

COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS

Statement by President

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Kate Doust) [5.48 pm]: I am going to ignore the clock for a little while. As is customary at this time of year, I will make some comments about our year. Indeed, we have had another very, very busy year. We certainly would not have expected this year as the final sitting year of the fortieth Parliament, but I do not think anyone could have foreseen how challenging this year would have turned out to be. The coronavirus pandemic and the resulting state of emergency declared in March 2020 certainly significantly changed the way in which we live our lives and manage our work arrangements. Our usual practices and some longstanding parliamentary procedures were changed to ensure that the work of the Legislative Council continued in a way that was safe for both members and staff. I want to thank everyone—members and staff—for accepting the changes and adapting to them with both grace and understanding, as tough as that might have been at times. The cross-party collaboration in the chamber has been very positive this year, with members working together to agree to additional sitting days to deal with urgent COVID-19 legislation. In total, 21 bills were passed during that COVID period in the best interests of all Western Australians. This year, we have sat for 21 weeks—63 days—and passed 49 bills. We came close to passing our fiftieth bill today, but we did not quite get there. Twenty-nine bills were amended in the Legislative Council, which, again demonstrates the work that we do so well as the house of review. We have asked more than 1 350 questions without notice of which some notice was given and almost 680 questions were placed on notice.

In addition to the work in the chamber, a tremendous amount of committee work was undertaken, with 42 reports being tabled this year, which really is not the best measurement of the depth and breadth of the work undertaken, but it is a significant measurement nevertheless. As members are usually on more than one committee, I believe that it has been a very busy year for the vast majority of members in this chamber.

Before I move on to talk about and acknowledge individuals in the chamber, I will make one brief comment about the Corruption and Crime Commission's "Report on Electorate Allowances and Management of Electorate Offices", which was tabled earlier today, and its reference on page 84 to a code of conduct for members of the Legislative Council. Given that a code of conduct for members of the Legislative Assembly has been in place for a number of years, in my opinion this matter—the development of a code of conduct for members of the Legislative Council—is worthy of discussion, development and implementation in the next Parliament. I encourage members to give this matter appropriate consideration.

I move on to acknowledge members in the chamber. I acknowledge the hard work of the Deputy President, Hon Simon O'Brien. I thank him very much for his fine efforts in managing the deputy chairs in this chamber. I note all the hard work of all the Deputy Chairs of Committees: Hon Martin Aldridge; Hon Dr Steve Thomas, who has moved from PFAS to iron ore so we look forward to what his challenge is next year; Hon Robin Chapple; Hon Matthew Swinbourn; and Hon Adele Farina. They have worked diligently throughout the year in their capacity as deputy chairs, and I thank them for their work.

I would also like to acknowledge all the party leaders in this place and their teams: Hon Sue Ellery, the Leader of the House, and the Labor team; Hon Peter Collier, the Leader of the Opposition, and his colleagues in the Liberal Party; Hon Jacqui Boydell, the Deputy Leader of the Nationals WA, and her members; Hon Alison Xamon and the member of the Greens; Hon Colin Tincknell and Hon Robin Scott from Pauline Hanson's One Nation; Hon Rick Mazza from the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; Hon Aaron Stonehouse from the Liberal Democrats; and Hon Charles Smith, who is a member of the Western Australia Party.

I know I say this every year, but it is true; we are fortunate to have an excellent group of people who work here at Parliament, and I would like acknowledge them. I want to acknowledge Rob Hunter and the executive team from Parliamentary Services. The mission of Parliamentary Services is to provide effective apolitical support to the operations of the Parliament, and they do this well. They work very hard to ensure that the house and all the services their teams provide are good to go at any given time!

I will acknowledge and thank the departments of Parliament in alphabetical order. We thank Building Services staff for looking after our accommodation and for repairs to and the maintenance of Parliament House. I congratulate them again on the completion of the fountains redevelopment project. I want to give a special shout out to our fabulous gardeners, who do an admirable job caring for the gardens and grounds of Parliament House. I acknowledge Catering Services, which continues to provide us with fabulous food service in Parliament. I also thank the Parliament's kitchen staff for preparing meals that were distributed to people in need by the food rescue charity OzHarvest whilst Parliament was in COVID-19 shutdown.

I want to acknowledge the Finance staff for all their very good work getting bills paid and for the reimbursements and other payments that were done in a quiet and efficient manner.

