

HON CLIVE GRIFFITHS

Condolence Motion

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [1.04 pm] — without notice: I move —

That this house expresses its deep regret at the death of Hon Clive Griffiths, a former member and longest serving President of the Legislative Council; and places on record its appreciation for his long public service, and tenders its profound sympathy to his wife and members of his family in their bereavement.

Can I start today by acknowledging the family, friends and colleagues of the former member, in particular members of the Liberal Party in this chamber who knew him well. Can I also acknowledge in the President's gallery today as a sign of respect for Hon Clive Griffiths, in addition to his grandson Justin and granddaughter Danielle, former Premier Richard Court, former Leader of the Government Hon Norman Moore, former President Hon Nick Griffiths, former minister Hon Kay Hallahan and former MP Murray Nixon, OAM. Their presence today is much appreciated and I am sure will also provide support to his family members who are here.

I certainly did not serve while Hon Clive Griffiths was President, but I did have occasion to meet him around the house on a number of occasions when he would visit from time to time.

Hon Clive Griffiths was born on 20 November 1928 in South Perth, the son of Thomas Edward Griffiths and Dorothy Margaret Beattie. The family moved around several towns, so Clive was educated at a number of primary schools, including Koolanooka, Morawa, Beaconsfield, Koorda, East Fremantle and Cottesloe Primary Schools. He would later attend Fremantle Boys School, Kalgoorlie Central School and Kalgoorlie School of Mines. Following his father's footsteps, he completed an apprenticeship as a mechanical fitter and began his working life at the Public Works Department from 1948. It was in these early years that he met Myrtle Holtham, and they married on 1 July 1949 and together they had a daughter, Lynda. He would later marry his second wife, Norma, whom he continued to be with until his recent passing.

Following a brief period working for Co-operative Bulk Handling, in 1953 he started his own electrical contracting and engineering business. Although his business would go on to become very successful, it was a life of public service that was calling Hon Clive Griffiths. Following a brief stint as a councillor on the South Perth city council from 1962, he was first elected to the Legislative Council as a member for the South-East Metropolitan Province in 1965. He would go on to serve the southern suburbs of metropolitan Perth in the various iterations of the south metro area. He served as a member for the South-East Metropolitan Province between 1965 and 1983, the South Central Metropolitan Province between 1983 and 1989, and the South Metropolitan Region between 1989 and 1997. During his long parliamentary career, he held the positions of secretary of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, Deputy Chair of Committees and Chair of the Select Committee on Aboriginal Legal Service Writ of Summons. He was a member of the Standing Orders Committee, the Select Committee on the Corridor Plan for Perth and the Parliamentary Standards Committee. But he will be remembered most for being the longest serving presiding officer of either house of the Western Australian Parliament—20 years as the President of the Legislative Council.

He was a little different from most other members in that, by his own admission, he actually sought out the role of President, turning down two opportunities to become a cabinet minister and remaining President across several terms of governments of both persuasions. He had a keen interest in and commitment to improving the operations of Parliament, reforming its procedures and ensuring that the house remained relevant, while still performing its key traditional function as an upper house in a bicameral system. He was known and highly regarded for his fairness in presiding over the house and for the value he placed on members from all sides working together for the common good of Western Australia. In his own valedictory speech, he remarked —

... confidence that even the most ardent abolitionist who comes into this Chamber will understand and appreciate the value of this House and its legitimacy if, despite political differences, the collegiate spirit is fostered. It is for you and your successors to ensure that the House retains its relevance.

A former member of this place who I think it is fair to say crossed swords with Hon Clive Griffiths on a number of occasions, Hon Tom Stephens—I know that Hon Norman Moore will be delighted to hear me quote him—reflected on Hon Clive Griffiths' fairness in his treatment of members. He said that President Griffiths, although every bit the committed Liberal, did his bit to ensure that the opposition was at least heard, if not listened to; he knew that he had to exercise restraint as presiding officer to give the opposition as much time as possible to put the case and to give the government the opportunity to have their legislation dealt with; and he prided himself on being a presiding officer for many years who had not thrown anyone out of the chamber, to which Tom was quick to add, "I was his first and he made something of a habit of it after that." Hon Tom Stephens went on to say, according to my notes —

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Beyond doubt the most difficult time for Clive came with the tumultuous passage of the Court Government's "Third Wave" industrial legislation reforms through the Legislative Council.

The Court Government was determined to get the bill through before the 1997 state election.

From May that year the electors had delivered a slim non-government upper house majority to Labor, the Greens and the Australian Democrats. That was an historic first!

The clash of political ideologies between the Labor and the Liberal–National teams was to play itself out in the Upper house with passions flying high and Clive Griffiths left with the task of attempting to control the house.

I am still quoting from Hon Tom Stephens —

The public galleries occupied by the working men and women who were intent on expressing their opposition the legislation.

The noise from the occupied galleries made progress with the legislation impossible.

The noise levels were so high that Clive—who wore the then traditional full wig—was having to spin his head fast to try and keep an eye on things in the chamber and in the galleries.

Laughter broke loose when he once spun his head so fast but his wig had remained stationary and his face had disappeared under the flaps!

Eventually the presiding officer surrendered the house floor and directed the black rod upstairs to a hastily reconfigured room that is now the library, where the house sat and finally advanced the third wave onto the statute books.

