



**PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH**



**HON BRUCE DONALDSON, MLC**  
(Member for Agricultural Region)

**Legislative Council**

**Valedictory Remarks — Motion**

**Wednesday, 20 May 2009**



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**HON BRUCE DONALDSON (Agricultural)** [7.46 pm]: It was around 16 years ago that I became a member of the family of the Parliament. I had left local government only about a month before and came into the house. At the opening of the thirty-fourth Parliament I had the privilege to move the Address-in-Reply. I can well remember how it all went. Some questions without notice and some motions had led to time running on and I noticed that I stood up at 3.49 pm. All the people in the gallery and everywhere else wanted their afternoon tea—that is what it boiled down to. That feeling of it being afternoon tea time sweeps through our society, especially when we get into the domain of the Parliament! Hon Clive Griffiths was the President at that time. A couple of days before, I indicated that I might speak for 35 to 40 minutes. The President replied that I would speak for a quarter of an hour at the most! I was late. I was looking at him and of course he was rolling his eyes and flicking his head back at the clock. I got the message; subtly. It is a wonder he did not stand up and point! I decided I had better dispense with a couple of pages of what I was going to adlib from and sit down. I will always remember that.

I have looked back at some of the things I said in my first speech in 1993. If others can remember, there were some incidents around Western Australia, over east and overseas, about members of Parliament. We come in for a hard time—we are our own worst enemies, quite frankly. I recounted when I went down to Esperance with Murray Nixon in 1992, campaigning at the Esperance Show. Richard Court was shearing a sheep. He had been practising shearing for two days before the show to try to at least get some wool off and not cut their throats! We went through all this procedure. We were handing out balloons with “Liberal Party” written on them. Two young girls, who were probably 10, 11 or 12 years of age, already had a couple of balloons, but they came back about 10 minutes later and asked for two more balloons. I said, “No. You already have two; you have one each. We haven’t got that many.” One girl had a packet of Maltesers in her hand. She said, “If I give you and Mr Nixon this bag of Maltesers, can we get two balloons? We know that members of Parliament like to be bribed!” I thought: this is a nice sort of arrangement I am going into, being a member of Parliament. That conversation must have happened around the table at home. I was espousing to the greater, wider, more informed masses what they should be doing.

**Hon Simon O’Brien:** Did you take the Maltesers and give the kid a balloon?

**Hon BRUCE DONALDSON:** I will read what I said in my Address-in-Reply speech —

It was a reminder of the standards we need to set in this House in order to rebuild people’s confidence in us as legislators. They did not get their balloons, and I was not eating Maltesers for the rest of the day! Instead, I gave a diplomatic reply that politicians do not stand for bribery and corruption...

In one of the other parts of that speech I talked about the coastline between Lancelin and Cervantes and the bombing range. I have been very critical of the Greens because, some years ago, as Hon Kim Chance might remember, I encouraged them to come to the beach and stand with me to stop bombs being dropped on our coastline. I still think it is wrong. If other nations want to drop bombs, they can drop them on California or somewhere like that in their home territory, but that would not be allowed, would it? I also said in 1993 that we should demand construction of a coast road to develop and encourage tourism and to better manage the coastal environment.

I will go on to say that in about 1990-91 I represented Australia in local government for Western Australia. I was the transport portfolio holder. I used to go to all the transport ministers’ conferences. I also went to AusRoads, under which all the commissioners of the roads departments met. That is when I had a good working relationship with our present Governor, Dr Ken Michael, on the Australian Transport Advisory Committee. Bob Brown was the federal Minister for Land Transport and Shipping Support in the Hawke government. I had said a couple of times in a couple of the transport ministers conferences how much we needed money for that road. I think he got sick of me talking about it so he turned to the minister, who I think was Pam Beggs at the time and asked, “Is the state government prepared to help with the funding?” It was only about one-tenth of the price of what it is today, and she said, “Yes we are.” He said to me, “I think the correct way of going around it, Bruce, is to talk to your local member—who is he?” I said, “Well, I don’t think you’re going to like it.” He said, “Who?” I said, “Wilson Tuckey”. He said, “Oh, well, we can’t let that stand in the way either”. Blow me down, he was then shifted away from that ministerial portfolio and the road proposal collapsed. I started getting involved with the Shires of Dandaragan, Gingin, Coorow and Carnamah on a central coastal coordinating committee. It is now some 21 years later and we might have that road open in another two years. I hope I live long enough to see it. I have a vested interest because I own a house at Jurien Bay. I will not mention another member of Parliament who is retiring who also owns a house there. I will let that member speak for himself.