Extract from Hansard

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Hon Rick Mazza

I acknowledge Human Resources staff for providing advice to management and staff in all areas of human resources and staff payroll, and for their work to arrange health and wellbeing activities.

The staff from Information Technology have had a very significant year. They did amazing work implementing at short notice a COVID work-from-home platform for the majority of Parliament staff and providing for a range of business critical applications to be accessed remotely, including Hansard recording, finance and payroll systems. I do not think there is anyone in this chamber who would have thought at the beginning of this year that they would use the words “Zoom”, “Teams” or “Webex”, which they now frequently use in their conversations.

I acknowledge the staff from Library and Information Services, who do a magnificent job providing information and media monitoring services to members, members’ electorate staff and others. I give a special mention to all those who work on Parliament’s social media. The Parliament of Western Australia’s Facebook page is fantastic. The posts are interesting, quite often fun and always professional.

To the Parliamentary Education Office, they are a superb team of people who provide education services and community relations activities, public tours and the like that promote and enhance awareness, knowledge and understanding of the history, role and functions of the Parliament of Western Australia both here within our own building and certainly in the regions. To reception services for their frontline customer service. They welcome people to Parliament, deal with telephone and face-to-face inquiries. They connect guests with their hosts and always represent the Parliament in a professional manner. For that, we thank them.

Reporting Services—Hansard—are always making the transcripts read better than we actually speak and the broadcast team who provides television and audio services, thank you. They have had a very interesting year with all they have had to deal with, with the changes in the chamber, trying to keep track of who is speaking and who may not be seated in their usual spot. Last but not least, I acknowledge and thank Security for providing us with a safe environment within the parliamentary precinct in which to work. I want to thank all those groups and all those individuals.

I want to acknowledge my colleague in the Assembly, Hon Peter Watson. He has been a fabulous person to work with in our capacity as Presiding Officers. I have worked with Hon Peter Watson for nearly 20 years as a member in this Parliament, and so I wish him well in his retirement. I also acknowledge the support of his Clerk, Ms Kirsten Robinson.

I would like to recognise some of our Legislative Council staff who reached very significant service milestones this year. Parliamentary officer Chris Hunt, served 35 years. Deputy Usher of the Black Rod, Peter Gale, and senior projects officer, Kelly Alcock, attained 25 years’ service. Our Clerk, Nigel Pratt, served 15 years, albeit broken with a stint in Tasmania. Our parliamentary officer, Hayley Brown, our committee clerk, Clair Siva, and our Usher of the Black Rod, John Seal-Pollard, all reached the 10-year milestone. Our advisory officer, Stephen Brockway, has now been with the Legislative Council for five years. I congratulate them and thank them for the excellent work that they do for us all.

I especially thank the Department of the Legislative Council management team, our Clerk, Nigel Pratt; our Deputy Clerk, Paul Grant; our clerk assistant, committees, Ms Christine Kain; our clerk assistant, house, Mr Sam Hastings; and our Usher of the Black Rod, Mr John Seal-Pollard, for their support, hard work and dedication, all of which is appreciated. A number of other staff work extremely hard for us in and around the chamber. I have already mentioned Mr Sam Hastings, and Mr John Seal-Pollard. I would also like to acknowledge Mr Peter Gale, Mr Brian Conn, Ms Hayley Brown, Ms Lauren Levia, Mr Grant Hitchcock, Mr Chris Hunt, Ms Renae Jewell and Ms Rebecca Burton, who is not only the executive officer to the Clerk, but also assists in the chamber.

I want to acknowledge the staff that work across the road in the Legislative Council committee office—a talented and an exceptionally professional bunch lead by clerk assistant, committees, Christine Kain; and parliamentary officer, committees, Ms Lauren Wells. I also want to acknowledge Deb Kapoor, my steward, and Tina O’Connor, my executive officer, who both do an exceptionally good job of looking after me. As I have said, it has been an extremely busy year, a very unusual year and hopefully one that we will never have to deal with again in the same way.

Members, as we head towards Christmas, and a very much longer than usual recess with the state general election taking place in March 2021, with a yet to be determined resumption date next year, I would like to say thank you very much for your contributions made in the Legislative Council this year on behalf of, and in service to, the Western Australian community.

I wish everyone here a very happy and safe Christmas with your families and a wonderful new year, and I hope that when we finish up today, members will join the staff in the members’ lounge for refreshments to wrap up the year.