Like many Parliamentarians, Hon Clive Griffiths had extensive community involvement throughout his life. He was: a member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and then Electrical Contractors Association; the patron of numerous charitable organisations; a member of the Victoria Park Lions Club; and foundation president of the Australia–India Chamber of Commerce. We always find out interesting things when we do these speeches, members; he was also president of the Western Australian Weightlifting Association. He was a life member and patron of the Perth Football Club Junior Football Council; a life member of the South Perth Yacht Club; and he had membership to various other organisations. Most importantly, of course, he was also appointed Officer of the Order of Australia in 1997 for his service. But unlike many other parliamentarians, he is the only Western Australian member to have been elected the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. On this, I will finish with some further reflections from Tom Stephens. I quote my notes —

Clive Griffiths was a consummate numbers man.

He took those same skills into the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and from the relatively obscure position of being a presiding officer of our remote chamber, he was able to secure election as world president of the CPA.

A very significant achievement, which saw Clive exercising his indisputable presiding skills at parliamentary gatherings all over the globe.

Memorably in Bridgetown Barbados where the level of informality that came with a Caribbean location presented challenges for the delegations from Westminster, Ottawa and India.

But not Clive.

Even without full wig and gown he was able to keep order over an assembly of parliamentarians from all over the commonwealth.

On behalf of the government and the Parliamentary Labor Party, I would like to express my sincere condolences to the Griffiths family for their loss.

HON DR STEVE THOMAS (South West — Leader of the Opposition) [1.13 pm]: I also support the motion of the Leader of the House in our condolence for the family and friends of Hon Clive Griffiths. Can I also recognise, in particular, his grandchildren in the President's gallery today—Justin and Danielle Podmore. We also recognise former Liberal Premier, Hon Richard Court, and Hon Norman Moore, a former Leader of the Opposition in this place, Hon Nick Griffiths, who occupied your chair, Madam President, in days gone by, Hon Kay Hallahan and Hon Murray Nixon.

The longest-serving presiding officer in the history of the Parliament of Western Australia, Clive Griffiths was born in South Perth in November 1928. Because his father was a mechanical fitter performing itinerant work on the state's railways, Clive's early years were spent in a succession of small midwest towns, interspersed with stays

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in the metropolitan area. His primary schooling consequently took place at Koolanooka, Morawa, Beaconsfield, Koorda, East Fremantle and Cottesloe. He apparently did not wear shoes until aged eight and, on occasions, his family home was a tent. Clive gained a secondary education at Fremantle Boys' School and in Kalgoorlie, until he left school aged 14 when he worked as a petrol pump attendant before completing his apprenticeship as an electrical fitter in Kalgoorlie in 1947.

Employed at first by the Public Works Department, he worked on the Fremantle wharves for Co-operative Bulk Handling, having begun married life aged 20 in a one-room state housing commission apartment. As a former member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union who retained respect and sympathy for his low-paid fellow workers, Clive became strongly convinced that productive employees deserved higher rates of pay and should not be held back. He also developed a firm opposition to the arbitrary exercise of authority, many years later stating that he was never happy to accept decisions which he felt were wrong or needed to be made in a different way. Clive Griffiths' belief in individual freedom was put into practice from 1953 when he established his own electrical contracting and engineering business. In 1956 he joined the Liberal Party and later became active in the South Perth branch, with Bill Grayden, MLA, becoming his friend and mentor. His community involvement led to his election to the South Perth City Council in 1962.

In 1964, Clive Griffiths won Liberal preselection for the newly created South East Metropolitan Province of the Legislative Council, comprising the four Legislative Assembly districts of South Perth, Victoria Park, Canning, and Beeloo, which was subsequently renamed Clontarf. The latter three seats were held by the Australian Labor Party, who were hopeful of winning the province. However, at the 1965 state election, Clive won with a majority of 1 229 votes or 51.5 per cent. He reached out to his defeated Labor opponent who subsequently became a stalwart member of the Liberal Party—a habit we would like to continue.

Giving his inaugural speech on 17 August 1966, Clive characteristically devoted most of it to exposing the inadequate compensation offered to two poultry farming constituents by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority. He was a battler for his electors in an era when members had no staff or electorate officers, and with senior colleagues advising him to leave constituent work to Legislative Assembly members. Although the later 1960s were a time of substantial economic growth, there was also considerable housing stress, with Clive taking as many as 20 calls a day on his home phone. At the conclusion of his first six-year term, Clive faced an adverse political climate at the 1971 state election, with Labor having retained the other South East Metropolitan Province seat in 1968 and once more holding three of its four Assembly districts. Despite the overall swing that defeated the Brand government, Clive Griffiths was re-elected after preferences with an increased majority of 53.3 per cent or by 3 567 votes. Many of the 55.5 per cent of electors who voted Labor across the four Legislative Assembly seats had recognised his tireless advocacy and had given him their Legislative Council votes.

After serving as a shadow spokesman on town planning, local government and small business, he was elected as secretary to the Parliamentary Liberal Party in 1974. At the 1977 election, following a major redistribution, the South East Metropolitan Province comprised the seats of South Perth, Clontarf, Murdoch and Gosnells. Clive Griffiths won a majority of 9 013 votes or 57.9 per cent, and again polled higher than the 55.0 per cent gained by the four Legislative Assembly Liberal candidates. He polled 53.3 per cent in the district of Gosnells that was won narrowly by Labor. On 24 May 1977, Clive Griffiths was elected President of the Legislative Council, preferring this role to the possibility of a cabinet position. He already had a deep knowledge of standing orders, and was not content to merely continue with the status quo. In 1982, he recruited the late Laurie Marquet as Clerk of the Legislative Council to provide legally trained advice.