The other thing that concerned me at the time was the coal seam that is in about 100 hectares of crown land that Bob Pearce decided to incorporate with the Mt Lesueur National Park. It contained a very valuable coal deposit. I said that I did not believe that particular 100 hectares of crown land should have been incorporated. I did not disagree that we needed Mt Lesueur National Park, but I did not think that crown land should have been incorporated. No government, I said, regardless of which party its members were from, should lock up those resources; they belong to the people of Western Australia. I see Hon Giz Watson smiling away there because she disagrees with that. Luckily, we are a democratic society and if we all agreed with one another in here, it would be absolutely dreadful.

The other issue was about educating kids in country areas. Prior to 2001, just before we lost the election, our current Premier, Hon Colin Barnett, was then Minister for Education, and he did quite a bit of work to find out what it would cost to lift the amount of money the state provided for children living in isolated areas. It did not amount to a lot of money; only about 2 500 kids were affected. I was very pleased when Mr Barnett and the shadow Minister for Education at the time, Hon Peter Collier, went to Geraldton during last year's election campaign and announced the increase from \$1 200 to \$2 000. I would have liked the amount to be double that, but it was a good start. I encourage the Premier and Dr Liz Constable to have a very good look at that aspect. The commonwealth does increase its funding and has done so for years. I think the amount is now about \$6 500. Let us face it; we have to give country students an opportunity to have curriculum choice, and that is not available at a lot of small country high schools. It is just not economically feasible. So if we want those children to have quality education, I think that is a very important issue for country people.

In these types of speeches, we tend to thank our families last, but I would like to thank my wife first. She had to put up with me for 16 years as a member of Parliament and for 13 years in local government. She has suffered 29 years of long absences from me. She sort of rolled her eyes a bit when I came home and said I had been endorsed as No 1 on the Agricultural Region ticket. She said the decision to stand was up to me, and I said, "No; it's up to whether you will support me or not." She said, "I'm only too willing to. I've done it for 13 years now; what's another 16 or 12 or whatever time it takes?" It was very important that she agreed. The next group of people who we cannot do without, let us face it, are our staff. I think we all understand and know that too well. In cleaning up my Collins Street office, we have used 12 wheelie bins and two or three bins in my office here. That has been done by one staff member because my research officer, who had been with me for 11 years, now works as a research officer for the member for Ocean Reef, Albert Jacob. My current electorate officer, Paula Kennewell, is now known as Paula Hodge as she got married last August, in Venice as a matter of fact. I think she must have caught the travel bug, which is perhaps what happens in our office. Talk about a revolving door in my office! I notice that all my staff seem to spend a fair bit of time overseas on their holidays. Perhaps that is where I caught it from; I do not know.

**Hon Kim Chance:** Maybe they're trying to catch up with their boss.

**Hon BRUCE DONALDSON:** It could be the case, too. Kim Davies worked with me as research officer for over 10 years, and Rosemary Rose and Kathy Wheeler worked as relief staff. Paula is still with me after eight years. She did her work experience in my office prior to that. I have always been very indebted to them, especially to Paula at the moment, who is carrying the workload. It is very nice for me to be over here enjoying myself in Parliament while she is having to work very hard to get the offices shipshape for the next person to move in.