I look forward to seeing you all when we return in 2021. Thank you.

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HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [5.58 pm]: Thank you very much, Madam President. Can I join you and endorse your comments in thanking the parliamentary staff in particular, across the precinct and across the many and varied functions, who do an exemplary job behind the scenes. In particular, I want to thank the staff who work in this chamber, the Clerk and his team, who keep this place held together and to whom we can all turn to for advice, and of course, thank you, Madam President, for the leadership role that you have played.

This time last year we were coming to the end of the debate to which every single member of this chamber contributed. That is not always the case, but that was an extraordinary debate, and I think we all thought that we would never go through another parliamentary year as draining or as challenging as we did last year because of that particular piece of legislation. Then we entered 2020 and COVID-19 happened. I think that this year will be remembered by all of us for the remainder of our lives. The legislation that we had to deal with and pass this year has been extraordinary to match extraordinary times.

I think Madam President referred to 21 COVID-19-related bills that were passed in the interests of keeping Western Australia safe and to support the state and all the functions through the pandemic. I am advised that is by far the most COVID-19-related legislation that was passed of most Parliaments in Australia. I want to sincerely thank members of this house for their role in helping to achieve that.

Madam President referred to the Corruption and Crime Commission report that was issued today. I had not planned to mention it, but I think her suggestion that we give consideration to a code of conduct is one that is worthy of consideration. Our role as members of Parliament and of this place is one in which the community places an enormous amount of trust. It was disappointing and shocking in varying degrees to see that what that report is telling us is that not everybody values and respects that trust as much as they should. Therefore, I think the President's suggestion is one worthy of consideration.

I do want to thank a few people. I continue to value the working relationship I have with Hon Peter Collier—long may he remain Liberal Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council. I also want to acknowledge and thank Hon Donna Faragher, who is out of the house on urgent parliamentary business, as the shadow in my portfolios. I want to thank all members of the Liberal Party as well. I want to thank even my nemesis over there, but fellow Eagles supporter—as I try to think of something positive—Hon Nick Goiran.

I want to thank members of the Nationals WA led by Hon Jacqui Boyde, who has had a challenging end to her parliamentary year as well. I have put on the public record my respect for the position that she took on those issues and I stand with her.

I want to thank Hon Alison Xamon and the team in the Greens. If there was a trophy for the most member statements that can be made in any one year, then the Greens are right up there. More than 80 statements were made by the Greens, 47 of them by Hon Alison Xamon. I have to confess, honourable member, that it is not always the case we think kind thoughts about you when we get to member statements!

Hon Alison Xamon: You'd think I cared!

Hon SUE ELLERY: We know.

I want to thank members of the crossbench as well. I want to thank Hon Colin Tincknell and his One Nation team, and Hon Aaron Stonehouse, Hon Rick Mazza and Hon Charles Smith. If we put aside the politics that are par for the course between us, the COVID pandemic has demonstrated that when we need to, and in the interests of Western Australians, we can in fact work together collegiately. We do not always agree, but my aim has been to make sure that I manage my working relationships with each party leader in a respectful way, and most times we have been able to find a way forward. I want to thank everybody for their assistance in that.

Of course, my biggest thanks goes to team red—members of the government benches. I thank them for their flexibility. I thank them for their willingness to give up their opportunities to speak when I know they are desperate to do it. I thank them for understanding the death stare when it is applied in their general direction; I am not looking at anyone in particular. I want to thank them for their ongoing support, their outstanding representation of the McGowan government in this chamber and elsewhere. I know that being a government backbencher can be challenging at times, but each of you has brought a strength to our team and I do appreciate your contributions.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Hon Stephen Dawson. I thank my ministerial colleague Hon Alannah MacTiernan as well, who in the last year has overcome greater challenges than most of us during the course of this term and is so often the defender of the government's honour on a Thursday during non-government business. I want to say thank you to her.

I also want to pay a particular thankyou to the Whip, Hon Pierre Yang, for his dedication and support.

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Because my role as leader means that others who work for me and with me have to take an extra burden, I want to thank the staff in my ministerial and electorate offices. They are a hardworking and dedicated team, who ride the highs and the lows with me, and I certainly could not do it without them.

