brad, Jess, Bob and Hope who were immediately around Simon. Simon had nearly 200 volunteers who helped him doorknock, phone and put on local events. I thank all those volunteers. I admire their passion, commitment and energy. Together, we have made a great team. I thank them all.

Matthew Swinbourn will be a new member for the East Metropolitan Region. As I said before, East Metro is "Best Metro". He will join a great team. I think he will find that when we have had the opportunity to work together for a long period of time that we will achieve many great successes for East Metro.

Hon Donna Faragher is the last Liberal standing in the East Metropolitan Region. I congratulate her on her re-election. A couple of years ago when we were sitting together at a primary school event, we acknowledged that it was interesting to be on the same side. I hope to sit beside her at a number of different events. Good luck with her challenge.

It is an enormous honour to be in government, and I thank the people of Western Australia for electing the McGowan Labor government. Members will know that we will not take this honour for granted. Members will know that we have already commenced working extremely hard both to honour our commitments and to ensure that the trust the people of Western Australia have placed in us is well placed. Although it is an enormous honour, it is also an unbelievable challenge. Suffice to say, there are many challenges and those challenges are immense. How we will meet some of those challenges was under scrutiny in the election campaign. I will get to those in more detail in a minute, but I want to say that we have to be very clear about what the challenges are to identify how we will address them.

There are significant challenges in the East Metropolitan Region to do with employment, the level and number of businesses that have closed down, how we treat young people and the kind of programs that we can support to ensure that young people live better lives and are given greater opportunities than they previously have been, particularly in the last eight and a half years. I want to look more closely at the challenges in the East Metropolitan Region.

The benefits of the mining boom were squandered over the last eight and a half years. The impact on the East Metropolitan Region has been very significant. The Barnett government failed to diversify the economy. With the impact of the end of the mining and construction boom and the failure to diversify the economy, we witnessed a dramatic increase in the unemployment rate. Who was affected most by this increase in unemployment? It was young people. In seven of the last 12 months, employment levels in this state have declined. These are seasonally adjusted figures. In March 2016, 1.35 million people in WA were employed. Over the last 12 months, 10 000 people have lost their jobs. Now, only about 1.34 million people are employed. Let us take that back even further. In 2013, WA's unemployment rate was just four per cent. If we fast forward to 2017, our state's unemployment rate has increased a further 2.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent. It is significant because people are hurting. Of course it is young people who are disproportionately affected. It is also significant because we could have seen this coming. In fact we saw this coming.

I seek leave to continue my remarks at a later stage of this day's sitting.

Leave granted.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 60.]

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### MINISTERS OF THE CROWN — CAR ALLOWANCE

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

- (1) Which ministers, including the Premier, have received a car allowance in addition to having access to a ministerial car and driver?
- (2) Are any ministers, including the Premier, still double dipping on the car allowance?
- (3) Which ministers, including the Premier, have paid back the full amount for the car allowance?
- (4) On what date did the Premier become aware of the double dipping by ministers?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

Can I check the number? I think there was a preamble to the question.

**Hon Peter Collier:** C025.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Thank you. I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) The Premier became aware of this issue as part of incoming government briefings and has since written to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal requesting that the tribunal reconsider its determination. The determination by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal was made on 1 December 2016 under the previous government, the government to which the honourable member belonged, and was not made public. It is disappointing that this was kept secret and that this government has been forced to clean it up. This affects all ministers and as such this government is moving to have it rectified as soon as possible. The Premier has proposed a simple remedy to this arrangement—to return to the previous determination concerning office holder vehicle entitlements, which would see metropolitan-based ministers no longer able to receive both entitlements.

#### NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME — INFORMATION SESSIONS

#### 8. **Hon PETER COLLIER to the Minister for Disability Services:**

The Leader of the House did not answer the previous question. That is not a good start.

- (1) How many community information sessions have been held on the Western Australian National Disability Insurance Scheme since 1 February 2017?
- (2) Where have these information sessions been held?

**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 Disability Services Commission.

- (1) Twenty-nine information sessions.
- (2) Two sessions were held in Rockingham, Mandurah, Floreat, Connolly, East Victoria Park, Broome, Kununurra, Port Hedland and Karratha. One session was held in Winthrop, East Fremantle, Banksia Grove, Mirrabooka, Southern River, Booragoon, White Gum Valley, Gosnells, Quinns Rocks, Tuart Hill and West Perth.

#### COMMISSION OF INQUIRY — FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

#### 9. **Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:**

I refer to the announcement yesterday of a commission of inquiry into alleged financial mismanagement by the previous government and the reasons for the level of state debt.

- (1) Why is this inquiry pursuant to section 24 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 and not an open inquiry by a parliamentary committee or by way of royal commission?
- (2) Why has it excluded from its terms of reference or the projects to be examined those of the former Labor government that were inherited by the Barnett government to fix and which, by reason of Labor's poor "decision-making processes, risks and contract terms" "exposed taxpayers to hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs and contributed to WA's record state debt"?
- (3) Given that the Premier and the Treasurer have already decreed as a basis for the inquiry that these projects have "failed to deliver promised benefits to taxpayers or have been shrouded in secrecy", how can the Western Australian public have confidence that the McGowan government will not, behind the scenes, influence the course of this politically motivated inquiry and conceal or distort the evidence it is given to consider and its outcome?

**The PRESIDENT:** I remind members that questions and answers need to be concise.

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

Thank you, Mr President, so soon!

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

- (1)–(3) It is an independent inquiry, headed by John Langoulant. The manner in which the inquiry is conducted is a decision of Mr Langoulant, using the powers available to him under section 24 of the Public Sector Management Act 1994. The new government is delivering on an election commitment and the terms of reference were a decision of the government.

## EDUCATION CENTRAL POLICY

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

I refer to the government's Education Central policy.

- (1) Has the government completed a business case or any financial modelling for the delivery of this policy?
- (2) If yes to (1), will the minister table a copy; and, if not, why not?
- (3) If no to (1), has the minister requested that a business case be prepared and who is it being prepared by?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1)–(3) Education Central is a McGowan government election commitment. Work is currently being undertaken between relevant agencies and the detail will go before cabinet. This information is cabinet-in-confidence.

## MEDIA STATEMENTS EMAIL SERVICE

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

I refer to the WA state government's media statements email service.

- (1) What is the authorisation process for media statements?
- (2) Further to (1), is that process documented in the form of, or equivalent of, a policy or procedure?
- (3) If yes to (2), will the Leader of the House table that document?
- (4) Is the relevant minister the person ultimately responsible for the content of the authorised media statement?
- (5) Who is to take ultimate responsibility for joint media statements?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1)–(5) The authorisation process for government media statements is the responsibility of the director of communications. Ministers are responsible for the content of their media statements, with the director of communications responsible for authorising prior to public release.

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS

**12. Hon JACQUI BOYDELL to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development:**

I refer to the regional development commissions.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that no changes will be made to the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that each region will continue to have a CEO based in that region?
- (3) Can the minister confirm that existing staff will not be required to relocate to Perth to remain employed?
- (4) Can the minister confirm that any new positions created in the Regional Development Commissions will be based in the current Regional Development Commission regions?

**Hon DARREN WEST replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question and congratulate her on her election to the position of Deputy Leader of the National Party.

On behalf of the Minister for Regional Development, I provide the following response.

- (1)–(4) The minister is committed to the continuation of Regional Development Commissions. Our aim is to strengthen the role of development commissions as drivers of economic development. There will be no reduction in the number of regionally based staff. Over the course of this term of government, we are aiming to increase the number of people employed in the regions. As former National MLC Wendy Duncan observed, "Real reform on regional development will take time and considerable political will and administrative effort."

## CANAL HOUSING ESTATES

**13. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:**

I refer to an article dated 22 September 2016 from *The West Australian* online titled “McGowan clears stance on marina” in which the Premier is quoted as saying —

“I have made it crystal clear that I am not a supporter of canals,” ...

- (1) What are the Premier’s reasons for opposing canals?
- (2) Is the Premier aware that New South Wales and Victoria banned the development of housing estates around man-made canals in 1996 and 2008 respectively?
- (3) Will this government ban the development of canal housing estates?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) If yes to (3), will the government cancel the proposed LandCorp housing development involving man-made canals and an inland marina at Mangles Bay in Rockingham?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1)–(5) The Premier has clarified his stance regarding the canal estate in Mangles Bay time and again. The remainder of this question should be redirected to the Minister for Planning to answer under her purview.

## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT — ELECTORATE STAFF — UNION SOLICITATION

**14. Hon LIZ BEHJAT to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:**

It has been reported by a number of offices of members of Parliament, mine included, that since the date of the election on 11 March this year, a number of newly appointed staff members of MPs have been contacted in person by a representative of the Community and Public Sector Union–Civil Service Association of WA, encouraging them to join the union. I am reliably informed that approaches such as this from unions or those affiliated with unions were not made during the eight years of the previous government.

- (1) Who authorised officers of the CPSU to make telephone calls to newly appointed staff in MPs’ offices to recruit those staff as members of the union?
- (2) Who provided the CPSU with the names, contact details and starting dates of the newly appointed staff members?
- (3) Does the Premier consider these approaches to be a breach of privacy laws by providing personal details of an employee to a third party without that employee’s express permission?
- (4) Will the Premier take all necessary steps to ensure that an employee’s private details are not passed to a third party in the future without that employee’s express permission?

**The PRESIDENT:** Members, I will let the Leader of the House answer, but we all know that electorate officers are technically employed by the Presiding Officers, who delegate that role to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. In terms of the administration, that question is relevant.

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. It is indeed a good one and I am delighted to provide the answer.

- (1)–(4) The member would need to direct that question to either the CPSU or the Presiding Officers of the houses, who employ electorate office staff. In the meantime, I direct 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.” This clause was put in place throughout the previous Barnett and Carpenter governments.

## LAKE GRACE HOSPITAL — RESIDENTIAL AGED-CARE BEDS

**15. Hon RICK MAZZA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:**

I understand that an expansion zone for potential future residential aged-care beds has been identified as part of the master planning approach for Lake Grace Hospital. Can the parliamentary secretary advise whether a time frame has been determined for these facilities; and, if so, what is it?

**Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

I am informed that the site plan for Lake Grace does include an identified future expansion zone for residential aged care. There are no current plans to expand Lake Grace Hospital to include aged-care beds. Any future expansion would be based on identified service need. The current Southern Inland Health Initiative project scope does not include any increase in residential aged-care beds at Lake Grace.

## PUBLIC SECTOR REDUCTION — AGENT GENERAL, LONDON

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

My question relates 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. Knowing that Western Australia benefits greatly from the presence of its trade office in London by promoting investment in our state throughout Europe; that the office of the Agent General in London has status that was established before Australian Federation, giving the Agent General quasi-diplomatic status; and that this status cannot be re-established once severed —

- (1) Does the Premier really wish to jeopardise this status by closing the trade office in London?
- (2) Does he agree that downsizing the office would be more appropriate, as doing so would allow the government to maintain this quasi-diplomatic status?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Department of State Development advises —

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

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OVERSEAS TRADE OFFICES

**17. Hon BRIAN ELLIS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:**

With respect to Western Australian trade offices located overseas —

- (1) Will the Labor government retain all the current trade offices at their current staffing levels; and, if not, which will be closed or downgraded?
- (2) Will these trade offices continue with their current functions; and, if not, which offices will have changed functions and what will these functions comprise?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Department of State Development advises —

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

## MINISTERS OF THE CROWN — MOTOR VEHICLE ENTITLEMENTS

**18. Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:**

I refer to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Executive Transport Service, formerly the Government Garage.

- (1) Which ministers have been provided with a departmental motor vehicle arising from their office held; and, if so, detail the make and model of the vehicle?
- (2) Has any minister, having received a departmental vehicle, ceased to have access to the vehicle or returned the vehicle to the department?
- (3) Of those ministers who have been provided with a departmental vehicle arising from the office held, which ministers are also supplied with a government lease vehicle arising from the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal determination?
- (4) When did the Premier write to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal in relation to this matter and will he table this correspondence?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1)–(4) The Premier became aware of this issue as part of incoming government briefings and has since written to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal requesting that the tribunal reconsider its determination.

**Hon Peter Collier** interjected.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Does the member want me to read out the answer that I have in front of me?

**Hon Peter Collier** interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Let us hear the answer.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** I am trying to read the answer that I have been given.

**Hon Michael Mischin** interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Let us hear the answer.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** The determination by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal was made on 1 December 2016 under the previous government, the government to which the honourable member belonged, and was not made public. It is disappointing that this was kept —

Several members interjected.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** I will have to start again. It is disappointing that this was kept secret and it is disappointing that this government has been forced to clean it up. This affects all ministers and, as such, the government is moving to have it rectified as soon as possible. The Premier has proposed a simple remedy to this arrangement—to return to the previous determination concerning office holder vehicle entitlements, which would see metropolitan-based ministers no longer able to receive both entitlements.

#### CANE TOADS

**19. Hon JIM CHOWN to the Minister for Environment:**

- (1) How far south have cane toads spread into Western Australia?
- (2) What effect has this incursion of cane toads into the state had on native fauna?

**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 Department of Parks and Wildlife —

- (1) Cane toads occur in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and have been confirmed in Fitzroy Crossing, at Drysdale station on the Kalumburu road, and in the Carson River catchment on Doongan station.
- (2) Cane toads have been known to impact on northern quolls and large reptile predators. Research and monitoring of these native fauna are occurring in the Kimberley.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT REGULATION — YARA TECHNICAL AMMONIUM NITRATE PLANT

**20. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the Minister for Environment:**

That was a very interesting answer to the previous question.

I refer to a photograph of a fume incident at the Yara technical ammonium nitrate plant on the Burrup Peninsula on 29 April at 21.48 and reported on the ABC North West WA's morning bulletin.

- (1) Was this event reported to the Environmental Protection Authority or the Department of Environment Regulation; and, if so, on what date and at what time?
- (2) Did the department attend site?
- (3) What caused the fume event and is there an investigation?
- (4) What was the purpose of Yara staff attending the adjacent Hearson's Cove public beach immediately after the event?
- (5) Was this nitrogen dioxide fume a level 1 pantone 155C, level 2 pantone 157C or higher release?
- (6) Were staff removed from site and for how long; and, if not, why not?

**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 Department of Environment Regulation —

- (1) Yes. Email notification was received by the Department of Environment Regulation at 11.31 am on 1 May 2017.
- (2) No.

- (3) The event occurred during start-up of the technical ammonium nitrate plant. The Department of Environment Regulation is currently investigating the incident.
- (4) Yara has not provided information to confirm staff movements such as this.
- (5) The Department of Environment Regulation is currently investigating the incident.
- (6) The Department of Environment Regulation has been advised that staff were not evacuated from site.

**METRONET — NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARANCE**

**21. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the Minister for Environment:**

I congratulate the minister on his appointment and wish him well.

I note the Labor position clearly on display during the recent election that no essential infrastructure can ever be built if it would involve cutting down a tree.

- (1) How much native vegetation is the government proposing to clear for Metronet projects, such as extending the rail line to Yanchep or Ellenbrook?
- (2) Has the Minister for Environment given approval for this clearing or at least been consulted about commencing the necessary processes?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this issue.

- (1)–(2) In light of the detail that would be required to answer such a question, I ask that the member put his question on notice so that he can have a fulsome answer in the future.

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, members! I am a trying to get around to giving members who have not yet had a chance to ask a question the opportunity.

**WATER FOR FOOD PROGRAM — SOUTH WEST**

**22. Hon COL HOLT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development:**

- (1) Is the minister committed to progressing the south west Water for Food program approved by the Liberal–National government, being the Myalup–Wellington project and southern forests irrigation project?
- (2) If yes to (1), what action is the minister taking to progress these two projects?

