

**GREECE 2021**

*Statement by Member for Hillarys*

**MR P.A. KATSAMBANIS (Hillarys)** [12.53 pm]: On 25 March 2021, the world will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Greek War of Independence; the day that the Hellenic people, who introduced the principles of democracy to the world, commenced a revolution to demand liberty from oppression, and return freedom and democracy to their land. The enduring principles of the Greek War of Independence should be commemorated by all freedom-loving people. Greece 2021 has been established to ensure that the global impact of the events of 1821 will be appropriately remembered. Greece 2021 also aims to showcase the modern history of Greece over the past 200 years and the many Hellenes who have left their mark on the world in that time, and, importantly, will present a window of opportunity into the future of Greece as a modern and progressive nation.

Through my role as president of the World Hellenic Inter-Parliamentary Association, I am working closely with Greece 2021 and the Hellenic Parliament to ensure that these important events are properly commemorated in legislatures across the globe. I trust that the forty-first Parliament of Western Australia that is elected early next year will take a leading role in commemorating and celebrating the message that the liberation of Greece sent to all other oppressed people in the nineteenth century—that freedom and democracy is indeed possible for all. At the same time we should celebrate the unique bonds between our state and Greece as allies in two world wars and as great friends in times of peace.

The women, men and children who rose up against the Ottomans in 1821 had a simple motto, Ελευθερία ή θάνατος—liberty or death. May the eternal memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for that liberty guide us all as we celebrate 1821.