I need to seek the indulgence of the house to make a couple of thank-yous that are a bit unusual. This is literally what I have been told by Ollie, Shelley and Kris, the three Amigos—I could pick another term, but I will call them that—who work for Hon Stephen Dawson, Hon Alannah MacTiernan and me, and who have hijacked my speech and written this bit. They have asked me to thank the members and parliamentary staff in this place for the good working relationship they have had with them over this term, particularly the government members of Parliament with whom they have worked so closely, and they also say do not forget to mention the three impressive ministers whom they work for.

From time to time, ministers need to be in other places. Hon Stephen Dawson has reminded me in particular to thank the drivers who wait for us at the south entrance as we run in and out and who get us safely to where we need to be.

The second special thank-you that I want to make is to my chief of staff, Liz Carey. When Liz came to work for me as my chief of staff, the deal was that when her son, Lewis, was ready to start school, she would be moving back to Victoria. That time has come. Despite the fact that I have tried to put every obstacle in the way of Lewis reaching school age, it has happened, and so Liz is moving to Victoria to be with family. Many members will have dealt with and spoken with Liz on a range of issues in my portfolios. I know that Liz is highly regarded by those who have spoken with her. She has worked tirelessly and at an incredibly high standard. Members who know me will know that I have high standards. She is respected across government, and across politics as well. She is certainly respected by me. I wish Liz, Joe, and Lewis every success for the next phase of their lives. I am confident that whatever Liz Carey put her mind to, she will be successful at.

Honourable members, there are 107 days until the next election. To everybody who is heading out to every corner of Western Australia to campaign in their electorates, good luck; but of course if you are not on team red, then actually not very much luck at all! I will see you all out there in the trenches.

I sincerely wish everybody a peaceful and joyous Christmas and festive season. Enjoy the time with your family and friends. Rest, recharge and stay safe.

We will be back sometime after the election and before those members who are leaving us will finish their term in late May, so I know that we will have the opportunity to celebrate the contribution that they have all made to this place. We will see you all back here in 2021.

HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [6.07 pm]: I would like to make a few comments at the conclusion of not just this year, but this parliamentary session. To start with, I want to thank Hon Sue Ellery. Our relationship is actually turning into a very long term relationship. I thought it was about to end, but I have decided to continue it. We have had our moments, but we have always had, dare I say it, a very constructive and productive relationship, and I thank you. I also thank Hon Stephen Dawson in his capacity as Deputy Leader of the House and also as Minister for Disability Services. We have a very good and very effective working relationship, so thank you. I thank all members of the Labor Party for their contribution, particularly in this very challenging year.

To the crossbench, the members of the National Party, and the Greens collectively, we are what makes up the rich tapestry of the alternate government. Everyone who is not in government is potentially an alternate government. We have spent a lot of time working with you guys over the past four years, and the last year in particular. It has always been an extraordinarily fruitful and rewarding experience. We do not always agree on things, the same as we do not always agree with the government, but the relationship is always honest, open and transparent. I regard each and every one of you as friends, as I do with the government, but I spend a lot more time negotiating and working with the members of non-government parties, so thank you very much for contributing to what is a dynamic Legislative Council. Thank you very much.

To the “blue team”, my guys, as I say every year, it is my absolute privilege to be your leader and I am delighted to be continuing. We are a small but, dare I say it, very effective and extraordinarily harmonious group. As everyone knows, in the major parties sometimes you have your little battles and groupings, but we just do not have that in the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council. I was waiting for some smart-alec quip from Hon Simon O’Brien; he was just about to open his mouth, and decided against it! Having said that, I firmly believe that.

I will lose my deputy, Hon Michael Mischin; the father of the house, Hon Simon O’Brien; and our Whip, Hon Ken Baston next year. Of course, I will have more to say about that. I am really going to miss you guys; I really,

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really am going to miss you guys. It is not going to be the same without you, but I will have more to say about that next year.

Collectively, thanks to everyone. We always comment about the values and attributes of the Legislative Council. When you are part of it, you really understand why nothing beats the Legislative Council, so thanks to each and every one of you.

Madam President, it is always a pleasure. Your experience, expertise, effectiveness, efficiency, and the fact that you are so balanced in your rulings and judgements and the manner in which you conduct the proceedings of this house are testament to your character, so thank you.

To the Clerk, Nigel Pratt, and the chamber staff: you are exceptional. You really do a good job. You are Rolls-Royce engine room that keeps this place humming, so to you and collectively to the chamber staff, thank you so much, as with Hansard, who always make us read a lot better than we probably sound, so well done to Hansard—you guys are also exceptional.