In particular, his major rulings were to give clarification to the responsibilities of ministers in the Legislative Council and established limits to the amendment of appropriation bills by the Legislative Council. He established the distinction between bills imposing taxes that could not be amended, and bills covering assessment and administrative arrangements that were subject to amendment. He also took satisfaction from the growth of the committee system in the 1980s in providing members with information and in giving a new forum to electors concerned with legislation.

His 20 years as President covered six Parliaments and two changes of government, with the Liberal–National coalition and the Australian Labor Party holding office for 10 years each. After May 1986, he became father of the Legislative Council. In his final months in office, he resolutely faced disruption of the sitting of the Legislative Council by angry unionists and also quashed a move within the Liberal Party to follow the example of the Senate and grant the President a deliberative vote.

As President of the Legislative Council, Clive Griffiths was joint chair of the WA branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and attended numerous CPA conferences along with every Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth from 1977 to 1996. At the 1990 CPA annual conference in Harare, attended by 400 delegates, he was elected to a three-year term as chairman of the CPA executive committee—the only Western Australian member ever to hold this position. In a forum that includes both the British and

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Canadian Houses of Commons, the Indian Lok Sabha and other significant national Parliaments, Clive Griffiths' election to that office saw this chamber well and truly punching above its weight. He considered his major achievement as CPA chair to be the institution of post-election seminars on the nature of multi-party politics for the emerging democracies within the Commonwealth, seeking to avoid the breakdowns that result in coups. At the 1992 CPA conference in Britain, he delivered the principal address to mark the fortieth anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II.

Clive Griffiths won a fourth six-year term in 1983, standing in the new South Central Metropolitan Province that was formed from the Legislative Assembly electorates of East Melville, South Perth, Clontarf and Victoria Park. In the face of a massive swing against the O'Connor Liberal government he won a majority of 3 720 votes—53.3 per cent—compared with a combined total of less than 50 per cent for the Liberal Party in the Legislative Assembly. With the introduction of proportional representation, he headed the Liberal Party tickets for South Metropolitan Region, gaining 41.8 per cent of the vote at the 1989 election and 45.1 per cent in 1993—figures we could only dream about today! Despite this guaranteed re-election, he regretted that he was no longer individually accountable to the electors of a province.

Underpinning Clive's rapport with his electors was his membership and patronage of numerous community and sporting organisations. His foundation and life membership of both Canning Meals on Wheels and the City of Canning Aged Persons' Trust are examples of his concern for vulnerable members of the community. His foundation presidency of the Australia India Chamber of Commerce in 1994–95 showed his commitment to our state's economic growth. Life membership of the South of Perth Yacht Club was an indication of his love of sailing, enthusiastically taken up in later life.

Leaving Parliament in 1997, Clive Griffiths was created an Officer of the Order of Australia and was appointed Agent General for Western Australia in London, where for four years he vigorously promoted the state. After he and Norma returned to Perth in September 2001, he acted as a valued business consultant until his late 80s. Always conscious of the support he had received from grassroots Liberals, he continued as an active member of the party, representing its Fremantle division on the state council. Clive was often a respected, very independent voice at selection committee meetings, and despite his ill-health, served as a delegate at the South Metropolitan Region selection in February last year.

Clive Griffiths' funeral at St George's Cathedral on 20 November 2020 was attended by all five of his successors as President of the Legislative Council, with former Premier Richard Court and his grandson Justin Podmore delivering eulogies.

Madam President, we, the National–Liberal opposition, extend our sympathies to his wife, Mrs Norma Griffiths, his daughter, Lynda, his grandchildren, Danielle and Justin, and his four great-grandchildren, who are in the gallery. Clive Griffiths was a magnificent servant of the Liberal Party, a great representative for the Legislative Council of Western Australia and a truly good person who deserves to be remembered and respected by us all.

HON COLIN de GRUSSA (Agricultural — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [1.24 pm]: I rise on behalf of my colleagues in the National–Liberal alliance to offer our condolences to the family of Hon Clive Edward Griffiths, AO, and I join in acknowledging family, friends and former colleagues and members of this place and the other place who join us today in the President's gallery.

Clive was born in South Perth on 20 November 1928. In 1943, he was apprenticed to an electrical fitter at Kalgoorlie, and in 1947 worked for plant engineers at the Public Works Department. He developed his own business from 1953, and although he was a member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, he joined the Liberal Party in 1956. Clive served on South Perth City Council from 1962 to 1966, and in 1965 was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Council, representing South-East Metropolitan Province.

Clive was elected President of the Legislative Council in 1977 and served for 20 years—the longest term of any parliamentary presiding officer in Western Australia. On his retirement from politics in 1997, he was appointed Agent General for Western Australia, and was also appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia. He was also awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003.

In an obituary published in *The West Australian* of 16 December 2020, a number of observations were made about Clive Griffiths. As a new MLC, he ignored the advice of senior colleagues to leave constituent matters to members of the Legislative Assembly, which was very wise advice. He would take calls from constituents at all hours of the day and night—a reflection of the dedication he displayed in the task of representing the people. Although the coalition government was defeated in the 1971 election, he was re-elected with an increased majority of 53.3 per cent. Many electors who voted Labor in the other place so appreciated his efforts that they gave him their Legislative Council vote.

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His contribution to the Legislative Council and to Parliament more broadly should not be underestimated. He was joint chair of the WA branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and chaired the executive committee of the CPA from 1990 to 1993—the only Western Australian to have held this position.