**Hon DARREN WEST replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) The projects the member refers to were rushed through cabinet in the final weeks of the Barnett government. All 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 that we deliver the best outcomes for regional Western Australia in a challenging fiscal environment.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FUTURE FUND**

**23. Hon DAVE GRILLS to the minister representing the Treasurer:**

My question of which some notice has been given is asked without emotion. I note that it is the government's intention that interest earned on the Western Australian Future Fund is to be redirected towards medical research in Western Australia.

- (1) Will the state government be introducing a bill to amend the Western Australian Future Fund Act 2012?
- (2) What, if any, financial modelling has been done on the impact of drawing down monies prior to June 2032?
- (3) Will the proposed changes allow the state government to maintain the balance of the future fund into perpetuity, predicted to be \$4.7 billion?

[Interruption.]

**The PRESIDENT:** Wherever that phone tone is coming from, I ask that the person involved put it on silent or turn the phone off.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Treasurer —

- (1)–(3) Like all election commitments of the new state government, the implementation of this commitment is being considered as part of the 2017–18 budget process. The outcomes of these deliberations will be transparently disclosed in the 2017–18 budget, to be released on 7 September 2017. As part of the 2016–17 midyear review, the Department of Treasury forecasts that the Western Australian Future Fund will have a balance of \$3.5 billion by 30 June 2032, relative to the unrealistic \$4.7 billion balance that was announced by the former government as part of the 2012–13 budget and that relied upon an unrealistic assumption of iron ore revenues remaining at historic highs.

MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES — CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

- (1) Have any ministers or parliamentary secretaries declared any conflicts of interest?  
 (2) If any ministers or parliamentary secretaries have made declarations, what is the nature of the conflicts?  
 (3) If yes to (1), have any ministers or parliamentary secretaries divested themselves of any conflicts?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I have an answer, but I want to add to it.

- (1)–(3) It is not possible to provide the information in the time required. I, therefore, ask the honourable member to place this question on notice. If I am able to, however, I will speak to the Premier's office and see whether we can get it to the member before he has to do that.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**25. Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN to the Minister for Education and Training:**

My question is without notice to 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?

*Point of Order*

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** On a point of order —

**The PRESIDENT:** There is no need. 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 believe that was the Leader of the House's point of order.

**Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN:** May I redirect the question to the Minister for Education and Training?

**The PRESIDENT:** I am feeling benevolent in my last couple of days. The member may read the question again in the right context.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN:** I redirect my question to the Minister for Education and Training. Would she indulge the house and outline what the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Training's role will be, considering that she is in the same chamber?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the member for the question. As the honourable member would be well aware, there are a lot of functions to be carried out in the roles in government outside the Parliament.

Several members interjected.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Do members want the answer to the question or not?

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! If you ask a question, you have to listen to the answer.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** The parliamentary secretary assists me in a number of ways, particularly in the training portfolio but not limited to the training portfolio, and I have to say that she is doing a sensational job. All the feedback I am receiving from stakeholders is that they too think that she is doing a sensational job.

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I will give the call to Hon Lynn MacLaren, because I am now confused about who on the opposition benches actually wants to ask a question.

## RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA — GREYHOUND PUPPY FARMING

**26. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Leader of the House representing Minister for Racing and Gaming:**

Thank you, Mr President. I am sure that in due course the opposition will figure out how to be the opposition.

**Hon Liz Behjat:** You're putting it on the record that you're the government, are you?

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** I know how to be the opposition, let me put it that way. I am available for training soon!

- (1) Given the government is opposed to puppy farming, what action will it take in the current practice of puppy farming for the purposes of greyhound racing?
- (2) If the government is not going to ban puppy farming of greyhounds, why not?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) Racing and Wagering Western Australia controls the issuing of licences to breed greyhound pups and is responsible for enforcing policies for breeding greyhounds. These policies cover several restrictions to prevent irresponsible breeding, including restricting female greyhounds to a limit of three litters. Licences can be withdrawn at any time by Racing and Wagering Western Australia for failure to adhere to industry standards and policies.
- (2) This is not applicable to the greyhound racing industry.

## HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

**27. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the Minister for Environment:**

What is the Labor government's position on hydraulic fracturing?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the member for his question. As the member would be aware, Labor went to the election with some policy on hydraulic fracturing, the detail of which I do not have. However, it did include a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing across the state. It also included a ban on hydraulic fracturing in the south west.

## CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE — LIMITATION PERIOD

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

I refer to Labor's promise to introduce a bill that there be no limitation period in a civil action that relates to personal injury resulting from child sexual abuse.

- (1) Has the minister or the department been consulted on the promised legislation?
- (2) If yes to (1), on how many occasions has such consultation occurred?
- (3) Further to (2), what form has that consultation taken?
- (4) Has the minister or the department raised any concerns with the promised regime that would see no limitation period in place?
- (5) If yes to (4), what are those concerns?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) No.
- (2)–(5) Not applicable.

## DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS — APPOINTMENT

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

I refer to the report in *The West Australian* of Friday, 7 April 2017 concerning the appointment of Ms Amanda Forrester, SC, as Director of Public Prosecutions and the comment that she was sworn in "after an interview process involving Solicitor-General Peter Quinlan and Attorney General John Quigley". Given that interviews were completed before Christmas 2016 and a short list of suitable appointees prepared and considered by the last Liberal Attorney General and the cabinet submission recommending Ms Forrester's appointment was prepared for the last Liberal government cabinet but deferred by reason of the pending election, what was Attorney General Quigley's involvement in the interview process?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question and for expressing his concern for the safety of our community in respect of crime rates. In his question, the member has admitted that the post also discussed tougher sentencing for meth traffickers —

**Hon Michael Mischin:** Sorry, wrong question.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** I am sorry. Was it not about the interview process?

**Hon Michael Mischin:** No, it was an interview process regarding the Director of Public Prosecutions.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** Can the member give me the number?

**Hon Michael Mischin:** C014.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** The member is right—sorry.

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, members! It is rare that you get the answer before the question is asked.

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** I do not seem to have the answer to that question but if it comes in before the end of question time, I will happily provide the member with the answer.

#### EDUCATION CENTRAL POLICY

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

I refer to the government's Education Central policy.

- (1) Has the minister visited any high-rise, inner-city schools in other states either before and/or after becoming minister?
- (2) If yes to (1), which schools has she visited and on what date or dates?
- (3) Who accompanied her on the visit or visits?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2)–(3) On 24 October 2016, as then shadow Minister for Education, I went to Melbourne, where I had an informal meeting with Hon James Merlino, Deputy Premier and Minister for Education; Emergency Services, and discussed inner-city schools with Chris Carpenter, policy adviser to Minister Merlino. During this trip, I also received a briefing on inner-city schools from Chris Keating, chief executive officer, and Tom Kirkland, executive director of delivery, of the Victorian School Building Authority. I visited the Ferrars Street South Melbourne Primary School site. Hayball, an architecture practice, was also present during the visit.

On 12 April 2017, as Minister for Education and Training, I visited the New South Wales Department of Education in Sydney. The department provided a presentation to me on the planning, design and construction of the new Parramatta primary and secondary school, Arthur Phillip. This did not include any school visits.

On the Melbourne visit in 2016, I was accompanied by Emmeline Drake-Brockman, my research officer. On the Sydney visit in 2017, I was accompanied by Hon Rita Saffioti, MLA, Minister for Planning; Sharyn O'Neill, director general, Department of Education; Stephen Baxter, executive director, statewide planning and delivery, Department of Education; Michael Watts, principal policy officer, office of the Minister for Planning; and, Kathy Digwood, chief of staff, Minister for Education.

#### WOODSIDE — KARRATHA GAS PLANT — ELECTRICAL FAULT

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

I refer to an incident that occurred at Woodside Energy's Karratha gas plant at 11.30 am on Saturday, 15 April 2017 and a series of photographs.

- (1) What was the electrical fault that caused the incident?
- (2) Has an inquiry into the incident been established?
- (3) Was this a code black emergency and is this the highest level of emergency out of how many levels?
- (4) Were workers at the plant mustered on site or ordered to evacuate; and, if so, for how long?
- (5) Were members of the public at adjacent beaches warned about the incident and evacuated?
- (6) What was the amount of gas that was vented or flared?

**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) An electrical fault in a substation as a result of a compressor motor short circuit caused the incident.
- (2) Yes. An investigation is ongoing.
- (3) “Code black” is not a Woodside or Department of Mines and Petroleum term. Four categories are used by DMP to describe incident events. This incident is currently defined as a category 3, the highest category being category 4, requiring Woodside to thoroughly investigate and report the findings to DMP.
- (4) Workers were mustered on site and there was no evacuation. DMP has not received information on how long workers were held at their mustering sites.
- (5) No.
- (6) The flaring of gas is consistent with the control processes for this type of incident. The amount of gas flared will be determined from the ongoing investigation.

**PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING***Point of Order — Questions without Notice 25*

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** Mr President, I have a point of order in relation to your ruling on asking questions of parliamentary secretaries. According to standing order 104, it would appear that parliamentary secretaries can actually be asked questions. Can I seek some clarification behind that?

**The PRESIDENT:** The Leader of the Opposition has raised a point of order in relation to standing order 104 and the asking of questions to parliamentary secretaries. In my ruling to ask the member who asked that question today to rephrase it to the minister, I was reflecting the standard custom in this house that has been adopted ever since parliamentary secretaries came into being. It is not explicitly outlined in standing order 104; therefore, I would like to take it on notice. It would be wiser if I report in full tomorrow or as soon as possible on that point of order.

**MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT — ELECTORATE STAFF — UNION SOLICITATION***Point of Order — Question without Notice 14*

**Hon LIZ BEHJAT:** Mr President, obviously I will be guided by you in these dying days of my term. I refer to standing order 109(2)(a) in relation to the answer to question without notice 14 that I asked the Leader of the House representing the Premier. In that answer I was directed to refer to the public sector award 1992. Firstly, there is no award called the public sector award 1992; it is the Public Service Award 1992. Other than that, the electorate officers to whom I referred in my question are actually employed under the Electorate Officers Awards 1986. I am wondering whether the Leader of the House might take the opportunity to correct the record after she sent me down the wrong rabbit hole.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Leader of the House may respond if she wishes at this time, but I would suspect that she would like to take that on notice and perhaps make a comment on that issue at the conclusion of question time tomorrow. In relation to that particular issue, I point out that in our house—in this Legislative Council—there is no capacity for a member to ask the President a direct question. There is in another place but not here. Of course, members can write to the President on various matters.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS — APPOINTMENT***Question without Notice 29 — Answer Advice*

**HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House)** [5.10 pm]: I have an answer to Hon Michael Mischin’s question without notice 29 about the appointment of the Director of Public Prosecutions. I provide that answer now.

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

The call for expressions of interest for appointment as Director of Public Prosecutions was publicly advertised during the term of the former government and a panel, chaired by the Solicitor General, considered each application, conducted interviews with selected applicants and consulted with interested persons. In accordance with ordinary conventions of cabinet, the Attorney General was not provided with any cabinet submissions prepared for the former government and is unaware of any decisions made by the former cabinet on this issue. The Attorney General independently assessed the results of the panel’s inquiries and recommendations, including the interviews conducted, and took further advice on this issue. His decision to recommend Ms Forrester’s appointment as Director of Public Prosecutions to the new cabinet was based upon her outstanding qualifications and extensive experience, without any reference to any decisions made by the former government.

[See page 57.]

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY***Motion*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting 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 BILL LEADBETTER (East Metropolitan)** [5.12 pm]: Who has not awakened on a warm spring morning to the siren song of the cicada? For years it gestates, grows and matures deep underground until finally it emerges and for six weeks sings to the skies, and then it is gone. I joined the Labor Party 19 years ago, and I have done what active party members do. I have been active in branches, I have convened policy bodies and I have run as a candidate in state and federal elections. My political self has gestated, grown and matured, and here I am today as a member of the Legislative Council, and I am here to sing, at least metaphorically. I will not trouble my parliamentary colleagues with my often inaccurate tenor–baritone, but I will speak my words with the zeal of a 19-year-old locust. This is my first speech in this chamber. It is also, formally, my last speech in this chamber. It is a hail and a farewell—in Latin, a language with which I am familiar, *ave atque vale*. One of my friends, who is present here, called it my “inaugudictory”. Such is my time in this Parliament, it is a mere shadow, a breath that goes out and is gone.

I begin with an acknowledgement. We stand in this house, in the city, on land that was once entrusted to the charge of the Whadjuk Noongar people. I acknowledge the survivors and descendants of that great nation as the traditional owners of this land, and I pay my respects to their elders—those who have passed by, those who are with us, and those who are yet to come.

With all of us, there is a deep substratum of people who have assisted us in becoming who we are, and what we bring to this place. We all stand on the shoulders of others, rather like that famous woodcut by Abraham Bosse that serves as the frontispiece of the original edition of Thomas Hobbes’ *Leviathan*. We are all people comprised of many other people—those who have raised us, taught us, encouraged us, laughed and mourned with us, struggled with us, and triumphed with us.

I have had, by a great many measures, a fortunate life. I grew up in Sydney, the son of Ruby, who was a teacher, and Arch, who was a policeman and then a social worker. Both my parents worked to meet the needs of others—to create possibilities for them and to keep them safe. After he left the police, my father became a social worker and worked amongst some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised members of our community, again working to give hope, possibility and security. Our house was full of books, music and vigorous conversations. My parents believed in the value of education, and sacrificed much to give me the best education they could, and I was always expected to go to university. In this, I did not disappoint them, although I might have, in my chosen course of study. They hoped that I would do law, but I chose history. If they were disappointed in that, they did not show it for very long.

I was fortunate, too, to have been born at a time when universities were free. That meant not only that I could go, but also that there were a whole lot of people at Macquarie University, my alma mater, who otherwise might not have been there. Universities were beginning a process—unfortunately reversed over the past two decades—of opening themselves up to working people, midlife women and retirees, all of whom went seeking an education rather than job training. I was a beneficiary of this, as was my wife, who was enabled to attend the University of Western Australia and study medicine, as was her sister, and her brothers who were also able to go to university. My wife’s family, the Norman family—the four children of a policeman who was later an ambulance officer—were all given that possibility once denied to their parents and previous generation. How those people have enriched our community.

I share my parents’ faith in education as a means of personal, social and intellectual improvement. That is one of the key reasons I am in the Labor Party. It is a party of education—the party that opened up universities to people beyond elite private schools and selective state schools; the party that consistently seeks equity in education by establishing transparency and driving reform in funding models. It is to be regretted that the Abbott government trashed the original Gonski funding package pretty much at the first chance it had, and that the Turnbull government has only recently announced that it is developing a new version that still serves, while talking about equity and fairness, to cut overall funding for education. In this context, it is always the poorest who suffer most. The Barnett government prided itself on being a reform government in education through the introduction of independent public schools. But education reform consists of a great deal more than rebranding schools and devolving to them the management of funds.

Actual education reform puts the needs of students first, and that includes a commitment to those most in need of individual attention. Actual education reform ensures that teachers are well prepared for their profession, well supported with resources and assistants, and well respected by students, parents and the broader community.

I was fortunate to have had a mother who was an exceptional teacher with an abiding love for literature—for Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Andrew Marvell and Gerard Manley Hopkins. I had wonderful teachers, too, at primary school and secondary school and at tertiary level. They opened my eyes to the wonders of the world and the glory of the humanities. Above all, they taught me to learn and became the models for my life as a teacher. It has been my privilege, as some members may know, to spend a lot of time in ancient Rome. I was led there by Richard Rowling and Margaret Beattie, Ted Nixon and Edwin Judge. With such excellent guides, I met some truly fascinating people who remain my intellectual friends to this day.