I will not go through the entire parliamentary precinct; suffice it to say that the catering staff are extraordinary, as are the security staff, the ground staff, and the committee staff. They are wonderful. It is an exceptionally professional working environment to be employed in.

As the Leader of the House said, this has been an exceptional year, and none of us need to repeat that, but what we have tried to do—and, I think, have done effectively—is to rise to the challenges and meet those challenges as a legislative body in assisting the government to facilitate the swift passage of legislation, which has ensured that Western Australians have remained safe. That, again, is testament to the professionalism of everyone in this chamber.

COVID-19 brought challenges and we rose to those challenges and will do so again if required. Along with that, we had other legislation to deal with. That perhaps was not as seamless, prompt or efficient as the Leader of the House would have preferred. I have been in that chair and I know what it is like. Ideally, whoever is in power, we will not have the same challenges that we did this year.

Having said that, to everyone: thank you once again. I wish you all a blessed Christmas. For those you love and who love you, I hope it is a wonderful time of the year for you. I hope 2021 brings each and every one of you good health and happiness. We will see what happens after 13 March 2021. Thank you.

HON JACQUI BOYDE (Mining and Pastoral) [6.13 pm]: I rise on behalf of the Nationals WA to make some comments about the year we have had. It has really been an unprecedented year; there is no doubt about that. On behalf of all Western Australians I want to thank and congratulate the McGowan government on how it has dealt with the COVID-19 response for Western Australia. I think it has given Western Australians a degree of confidence in how we have managed our response to COVID. I also think that the negotiations with the federal government have set a new paradigm for how they can happen. I have watched with interest how, as a state, we can carry that forward. As one of the most important states in Australia, we should have that voice and should be heard. Perhaps it shows a way that things can be done differently. That is something I think all Western Australians would want to congratulate the government for. There is no doubt that on 1 January 2020 people would not have thought that we would be dealing with a global pandemic, not only the health risk it would create for everyone but also the potential economic fallout. We will probably be managing that for some time to come.

As a representative of a regional area, as all members of the Nationals WA are, and being more removed, we need to work out how we get the extra layer of risk management in a regional sense for health and economic recovery because we want to ensure that all Western Australians get an opportunity to take advantage as we now turn to recovery. The National Party will be focused on that way past my time here, but I think one of the important roles that the National Party has played this year has been to highlight the extra unique challenges people in regional WA face.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the condolence motions the house passed this year. There were some fairly significant ones for me, particularly Hon Tom McNeil's, a former member of the National Party, whose condolence motion we did recently. Another one was for Hon Kevin Leahy, who had been a friend of mine since I was a young person. He also came from Carnarvon and I respected him greatly and enjoyed the opportunity, privilege and honour to comment on the time he served here. Another condolence motion was for Hon Clive Griffiths, a former President of the Legislative Council and well-respected member.

Although it is not a condolence motion, certainly the reflection on the life of Andrea Mitchell, a member of the other place, was deeply felt by members of the Legislative Council. We, again, place on record our thanks to those former members who served their time to the best of their ability while they were custodians in this place.

Some of the issues I have highlighted may also reflect the need for a code of conduct. I think it is time the Parliament was seen as a place of leadership; as a place in which people expect us as members and the parliamentary process

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to support the public and be leaders in this space. Highlighting issues, particularly of a personal nature is never easy. However, while we are here and have the opportunity, no matter how hard it is, we should do that as we represent those people who do not have that opportunity. The hundreds of messages that I have received since highlighting some of those issues have been overwhelming and are something I will be forever grateful for. I will continue to work with the National Party to ensure we get a better process. I want to also thank the members of the Legislative Council and the staff for their ongoing support of me during that time.

Some people have asked me as a retiring member whether I will miss the Legislative Council. I said no, because I will always feel that I am a member of it, and the people I have served with during my time here will always have a place in my heart and mind, particularly around the support that I have received from members across the chamber and I thank them wholeheartedly for that. Obviously, everybody's challenge next year will be the state election. It will not be mine. I might be on a beach somewhere, and I will enjoy that! I wish all members of this place luck with the election. I am sure that the Legislative Council, under the exceptional leadership of the Clerk of the house and the President and their team, will welcome new members and will see the retiring members out in the way that we normally do. I have no doubt that members of the next Parliament will be as well supported as I have been in this place.