As I say, I was fortunate enough in February 1992 to be one of 17 candidates for the Agricultural Region. I and Murray Nixon were given positions 1 and 2. He was a great colleague and it was a disappointment and of great sadness to me to lose him in the 2001 election. That was all due to the Pauline Hanson factor that swept through Australia. Between 2001 and 2005, as Hon Kim Chance will remember, we had the most democratic system in the electorate we could have had. There was one of each of us: one Labor, one Liberal, one National, one Green, and one One Nation member. We could not wish for a more democratic layout of people involved in Parliament.

Members rely very heavily on the branches supporting them, and I always tried to support the branches by attending the annual general meetings when I could. It was the same with the divisions of the Liberal Party, and attending the conferences. I was honouring the fact that they supported me. They should not be left out in the cold and expected to rush around and help at critical times. The state council, in its wisdom, makes sure that the endorsement goes through. If the state council says no, there is a problem. I thank all those people in the Agricultural Region who worked very hard for our party, manning the polling booths. Anybody representing the Agricultural Region, such as Hon Brian Ellis and Hon Kim Chance, will be fully aware of the number of small polling booths there are, from Esperance to Kalbarri. An awful lot of people are needed to man all those booths. Failure to man those booths detracts from the overall vote. I thank them most sincerely for all that they have done for me, to give me the privilege of being a member of this parliamentary family.

As I said earlier, the defeat of Hon Murray Nixon was a great sadness for me because we got on very well together. We travelled a lot on chartered Skywest aeroplanes. He liked black coffee and so did I; he liked one and a half sugars and I liked one and a half sugars. We took three little packets of sugar out of what was provided to us so we

were able to have black coffee with one and a half sugars each, and there was no waste. He became a very highly valued member of this house, and highly valued within the electorate. Without the Hanson factor, he would have been standing here tonight making his valedictory speech. That would have been very appropriate. Murray had a great knowledge of classic cars—he had a couple of his own—but also did a lot of research in the area of road safety. The moment speed limits were introduced in Western Australia, the road toll went up. That is a fact, and he had the figures to prove it. Anyone who was in the house between 1993 and 2001 will remember his advice not to be so stupid about speed limits, or that speed was the real killer. In actual fact, people drove more appropriately to the conditions of the road when there was no speed limit. I am as guilty as anybody else. If there is a 90 kilometre-an-hour speed limit, I drive at 90, although if it is raining I will slow down. I do not go mad around corners. By the same token, we used to do that before there were signs on the road. He put an interesting concept to us.

Being a member has been a great opportunity to get to know a lot of people in this house. Many former members have moved on, including Hon Peter Foss and Hon Derrick Tomlinson. I will not try to name all of them. I have worked on committees with many current members, and I see them in the house. I am talking here about both sides of politics. I am very pleased to see Hon Brian Ellis become a member for the Agricultural Region. He has a vast farming background, and a background in local government. Sometimes people laugh, but I always try to encourage people with a local government background to stand for Parliament. Maybe I am a little bit biased. It has been a great learning curve, and the respect and friendship we have for one another has been terrific. I do not agree with a lot of the philosophies, and members opposite do not agree with mine, but we get on well together. I have worked very closely with Hon Kate Doust on the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs for the past eight years, and it has been really excellent. I have also been fortunate to know a grey-haired fellow by the name of Hon Norman Moore, who I think became a member just after Federation—about 1901. He has become a very good friend of mine, and I have learned a helluva lot from him. If I ask for advice, he will always give it, and he has also put me on the right path a few times. I get a bit testy at times, and he tells me to slow down and not go down a particular pathway. I have respect for that advice.

Another person who gave me some terrific advice when I first became a member was a person I effectively refer to as the smiling crocodile—Hon George Cash. I met him on 17 November 1984, when he stood in the by-election for the seat of Mount Lawley and won. I stood in the Central Province and lost at a by-election. I remember meeting George when I first came into Parliament and thinking that he was one man I should never cross. He has that ability to keep a lovely, warm, embracing smile on his face while he is taking someone to pieces. He was the Leader of the House in the first three or four years I was a member. It was dreadful what we did to members of Parliament in those days; we would not get away with it now. We would be sitting here at two o'clock, three o'clock, four o'clock, five o'clock and six o'clock in the morning, and then they would call in the chefs. Hon George Cash told me not to worry about it; breakfast was free. It was very comforting to save \$4.50. So we all trooped into the dining room to have breakfast. Then I got a parliamentary refreshment account showing one breakfast, priced at \$4.50. I said to Hon George Cash, "I thought you said this breakfast was free." He replied that he thought it was too, but he had found out that it was not. Hon Max Evans asked for marmalade, and the staff told him there was none, because the dining room did not normally cater for breakfast. So Max brought in his own little jar of marmalade and asked the staff to put it away in a cupboard for the next time we had breakfast. The hours we were keeping were absolutely shocking.