When I was contemplating running for office a couple of years ago, I consulted the Roman expert on this: Cicero. In his study of the Roman state, imaginatively called *On the Commonwealth*, or, more romantically in Latin, *De republica*, he makes a familiar observation: no-one likes a politician. So, colleagues, take comfort that even in the years of the Roman republic 2 100 years ago, politics had a bad reputation. Cicero asked the question: why would a sensible person involve themselves in politics? Why would anyone put themselves through that, when integrity, honesty, and motivation are consistently questioned and impugned? Cicero's answer was simple: someone has to do it, and it is better that it is someone of integrity, honesty and good motives. We cannot help what people say about us; we can only be true to ourselves. As someone who is a deep believer in the value of a tertiary education, whether trade training or education in a profession, I have a hope, and I cling on to this hope—a dream—that young people in Perth's eastern suburbs might aspire to attend a university in their own backyard.

In the recent state election campaign, and, indeed, the campaign before that, the Liberals in Midland sought to make much of the establishment of Curtin University's medical school on the site of the former Midland railway workshops. "Look," it was stated and trumpeted in the press, "we have brought a university to Midland"—only if a rind is a cheese or a peel is a fruit. That was a shadow and a shell of a university and will continue to be until real investment is made. We need, and continue to need, a real tertiary institution for Midland, centrally located in the eastern suburbs, to which all young people can aspire and which offers hope to all those who wish to retrain, requalify, or simply grow through learning, and not have to commute long distances to do so. But there is not much point in the foundation of such institutions if students are priced out of their aspirations. One reason that my parents could aspire for me to go to university in a full-fee environment was that Menzies Liberals supported universities through a generous commonwealth scholarships scheme. Now no such scheme exists—just more fees and debt.

Here in Western Australia, the previous state government increased TAFE fees by 510 per cent; that is, they more than quintupled what students were expected to pay for their professional training. Unfortunately, given the parlous state of the budget with which we were left, it will be a long time before those fees can be reduced sufficiently to make TAFE education as affordable as it should be for young people. In the same way, the commonwealth's new round of university funding cuts will price out of the market not only the poorest people, but also people who otherwise could have attended—people who are quite important and gain from universities in a special way, such as mature age people, and many are women. I do not accept that universities can afford these cuts because the cost of course delivery has fallen below the income generated. For the most part, those costs have fallen because universities have increasingly casualised their academic workforce, which has led to both a hollowing out of the academic profession in Australia and a migration of many academics to better supported tertiary education systems in the United States, Canada and Great Britain. For many years, universities were punished for being prodigal; now they are punished for being frugal.

My parents did not just give me a belief in the inherent value of education. When I was a teenager, about to start my first job, my mother said something that has always stayed with me: "Always join the union, my son. It was the union that fought for your wages and your conditions, and it is only the union that will watch out for you." This, I remind my parliamentary colleagues, was from a Menzies Liberal: "Always join the union", and so I always have. When I was a university student, I was an active member of my students' union and was heavily involved in reforming what was then the Australian Union of Students. When I edited the student newspaper *Arena* at Macquarie University, I joined what was then the Printing and Kindred Industries Union, the PKIU. When I became a teacher, I joined the Australian Education Union. When I became an academic, I joined the National Tertiary Education Union—a union of which I am still a proud member.

I am grateful for the work of all those unions and all those like them. I am offended by the trash-talking and demonisation of unions by conservatives in our community. I do not accept any proposition that employers create jobs to benefit the people whom they employ; they create jobs in order to derive a profit from their business. That is not criticism; it is observation. The point of a business is to generate a profit, and that is done by maximising income and minimising costs. Unions protect workers from the dangers that are inherent in that and stand up for safety on worksites, and they should be applauded for that rather than castigated by

a conservative commentariat as obstacles to economic growth or fined for doing their job. Not so long ago we witnessed in this country a deliberate judicial attack on the union movement through the Heydon royal commission. There were genuine issues to be addressed, and they were addressed. There were real rorters and thieves to be identified and about 40 of them were identified from the entire union movement across the entire nation. About 40 people were referred to relevant authorities and to this point there has been one conviction, and still the conservatives, the defenders of bank rorters and tax evaders, continue to pillory the union movement for being self-serving and corrupt. In this respect, a few unions have come in for some pretty heavy treatment. No union, for example, has been more criticised than the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union. We regularly heard, especially during the debate on the reinstatement of the Australian Building and Construction Commission, that the CFMEU was a bunch of thugs and bullies who needed to be brought into line, yet it is the CFMEU that is there when people die or are seriously injured in the workplace. When people die on building sites—and they do—it is CFMEU members who bear the brunt of those terrible tragedies, as witnesses, as first responders and as campaigners for justice. I do not condemn the CFMEU for being robust in seeking to protect its members, because it is safeguarding not just the livelihoods of those members but their very lives.

In the same way, we are often told what a bunch of uncompromising militants the Maritime Union of Australia is. Well, of course it is. The MUA has to be militant. The Howard government tried to wipe out that union. I well remember that national assault on a trade union. It happened not long after I came to Perth in 1998. I remember just how militant the commonwealth government was in seeking to crush that union. I remember the dogs and the riot police and the constant attempts to provoke violence. However, I also know that the MUA stands for something more than good wages and conditions. It stands up—it stands up for Australian jobs and for Australian workers.

This is a talk that Prime Minister Turnbull talks, most recently in his pea-and-thimble trick with 457 visas. Yet his government persists in the deregulation of the maritime industry, which encourages the growth of flag of convenience shipping and the export of Australian maritime jobs. At a time when security is tightening internationally in the transport sector, the commonwealth is lifting security requirements. At a time when we need a trained and proficient merchant marine, the commonwealth is exporting those jobs to the Philippines. Who is really doing the job of standing up for the country here? Is it the commonwealth, whose members are sworn to do so, or it is the MUA, whose members are, more frequently, simply sworn at? I applaud the MUA, and I understand its militancy. This is not a sector in which moderation will serve, since it has not been offered either by employers or by their political allies.

It is not very long since the appalling employment rorts in the 7-Eleven franchise were laid bare by the media. For this, we have to thank the tireless efforts of members of United Voice and the SDA. We have here a demonstrated case in which, across a franchised operation, employers have systematically exploited their workers and underpaid them—in effect, stealing their labour. United Voice and the SDA are to be commended, not condemned, for standing up for those workers, and for workers like them who are still vulnerable and subject to abuse.

These are not historic cases. I am not delving into the depths of history here. These are examples from contemporary Australia and recent memory. These stories tell me that the dark satanic mills of William Blake's poem, the age of the workhouse, the sweatshop, piecework and day labour, could so easily return without the steady vigilance of the sentinels of the union movement. My mother was right when she said to always join the union. I am proud to be a unionist, just as I am proud to be Labor. As I have said, mum and dad were both Menzies Liberals, but not so partisan that they would not have set that aside for me. They have both been gone for 25 years, but I feel them with me every day, and I feel, too, their swelling pride in this moment.

I came to Western Australia 19 years ago to teach history at Edith Cowan University. My education in Western Australian politics began almost immediately. Harry Phillips was my office neighbour and I learned much from snatched or long conversations with him, either with me standing in his doorway, cup of coffee in hand, or Harry standing in my doorway, cup of coffee in hand. I also came to know a former member of this place, Bob Hetherington, now sadly departed. It was Bob who first brought me to Parliament House for lunch. It was Bob who first brought me into this chamber to walk through it surreptitiously. I did not think 19 years ago when I first entered this chamber that I would return to it in a different capacity.

Not long after I arrived in Western Australia, I joined the Labor Party. I joined to make friends and to settle into my Western Australian life. My inquiries were welcomed by one of the assistant state secretaries of the WA Labor Party at that time, Bill Johnston, who is well known to members of this place and I am honoured to say is now the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Commerce and Industrial Relations; Electoral Affairs; Asian Engagement. I am glad he has found time to pop in and listen to this debate. Bill sent me to a meeting of the Perth sub-branch to have my membership approved. The president of that sub-branch was Greg Roberts. Greg Roberts has been my firm friend and supporter ever since in matters both personal and political. It was Greg who initiated me into the ways of the Labor Party and encouraged my entry into politics every step of the way. Together, Greg and I have walked on Roman bridges in France, fished unsuccessfully off Ocean Beach in

Denmark, pruned fruit trees, driven the hills of Perth, and, I have to say, eaten countless lunches. It was Greg who stood at my side when I married my wife, Margo. It was Greg who managed me with great diligence—and probably some frustration—during the long campaign for the seat of Hasluck. It is Greg who still keeps me going. If this honourable member seems to be sailing serenely along, it is because Greg is somewhere in the background, making it all happen.

Greg is not, of course, a solo act. He is, for his wife, Michelle, the model of the loyal, supportive and ever-present political spouse. It is along with Greg that I came to know Hon Michelle Roberts. I have had two phone calls that have been life altering, in a good way. Both those phone calls were from Michelle. The first was in 2007, inviting me to join her ministerial office as speechwriter and principal policy officer for heritage. In that office I learned ways to transform political ideals and ideas into the daily reality of helping people and how to seek consistently to make their lives better. In this I could hope for no better role model, mentor and friend than Hon Michelle Roberts. I have now worked for, and beside her, for 10 years. Michelle is a person of deep belief, unwavering principle and profound personal loyalty. She is also immensely generous. I remember when I worked in her ministerial office celebrating a certain birthday with a zero in it. She marked the occasion by baking the most delicious lemon meringue tarts. They remain the best I have ever tasted. At my wedding, Michelle arranged the buttonholes for the groom, best man and groomsmen, and, in a delightful surprise, ensured that every table at the reception was decorated with flowers. The second phone call was in November 2015. I was on Rottneest, about to begin a weekend's retreat, and the phone rang. It was Michelle, suggesting that I put my name forward for preselection for Hasluck. And so a great adventure began that is not wholly over. Throughout that time, she has been stalwart in support, sagacious in counsel, and always ready to help. I am honoured to have her as my friend.

I have made other friends too in that time. One is Margaret Quirk, MLA. Margaret is passionate, compassionate, smart, frank—members know how frank!—and consistently underestimated, and also, I now discover, a great pal to share an office with. Others include Hon Kate Doust, for whom I once briefly worked and with whom I am privileged to serve in this chamber, and likewise Hon Sally Talbot, whose Denmark hospitality is, I think, proverbial.

Elsewhere in the party and in the great cloud of witnesses who surround me, I would add, in the federal sphere, Matt Keogh and Tim Hammond, who have been consistent friends and supporters; locally, Steve Wainwright, who ran my 2010 Pearce campaign; Jean Wainwright, who is a constant source of pragmatic wisdom; and Julie Wainwright, who tried to staff every polling booth in Pearce. If members know the federal seat of Pearce, they will know how hard that is. I also mention John Gangell, who is a tireless grassroots campaigner; Emi Barzotto, my boss first and then my friend, who has a very clear vision and a long memory; Elizabeth Roberts, my style consultant; Mark and Geoff, who put their lives on hold for a time to work in my office; and Luke, Frank, Angela, Sally-Ann, Rachel, Jacob, Leesa, Aimee, Damian and Mikaela and so many others. The list is long and it grows longer the more I think about it.

When I came to Perth, WA Labor was not the only family that I found. After a time, I also became a member of the cathedral congregation of St George. I am an Anglican and I take my faith seriously. It has been the deepest part of me for most of my life, and it is one of the reasons that I stand here in this place and speak. Since I was 19 years old, I have been impelled to work, in all the ways that I have been able, for justice in our community. I find the reason for this best expressed by Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book *Ethics*; a book he was still writing when he was executed by the Nazis in the dying days of World War II. He wrote —

The hungry man needs bread and the homeless man needs a roof; the dispossessed need justice and the lonely need fellowship; the undisciplined need order and the slave needs freedom. To allow the hungry man to remain hungry would be blasphemy against God and one's neighbour, for what is nearest to God is precisely the need of one's neighbour.

I have learned much from the cathedral, firstly from both of the deans I have known, Rev Dr John Shepherd, AM, and the Very Reverend Richard Pengelley, and from the many good friends that I have made there and, I have to say, continue to make. It was Peter Bedford, now a professor in the United States, who introduced me to the cathedral community, and Catherine Arends who suggested that I make it my home. I shall always be grateful to them for that, and for many other things.

The final two people I wish to acknowledge this afternoon are those souls who make my life complete—my wife, Margo, and my daughter, Maia. Margo is a formidable person and it is a constant source of wonder to me that she chose me to be her husband. Not only does she run a demanding obstetric practice that sometimes requires she leave the warmth of bed at home at 2.00 am for a delivery, but she is also loyal, forthright, generous and, above all, kind. Kindness is a virtue that we are all too short of, especially in public life when there is a craving for the instant critique, the kneejerk cheap shot or the zinger of a put-down. That is not her nature. Her nature is the patience and kindness that she has shown in supporting her aberrant husband's political adventures, whether with wise counsel, financial support or the simple and deeply faithful act, which members will appreciate, of staffing a polling booth all day!

My daughter, Maia, is the most powerful reason I have for doing anything. Although we have lived in different cities since she was five years of age, she remains a vital part of my life. She is now on the cusp of adulthood. I want to ensure in whatever ways that I can that the world in which she lives and moves is morally and materially better than the difficult and cluttered “now” that we currently experience.

It is worth remembering, amid all of the words, that what we do in this place and what is done in every Parliament has a genuine consequence for the material wellbeing of a great many people. It is worth remembering, too, that the opposing sides that we take in any debate here might, in other communities, in other lands, in other times or in other contexts be the entrenched positions in a more violent conflict. I believe that the first gift that we can give to the future is to preserve and enhance parliamentary democracy, which is what we do instead of civil war and what Westminster Parliaments have done since the restoration of Charles II in 1660. I want the next generation to believe in this funny, wonky and quirky system as much as I do. One challenge for the fortieth Parliament will be the constitution of this chamber since it remains gerrymandered in favour of rural constituencies. I am pleased to see that this matter has already been raised by Hon Bill Johnston in his role as Minister for Electoral Affairs.

Parliaments and governments do good work, but that is obscured by a hyperactive and scandal-hungry media. The problem, for which there is no easy answer, is to build a degree of public trust in the integrity of our institutions. We cannot function as a community if we do not trust the things that are there for our benefit—the police, the legal profession, the justice system, the schools, the teaching profession, the hospitals, and the nursing and medical professions. I want a future for my daughter in which those institutions are naturally trusted and in which corrupt behaviour is regarded as unusual and aberrant. I want a future for my daughter in which she can be whomever she can be, marry whomever her heart beats for, embrace whatever religion she wishes, or none, because no matter how powerful the nostalgia for a past that never was remains, amongst both the mainstream and marginal conservative movements, the multicultural boat sailed a long time ago and it is not turning around. I bless the fact we have a multicultural community. I love its depth and I revel in its joy. One thing I have been able to do in my short time as an MP is attend a number of cultural festivals, and what a boon they are to our broader community. Multiculturalism is about so much more than a wider range of food in food halls. It is about the depth to our shared culture as each community, from our first Australians to our latest arrivals, adds their own history to our common experience, and what we are often accustomed to thinking of as a young country turns out to be very ancient indeed.

For this to continue to work as well as it has, we need to be so much better than merely tolerant. Tolerance is ambiguous and insipid. We need to go higher—to acceptance and to celebration—and we need to remember something that our teachers tried to teach us in school: we need to remember to listen to one another. That is the wonderful thing about this place. It is a place for speaking—in French, parlement—and if for speaking, then for listening. In Parliament, we get our best work done in committees when we are actively listening to one another. If we spend all of our time sitting in our quarantined silos, shouting slogans at one another, then neither our political life nor our public institutions will prosper. Rather, they and we will fragment and our community will become a society of competing truths, forever seeking to trump one another rather than learning from one another.