I say to everybody and their families: have a merry Christmas and stay safe in particular, and take some time to reflect and replenish the soul for next year, because it will be the start of another four-year term and an exciting opportunity. Thank you all very much and have a restful season.

HON ALISON XAMON (North Metropolitan) [6.20 pm]: I rise on behalf of the Greens to note the end of what has been an interesting term and a quite unprecedented and extraordinary year. Every year of this term, our members have taken turns to give the traditional Christmas greeting, and here I am doing so at the end of this term. I was concerned that members had not heard enough from me, so I am here to ensure that they get to hear more from me now!

I want to thank everyone in this chamber for their friendship, for being fun, frankly, and for an extraordinary time. I want to thank Hon Sue Ellery and Hon Stephen Dawson for their leadership in this place. I also want to thank the other parliamentary leaders: Hon Peter Collier, Hon Jacqui Boyde, Hon Colin Tincknell, Hon Aaron Stonehouse, Hon Rick Mazza and Hon Charles Smith. We have certainly attempted to make sure that communication was open and that the chamber could progress its business as effectively as possible.

It certainly has been a very challenging year for the community. I note that while people were talking about taking time out to learn how to make sourdough and to speak languages, we were working harder than ever. That is the thing that I think a lot of members of the public did not necessarily see. I note that federal Parliament was not meeting, so people presumed that we were not either, but we were working very hard during extended hours to try to ensure that we facilitated the necessary actions to address this unprecedented crisis of COVID-19.

Madam President, I would particularly like to thank you for the way that you, as the Presiding Officer, steered the chamber in responding to that and taking unprecedented action simply to make sure that this place, as our workplace, remained safe for us and all the staff. I echo the comments that have been made about you. I thank you for doing a marvellous job as President. I make it clear that the Greens hold you in the highest regard for the way that you have conducted yourself.

I also want to thank quite a number of people who help make this Parliament work. Madam President, you went through a lot of them, but I have to acknowledge the committee staff in particular, who make all of us look good. Let us be very clear: the committee staff are often the brains trust of a lot of the work that happens in this chamber. I want to thank them for their diligence and their commitment to excellence. Thank you so much.

My thanks also go to the parliamentary staff. Again, so many have already been listed, but I am talking about the dining room staff, the cleaning staff, the front desk staff, Building Services staff, the gardeners, the kitchen staff, the administrative staff, the IT staff and the human resources staff. The list is huge because so many people help to make sure that Parliament is a well-oiled machine.

I want to give a particular thanks to Enno Schijf, who has been extraordinarily helpful to me as I have hosted a number of functions throughout this term. Thank you to him. I also want to send a shout-out to Tony Paterson and his staff in security, who have gone over and above. I am very grateful to them for responding to concerns as they arose. All of this of course has happened under the very capable leadership of Rob Hunter. I particularly want to thank him for finally getting rid of those ridiculous sewerage pipes out the front of Parliament House, even though as the driver of a Mini, they made for a great little rally obstacle course! I do not think they really did this place any favours, so I am pleased that they are gone.

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I also want to thank the staff in this chamber. You are all so professional and friendly, and incredibly helpful. I want to acknowledge our Clerk, Nigel Pratt. Thank you very much for your leadership and for being so accessible and helpful all the time.

I want to give a particular shout-out to the Hansard staff. The Hansard staff have a huge job keeping track of everything we say and, obviously, a lot of what I am saying in this place. I am quite sure that they go back to their offices and have quite a bit to say amongst themselves about the sorts of things that we say and do. I would like to point out to the Hansard staff that we note them as well. On this front bench—I particularly note Hon Samantha Rowe, Hon Darren West, Hon Tim Clifford and myself—we notice when you come in looking particularly good, wearing a particularly nice outfit, when your hair has been done and when you return from leave! We will often make comments amongst ourselves about how good particular Hansard people look on any particular day. By all means, I am sure that comments are made about us, but we are favourably commenting and noting you as well! I thought I would point that out.

I have had the privilege of being able to head up two parliamentary friendship groups. I acknowledge the Parliamentary Friends for Children co-leads Lisa Baker and Mia Davies, and in this place Hon Donna Faragher. I have headed up the Parliamentary Friends of Refugees with the honourable Janine Freeman. I would like to acknowledge her and her recent announcement that she will not be recontesting the next election. I want to thank all those members.