In his valedictory speech in 1996, Clive made a number of different remarks, and I would like to reflect upon a few of them. In these often overtly partisan and politically combative times, it is interesting to give pause and reflect on the approach adopted by respected parliamentarians such as Hon Clive Griffiths. His valedictory speech gives us a very clear insight into why he was so successful as President of the Legislative Council, as a parliamentarian and as a representative of the people who elected him into this place. I quote from his valedictory speech —

When I speak to people in this place and around the world I do not think about their political party or their political views. It does not occur to me to think about it.

...

Every one of us has the same objective; that is, to do the best we can on the basis of our beliefs for the people who elect us and whom we represent.

...

To act in the interests of the whole House regardless of who occupies the government benches.

Later in Clive's 1996 valedictory speech, he also lamented —

Unfortunately, greater media coverage and scrutiny has tended towards the superficial treatment of political issues and politicians' activities in cases where more informed treatment is often called for. We have all experienced the frustration of having to stand by and watch the news media do less than justice to the facts that are known to us. The solution is not to muzzle the Press or cut back on parliamentary privilege; rather, it is to ensure that the Press maintains its freedom and carries out the obligation to report fairly and accurately.

It is almost as though he foresaw the current state of affairs in state politics in Western Australia and the critical need for the fourth estate to play its vital role in ensuring instructive and informed reporting of the Parliament. It is also a very good insight into the man—transparency and accountability were considered paramount.

If I were to sum up the qualities that Clive brought to the Parliament and for which he was widely respected by all, irrespective of their political persuasion, it would be that he held an absolutely steadfast dedication to representing the constituency that voted for him; he was a diligent servant of the Parliament and a custodian of the very best principles of the Westminster system under which we are governed; and he held to his stated principle to act in the interests of the whole house, regardless of who occupies the government benches, with the honest aim of delivering the best oversight and scrutiny of the legislation brought to the house for review.

And so, on behalf of my colleagues, I offer our condolences to Clive's family, friends and former colleagues. May he rest in peace.

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan) [1.29 pm]: The purposes of a condolence motion are several. Firstly, to honour a past member, his memory and achievements, and, by so doing, to reach out to family and loved ones to let them know that we are sorry for their loss and, by our association hereby, to share that sense of loss and to seek to offer some further comfort to them. It also ensures—I think this is very important—that our late member leaves a further legacy to us all by causing all members now to review and reflect upon that former member's life and their example and, by those several means, to hopefully enrich all of our lives even further.

Jeremy Buxton, a great friend of many of us over many years, wrote a fine obituary in *The West Australian* on 16 December last year. In part, he attributed comments to me, taken from a circular that had gone around to those close to Clive just beforehand. The part that he selected to publish stated —

Simon O'Brien MLC, who succeeded him as a South Metropolitan member, recalls that: "Clive had a wicked sense of humour and a pithy, mock-serious turn of phrase.

"The catalogue of Clive stories is extensive, instructive and in many parts hilarious."

I would like to share one or two Clive-isms and Clive stories, but before I do, I want to turn to a more serious matter that has already been canvassed because it needs to be reinforced. Clive Griffiths was a man who defended this Parliament every day that I knew him—its traditions, its values and its worth to society. He knew that without this Parliament—its power, privileges and integrity—what would be available to protect our constituents from tyranny would become very, very narrow indeed. He sought to promote the Parliament and those values not only here but abroad.

Ultimately, he became chairman of the executive committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, as we have heard. Members need to understand what that really means. At the time, the Commonwealth Parliamentary

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Association in the Australasia region alone had about nine or 10 member branches, including all the Australian states, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory—Norfolk Island had an assembly then—and New Zealand. But that was just the beginning of it. You see, the sun never sets on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. It involves a range of Parliaments in Africa, the subcontinent, South-East Asia, the Pacific Islands and the Americas. In fact, I understand that something like 180 parliamentary branches are currently involved in the CPA. Perhaps, like in our Parliament, most of those parliamentarians are members of the CPA. That is a heck of a lot of professional politicians all taking an active interest in the future of the Westminster system, and most of them concerned about protecting it, preserving it, enhancing it and furthering it.

It was a real achievement for our former President to be treated in such a way by that worldwide body that it took him on to be chairman. It was a true distinction for the presiding member of what I think someone referred to as a “local, regional Parliament”. I think his family and this Parliament should be perpetually proud of that and delight in his achievement. In his achievements he brought a high level of professionalism and support for all the principles that he defended for all of his life.

I sat in this house with Hon Clive Griffiths for only one day. Members might think that that is unusual. His term finished on one day, 21 May—as mine will shortly—and mine, in turn, started on 22 May. I can tell members that on that day something extraordinary happened when we were sworn in. I do not know how, but the immediate past President was actually here on the floor of the chamber, next to the then Leader of the House, Hon Norman Moore, as a courtesy to allow him to observe proceedings, and to probably keep an eye on making sure that the election of a new President went ahead smoothly, as of course it did.

There is, of course, another member here who was also a member during the time of Hon Clive Griffiths, and I am looking forward to her contribution in a moment. My only regret is that our honoured former member will not have a right of reply on this occasion, because that would have been very interesting I am sure!

I mention Hon Norman Moore to give members a sense of perspective. Hon Norman Moore commenced his term in this Parliament in 1977—that was the day that Clive Griffiths first became President. In my time here, over six Parliaments, I have seen five Presidents. For the first 20 years of Norman’s time, it was one person. I can remember Norman saying, “You know, I still expect when the bells go, or when the bells stop, to see Clive come around the corner from behind that screen.” That is the sort of institution that Clive came to be. He was that and so much more to so many people at the time, and remains so.