The temptation to open our mouths and close our ears is deep and perennial, and it has become more and more enticing as extremists have flourished and moderation has been spurned. When my daughter Maia was 18 months old the world in which we live changed suddenly and dramatically. The images of aeroplanes flying into the twin towers in New York remain with me, as they do with many people—and I am sure many of you in this chamber. It was an event that changed our world profoundly. It led to wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, to the emergence of Daesh, to the collapse of dictatorships in Libya and Syria, to the stifling of Turkish pluralism, and to acts of random terror, even here in Australia, and even to the tightening of security in this chamber. Make no mistake: the enemy that we face is the enemy of moderation, secularism, pluralism, multiculturalism and human rights. It is the enemy of not only Christians, Jews and secularists, but also Muslims the world over. The best form of resistance to such a foe is to be ourselves; to celebrate a society in which many cultures can form a single community and people of many faiths can pray together for peace. That is the world I want for my daughter, her friends, her sister and her generation.

Mr President, 11 March marked a new stage in the life of our state. Labor’s decisive victory heralds, dare I say it, a fresh approach to government in this state. One of the hallmarks of the previous government was that, while it was prepared to put an enormous amount of resources and energy into legacy projects like Elizabeth Quay, Perth Stadium or the rolling disaster that is Perth Children’s Hospital, it was not prepared to devote a similar amount of energy to actually running the state. One of the key issues that the McGowan government is delivering on, and doing so early, is to commence the long process of reforming the public sector, a sector that has been permitted by a practice, which I can only describe as maligned neglect, to balloon out of control.

I have to say that I am really excited and impressed by the policy by which Perth Modern School will be taken into the twenty-first century. I know many will feel nostalgic for wood panelling—I can see in this chamber the reasons for doing so—but wood panelling and heritage are not in themselves things that make a great school. Just ask the governors of Hale School who have moved that school twice in its history. What makes a great

school is not real estate, but community; that is just as possible in a CBD high-rise as it is in an Edwardian grammar school. I commend the McGowan Labor government and the Minister for Education and Training, my parliamentary colleague Hon Sue Ellery, for this far-sighted policy, and I look forward to the day when Perth Modern will actually be modern.

Moreover, as someone who lives on the fringe of the urban fringe, right at the edge of the city at Bullsbrook, I also eagerly anticipate the day when I can park and ride into the city from Ellenbrook railway station. These are the projects that matter far more to people than a riverfront development with a toxic water park at its heart. I am honoured that even for this brief and shining moment I am a member of a government that will do these things.

Mr President, it only remains for me to wish you well. You have served this Parliament and this state honourably and diligently. You are an adornment to this Parliament and your presence in this chamber has been a steadying influence as governments have come and gone. You have been an outstanding servant of the people of Western Australia and upon your retirement you shall be missed.

This Legislative Council is as old as the colony of Western Australia. Great ones have sat here—indeed, still sit here. It has been my honour to have become one of that number. By next week it shall all be gone; this moment, a treasured memory. Many of my Parliamentary colleagues here will still be here and they will be joined by others. Certainly, this Council will still be here, carrying on the work that was begun in 1829, and so will the need to represent the people of Western Australia in this place. It is a weighty task, but I am sure that the incoming members of the fortieth parliament will be up to it. I thank the house.

[Applause.]

*Sitting suspended from 5.57 to 7.30 pm*

**HON LYNN MacLAREN (South Metropolitan)** [7.30 pm]: Tonight, I rise to respond to the Governor and, more importantly, to say farewell. I acknowledge that we meet on Aboriginal land of the Whadjuk Noongar people and first off I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. There are many people in the public gallery whom I wish to welcome—kaya—and acknowledge. I will do so throughout my valedictory comments tonight.

One person who is not here—already with the water!—but who is listening on the internet in the early morning in Oregon is my mother. I will get this over with in the beginning; I want to acknowledge her at the outset. She has been a wonderful role model of independence, strength and compassion. To Madeleine and her partner Scotty in Medford, I want to say thank you for your support, your love and your encouragement. When my mother, father and I set out in the family car through the snow covered San Bernardino mountains towards Los Angeles International Airport in January 1979, there was no way of knowing that the journey would lead to this teary farewell from the first American-born representative in Western Australian Parliament in 2017. My home in the Californian Mojave Desert, which would see the trial of the first concentrated solar plant in 1981, was a long, long way from the Swan coastal plain—almost exactly half a globe away. But like any journey, it began with a spark of an idea, a rough plan and, in my case, the courage to improvise.

It has been an honour and a privilege to represent the South Metropolitan Region of Western Australia for the past eight years. The region has a great many Aboriginal elders who carry its stories and share a wisdom of the oldest living culture on the planet with all who are ready to hear it. I want to thank those leaders in our communities who shared their knowledge and sought to educate me. In my 20 years in Greens politics in this region, I feel like I have only begun to connect to the land and its people. I have been humbled to bring a voice to many issues of the traditional owners. I want to express my appreciation to the elders of this region whom I have come to know just a little bit during my time in Parliament: Reverend Sealin Garlett and Marilyn Garlett, Marie Taylor, Noel Nannup and Shaun Nannup, Trevor Walley and Dr Richard Walley—who was just here for the opening—Charlie Kickett, whom I met only recently down in Rockingham, Len Collard, and Matthew and Barry McGuire. I also acknowledge some of the emerging elders and wise women in our region, many of whom I hope will remain my friends and some of whom are with us today: Della Rae Morrison, Karla Hart, Ingrid Cumming, Corina Abraham Howard, Dorinda Cox, Marianne Mackay and Tammy Solonec. There are so many more I cannot list them all here, but I want all to know how I respect them greatly. I am in awe of their resilience in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges.

For the past four years, serving as one of only two Greens in Parliament, I have extended my reach to help people throughout the state wherever possible. I have a long list of portfolios for which I was responsible to keep abreast of parliamentary actions and to maintain relationships with people and organisations. I note that many people joining us in the public gallery tonight are from some of these organisations. Thank you for your support. I just want to mention a couple of groups because I saw them earlier. I have worked with FOODwatch for a long time. People are also here from Point Peron for the People, Hands Off Point Peron, Safe Schools Coalition Australia and the No WA Shark Cull coalition, as well as members of social justice movements, animal rights organisations, wildlife carers and local councils. This parliamentary term has been incredibly rewarding and rich with experiences. I want to share some of the highlights of the 2013 to 2017 term.

It should come as no surprise to anyone that the first thing I am going to mention is saving Beeliar wetlands. At great environmental cost and what I imagine has wielded a terrible impact on the spiritual, cultural and historical sites in the area near Bibra Lake, North Lake and Coolbellup bushland in the weeks leading up to the election, we saved Beeliar wetlands from the construction of the Roe Highway stage 8 extension. Thousands of people took part in almost daily demonstrations, rallies and protest actions. The local wetland protectors, wildlife carers and spiritual custodians were generous in sharing their knowledge. We learnt about nonviolent direct action. We formed affinity groups. Mums became liaison officers, musicians became organisers and individuals became a community. Several people were arrested and charged. Many people were fined and some charges were subsequently dropped or lessened. The actions of the police have been subject to complaint and an inquiry has been requested. The wheels of bureaucracy are much slower than the courts. Although the new government has announced running a fine toothcomb through the previous Treasurer's accounts, it has been silent about the use of force by the police—the charging horses and the unmuzzled dogs that patrolled the fences, the loss of trust in Her Majesty's finest. Tears fell today, months after the machines were silenced, when I passed by the scars of the land ripped by dozers, the mounds of soil in place of a biodiversity bonanza and the trees shredded, reduced to steaming mulch piles. The animals—the fortunate few animals—were relocated, but many, many more were massacred. The crawling, creeping, hopping, slinking ones who could not fly away would not be caught in traps. On Sunday, I planted a Tuart tree in what would have been the shadow of the tall Rottnest Island pines at the corner of Hope and Progress Roads. It would have been in the shadow of those ancient pines had the contractor not chopped off the tops, leaving stumps that still tower over the now barren landscape, a stone's throw from the riverbank where the Beeliar people once camped. Hundreds—perhaps thousands—of people will plant and weed and nurture the soil until the scars burst back into life now that the election has been won.

Bitterly, I reminisce over the rally in 2005 when Labor candidates said that they would stop the highway. Like marriage equality, it is well past time for them to deliver. From little things, big things grow. How long ago was it? It was 2004 and I worked for Hon Jim Scott when Mark Hingston, Joe Branco, Professor Phil Jennings and Felicity McGeorge—now Bairstow—with a handful of others alongside the Noongar people defended this patch from the Stephenson–Hepburn planned highway so long ago. I recall Joe holding an Environmental Protection Authority report from 2004 that concluded Roe 8 should never be. They knew it then, and the Liberal Party in government knew it before; in 2016, when the Liberal Party's pollsters reported its demise, before the bulldozers and the police were deployed to destroy and to defend the destroyers. I have to say it. This is my last parliamentary speech, and I have to say it: shame on you! I have looked into the eyes of those very young girls and boys who came to their beloved bushland and wonderland nature playground to watch the machines rip it apart. They hoped it would stop because their parents were protesting. I know the cost of the former government's policy, the lack of vision, the alternatives, the respect for nature, and now perhaps it, too, knows it. Perhaps because the Liberal Party so comprehensively lost the election it will rethink the link. The lost boys: the once-Liberal members for Jandakot, Southern River and now Bicton are among those who paid the price. I am reminded of a verse —

They would not listen, they did not know how  
Perhaps they'll listen now.

Over my time in Parliament I have been an ardent advocate for planning with environment at its heart. Because of the significance of the Roe 8 campaign in the state election I wanted to outline our tireless work. Since 2005 I have asked questions about the Environmental Protection Authority, the environmental approvals, the land acquisition, the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee, the metropolitan region scheme amendments, the federal funding, the implementation conditions, the business case and the contracts. Much work is still to be done in this term of Parliament, and I regret not being here to see it through.

In March 2012 I moved a motion to initiate an amendment to the metropolitan region scheme to delete the zoning of the road reserve of the area proposed for Roe 8. I asked a question yesterday about this government's plan for that, and we did not get a decent answer. As I leave this chamber I implore members who have this responsibility to ensure that work is done with haste. That unfinished business needs to be completed, and a great cost has been paid. Please, do that. If members have learned anything from this election, they should do that, because the people have spoken in their numbers.

In August 2015 I presented a petition calling for a Legislative Council inquiry to investigate the alternative proposal for an outer harbour. That was unsuccessful in this chamber. I have since written to the Auditor General requesting that his office undertakes an investigation into the government's decision-making processes for Perth Freight Link. I actively supported the Aboriginal heritage legal case, as members know, by asking questions month after month and waiting for papers to be tabled on the very last day; eventually we got those papers.

I put forward alternatives; I was not just complaining. I wanted to put forward alternatives because that is what the Greens are here to do. I put forward an alternative for the outer harbour and the transport solutions. I worked in partnership with those communities—the Save Beeliar Wetlands people and the Rethink the Link people.

I attended numerous community events and I spoke at many rallies. If anyone was following me on Facebook, every morning I was broadcasting live directly from the area so that Australians knew what was at risk and how people were prepared to stand up for it.

Most recently, during the election campaign, I called for a parliamentary inquiry with one of the terms of reference being the decision to invest more half a billion dollars of taxpayer funds without conducting any business case or other stage of a gateway review. I think maybe the Labor government is onto this now; maybe this review into the Treasurer's decision-making processes will reveal something. This inquiry was also to look into the traffic modelling and noise pollution; the breaches of environmental conditions, including adequate offsets; and, the failure to follow the management plans, including and in relation to fauna. What happened to that fauna is well documented. There was also the destruction of known spiritual and archaeological sites, and the handling of serious health concerns around asbestos. Members, this mask was on my wardrobe. When we went down to Beeliar wetlands to protest we were in fear of asbestos; we were given masks because it was a serious concern. That has yet to be investigated. Please, please, do that for me. Look into that and make sure that WorkSafe Western Australia did its job; and, if it did not, why not, who was at risk and why is there asbestos still covered there? What is going on down there? The Minister for Environment is in this chamber. We are delighted to have a new environment minister, and I really do ask him to take up this call.

In the aftermath of this destruction there is even more work to be done. I lament not being here, and I could not help but use part of my valedictory remarks to set this to-do list for the government. It is hard for a Greens activist to be in a position like this—to be able to voice concerns and bring issues to Parliament—and then no longer be here and silenced. Next week I will be silenced. It will be up to the former opposition; the current opposition made this decision, so, really, I depend on the current government to do this.

A total of 213 arrests were made. Let us think about that: 213 people were arrested trying to stop something from happening that the new government, as soon as it got in, said it would not do. What justice is there for those 213 people who acted in the public good and whose actions were vindicated, I would argue, in the end? Each one of them has a record for assault or trespass. What happened? Let us think about those 213 people who were courageous in their activism. The legal team supporting the arrested people is calling for a minority of the police who they believe acted unlawfully to be investigated. More importantly, there needs to be a thorough investigation into the systemic issues raised, such as the culture of policing and the hostility towards nonviolent protesters and the way people were targeted and vilified. I saw that myself. No police force is perfect, but let us not look away. If people made errors, mistakes or acted wrongly, let us get it out in the open. We would like an inquiry into the actions of the police.

I think back to when I was working for Hon Giz Watson and we wrote a letter to the police about the training provided for nonviolent direct action. What kind of training do police have to deal with nonviolent direct action? It is a thing. Ever since the 1960s—possibly before; I think I mentioned it in my peaceful protest speech—people have been practising nonviolent direct action, maybe for centuries. Our police should know how to deal with that without going over the top with horses in people's faces. That is not asking much. I see that the former Minister for Police from the other place is here. I know she is listening intently, and I hope that in opposition she will maybe have an opportunity to look at this.

I have a list of the charges. One person was arrested for obstructing police officers; 73 people were arrested for trespass; there were 63 charges for trespass and obstructing public officers; and there were 14 arrest warrants. The rest of the charges were of disorderly behaviour, one breach of a violence restraining order, criminal damage and no authority to drive. If members had watched the news they would think it was the Mafia out there: these people are mums and dads, students and public servants, and they were all just trying to protect this little piece of bushland. The response was well over the top. Enough said; I just wanted to put on the parliamentary record that there is business to be done and that part of my career has been to try to protect the Beeliar wetlands. On reflection, in spite of everything that we tried, we did not get anything achieved until the eleventh hour. Let us not wait for the eleventh hour the next time a member brings up something this critical. Maybe we could avoid that next time, and that is why I am sharing my reflections.