A bit closer to home: an enormous thanks to all the Greens staff in all of our offices. They work so hard and they work over and above. They are absolutely committed to what we stand for. I am forever grateful for what they do. I particularly want to acknowledge Jocasta, Kirsten, Arran, Piper, Tom and Jamnes from my office. All four of us would like to give a special shout-out and thanks to Tonia Brajcich who is our Whip's clerk and research assistant. She is extraordinarily good and I thank her.

I want to thank my Greens colleagues. There are only four of us in this place but we try very hard to apply ourselves diligently to the work in this chamber. I particularly want to note Hon Robin Chapple who will not be recontesting the next election. Robin and I have been friends since about 1994, so we have known each other for a very long time. He has served in this chamber for a very long time. I am really glad that he is finally going to take some time to rest, although I really do not think he will be taking much of a rest from the issues that are core to his heart, particularly Aboriginal heritage. I want to thank him very much and acknowledge him.

For those members who celebrate Christmas—I am a person who celebrates Christmas with my family—I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas, otherwise happy Hanukkah, happy Gita Jayanti, happy Kwanzaa or happy Festivus, if that is your thing. Whatever it is, it is a time for us to be with loved ones and hopefully to be able to stay safe and have a little bit of a rest. Many of us are going into an election year. I hope people are kind. I hope too that people look after themselves. I will be attempting to hold on to my seat, as will my colleagues, and we are hoping to be joined by others. I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and wonderful holidays. Please stay safe.

HON COLIN TINCKNELL (South West) [6.29 pm]: I just want to make a brief statement. I want to say thank you to everyone in this chamber. It is actually an honour to be a member of the Legislative Council. I really love the debates that go on in this place. It is actually a pleasure to be part of the rich tapestry that Hon Peter Collier mentioned before, with a lot of different parties here. To the major parties and to the other crossbench parties, thank you for working with us. One Nation is new to Parliament and we have enjoyed our four years. We will be fighting hard, as you know, to come back again. I want to say a special thanks to the crossbench and to all the staff, the President and the parliamentary committees. I especially want to thank our staff as well, who support Hon Robin Scott and me. Christmas is a special time. I hope everyone stays safe. I hope everyone has a fantastic, merry Christmas and a really good and happy new year. I will see you all probably on election day, but also in May.

HON RICK MAZZA (Agricultural) [6.30 pm]: I do not intend to delay the house too long, because we have a very important event, of course, once the house rises. It has been a very interesting year for me on many levels. One thing that I have experienced on the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges is the enormous dedication, capacity and intellect of the clerks of this Legislative Council. I do not think we really appreciate just how dedicated and professional they are. I am very grateful for the support of the clerks over the last 12 months and their guidance, particularly Nigel Pratt, who obviously leads the clerks.

I got a bit of an early Christmas present. I have obviously had a fair bit of pressure over the last few months, but on the fourteenth of this month my tenth grandchild, Liam Grayson Mazza, was born. He was a very healthy eight and a half pounds and is little brother to Jackson Ricky Mazza. I was very pleased about that. I just wanted to mention that because Liam's mother, very soon after giving birth, had a code blue emergency. She was at Bunbury Hospital at South West Health Campus. As my son explained, there was a swarm of professional medical staff there within seconds and they managed to deal with that issue very quickly. I know that we quite often criticise the Department of Health or whatever the case may be, but Western Australia has an absolutely first-class metropolitan and country

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President; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Jacqui Boyde; Hon Alison Xamon; Hon Colin Tincknell;
Hon Rick Mazza

health system. Those staff at Bunbury Hospital did a fantastic job, and because of their dedication, we will have a very merry Christmas this year, when it could have gone another way.

I would also like to thank my electorate staff, Anne, Lucy and Tim, who have been there with me for the last four years. They are a wonderful group of people and very dedicated. They keep things real for me when I am in here, and they feed information in and out. Without their support, I would be all the poorer, that is for sure.

Madam President, thank you for your leadership. I echo the sentiments of others in relation to the Parliament as a whole, when it comes to the dining staff or those who keep the grounds of the Parliament in first-class condition or whatever. With that, I wish every member of this place a very merry and safe Christmas. It has been a pleasure working with you all. I thought I would make a few comments on the basis that I do not know whether I will be here next Christmas as a member of the Council. It is a candle in the wind—we never know. But I do wish you all the best. If I do not happen to see you between now and May, enjoy the time.

The PRESIDENT: Members, I wish you a very happy and safe Christmas and I will see you on the other side.

House adjourned at 6.34 pm