I did say that I would mention some of Clive’s sayings and stories. Ros King, who was house controller here, and a great friend of Clive and of mine as well, is an apology today; she has an issue she has to deal with. But I must mention Ros and I am also going to do it to say that I can remember many times when Clive was holding court at some function or other and Ros popping by to see how everything was going and saying, “Oh God! Clive’s telling his stories again, is he?” Ros will have to read some of those stories just one more time in *Hansard* and I hope that they bring back some happy memories for her.

We heard from Justin at the funeral. I do not know Clive’s granddaughter, Danielle, very well—something I intend to redress shortly—but I have known Justin since about 1989. We have had a bit to do with each other from time to time over the years and have always been on good terms. Justin in his eulogy reminded us of a very young newly elected councillor in the City of South Perth, who was also a sparky, and of how he had shinned to the top of that great big pine tree near the Old Mill in South Perth to put up the Christmas lights. I imagine I am not the only person in this chamber who remembers, as a child, seeing those Christmas lights every year. I do not know whether Clive originated that. Apparently he did. What a wonderful legacy, and a pretty good publicity thing too. What a wonderful legacy for children, whether they be from my generation or the ones who have come since, to enjoy. Since then, we have had nearly 70 years of some poor bloke having to go up that tree every year to string up all the lights!

Clive was on the City of South Perth council when he was elected to this place. He served out a final year of his term and then helped his successor to get elected. He was helping in those days by driving people to the polling booth for the council election. He had taken one dear lady to the booth and then took her home—I do not know how many times I have heard this story. When he got out and helped her out of the car, he said, “Mrs Jones, thank you very much. I am sure Mr So-and-so appreciates your support very much indeed.” To Clive’s incredulity, the response was: “Yes, well, you’d have to be better than the last bloke we had”, which, of course, was Clive! He liked to tell the story about himself as well.

I think members have all heard the other story I wanted to recount, which is a classic. He was an inveterate doorknocker. We all know that, and we have heard about his electoral successes as a result. There was one marvellous story he used to have. He had been up to a door of a house and had seen his opponent’s calling card shoved in the door, because the people were obviously out, so he took the other bloke’s card out and put his own in its place.

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Then he turned around to go, but saw a single set of footprints behind him up the freshly painted driveway, so he turned around again, took his card out and put the other bloke's back in again!

My wife and I formed a close relationship with Clive, as we do in the heat of battle, as it were. Members know how we form those relationships, including relationships across the house, through shared experiences. When I was running for the seat of Cockburn in support of the upper house—even though you will never admit it, I was not going to win Cockburn!—we were off there being enthusiastic and doorknocking. I was on one side of this block of flats and my wife, Joy, was on the other. Joy was great. She went to a door and a bloke came to the door stark naked. Joy did not miss a beat. She went through the thing of, "I'm supporting my husband, Simon O'Brien; could you vote for him?" and all the rest. She struck to the script. Joy was telling this story, with Clive as part of the listening group, after the election. She told that part of the story and then she came to the triumphal conclusion, which was that on polling day, in February 1989—I remember it was raining heavily that morning—here came this bloke she had doorknocked straight up to her. Joy is very proud of this story. He came straight up to her and said, "You've got some guts, lady. Here, give us your old man's how-to-vote card", and off he went. That was the climax of the story, until Clive, of course, then chipped in and said, "Was he wearing clothes when he came to the polling booth?" Joyce said, "Of course he was." So Clive said, "How did you recognise him then?" They are some examples of his great sense of humour that I miss so much.

I will conclude with some things that members have possibly heard before, and they might have heard them from me, if not from others. They are part of the lexicon of presiding members in this place these days, thanks in large part to Clive. Members have heard me give a variation of this one. When a member is droning on beyond the point of all reason and everybody from Hansard on has absolutely had enough and virtually the rest of the house is saying, "For God's sake, will you sit down", there would be an order from the chair—I think some former members can recall this: "Order! Now, look members, the honourable member is trying to draw his remarks to a close and your unruly interjections are preventing him from doing so!" Another one is if there was a heated debate to suspend standing orders so that the house could sit beyond midnight to consider something, and it got a bit unruly, his saying was, "Order! Now, members, you can sit here until next Pancake Tuesday if you want to, but you are going to observe the standing orders while you do it!" Another one, again, was when somebody might be moving a motion or a point of order against some member, trying to get them to be quiet, he would say, "You may not like what the member is saying, but unfortunately both you and I have to sit here while he says it!" Clive could get away with that sort of thing, Madam President. His final saying, I recall, was a ripper. Giving advice to we tyros seeking to run for office, he said, "Remember, there are two capital offences in politics. One is saying something that is not true and the other is being stupid. I might add that there are some people in this town who ought to be hung twice!"

I recently spent a good deal of time in my turn finishing up my electorate office, and I felt like Heinrich Schliemann excavating the 10 cities of Troy! When I finally got down past all of my stuff, I found a final box, and it must have been a box that Hon Clive Griffiths had left in his old office, my then new office, all those years ago, which I then transported when I moved offices about 20 years ago, and it had laid in a growing pile of what I have been pleased to call "records" ever since. There was even a copy of a letter from him to me congratulating me on becoming president of the Fremantle division back in 1989. He had kept that, and I have got the original that he sent to me. Also in the box, among a whole lot of other similar publications, was a big double-volume publication, a report of the Pakistan general election 1993. I do not know whether that is of any use to anyone much now, but it obviously was of use to an elder statesman of the whole Commonwealth Parliamentary Association back in those days.