The other big thing that I have to talk about is stopping the drum lines. This term kicked off with a summer of shark killing on the government agenda. We defeated its drum line program by working with the community and exposing the irrationality of shark culling. It was a hot summer morning at Scarborough Beach in the auditorium where Missy Higgins would later perform when I laid out our terms for what we called Barnett's surrender: respect existence or expect resistance. It was a cry I repeated at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre three summers later as the campaign to stop Roe 8 heated up. In true Australian style, we met them on the beaches in 2014, first at Cottesloe, where thousands gathered in the largest protest rally we have seen since the 1998 rallies to save old-growth forests, and then, when at first the government refused to back down, dozens took direct action by monitoring those drum lines, by documenting the deaths and by publicising the irrationality of the program. In December 2013, the government announced its intention to use lethal drum lines, surprising most community and marine stakeholders. The first rally at Cottesloe Beach on 4 January 2014 was organised in days

by concerned scuba enthusiasts and other ocean users. Six thousand protesters were at the rally on Cottesloe Beach on 1 February 2014. That was an amazing time; I was so blessed to be there. Early in 2014, Sea Shepherd attempted to secure a court injunction to force the government to suspend its policy, and the Greens called for a motion to revoke the exemption to kill protected sharks given to WA. The Environmental Protection Authority received hundreds of submissions asking it to assess or reject the EPA drum line trial. To his credit, the chair, Paul Vogel, who is no longer with the EPA, first said that the drum line trial would not be investigated as the environmental impact would be negligible, but then he had to do it. He eventually did it and he said that shark culling was environmentally unacceptable. The drum lines were removed at the end of April 2014 after 172 sharks, including some mako sharks and other species, but mainly tiger sharks, had been captured. About half were released because they were too small and the rest were shot or expired on the drum lines. In July 2014, 30 000 people—with 6 751 submissions and two petitions signed by 25 000 people—responded to the EPA about the government's plan to continue using drum lines for another three years. Intense lobbying and awareness raising by community groups, the Greens, and state and federal politicians included an excellent forum on more effective alternatives to mitigate shark hazards. In September 2014 the EPA recommended that shark drum lines not be implemented in WA. The Premier conceded defeat. The Greens challenged the effectiveness of the so-called imminent threat guidelines that were rebranded as serious threat guidelines. These are the guidelines under which after a shark bite incident, the shark is found and killed. Thankfully, that, too, with this new government, is a policy of the past, but at what cost? Governments need to listen, and not just at elections. Since 2000, 15 people have died as a result of a shark bite off the WA coast. There is general recognition by both the ALP and the Liberals now that killing sharks does nothing to make people safer. Instead, a range of other measures, including real-time alerts, improved emergency responses, shark education and awareness, and personal and area-based protective technology to suit different coastal locations and ocean users are the way to go. I just shook the hand of the new Minister for Fisheries and I really do think he gets it, but we need to make sure, because the law is not good enough.

Other successes of this past term include the defeat of forced local government amalgamations. We also protected peaceful protests by stymieing the related bill in the upper house for 18 months. I want to thank Irma Lachmund and the people who formed a coalition of groups to oppose criminalisation of dramatic protest—I mean democratic protest, although it could be dramatic as well! But yes, we did a good job there. I notice the former police minister is at the back of the chamber again! We did feel that that legislation was a bridge too far and we were not alone. In the end we had United Nations human rights experts quoted in this house. Obviously, governments try things, do they not? There needs to be a strong opposition. People need to be alert and experienced—people who have been here and done that, and who care.

Another thing I want to mention today—I notice that the former Minister for Road Safety is also here—is the “one metre matters” bill. There were several deaths on the road of people riding bicycles. What did we do? I put a bill up and said that we need to be clear about the law. I did that because a national campaign was calling for it. I said that we could do that in WA. We want to protect people on the roads; let us do that. Now, after the election, the government is interested in doing it. Why did it take all that time? I introduced that bill in 2012 and several people have died on our roads in that time. Let us just think about that. I want to thank Toby Hodgson, Matt Fulton, Sarah, Craig and all those who backed this campaign, including the Over 55 Cycling Club. Maybe now I can join them on a bike ride!

The other thing I need to mention, of course—I have already mentioned this today—is genetically modified organisms. We heard a speech today honouring the memory of the former agriculture minister, Kim Chance. That gave us an idea that this issue has gone on for years over successive governments. The Liberals, the Nationals and Labor have all been involved in this, as well as the Greens, thank goodness. The Greens, having the balance of power, did a great job in holding off GMOs in this state for many, many years. This, too, is a campaign that I worked on for many years. It is hard to let go of these campaigns. I would love to continue working with this. Many campaigns are still waiting for that moment when they finally meet their goals, such as the food and farmers' rights movements, which are still toiling to make a GM-free WA possible. I worked on this for years and I want to thank Steve and Sue Marsh, Janet Grogan, Maggie Lilith and Shirley Collins, and in particular Bob Phelps from Gene Ethics, Mothers are Demystifying Genetic Engineering and Bee Winfield. There is another long list of dedicated farmers we have stood beside. For people who are keen on this, a march is coming up on the weekend, I think. Many thanks to my former research officer, the multitalented Louise Sales. She supported me very well during that campaign. We have lost her now to Tasmania, I think, but I want to thank her.

It should come as no surprise to any members that in many of these earth-protecting campaigns, women are front and centre, driving and steering at the very heart of those campaigns. From the days of the late Mary Jenkins, an indefatigable feminist in the South Metropolitan Region, to the ever-present former Senator Jo Vallentine, women have seen what needs to be done. They have rolled up their sleeves, they have crafted a new phone tree and they have got the party started.

Natalie Banks, of the No WA Shark Cull alliance, is one such woman. She left her government media position to join Sea Shepherd. Today, from Dubai, she wrote —

When I first thought of rallying to stop the WA shark cull, never in my wildest dreams did I imagine the outpouring of support for one of the most misunderstood creature. I have never experienced anything like it and I feel that I may not ever again. But shark lovers; every day you give me hope for the future, your words and actions compel me to move forward for a better world.

The recent Rethink the Link and Save Beelir Wetlands campaigns brought Kim Dravnieks and Kate Kelly into the limelight, and they were surrounded by powerful women, including Felicity Bairstow and a very long list of others, going back decades and stretching long into the future, as the wounded land is healed. At one point in the campaign, we pitched a photo idea to *The West Australian* to photograph all the women at the campaign's heart. The list grew so long, it may have been the reason that *The West* declined; it would need to be a broadsheet for that!

I do not mean to diminish the activism of men in Western Australia, who are also tireless in their efforts. In particular, I want to single out Robert McLean, John Lawson and Sean van Alphen—a group of mates who formed the Numbat Task Force. Over many years of tracking and photographing their favourite woodland animal, they have grown to be the state's most successful wild numbat protectors. They were instrumental in the intervention that halted a landfill that threatened some of the last remaining numbats in the wild across Australia, so good on you, guys.

That is one of the highlights of my long time in Parliament—to know that we played a role in highlighting that problem. My staff worked tirelessly to figure out how we could appeal to the minister to make this end. There are so many campaigns, and so many women at the heart of them, I cannot possibly do justice to a list of them all, but I want to make mention of the animal justice campaigners: Katrina Love and Sandie Rawnsley of Stop Live Exports, who I have worked with for years; Amy Wilks of Animal Amnesty; and Alanna and Andrea of Free the Hounds, who today were on the steps of Parliament, giving us a petition. The list goes on and on. I want to now express my thanks to them for working with us, for having faith in us and for trying to make this a better place for creatures that do not have a voice. I also want to acknowledge the many, many people across the state who have tried to save mature trees, including Leisha Jack, who I met at her activist debut at a rally for the campaign to save the trees at Charles Riley Memorial Reserve.

Working in my electorate has also given me an opportunity to help many of my constituents. Among the individuals we helped was a public housing tenant who was bullied, possibly by her neighbours. I saw the scorched entry to her small apartment and listened as she recounted the trouble she experienced getting someone to listen and someone to help. We did help; we got her new accommodation. Everyone who is a member of Parliament has had these issues, and it makes us feel like we are worth it. It makes us realise, “This is what it's about; it's not just arguing about words on a page. I've got somebody into secure, safe accommodation.” I am so grateful for those opportunities. We do not get many opportunities in life to help people directly like that, and being members of Parliament gives us that opportunity.

I recall many hours of debate on the residential tenancies legislation, during which I tried—unsuccessfully—again and again to amend the legislation, and then for years afterwards, speaking up for the disproportionate number of Aboriginal people who were evicted as a result of that Housing Authority policy. I did everything I could as a member of Parliament; I had the best research and I had help drafting the amendments, but the will was not there on the part of the government to change that legislation. That is frustrating when, time and time again, one cannot change legislation. One then has to deal with the consequences of it because somebody did not agree.

There is much work to be done for the homeless. Every single member of Parliament has a responsibility to provide help and, I would argue, to actually end homelessness. This is not pie in the sky; this is something we can do. There is an action plan. Why not just do it? During the last election campaign, the Greens launched a policy to end homelessness. I met with a roundtable of groups that are serious about this issue. This is serious; this is not some sketchy plan. This can actually be done, and all we have to do is set our minds to it. We have to have the will to do it, and we have to pursue that goal, and put people in charge to do it. It is possible, we can do it; why not? The benefits of housing the homeless, of ending homelessness, and of reaching in and solving the problems that keep people homeless are exponential. We can do it, but we have to have that will.

Because of the inadequate laws for the protection of our green infrastructure and biodiversity, people turn to their members of Parliament to help save their much-loved urban bushland and trees, and that happened for me. I have an amazing photo of that ancient jarrah tree; if members have not visited it, they still can. It is lying on the ground. It was cut down because somebody apparently complained about bees. There is a simple solution for that, as most people would know, but somehow, somebody got permission to cut down this tree that was 200 years old and that provided habitat in a place in which it was desperately needed, not far from Roe 8. They just chopped it down, and it broke my heart. I still remember that time, and think that it is time for me to go visit that tree.

Stories like that are rife throughout our area, particularly in the metropolitan area, where people love their local trees and they are knocked down. The law needs to be changed. We have to be able to protect these trees; we have to find some way to protect mature trees on a grand scale because our biodiversity is being destroyed right before our eyes. I remember saying it in 2009 when I first got elected. We have talked about it a lot over the last eight years, but nothing has changed. I would like a model local law that protects mature trees; I am no longer here to fight for it, so please. Thankfully, Hon Robin Chapple will be here; it is on his list.

**Hon Robin Chapple:** It is now!

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** There are lots of other local issues with trees. There was a campaign for a tree in Healy Road, Hamilton Hill. I made such good friends saving this tree that was being hacked away and was going to be lost; a big branch was taken off. It is a community coming together to protect an asset, to protect amenity, and to protect something they value. It is a wonderful thing, and it happens everywhere. It does not matter if one is a Labor member or a Liberal member; it is happening in one's area. The next big thing is probably going to be Underwood Avenue.

I have to also just mention Lathlain Oval. Victoria Park is the electorate of one of the most senior members in cabinet, and Lathlain is also in South Metropolitan Region. The West Coast Eagles Football Club expanded the oval and knocked down some trees, and it is a tremendous loss to the community in that area that has not been addressed. It is death by a thousand cuts.

I hope members are getting some sense that the journey I talked about at the beginning of my speech is a marathon; it is not a sprint. There are times when we sprint, but we have to be able to go with the issues that are in front of us, such as greyhound racing. Who knew about that? There was an exposé in New South Wales and then it became an issue.

Being flexible and able to be impromptu and address issues as they arise is very important because that is the opportunity for change. They have asked us in our valedictories to try to give members ideas for how to approach the new term. I would say that was my most successful strategy in that I was able to retool and address the issue that was the hottest issue of the day at the time. The issue of sharks is a perfect example. Who knew that I would be a champion for sharks? It is important that we respond to the issues of the day.

I want to thank the Greens in other states because throughout the last eight years I have worked collaboratively with them. I have truly enjoyed working alongside them on campaigns to improve our society, to protect the planet and to be a voice for the voiceless. Thank you to my friends and colleagues in the Senate, in other state Parliaments and in Greens groups. I particularly want to acknowledge some of the Greens MPs I have worked with over the years who have stood up for animals—Christine Milne, Lee Rhiannon, Tammy Franks, Mehreen Faruqui, the late John Kaye and Sue Pennicuik. They have all been my comrades who have shared my pain and private members' bills and worked across state boundaries to collaborate. Being in a minor party with only a few of us working together across state boundaries was a successful strategy. It was only because of our common bond and our common goals in green politics that made that possible.

I acknowledge Hon Rick Mazza behind me because he was the chair of the committee that examined the operations of the RSPCA. I do not want to go into detail because we have debated it at length over a very long period. However, for me the take-home message is that the animal laws in this state need to be updated. I am hoping that the Animal Welfare Act will be reviewed this term and that it is not weakened but strengthened across the board. I hope that I will read in the paper or possibly online that the Animal Welfare Act has been reviewed. It has been my solemn responsibility as well as my great joy to be a voice for animals over the last eight years. It is one of the areas in politics that is growing in significance across Australia and is long overdue. I have already reflected on the success we had in protecting sharks. It was a hard-fought victory over many months with a range of powerful and creative advocates in several areas, backed by experts both here and abroad; but if only the law had been strong enough in the first place to protect them. I tried to protect free-range farming from the watering down of the labelling laws so that consumers could help to improve the welfare of laying hens. If only the law had been strong enough in the first place to protect them. I tried to stop the overbreeding of greyhounds and the use of them in a sport that causes traumatic injury leading to euthanasia on a regular basis. If only the law had been strong enough in the first place to protect them. By appealing to the minister, I was successful in helping to save a small population of wild numbats near Dryandra. But the law should have been strong enough in the first place to protect them. This is the work left undone—reform of the law that is supposed to protect animals and to ensure their welfare.

I want to thank you, Mr President, for your wisdom and leadership over these years. There were times when you saved me. I am thinking of the time when the first reading of a bill was challenged. It was quite a moment for me because I was afraid that I was not going to be able to read in the bill, which was really important to me. In your wisdom you took it offline, had a good look at it and came back with a very measured ruling. I have felt safe in your hands and I want to thank you for that. I am outgoing too, so that is nice.

I want to express my appreciation to the members of the opposition who worked with us over eight years, gave me fulsome briefings when required, and sometimes when our values crossed, which they did on the Biodiversity Conservation Bill, were willing to work with me. I appreciated that. Another member has already mentioned that when we come from a position of respect, anything is possible. I offered that respect. I worked with Hon Kim Chance—maybe that is why; he taught me that. When we start from a position of respect, we can go places. Even if we disagreed on many policies, we worked together collaboratively in many ways. I will mention some of those as I go on.

I want to thank also members of the Nationals, particularly Colin Holt. It has been a pleasure to work with you over these eight years—tearing up. Why is that? I knew Colin before. I met him when I was working at the Western Australian Council of Social Service, so I knew we had this common understanding about community services and how difficult they were in the regions. We were on a committee together and I always enjoyed working with you. If I miss you, I will call you.

**Hon Col Holt:** You've got my number.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** I do have your number. I might give you a few questions to ask!

The work we do is mostly determined by the government of the day, which controls the agenda and sets its legislative priorities. In Parliament this term I debated 92 bills.

**Hon Peter Collier:** We know.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** I am glad you are paying attention.

I debated 38 bills in the previous term. That was a bit light on because there were four of us. I dealt with a total of 130 bills. I moved several amendments, and in the last term, two of them were passed. That was exciting. I developed four bills of my own and I had carriage of the Greens' biodiversity bill introduced by former member Hon Giz Watson, so I have had quite a workload. I will mention it here: I am looking forward to a break. I have thoroughly applied myself to the task at hand. It has given me an energy to approach it but it was a lot of work, especially when it was on a million crime bills and one or two environment bills. It was a hard slog but I enjoyed it and I tried to apply myself to it as the now Leader of the Opposition has acknowledged. My ability to assess and consult with stakeholders about legislation and debate it relied very heavily on my research team, who are also tired. I want to thank Leigh Sinclair, who I know is here tonight, for her tremendous wisdom, organisational skills and unflappable way of being. We need someone like that around us. Leigh makes deadlines look easy to me while managing to keep a young family in school and at sporting events. I even felt supported by Darren, her partner. Leigh kept all the balls in the air and has been my supportive friend in difficult times. I am so glad we shared that office at WACOSS way back when. I also acknowledge and thank research officers Caroline Perks and Dinny Lawrence for their expertise and the wonderful contributions they made this term and the previous term. Many others helped to ensure that I was ready and well briefed for legislation. Most recently in a voluntary capacity Jennifer Gardiner helped us. Although I cannot name each of you at this time, your assistance to me in my role and your generosity have been deeply appreciated. We scrutinised the government in every way possible. We asked 660 questions without notice, 431 in the most recent term.

