

HON SALLY TALBOT — RESIGNATION FROM SHADOW CABINET

Statement

HON SALLY TALBOT (South West) [5.32 pm]: I have today informed WA Labor leader, Mark McGowan, that I am resigning from shadow cabinet with effect from today and returning to the backbench. I want to put on record my reasons for making that decision.

Mr President, clearly people have made a judgement about the Labor Party. They have made a judgement that we do not reflect their values; they have made a judgement that they do not value what Labor offers them; and they have made a judgement that they do not trust Labor to give them a better future. For Labor to reconnect with the electorate, I believe that we need to rebuild our relationships with those who share our values. Those values have not changed. Labor stands for fairness, justice and equality. Our task has not changed. Labor stands up for working people and for the disadvantaged. My judgement is that as a former party official, as a former party president and as a lifelong member of the Labor Party, I can play a stronger part in rebuilding the Labor Party as a backbencher. I am optimistic about Labor being able to reconnect with the community. At its worst, Labor turns its back on the task of changing our culture and expressing our values, but at its best, Labor is a party full of true activists, hungry for change and tireless in our efforts to tell the Labor story. I and people in the Labor Party believe that working people and disadvantaged people suffer when Labor is not in government. Stepping down from the frontbench will enable me to put all my energy into making our time in opposition as short as possible and helping to rebuild the community support and trust that will make our return to government a reality.

House adjourned at 5.35 pm