God bless you, Clive, and God bless his family and friends. We are all going to miss him and we feel his loss together. I thank members for joining together to honour him today.

HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN (North Metropolitan — Minister for Regional Development) [1.46 pm]:
I acknowledge the family of Clive and all the distinguished former members who have come along here today to, rightly, acknowledge an extraordinary period of service.

I would like to add a few comments. As Hon Simon O'Brien has said, I am the only person standing from the time when Clive was in the chair. I remember Clive with a great deal of affection, but that is not to say that there was not an enormous amount of argy-bargy that went on and that it was all plain sailing by any means. It was a highly contested time when Richard Court's first government came to power, and this place was really the chamber where many of those big debates really played out. We have talked about the various industrial relations bills, but there was also the native title legislation, I think, at the time. Now it just seems extraordinary, but we would often sit through the night. It was not unusual to be here until six or seven o'clock in the morning. Getting home at two o'clock in the morning was often considered a light touch. Remember, the other controversial issue—the member was not there—at the time was what was called "Wanneroo Inc". This was such a highly contested place. We had institutions such as the guillotine whereby legislation would go through, notwithstanding how furiously we might object. There was always no doubt that Clive was truly committed to the institution. He was truly committed to ensuring

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that there was debate and a preparedness to allow that debate to take its shape, but to take its shape in a way that was manageable.

In preparation for this motion I read Clive's valedictory address. I noted that Clive referenced the fact that he had had to kick out Tom Stephens on several occasions. I think I might have the record of being the only woman ejected from the Legislative Council; I certainly was the first one ejected from the Legislative Council, and I was just reading about that little episode that occurred. I take members back to when I first came into this place. There were 36 members—it may have been only 34 at the time—and only four were women, which is probably not that unusual for the opposition side. It was a very different environment. Certainly, some of the gentlemen did find it a touch difficult. They loved women as long as they talked about women's issues, but if these bolshie types like me were going to come in and be part of the full-on act of debate, well, that was a slightly different matter. In one episode, a gentleman whom I used to describe as the "tumbleweed from Carnarvon" was interjecting and making a whole lot of sotto voce comments and I responded to him. The President said that I had been unruly because he had said that no-one was to interject. I got up and gave a speech that would probably get on *Insiders* these days. It was very contemporary and about the difficulty not with the President, but with the other people in this place who needed to come to terms with the fact that public contemporary life meant that there were going to be women in this Parliament who wanted to have their say. Never at any stage was there any sexism around the way in which Clive conducted himself. In that celebrated incident, I acknowledged that I doubted the President could have heard what had been said that was so offensive, so I was ejected.

We also had a little contretemps when a ruling was made that Hansard reporters were not allowed to wear slacks. Cheryl Davenport and I, being the two Labor women in the Parliament, put out a media statement saying that we would henceforth wear slacks only in support of the Hansard reporters. That little ruling did not last too long.

Clive was in this chamber for so long and no-one would ever deny Clive's goodwill and commitment to decency. I used to like the fact that notwithstanding these plays that went on within the Parliament, on quite a number of occasions when Clive was entertaining dignitaries he would invite me to join them for dinner, perhaps for a little bit of light relief. I always appreciated that. I remember that after I had left this chamber, Clive and I would often run into each other and have discussions. I met him when he had taken on that great institution of Agent General in London. Clive was over there absolutely enjoying himself and being a very powerful and confident spruiker for Western Australia and Western Australian business. Since I have been back in this place, I have often seen Clive and I always felt a great sense of pleasure from seeing him and having a very good-natured discussion and interchange with him. He has an extraordinary history in this chamber and made an extraordinary contribution to the whole institution of parliamentary democracy. He will be very missed. Vale Clive.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Kate Doust) [1.55 pm]: I would also like to add to the comments that I made upon Clive's passing in November last year. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the members of his family in my gallery today: Mr Justin Podmore and Ms Danielle Podmore. I would like to acknowledge the former Premier of this state Hon Richard Court, the former President of this chamber Hon Nick Griffiths, and our former parliamentary colleagues Hon Norman Moore, Hon Murray Nixon and Hon Kay Hallahan. Welcome to our chamber again today.

On 10 November, I made a brief statement about the passing of Hon Clive Griffiths. I want to add words to support the motion moved today by the Leader of the House. Hon Clive Griffiths certainly made a significant contribution to not only this chamber, but also this Parliament of Western Australia as a Presiding Officer. He worked with a range of Speakers throughout that period to manage the Parliament and the precinct, and the Legislative Council as President. He spent 32 years in this Parliament. I think he was elected to this Parliament when I was probably learning how to walk! He spent 20 years as President, a term that we will probably not see again. Presiding Officers tend to spend a much shorter time in this seat these days. This house expressed confidence in him in the role of President on a number of occasions. He was elected President on 24 May 1977 following a ballot. He was re-elected to the office following the state elections in 1980, 1983—again surviving a ballot—1986, 1989 and 1993, and he retired on 21 May 1997.

In his first statement as President he said —

The great honour you have bestowed upon me in electing me as your President is very deeply appreciated.

I assure members that at all times I will carry out the duties of President to the best of my ability. I also assure you that I will maintain and uphold the traditions and dignity of this office, as my predecessors have done.

As we have heard already, Clive was indeed a stickler for the rules. He certainly respected the standing orders, the traditions and the operations of the Parliament, and he worked extremely hard to protect them. I know that in my dealings with Clive since I have been President, he gave me very useful advice. In the early stages, Clive might

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have occasionally made up his own standing orders, his own rules, in this place, and he said to me, “If you deliver the ruling with confidence, no-one will question you. Deliver it with authority and no-one will challenge you.” I must say that on a couple of occasions I have taken Clive’s advice.