I want to thank the parliamentary staff. Janice Shaw, who has probably gone home by now, is awesome. I worked with Janice even when I worked for Jim Scott. She has very rarely dropped the ball. The volume of work and the deadlines that she meets on a daily basis are amazing. Janice, you have my long-term respect. Chris Hunt manages the questions on notice. Chris took us through the transition to be online. I do not know how you did it, mate, but thank you very much. I am so glad that my staff know how to do that.

I also want to thank the very professional officers who assist us with the business in this chamber. I want to thank the Clerk, Nigel. I want to thank Paul Grant, Grant Hitchcock, Renae Jewell, Paul Lobban, Brian Conn, Lisa Parrella, Jackie and Hayley. There is no way that I could have done this volume of work unless there was support at every turn—the little things such as making sure that there is water and that I have a lectern. They also make sure that we feel respected, because sometimes there is argy-bargy in here, and they are a great neutralising impact—we can just look at someone and say, "Can you please give me a piece of paper?"

I served on the Standing Committee on Legislation this term and Hon Robyn McSweeney was our chair. Thank you very much; it was a pleasure. It was tough being on Hon Robyn McSweeney's committee because we had a lot of work to do. We did 15 reports. I think I managed to substitute out for a couple of them. But that was a lot of very, very detailed work—the demise of the Crown. Members can talk to me later about that.

**Hon Donna Faragher:** That was serious.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** Hon Donna Faragher was on the committee as well.

**Hon Donna Faragher:** I took that very seriously.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** Yes. I also served on the Select Committee into the Operations of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Western Australia (Inc), thanks to Hon Rick Mazza. I thank the committee officers who supported all those committees, including Mark Warner, Samantha Parsons,

Alex Hickman, Suzanne Veletta, Niamh Corbett and Denise Wong. There are so many people in the background. I have felt over the last eight years that the professionalism in this place is outstanding. I just checked that Hansard got that, because if it is not in *Hansard*, it never happened. Hansard has been tremendous for me. Some of them have problems with my accent, but they have managed to make most things read even better than how I am saying them, which is nice. Thank you and I appreciate that.

Over this time, I have hosted three Celebrating Pride at Parliament events, which have been supported by every party here. Hon Martin Aldridge is nodding; thank you very much for co-hosting. Hon Jacqui Boydell and Hon Michael Mischin also co-hosted. Hon Helen Morton co-hosted; that was a wonderful year that she co-hosted. It made a big difference to the community. I am here to tell members that they really like it. They really want members to keep doing it. Hon Stephen Dawson was also a consistent co-host. It is a way to bring the significance and importance of legislators into a cultural month of pride and to build relationships. I hope that all members have managed to continue to keep those communication lines open. We invite the media and it is a great opportunity. It has been my absolute pleasure, one of the highlights of my eight years, to host a cross-party party for the community to which I feel very connected. I want to thank all those members who found it in their heart to be generous and co-host those events.

I also initiated a Parliamentary Friends of Bandyup group, which did not go down very well. I would really love the rest of you to pick that up! That was a stretch too far. It is a great idea. The Parliamentary Friends of Bandyup would be a great thing and I can put my people in touch with you.

**Hon Liz Behjat:** You are saying the building or the people in there?

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** The women who are there. Yes, if Hon Liz Behjat is interested, it might be a good thing.

**Hon Liz Behjat:** I will not be here.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** That is a great opportunity. I see in the President's gallery Alison Xamon, who I feel will make such a great contribution. I congratulate her on her election—again! That proves it can be done. The Bandyup group is the kind of thing I would see Alison taking to like a duck to water. If people can find it in their hearts to think of the women in Bandyup, who really need that kind of boost, I would really implore members to join the group. I know that Simone McGurk is interested. If we can get some more people interested, please take that over. I could give the original list of people to invite, but take it over and do with it what you will.

I thank all the Parliament House staff, and there are so many we depend upon. I think I will get the chance to do that on Thursday when we wrap up, so I will not list them now. Know that I thought about you in my valedictory speech and I will mention you later.

It has been my pleasure to bear witness to the pledges of thousands of those who have come across the seas to share our boundless gifts. Like me, their journeys to Australian citizenship were layered with farewells and blows, losses and gains, and always hope. I have met people from every continent, from Afghanistan to Zambia, and young families from Nepal and older couples from Scotland. One of the joys of my role has been to meet these new citizens and to welcome them to Australia. South Metropolitan Region, possibly more than any other region, has just boomed in the last eight years with people from other countries. We have had a huge increase in population. I have welcomed them and I enjoy the multiculturalism that ensues.

Over two terms I have seen Willetton Senior High School transform. I have been to several openings of new schools in Tuart Grove, Baldivis, Golden Bay and more. I have visited some of the oldest schools from Victoria Park to Attadale. I have spoken at school graduations from Fremantle Primary School to the Octagon Theatre. I have been inspired by young people and educators at all levels.

My team has expanded and contracted over the years. I want to thank all those people who have come in, particularly of late. Elliot Sawers joined us and lifted our game on so many levels and then, because he was so good, Senator Ludlam took him. Connor Slight, who we stole from Hon Robin Chapple on his day off, helped us with amazing audiovisuals and great work on our social media. I want to thank Nadine Walker. Nadine came to my team early in the term and she really made a big difference during the shark cull and through our marriage equality work. Of course, Senator Siewert took her because she was awesome. So now Nadine is working with the Senate team and she is doing an outstanding job. I want to thank Wanjiku, who was with us a short time. I still see her; she made a big difference to our team and I really miss her. In particular I want to thank Nina Jurak, who Robin has working in his office. Nina helps us to keep in touch with Robin and makes sure that we are all working together. She has helped me in my selection of staff and she has long experience that goes back to Hon Giz Watson. I am going to miss these people so much, but maybe we will have coffee with each other sometime.

I want to say that there is nothing like winning an election, but I am here to tell members that the converse is also true. Losing an election is a uniquely unwelcome experience. To those 32 100 South Metropolitan Region voters who put the Greens first above and below the line, I thank you. I know you did it. You do not have to apologise.

I appreciate it but we did not get over the line. We increased the percentage of voters who chose to put the Greens first. To get over the line we needed 49 384 votes. Can you believe it! We needed nearly 50 000 votes for a quota in the South Metropolitan Region, more by far than any other region—except the North Metropolitan Region. That seems even more unfair when we look at the first preference voters in other regions who delivered their Greens representatives. So, 33 448 people in north metro, with a quota of 47 782, have a voice in Parliament, and 29 810 are about to have their Greens voice heard in Hon Tim Clifford who was recently elected to the East Metropolitan Region. There are 13 179 south west voters who will have a voice in this Parliament as of next week in Hon Diane Evers, who, again, joins us in the President's gallery. She will bring, once again, a rural voice into this chamber. Again, the never-say-die Hon Robin Chapple will be representing the Greens in the Mining and Pastoral Region. The system may not be quite perfect but it has resulted in the Greens doubling its numbers, which is the result we would get if we had true proportional representation statewide. Personally it is a bit gutting, but on balance it is a great result for the Greens.

That is not the only problem with our electoral system—the number of people who elect us—and this was revealed in the cold stark light of that day on 25 March, the day after my birthday, when the results were declared for the South Metro. In South Metro, unlike in any other region in which the Liberal Democrats fielded a candidate, the higher than expected vote for the Liberal Democrats seemed to be due solely to its position on the ballot, which confused voters who may have been looking for the Liberal Party instead. Preferences flowed to the Liberal Democrats from a starting position of just 13 000 first preferences. It is fair enough that those 32 100 Greens voters in south metro feel bereft this week as I leave the Parliament. There is, alas, nothing I can do about it. That is the system we have. Electoral reform should be on our agenda.

I want to congratulate Hon Sue Ellery for Labor's comprehensive victory. Never before has Labor won so overwhelmingly—other than in 1955. It was an awesome win and an awesome vote for Labor. I warmly wish the Labor government well. I would have loved to be in this chamber with the Labor government—I am now for only a short time, but I like it already! I would have loved to serve in a Parliament with a Labor government, but every time Labor gets in, they push me out. In 2005, the same thing happened. That is a bummer!

I congratulate all incoming members, especially the four Greens and the never-say-die returning Hon Robin Chapple. In the weeks since the election I have been handing over a wealth of material to this awe-inspiring team. I look forward to listening to their inaugural speeches. It is with great sadness that I make my valedictory speech at this close of term. However, as I have packed up my office I have been reminded of the colossal privilege to serve as a Greens member of Parliament. The Greens campaigned well in all the regions in the election and we continued to increase our vote, even in the Agricultural Region under the leadership of wheat and sheep farmer Ian James. I look forward to seeing him in the Parliament one day soon. In the South Metropolitan Region there are three new members in the lower house who relied on second preferences from Greens voters to claim their seats. The government should well remember this. No doubt the members for Bicton, Jandakot and Southern River will remember. I guess they have to respect the Greens' interests, because I ain't going to be here!

I want to thank the south metropolitan candidates who campaigned so well. I loved the team: Dorinda Cox; Thor Kerr; Mark Brogan; Louise Dickmann; Martin Spencer; Ryan Quinn; Jody Freeman; Shannon Hewitt, who is here tonight; Toni Pkos-Sallie, who I hope made it tonight; Jordan Steele-John; and James Mumme. I also thank the team that supported them: Pete Best, Luke Edmonds and Kate Davis, and Liam Carter, my campaign manager. Look out for him; he is an awesome dude. He is really on the up and coming. Thank you, Liam. I would also like to thank the south metropolitan Greens in Robert Delves, Kim Dravnieks, Sunny Miller, Dawn Jecks, Christine Cunningham and Scott Ryan, all of whom have been my comrades and supporters over the years and who I hope will pick me up off the floor once I depart this place and give me something useful to do with my life. I also thank The Greens co-conveners and election campaign committee, the fundraisers, the media team and the policy group. I cannot name them all, but hopefully some of my colleagues can name them as they come in. I want to thank them all. It has been my absolute pleasure to be a Green in Parliament and to carry that mantle on behalf of all of them. We may never pass this way again.

My most important role—drink water—will now be to care for my partner who is being treated for metastatic breast cancer. She says an unwelcome visitor has taken a permanent place in our lives. I look forward to sharing sunsets and pottering around at home on the weekends. Sarah and I were married late last year—it is a bit too quiet—because we do not have the right to marry here. In 2012 I introduced a bill that would have established same-sex marriage in WA by amending state laws including the Family Court Act and the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act. Since 2004 we have waited politely for the Australian Parliament to pass marriage equality laws. It is incredible that the Australian government is still baulking at making this long overdue reform. We could have it tomorrow in WA if the McGowan government would simply support my bill. That is it—no more conversation: equality. Be brave for marriage equality. Your constituents are asking you for equal rights. It is not hard. I have drafted the bill. I did not personally do it; I had parliamentary counsel do it, so it should be good. Please do that for me and for my partner and for everyone else who just wants equality. It is not a lot to ask. It is 2017. Again, it is long past time.

I think I may have skipped a page and did not mention a couple of really important people: Arran Morton, who has been in my office for the last year and who has brought life, warmth and true gentleness into our office. It has been a pleasure to have you in the office. I want to thank you particularly for your work organising Pride at Parliament. Arran trusted that we would win the election, so she left her career and came into politics. I really hope that she finds her feet in a new exciting challenge and continues to blossom in new skills. It is been great to have her in the team.

I should have mentioned Eloise Dortch when I talked at length about the shark cull. She has also been a tireless worker in my office. The team that I have now is like family, and I will really miss them. I cannot say it enough: it has just been very lovely. We have all gone through tough times together and I appreciate that you were there for me to not only make sure that I did my job well, but also to keep me human, reminding me that sometimes I had to have a break and spend time with Sarah. I really appreciate the team that I have had and how they have supported me. I see Kyle in the gallery. I appreciate you, too, Kyle. It has been great to be in your life these last five years. It is great to see you in the gallery. I hope that you get an opportunity one day to be down here. Hopefully, by then we would already have marriage equality and we could be looking after mature trees and all those things. I will do a lot of that work for you. Whether you have been a friend or a colleague or just someone who I have encountered in my office and who we have been able to help, I want you to know you have played a great role in my life and helped me to become a fuller human being and given me an opportunity to be compassionate, to be understanding of difference, to learn new things and to respect people even if they have a different way of thinking and a different value system to me. I think that is such a great opportunity. I can hear my father telling me that that is a really important skill to have in life and it is a good opportunity to have it as a member of Parliament and as a public servant.

I could not have done this job without Hon Robin Chapple by my side. He has been such a lovely man to work with. He has been a friend to me. He has been my dinner companion when I have been grumpy. He has been very, very kind to me as I have navigated these waters. I know that being successful in Parliament relies upon having a good buddy, and Robin has been that to me. I now bestow that gift upon my Greens colleagues. He can now look after them and make sure that they navigate these waters well.

In concluding my remarks, Mr President, it is been a journey that has been rewarding for me. I feel sad going, but I have every faith that there is something on the horizon and there is a reason for this change in my career path. I will find a way to use the skills and knowledge that I have built up for the good of Western Australians. Hopefully, I will continue to enjoy doing it, and, maybe, I will have a little bit more sleep. That would be really good. I will hopefully find some way to repay the citizens of Western Australia for the faith that they have put in me and the tremendous opportunity that they have given me to represent them in this place.

[Applause.]

**The PRESIDENT:** I indicate that the next speech will be an inaugural speech and I request that everyone in the chamber and gallery respect that situation and convey the usual courtesies.

**HON ELISE IRWIN (North Metropolitan) [8.45pm]:** I thank the President for this opportunity to address the members of this place. It gives me great pleasure to speak with members tonight. I would like to congratulate members opposite on their success in the recent state election. I am sure that they are looking forward to welcoming their colleagues on 22 May, which is also the date that my short tenure will end.

I am very fortunate to be here filling the casual vacancy that was created in the North Metropolitan Region when my Liberal colleague Hon Peter Katsambanis resigned and subsequently won the seat of Hillarys to continue representing the people of Western Australia in the other place. It is a vagary of our political system that affords me this short but very sweet opportunity. I wish Hon Peter Katsambanis all the best and I am sure that he will continue to represent the people of Hillarys in the same manner that he has represented the whole of the North Metropolitan Region, alongside Hon Peter Collier, Hon Michael Mischin and Hon Liz Behjat. Of course, I will not be the only member leaving this place on 21 May. I recognise all members for the contributions they have made during their service to our great state and I wish all members leaving the very best in their next chapters, including Mr President.

Members may know me as a policy advisor for the previous government, a small business owner, a surf lifesaver, a community volunteer and a Liberal Party member, or as a friend, wife and mother. I grew up in a close-knit working class family. Like others in this place, I am a fifth generation Australian. My forebears on both sides immigrated to South Australia from the United Kingdom as free settlers with the first fleets. My parents' background was farming in the mid north of South Australia before migrating to WA in 1956 and farming around the south west. I say migrating because my older sister, who was about eight years old at the time, thought that Western Australians must speak another language, because it seemed so far from where she had spent her early years in the Clare Valley. That is how people in the east think of Western Australians as well—over there in the west.