Clive’s rulings are peppered all the way through the Legislative Council handbook. One only has to go back to see the extensive work that he contributed to this place and the firm positions he took on a number of matters that occurred in this chamber. He made rulings on many things, from procedures to decorum, and, as already alluded to by Hon Alannah MacTiernan, particularly around attire. He determined when jackets were optional in his opinion and, notably, in November 1980, he advised that safari suits were acceptable. I am not sure that that ruling has been overturned since then. He said —

... in response to requests received for my consideration concerning the relaxation of the convention relating to the traditional mode of dress in the House, it is my intention to permit members, should they so desire, to remove their coats during sittings should the atmospheric conditions in my opinion warrant such modification of the convention.

When it is considered that the conditions warrant the change, it is my intention to indicate my approval by placing an advice to this effect on the notice boards of the House.

It is also in order for members to wear safari suits in the House should they so desire, providing that when shirts are worn with this form of dress, ties are worn also.

Thankfully, we now have air-conditioning, and fashion fads have certainly moved on from safari suits! He was also a strong advocate for parliamentary privilege. He said —

... any infringement of the privileges and immunities of this House will be criticised by me, whatever the source of that infringement.

On another occasion, he said —

I am bound to the best of my abilities to assert and uphold on members’ behalf what I understand to be the privileges of this House. I understand the frustrations expressed by the commissioners, but it will always be the case that parliamentary privilege may, under certain circumstances, hinder the work of the courts or commissions of inquiry by the very nature of privilege. It is not for me to change the ambit of the privilege or tacitly agree to its non-observance. Any change is a matter for this Parliament and until it makes a change I am bound to ensure that its privileges are acknowledged and applied no matter how inconvenient that may be.

As we have already heard, Clive was very active in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He was a champion for democracy and good government and was a prominent member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. It is noteworthy, too, that he was the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from 1990 to 1993—the only Western Australian to hold that position. In this role, he attended and delivered the principal address at the 1992 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference in the United Kingdom to mark the fortieth anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II. Clive played a leading role in numerous election monitoring and post-election Commonwealth Parliamentary Association activities in Africa and Asia and was a delegate to or attended many conferences. When he retired from Parliament in 1997 he was appointed as WA’s Agent General in London. I know that Clive held an ongoing interest in the activities of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He showed a keenness to participate in the CPA modern slavery conference that we held in this chamber in 2018.

The funeral that was held for Hon Clive Griffiths was a very moving ceremony. It was held at St George’s Cathedral on 20 November 2020. I said that I would share with the chamber and read into *Hansard* the eulogy given by former Premier Hon Richard Court. Members, this is the eulogy that was provided, according to my notes —

People often say you don’t make real lifetime friends in politics—that has not been my experience. It can be rough and tough and very personal at times, but I have made some great friends and Clive is one of them.

When I entered Parliament in 1982 Clive Griffiths had already been a Member of Parliament for 12 years and the President of the Legislative Council for 5 years.

He was already recognised as one of the great organizers of election campaigns in difficult seats, with strong working relationships with Members like the legendary Bill Grayden. He must have seen this green, young, new Member coming in thinking—he won’t be half the politician Charlie was. We’ll straighten him out pretty quickly.

WELL, it took me a few years to work out Clive but it was well and truly worth the effort.

He not only respected the standing orders, traditions and the operations of the Parliament, he worked hard to protect them and educate impatient, younger Members and upstart Premiers, the importance of the checks and balances in our system of democracy.

That is another reason why his close involvement with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association over many years was so important.

He assisted Parliaments in some countries that were struggling with the concept of democracy.

Clive was a great story teller. You had to be patient with Clive's story telling as it was usually a slow, deliberate, lengthy, drawn out process. You were not sure where the story was going—then he would deliver the punch line and I would be laughing the rest of the day.

Clive had the background we needed in Parliament:

- Apprenticed as an electrical fitter
- Worked as an employee
- Then started his own electrical contracting and electrical engineering business, becoming an employer
- Raising a family
- He knew how hard it was to pay the wages on a Friday when business was slow.

Showing his community spirit, he was on the South Perth Council for 4 years.

In 1965 was elected to the Legislative Council.

In 1977 became President of the Legislative Council, a role he had for 20 years making him the longest serving Parliamentary Presiding Officer in Western Australian history.

He was appointed our Agent-General in London. Jo and I have fond memories of visiting there with Clive and Norma in charge.

He was a very enthusiastic and effective Agent-General as was his predecessor Bill Hassell. He treated not just the UK, but Europe as his domain, successfully promoting and attracting new markets and investment for Western Australia long after he left the role.

Clive was pretty lucky to live into his 90's considering some of the risks he took in life.

Yachting was a classic. When he told us he was taking up sailing to help his young grandson, Justin, we were a little nervous. Clive told us he was a good sailor but we started hearing conflicting views from disgruntled crew who explained some of his exploits were legendary.

One of his very long stories involved people in a hazardous situation in a small dinghy in rough waters in the ocean trying to reach his moored yacht—dinghy slowly sinking.

Punchline—he had to admit to others with him that he could not swim!

It was always fun and exciting being around Clive.

After politics a small group of us would meet for lunch usually down at Jo Jo's in Nedlands and his political antennae remained sharply tuned to the end.

They were great lunches as the older we got, the better our years in Government were. And if only the current Government of the day would listen to our wise advice, things would be much better!

Clive has been a good friend and ally to many of us in politics. He has been a good friend to many community organizations:

- Autism
- Engineering Union
- SAS Trust Fund
- Lions
- Rotary
- Weightlifting Association
- Gymnastics

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- Aged persons homes
- Perth Football Club
- South of Perth Yacht Club
- Meals on Wheels

And the list goes on.

To Clive's family—Norma, Lynda, Justin, Danielle, great-grandchildren—we offer our deepest sympathy. Clive's has been a life lead to the fullest.

We offer our deepest sympathy to his family.

I thank Hon Richard Court for that very lovely eulogy that he gave on the day.

Members, as regards my own interaction with Clive, unfortunately I did not get to serve with him in this chamber, but I certainly met with him when he returned from London as Agent General and I was a relatively new member in the South Metropolitan Region, the electorate that he had formerly worked in. Clive would always go out of his way to stop and have a chat. I enjoyed his bluntness. He never held back on his views and was never shy about criticising his own team if he felt they warranted it. In 2017, when the Labor Party had come back into government, the Leader of the House as the Minister for Education and Training made some very significant changes in the education arena and copped a lot of flak publicly for it. Clive phoned me on that occasion to say that I needed to pass my best wishes and compliments to the minister because she had the guts to make the tough decisions that nobody else had the—well, he used some other words—courage to.

He was always quite blunt with his views and I certainly enjoyed that. He gave solid advice. When I became President, Clive was a frequent visitor to the office. When he and Norma came up here for lunch on a Friday with their guests he would always drop in to say hello. He always had fantastic stories to tell, always gave good advice about what should happen in the chamber and talked about his connections through the CPA. If we look back, we see a man who had extremely humble beginnings and a very tough start in life who ended up having a full and fabulous life, striding across the international stage and the Parliaments, representing his state and his Parliament. Not everyone in this chamber or this Parliament will have the opportunity to do that. He certainly remained engaged with local community.

I was reminded of his ongoing engagement post-parliamentary life when, during the recent election campaign, on a number of occasions I visited the Corinthian Park Tennis Club in Riverton, of which Clive had been a long-term active member and supporter. On this particular occasion, I was invited there on a Saturday afternoon so that club members could hold a memorial for Clive. I thought to myself that he has been out of Parliament for more than 20 years, and how amazing it is that there are more than 100 people in that room that came together on that Saturday afternoon to remember a former member of their club, an elected member in their community and their Parliament, and to talk in such positive ways about his contribution to enable them as a community to thrive and survive. It was a really lovely afternoon. Although we are doing this condolence motion here today, and Hon Simon O'Brien is absolutely on the money, these occasions are very important not just to remind ourselves of the contributions made by former members but also to reinforce for the families involved and friends the significance of the work the former member has made.

It is really quite outstanding to see community organisations that still hold that member in such high esteem after such a lengthy period of absence. Not every member who leaves this place continues to be as actively engaged in their local patch, if you like, after they leave. So all power to Clive for having maintained ongoing engagement not because he had to, but because he chose to. I think that is a significant mark of the character of the man.

Members, I count my blessings for having had a very good relationship with Clive. I enjoyed his sense of humour, his forthrightness, his good advice, that twinkle in his eye and his cheekiness, if you like, which I might not have experienced had I worked with him in the chamber if he had been the Presiding Officer during my time. You are right, you can make interesting collaborations across the chamber.

Having spoken to former Presiding Officers Hon George Cash, Hon Barry House and Hon John Cowdell, who unfortunately could not be here with us today, they have each asked me to pass on their condolences to the family of Hon Clive Griffiths, his friends and former colleagues. I will say that in August 2018 Hon Clive Griffiths had been extremely ill in hospital. I went to visit him and was quite shocked at how frail he looked at that time. I honestly did not think he would be with us for much longer.

We organised a former Presidents lunch and were fortunate to have all the former Presidents and myself there. Hon Clive Griffiths got himself out of hospital to come to the lunch and we had a fantastic afternoon. It was Clive presiding over the event and telling us all sorts of stories. I am not really one for a long lunch but on this occasion,

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we had a very long lunch and he insisted on driving himself home. I do not know whether his doctors knew where he was on the day. I like to think that that last lunch was a really great event and a lovely occasion for all of us to come together.

However, I will say that the one thing he talked about all the way through that lunch was his concern for his very lovely wife, Norma. One of the consistencies of Clive in any conversation we had with him, particularly in his late years, was his relationship with and his concern for the health and wellbeing of his wife. We know that, sadly, Norma cannot be with us in the chamber today.

Today we have heard some great stories of the contributions made by Hon Clive Griffiths not just to his local community through his engagement with such a diverse array of community organisations, but his contribution to the work in this chamber as a member and as a longstanding Presiding Officer who significantly changed the way our committees function and the manner in which we operate in dealing with certain bills or motions. Believe me, those sorts of things are not easy to change and the fact that he was able to represent this Parliament, a provincial Parliament, on the world stage through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was an outstanding achievement.

I want to acknowledge the very important legacy he leaves and the work he did in this place and the community. I offer my condolences to Hon Clive Griffiths' family, friends and former colleagues in this place, and I would like to say may his memory be a blessing.

In putting this motion, I ask members to now rise and stand in their places to indicate their support for the motion and to observe one minute's silence in the memory of Hon Clive Griffiths, our esteemed former member of this Council.

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

The PRESIDENT: Members, I advise that in accordance with our custom and practice, a copy of the transcript of this condolence motion will be forwarded to his family.