Dad returned from World War II, having served in Borneo and New Guinea, to his parents' property at Farrell's Flat with his two brothers. After having two sons of his own, he and mum were looking for a new start and heard of land on offer for returned servicemen in WA, so mum and dad boarded the train in Port Pirie and started the trek to WA with their three young children and all their belongings strapped onto a 1952 Holden FX coupe ute. They disembarked in Kalgoorlie two days later, just on sunset. My mother's very proper South Australian Methodist upbringing had not prepared her for Kalgoorlie at night in the 1950s. Needless to say, their stay there did not last too long. Dad's experiences serving in the army served him well in this new frontier. He had purchased acreage at Hillman, near Darkan. He and mum and my brothers and sister had the back-breaking job of clearing the farm completely of bush by hand before they could start the real job of farming.

My story starts about 10 years after all that. I was born in Subiaco, after mum and dad decided to leave the farm and come to Perth, in 1966. My three siblings were all in high school or working by that stage and I think it was a bit of a shock to have a baby around the house again.

My memories of my childhood are full of dad working in his shed and turning our entire backyard into a veggie patch. Mum bottled and preserved madly to keep up with produce that just kept coming. You can take the farmer off the land but never take away the will to keep producing. My parents grew up in the Depression era and were ever mindful of wastage, not running up debts and—heaven forbid!—buying anything on credit. However, dad also brought home some demons from the war. He never spoke of his experiences to our mother or us kids but he would never commemorate Anzac Day by going to the march. That was a day he would go to the pub and not come home until we were all in bed. Mum knew better than us what dad was going through and it was a frustration of their marriage that he would not talk about what he had seen or done during that terrible time. I speak of this now because it is topical. We are hearing more in the media about what our veterans suffer and the suicide rates are truly shocking.

I acknowledge my very dear friend Dr Lisa Wood, who is here tonight with her husband and our friend Rod, and her recent work with the federal government on researching the effects of depression on our Defence Force personnel. I hope that the recent funding announcements will go some way to assisting them through their dark days. On that note, I also acknowledge my good friend Wendy Kehoe, who is here tonight, and her willingness to talk of her own and her colleagues' experiences in our modern-day army.

I remember it used to cost mum \$2 to fill up the EH Holden she drove, and dad sitting out on the verandah in the summer with Johnny Cash playing on the record player. I grew up with a freedom that I think some of our children lack. We rode our bikes to school or walked. We all wore school uniform and if children were naughty, they were dealt with quickly, no questions asked. Our parents always backed up the teacher. We respected our teachers and loved our parents. Summer holidays were spent with friends in the street, under the lawn sprinklers or riding bikes. Dinner was eaten at the dining room table with the family. The television was turned off. We sat together and talked about our day. Invariably, mum would turn the conversation to current affairs. She loved nothing better than a good debate on what was going on in the world. Mum and dad were staunch, dyed-in-the-wool Liberals but one of my brothers leant a little to the left, so some pretty lively discussions would erupt on occasion. Both my parents worked full time. I was expected to be resilient, resourceful and independent. I was the original latchkey kid but, of course, they had not come up with that label in those days. Parents just did what they had to do and we all helped where we could. Growing up in a family where hard work and a can-do attitude was expected and celebrated has had a great influence on how I have conducted my life and how I have raised my children.

When I met my husband, Mark, he introduced me to surf lifesaving. His passion was and still is Scarborough Surf Life Saving Club. I learnt fairly quickly that there was no way to beat it, so I had to join too. Little did I know what a great part the club would play in my life and the life of our family. Some club members are here tonight supporting me and I thank them for their friendship over many years, especially Nick and Kathy Stewart, who have been with us through the good and the more challenging times. I cannot imagine what not being part of this great organisation would be like. It has taught us all the value of community service. What we have put in has been repaid tenfold in the skills we have learnt, the friendships created and the sense of belonging we all hold dear. It has given our family a core sense of purpose within our community. I was honoured to be president of Scarborough Surf Life Saving Club for four years after holding various committee positions for the previous 10 years. Amongst those positions, I am most proud that I coached junior lifesavers for nine years in their required qualifications. I was also on the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships committee for four years. I liaised with national, state and local bodies and corporations to negotiate the successful staging of the Australian championships at Scarborough in 2007, 2008 and 2009, and again in 2014. This event has more competitors than the Commonwealth Games and it is held annually. The championships will return to Scarborough in 2018 and we are looking forward to showing off a revitalised Scarborough to the rest of Australia.

The Scarborough revitalisation project, initiated by the former Liberal government in association with the City of Stirling, is a massive achievement for both the electorate of Scarborough and the state of

Western Australia. I was pleased to play a small part in that and to have been able to represent our club in the negotiations and early planning stages. Scarborough was languishing as a tired and decrepit beachfront precinct. The Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority created a vision for Scarborough that will see the area flourish and become a place of pride for all Western Australians. I will put on record here tonight that I am concerned about one aspect of the project that has since been scrapped by our new Minister for Transport: the extension of the egress points for the area. It is imperative that these road connections be implemented or an alternative be created for visitors and residents to be able to safely leave the area. Presently and for some time, the congestion of egress from the Scarborough foreshore area has been such that it can take over 45 minutes from exiting a car bay to reaching West Coast Highway either at Scarborough Beach Road or Brighton Road—a distance of approximately 200 to 500 metres. This is absurd for the general road user and dangerous for emergency vehicles. A small but vocal group that opposed the road extensions are claiming a victory of sorts at the minister's decision. Let us hope this does not result in an unwarranted fatality due to an ambulance not being able to leave the area with a priority 1 patient who our surf lifesaving volunteers have managed to rescue from drowning.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge Tanya Channell, Rob Mason, Tenneille and Glenn Ross, Dave Thompson, Bob Welch, Rod Dalziel, Tim Schifferli and David Irwin. They are all club members who I relied on for advice and guidance during my term as president of Scarboro surf club. Our children, Jack, Kate and Henry, all participate in surf sports and patrols. They assist with community events in water safety and have taken on leadership roles within the club and their respective schools. They are confident and hardworking peer group leaders. All three of our children have been involved in actively saving lives on our beach and we are very happy to have given them that opportunity. Our eldest son Jack has been recognised at state level for his contribution to youth development, of which we are very proud. The value of surf lifesaving in Western Australia as a community organisation cannot be overplayed. Last summer, 66 lives were saved by volunteer patrolling lifesavers on Scarborough Beach alone and almost 1 000 lives were saved statewide. Imagine if we were talking about 1 000 people drowning at our beaches last summer. Imagine the heartache and loss that would mean, not to mention the economic consequences for those families affected. Volunteers undertake to keep our beaches safe so that we can all enjoy our beautiful Western Australian summers. Surf lifesaving is an amazing organisation and one that I am proud to be associated with.

In 2010, an opportunity arose for me to work in a parliamentarian's office. I worked for Hon Liza Harvey, MLA, for seven years, firstly in her electorate office and then in her ministerial office as a policy adviser. I sincerely thank her for the opportunity and support she has given me. I truly believe that if people want to make a worthwhile contribution or be a part of shaping society for future generations, then they simply must become involved. I enjoyed my time in Liza's offices immensely and—wow!—what a learning curve. I had exposure to grassroots, local, state and federal issues. The most important of those was the exposure to a side of life I have never, thankfully, personally experienced. Like most electorate offices, state housing is one of our biggest issues. This can be both extremely frustrating and wonderfully rewarding. We really get criticism from both sides—from home owners who are not happy that their taxes are paying welfare and from tenants who feel they have no avenues to escape the welfare cycle. I saw generational reliance on welfare, which was devastating. These issues need long-term strategies and analysis with a view to reducing the welfare burden on taxpayers while looking after our legitimately disadvantaged and disenfranchised people.

In the ministerial office, I also worked in the portfolio areas of small business, tourism, women's interests and training and workforce development. I acknowledge the wonderful and innovative work done by the departments I had the pleasure of working with, and the directors general and chief executive officers David Eaton, Stephanie Buckland, Jennifer Mathews and Ruth Shean. Being involved in the development of policy across these sectors was very personally fulfilling and worthwhile. Researching and implementing decisive change and influencing the way Western Australians conduct their daily lives was truly enriching and I feel very privileged to have been given that opportunity.

Currently, we are seeing a downturn in the Western Australian economy. This is a blow to our small business owners in particular. Small business owners are expected to be experts in all levels of their business including accounting, economics, law and industrial relations.

This often creates unforeseen costs and stress when they become entangled in the red tape that is associated with statutory bodies, local regulations and tenancy agreements. A small business operator may be forced to seek expensive specialist advice. It takes hard work, persistence, resilience, independence, resourcefulness and courage to stick with it. A small business owner is also at the mercy of outside forces; a government not aligned to small business will be disastrous. Over-regulatory government policy will spell the end for many small business owners. Payroll tax is a burden that prevents growth of business and promotes disincentive for employment. Every day we hear how small business operators are struggling with these issues. It may be with the Australian Taxation Office, creditors or landlords. With the introduction by the previous Liberal government, of the Small Business Commissioner, small business has a voice and a real avenue to seek help with legal issues. Small business now has a mechanism to effectively seek low-cost mediation through the Small Business

Development Corporation, and I congratulate our former state Liberal government for assessing and meeting this need; however, this agency needs greater funding and acknowledgement of the important part it plays in this vital sector of our economy.

Tourism continues to be a vibrant component of the economy of Western Australia. It will continue to provide employment for our jobseekers, and enriching experiences for our visitors. It is a large and encompassing sector, with new and innovative businesses consistently coming online. It is an exciting area to be a part of.

As the construction phase of the mining sector has wound down, tourism and other areas of our economy such as agriculture will have an opportunity for growth. With guidance and support I believe these sectors will shine and offer our economy resilience into the future. Alongside these opportunities for sectors, we must also consider how some of our more marginalised participants will be able to take advantage of opportunities going forward. Research demonstrates that better business and community service outcomes can be achieved with a diverse workforce and a diverse leadership group. Unconscious bias has a devastating effect on career opportunities for women, people aged over 55, people with disability and jobseekers with English as a second language. An area I have worked in over the last four years has been women's interests, and, undoubtedly, supporting women's economic independence will not only improve choices for women, but also contribute to their financial security in later life. The gender pay gap in Western Australia is around 25 per cent. The World Economic Forum predicts it will take until 2133 to achieve global gender parity. I am not sure about my female colleagues, but I am not prepared to wait that long; I certainly do not think my daughter, Kate, should have to wait that long either.

Various factors contribute to the gap, including workforce segregation; women taking time out of work to attend to caring responsibilities; higher numbers of men than women in senior positions across almost all occupations; and gender-based discrimination, including unconscious bias in recruitment practices. Females have represented around 60 per cent of Australian university graduates for at least two decades, but make up about only three per cent of chief executive officer positions. Leaders across government, academia and industry have identified unconscious bias in recruitment and promotion processes as one of the factors that can affect women's engagement in the workforce. Inclusive organisational policies and practices are needed to facilitate positive changes in attitude and behaviour towards women's return to, and retention in, the workforce. Superannuation is the key to security in retirement. Recent research shows a woman's average balance of \$68 600 is just over 60 per cent of the average balance for men. Lower average salaries, taking time out of work for caring duties or working part time are some of the contributing factors to women having less superannuation than men. Consider that in the context of a single woman who has not earned enough money over her lifetime to pay off a mortgage but wishes to retire. What will her options be in retirement? Will she need to go on a five-year waiting list with the Department of Housing to be placed in an area not of her choosing? How will she support herself while on that waiting list, and where will she live? Economic security is the benchmark to personal security, as well as an enabler to improve circumstances. Retirement options improve, health care improves, workforce participation choices improve, participation in society improves, as well as the ability to leave a bad relationship or living situation.

The former Liberal-led state government sponsored the Filling the Pool research project, which championed more women in leadership roles. Working with leading Western Australian employers, organisations and renowned academics, the Committee for Perth identified ways to address the gender imbalance at senior levels in Western Australian organisations. Lack of childcare options and gender bias were both identified as disablers to women seeking to improve their career options. Access to child care is fundamental to women's increased workforce participation and attainment of leadership roles. Quality child care also impacts positively on children's early development. For some parents, child care located close to work best suits their needs. For other parents, child care close to home or transport links works best. To better meet these needs, opportunities to locate more childcare centres along our rail and road corridors is imperative. Readily accessible information about childcare locations, availability and quality still remains a challenge for many parents. More work will be required to market options to parents and to stay abreast of changing requirements as well as eliminating red tape where possible.

Finally, I would like to touch on training and workforce development simply to say that if the vocational education and training area does not continue to develop as it has, we are doing our community a disservice, especially our school leavers and those who may seek an alternative to university entrance. I know from personal experience with my own children that an academic career does not suit everyone, and the options a vocational education offers some in our community can instil a passion for learning that no schoolroom ever will. My son Henry is testament to that. The smile on his face when he gets home from work every day is in stark contrast to the moody and tired teenager he was after a school day.

In conclusion, Mr President, I thank all the members and parliamentary staff, especially yourself; our Whip, Hon Alyssa Hayden; and Hon Liz Behjat. You have all made me feel very welcome for my short but sweet stay here in this place and I wish you all well. I understand the importance of our system of government that has afforded me this privilege and I hope to continue serving the community of the North Metropolitan Region in

some other capacity when my tenure is complete. I thank my parents Maxine and Don l'Anson, who unfortunately are no longer with us but whom I think of often, as well as my sister, Leonie, and brothers, Chris and Steven, and all our extended family of in-laws and outlaws. I especially thank my husband Mark and children, Jack, Kate and Henry—without your support and love I would not be here today.

[Applause.]

**HON LAINE McDONALD (North Metropolitan)** [9.07 pm]: I thank the house for its indulgence and I recognise the traditional owners of the land on which we meet. I also acknowledge their elders, past, present and emerging. As I rise to make my valedictory speech, I do so with some sense of melancholy, given that my tenure in this place has been fairly brief. However, this sadness is tempered with an overriding sense of pride. I am proud to have represented the people of the North Metropolitan Region and I am honoured to be here tonight as a parliamentary member of the McGowan Labor government, a government that has a progressive, innovative and forward-thinking agenda; a government that will put the needs of people front and centre and that will be grounded in the values of fairness, equality and compassion; a government that will be confronted with a huge set of challenges given the state of Western Australia's finances, but that can be trusted to carry on its business in an economically responsible and sensible way; a government that will focus on job creation and that will diversify and innovate in order to help insulate the economy from mining industry shocks; a government that will not sell off major public assets such as Western Power and that will be accountable, honest and transparent.

Though my tenure in this place has been only about eight months in length, it certainly has been a short and intense journey. Being a member of Parliament is a unique and sometimes strange position, and each day has been filled with eclectic duties and varied tasks. From walking the hallowed halls of Parliament, to doorknocking in the blistering heat, to attending community morning teas, to meeting with international and state dignitaries, each and every day as a member of Parliament has been challenging, rewarding and diverse. I have had the great pleasure of welcoming our newest citizens to this country by speaking at numerous citizenship ceremonies. I have been delighted to meet so many bright students, parents and teachers by attending school graduations, Anzac Day ceremonies, and openings. I have met with constituents and attended community events to celebrate cultural festivals and to lend my support to various causes.

In my time as a member of Parliament, I have served as a member of the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review. I have asked many questions of the previous government and have participated in debate. Of course, there are many reforms and objectives I would have liked to have achieved as a member of Parliament, but have failed to do so whilst being in opposition. The reality is that many of these reforms can only practically be achieved whilst in government. That is why I am proud of the role I played in supporting the 2017 Western Australian Labor state election campaign, particularly in the northern suburbs seats. I would especially like to recognise the newly elected members in these seats and congratulate the member for Joondalup, Emily Hamilton, who joins us in the chamber; the member for Burns Beach, Mark Folkard; the member for Wanneroo, Sabine Winton; and the member for Kingsley, Jessica Stojkovski. I would also like to congratulate the member for Balcatta, David Michael, and my good friend and former City of Vincent colleague, John Carey, as the new and funky member for Perth!

Working alongside each of these impressive people during the campaign, I saw at first-hand their dedication to their respective communities and their unwavering ability to work hard and for long hours under immense pressure. It was also humbling to see the diverse range of skill sets each of them bring, with varied backgrounds ranging from teaching, policing, local government, community work and town planning.

Over the past few months I have also had the immense pleasure of working with a member for North Metropolitan Region, Hon Martin Pritchard. I thank him for his kindness and generosity. Martin is a true gentleman, and I wish him the very best in his new role as government Whip.

I also congratulate the incoming member for North Metropolitan Region, Hon Alannah MacTiernan. Undoubtedly, her experience, energy and ability to get things done will be an asset to the people of the North Metropolitan Region.

In preparing for this valedictory speech tonight, I took the time to read over my inaugural speech for inspiration and for quiet reflection on the expectations and goals I had coming into this role; this appears to be the customary practice. I spoke on many issues in my inaugural speech. I acknowledge my predecessor, Hon Ken Travers, and pledged to take up the mantle he left by being a champion of job creation in the northern corridor and for the need for a Joondalup train line extension to Yanchep. Whilst I have been driving against traffic from Perth to my electorate office in Joondalup each day, I have seen across the lanes of the freeway the clogged traffic, at a gruelling standstill, of people commuting from the northern suburbs.

Most pleasingly, this government has already made positive announcements with regard to job-creating, congestion-busting projects in the northern suburbs. This government has announced a \$186 million investment in four northern suburb road projects to create jobs and ease congestion. These four projects will help reduce

traffic around Wanneroo Road and the Mitchell Freeway, creating more than a thousand jobs in the process. Federal funding for Metronet has also been secured, with \$1.2 billion allocated to its delivery, including the extension of the Joondalup train line to Yanchep.

In my inaugural speech, I also recognised the importance of having well-resourced state schools to ensure that all children have the opportunity to receive a quality education, regardless of their background or family's wealth. Investment in our schools, including in the areas of innovation and new technologies, is vital to prepare our kids for the jobs of the future. Investment in education was central to Labor's election campaign. I am so proud that this government will return education assistants into classrooms, as well as increase the number of Aboriginal and Islander education specialists. This government will build a new academically selective school in Perth city in a centrally located education precinct so that all students will be able to access the school easily no matter where they live. I am also particularly proud of the election commitments made by Labor to invest in schools in the North Metropolitan Region. That includes Ocean Reef Senior High School, Balga Secondary College, Wanneroo Secondary College and Balcatta Senior High School, as well as the new primary schools that this government will be building.

Given my background as an asbestos litigation lawyer, in my inaugural speech I took the time to speak at length about the desperate need for asbestos compensation law reform in Western Australia. Asbestos law reform is needed to assist people suffering from asbestos-related diseases or dying from mesothelioma to access compensation fairly. I have spoken and written about the need for asbestos compensation law reform many times both in this place and in the wider community, and I will continue to do so until justice is achieved. At a minimum, legislative reform is needed in two important areas of law—provisional damages, and *Sullivan v Gordon*-type damages. Regrettably, I was unable to achieve this law reform during my short time in the previous Parliament, but I am most optimistic that this reform will be an initiative of the Labor government in the future.

In my inaugural speech, like so many women before me, I spoke about the gender pay gap and the uneven division of unpaid labour in the home. I championed the need for greater access to flexible working options, for greater access to paid maternity leave, including superannuation, and for greater access to affordable child care, including after school and vacation care. We still have a long way to go in this regard.

Just recently, it was announced that only 8.7 per cent of the directors on WA ASX 100 boards are women. Given that the Western Australian Equal Opportunity Act was passed more than three decades ago, this is truly disappointing. However, I am heartened that this government has announced that it will lead by example and ensure that 50 per cent of members on government boards are women.

Among all of the important issues I raised in my inaugural speech, I also raised the need for Parliament to be more family friendly, and in particular the need to allow members of Parliament to breastfeed their babies in the chamber. This issue was of particular importance to me given the unique circumstances I found myself in when I entered Parliament. I was on maternity leave and the full-time primary carer of my then five-month-old daughter, Matilda, when I found out that I would be entering state Parliament to fill a casual vacancy. At the time, I was breastfeeding my baby exclusively and she was 100 per cent reliant on breast milk as her food source. Being a mother entering Parliament, with a partner who also worked full time, presented a particular set of challenges. That included the need to arrange child care, the need for facilities to express and store milk, the need to have access to sterilising and expressing equipment, and options to breast and bottle feed. I therefore made the call for the Western Australian Parliament to modernise its standing orders to allow nursing parents to bring their infants into the chamber. Parliaments in other jurisdictions in Australia have amended their standing orders to provide for the admission to the floor of the house of an infant being cared for by a member. These are the federal Parliament and the Parliaments of New South Wales, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, just to name a few. Other jurisdictions have also gone further to allow for proxy voting and increased facilities for nursing parents. Therefore, to my mind, the suggestion to amend our standing orders was in no way revolutionary or controversial given other Parliaments, both in Australia and around the world, have done so already. Little did I realise—perhaps showing some naivety and newness to life as an MP—that I would wake up the morning after my inaugural speech to a barrage of missed calls and a flurry of interest from the media. The topic of breastfeeding in Parliament was suddenly again the subject of print, radio and TV media interest. I thank Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson and Rita Saffioti for their support on this issue, who, of course, have had to navigate the same challenges of balancing the duties of an MP with having young children. Whilst unfortunately family-friendly parliamentary reforms have not yet been enacted, with the swearing in of many newly elected members with young children and babies, I hope that they will be agitators of this small but important and symbolic change.

I turn now to the future. Whilst I will serve as a member of this government for only a few more days, I am very proud of what it has achieved and what it will achieve in the future. With such a decisive election win comes the weight of high expectations from the community. The Western Australian people have put their trust in a Labor

government and quite rightly deserve that these expectations be strived for, met and surpassed. The challenges this new government will face over the next four years will undoubtedly be immense given the dire economic situation that it has inherited. Nevertheless, the achievements of this government have already been notable, which is remarkable given the election was held only 66 days ago.

This government has prevented the sale of Western Power. The sale of Western Power was a central policy that was put to the Western Australian people during the election campaign, and a resounding mandate was achieved to keep this monopoly state asset in public hands. By retaining Western Power, we have the opportunity to prevent the reduction of quality of services and undue increases in costs to the consumer. By keeping Western Power in public hands, new policies and technologies can be explored to ensure outcomes for the greater public good.

This government has successfully secured federal funding and transferred \$2.3 billion in funds from the Perth Freight Link to the visionary Metronet project and other infrastructure projects. During the election, commentators and detractors said that it could not be done. However, the recent announcement means more jobs for Western Australians and less congestion on our roads. It means that Western Australia will have transport infrastructure to meet future needs and that people will spend more time with their families and less time in cars. A central tenet of the Metronet project will be the focus on local job creation by ensuring the local manufacture of carriages. By halting Roe 8, attention can now be turned to the rehabilitation and recovery of the Beelihar wetlands.

Protection of the environment should be front and centre of any government that cares about preserving our lands, air and water for generations to come. I am hopeful that new and innovative solutions can be found for protecting our pristine environment in Western Australia, such as looking to renewable energy sources, to ban or minimise plastic bag usage and to incentivise recycling schemes.

A key Labor value is access to universal health care and this government has signalled loudly and clearly that it will put patients first. It will build more urgent care clinics to relieve pressure on emergency departments and provide timely and quality health care closer to home. It will build medihotels to support patients who have been discharged from hospital but are still recovering and require further support. This will take pressure off our public hospitals and allow patients to be treated quicker. This government will expand mental health services and rehabilitation facilities. In the north metropolitan region it will upgrade and expand the Joondalup Health Campus and address issues with the Perth Children's Hospital to ensure that it can be opened safely.

By freezing TAFE fees, this government will support young people and those wanting to undertake training. This will allow more Western Australians to develop necessary skills to be job-ready and it will grow and diversify our state's economy. Shockingly, and as pointed out by Hon Bill Leadbetter, the previous Liberal government increased TAFE fees by up to 510 per cent. This has meant TAFE has become out of reach for many young and struggling Western Australians. The cost of this fee freeze is expected to be paid for by a foreign buyers surcharge. The introduction of this surcharge will bring Western Australia in line with measures applied successfully in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

Western Australia's first female Director of Public Prosecutions has been appointed and this government has created WA's first Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence.

Finally, and perhaps most pertinently relevant to being able to achieve each of these commitments, this government has openly and transparently publicised the reality of the state's current finances. The inequity in Western Australia's GST share is a national disgrace. In a recent determination by the Commonwealth Grants Commission, Western Australia currently stands to get only 34c for every GST dollar. This is the lowest of all states. To highlight this unfairness, Queensland's population is less than double WA's, yet it will receive around six times as much GST revenue. Advocating on behalf of Western Australia's interest in respect to its GST share will continue to be an important task for this government in the coming months and years.

With the house's indulgence, I turn now to some thank-yous. I thank the President of the Legislative Council, parliamentary staff and my parliamentary colleagues on all sides of this place for their professionalism, warmth and good humour. In particular I thank Hon Samantha Rowe with whom I shared an office, and Hon Sue Ellery for her mentorship and guidance. I also congratulate Sue for being the first ever female leader of the Legislative Council.

Thank you to my electorate office staff, both past and present, Prue, Alex and, more recently, Kayleigh. I also thank Emily Hamilton who worked in my office for a brief period and congratulate her again as the new member for Joondalup. It has been a pleasure to work with such confident, capable and intelligent women in what we fondly refer to as the "Joondy" office. You all have bright futures ahead.

I thank WA Labor, especially Patrick Gorman and Lenda Oshalem, for their ongoing guidance, sanity and willingness to answer my phone calls at all times of the day. Their wise counsel has been truly appreciated.

Finally, I thank my family for their support over the past eight months. I thank them for encouraging me with gusto to take up this position and for providing me with the emotional and practical support to enable me to do so. To my mum, Ileana and Katie, thank you for helping to looking after Matilda, and also all staff at her day care who provide her with love, nourishment and care. I want, of course, to make special mention of my partner, Patrick, and daughter, Matilda. They make every single day a joy and I am thankful for our small family. Patrick could not be here this evening because he is at home taking care of Matilda. However, I hope Matilda is safely tucked away in bed and I am sure Patrick is watching online. Patrick, thank you for your kindness, love and encouragement to just say yes to opportunities that arise, and Matilda. Since entering Parliament, Matilda has grown from a baby to a resourceful, resilient and clever toddler with a wicked sense of humour. Matilda's smile and confident swagger when she enters a room lights up my life and I burst with pride seeing her development and growth each day. Matilda will be too young to remember my time as a member of the thirty-ninth Parliament, but I hope one day she will read *Hansard* and realise how much her mum cherishes and adores her.

My parliamentary position will soon come to an end but many things will remain unchanged. I will continue to be an advocate for those in need and champion justice through my role as a lawyer. I will continue to be an active member of my local community and of the Labor Party. As I take my seat tonight knowing that there are only a few short days left in my term as a member for North Metropolitan Region, I do so with a sense of optimism and hope for the future. I do so knowing that I have fulfilled my twin goals of representing the people of the North Metropolitan Region to the best of my ability and having taken a seat in the historic McGowan Labor government.

[Applause.]

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Hon Sue Ellery (Leader of the House)**.

### STATUTES (MINOR AMENDMENTS) BILL 2017

#### *Second Reading*

**HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House)** [9.30 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

This is an omnibus bill. It makes a range of minor amendments to a number of acts, all under the umbrella of a single bill. As members may be aware, bills of this nature are a routine part of legislative review and ensure that the state's statute book is regularly updated and streamlined. Part 2 of the bill provides for the amendments. The amendments range from inserting missing words to correcting typographical, cross-referencing and formatting errors to account for updates to and repeals of other legislation. Redundant or lapsed provisions, such as sunset clauses that have long since taken effect, and references to now-repealed provisions of other legislation will also be removed or corrected by the passage of this bill. Detailed explanations of each of the amendments are set out in the explanatory memorandum accompanying this bill.

Pursuant to standing order 126(1), I confirm that this is not a uniform legislation bill, as it does not ratify or give effect to any intergovernmental or multilateral agreements to which the government of the state is a party. No uniform schemes or uniform laws throughout the commonwealth are introduced through this bill.

I commend the bill to the house and table an explanatory memorandum.

[See paper 63.]

#### *Referral to Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review — Motion*

**Hon SUE ELLERY**: I move without notice —

That the bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review in accordance with that committee's responsibility to scrutinise and review the statute book.

I look forward to the committee's consideration of, and report on, this bill in due course.

Question put and passed.

Debate thus adjourned.

### SECOND READING SPEECHES — AMENDING BILLS

#### *Statement*

**HON ROBYN McSWEENEY (South West)** [9.33 pm]: I thought I would share a little bit of humour with members tonight. About 16 years ago, when Hon George Cash was President of the Legislative Council, he was cleaning out his office and he said to me, "This will not make too much sense to you now", but that later, when I learnt legislation, it would. He was referring to a second reading speech that is suitable for any amending bill, and I mean any amending bill. It could be a universities legislation amendment bill, a health amendment bill, a land amendment bill or a liquor amendment bill. How do we get one speech that covers the lot? I think it

probably has been read in your time, Mr President, but not in mine; I am not sure. This is a second reading speech for any amending bill —

I will say at the outset that I am very pleased to see this Bill come before the House. In my opinion, the provisions embodied in this are long overdue, and their inclusion in the principal Act will do much to remove the minor anomalies which have existed for so long.

I am sure most members will agree that despite the difficulties, which the Bill seeks to adjust, this Act has been a valuable Statute to have on the books. Its scope has been wide, and it has had extensive effects on most members of the community—lasting and beneficial effects—and over the years there have been few complaints.

In a State such as ours, we must, at this point of time, look ahead and take into account the progress and development which are apparent all around us. We live in an affluent society, and it is up to us, as responsible legislators, to ensure that where anomalies and difficulties exist, these ills are remedied, and remedied as speedily as possible.

We all know that in some cases there is reluctance to make changes, but these are times of change, and if we are to have a functional flexibility, we must be prepared to accept changes which are compatible with our policy concept, and which are to the benefit of all.

We must be prepared to meet the challenge. We must be prepared to accept criticism if the changes we propose may not at first glance appear popular.

I might say here that I consider we are in a better position to appreciate the full effects of this legislation than are those people who are without daily contact with these problems.

It is necessary to have this continuing contact with the problems and with the people affected, in order to know just what all this means, and I can say from a long experience in this field, that the effect is widespread and the implications many; but I also emphasise that in the long term the benefits will be far reaching and will be welcomed by those on the receiving end.

There are knockers in every society, Mr President, and this place is no exception. I am sure the majority of members will recall the occasion last session when a most unpopular Bill was being debated and all sorts of fears were expressed about what would happen if the Bill were allowed to pass. As you know, it went through after a very stormy passage, and what happened afterwards? It was accepted, even welcomed, and the effects can now be appreciated.

I consider the Minister is to be congratulated on bringing this matter to the House, and I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

I just thought that everybody might like to have a bit of a laugh at that, because normally there is no one second reading speech. As I am about to leave this chamber, I thought humour was necessary.

**The PRESIDENT:** Members, I am tempted to say, “The question is that the bill be read a second time”! As there are no further members’ statements, the house is adjourned.

*House adjourned at 9.37 pm*

---