Hon John Cowdell, me and a group of other people asked to look at the standing orders because we thought they were pretty ordinary. The situation then arose about the afternoon tea. In our draft 15 or 16, we decided that we would chuck out the afternoon tea between 3.45 and 4.00 pm. We were starting at 3.00 or 3.15, and it just was not worth it. I took the proposal to our party room. Hon Peter Foss spotted the change and went off his face, asking what I was trying to do. I was told to go away and rewrite the proposal, which I did. The trouble was that when Margaret Lynn, who worked for me, drew up the plan and timetable, she inadvertently forgot the afternoon tea section. Who would pick it up first but Hon Peter Foss? I think Hon Norman Moore might remember his remarks. That is why, in our lovely little afternoon tea lounge, we see a sign that Andrew changes every day. I remember Hon Nick Griffiths saying to me that this was a good lesson for me. There were 34 members in the house, and 33 were against me. He asked me how I felt. We made sure that I never again had anything to do with trying to get rid of the afternoon tea.

Some of the new members coming in I already know, and there are some I do not know. I just hope that they have as great a time as we all do. I think this has been said already many times, but they should have fun when they are in this chamber as well. There is hard work, long hours and a lot of driving et cetera, but at the end of the day, one should have fun and make friends with other members. We do not have to live in each other's pockets, but members should be courteous to one another—that is what it is all about. All members have their own visions, as I think Hon Ray Halligan said, and we may never achieve all of them.

I won "The Whip's Award" — it was presented to me by Hon Muriel Patterson! I would like to read it out because she is quite a poet.

It reads —

He came to us — a loyal and trusted one —  
 A country chap — undoubtedly, Koorda's favourite son!  
 "I'm here for the good of all — and not defined by borders"  
 That was fine — before he spied our standing orders.

Never one to miss a chance, to gain the upper hand  
 Something he quickly learned while tilling Koorda land.  
 "These rules are old and out of date, let's get with the time,  
*I will not let it go*" became his constant chime.

"Committees are the way to go — you've got to give them range,  
 Before we can do that — we have to make the change".  
 So up came copy number one — and soon draft twenty four  
 George said "Get him out of here, before he dreams up any more".

God made heaven and earth and all therein, about a week  
 Without a copy or a draft — just common sense, so to speak,  
 No one wants to change the plan — we're more than satisfied  
 You could have knocked me down, when came his motion to be tried.

I can well remember that! It continues —

It really begs the question — why a motion such as this  
 With all the changes to be made — was this really his?  
 One does not doubt his sincerity — was there just a tiny fudge?  
 Far from me to say — but you may be the judge.

Amendments came in thick and fast, and tore the thing apart,  
 And to a lessor man, he would have lost all heart.  
 This man is made of sterner stuff and took it on the chin,  
 I've heard he's offering 10 to 1 these standing orders will stay in!

We know but little of what may come next —  
 Nor can we follow all his detailed text —  
 But now, we do know how to vote and when to pee  
 And thank goodness, he left us our afternoon tea.

I thought it was quite clever. I was quite thrilled that she recognised the frustrations I must have gone through with my colleagues when trying to get some semblance of order in this house to comply with standing orders.

I want to read something else by way of explanation of this myth that has developed around me and travel. It seems to expand and grow; someone says something, and—

**Hon Ken Travers:** It just takes off!

**Hon BRUCE DONALDSON:** It does, that is right! Just because my mobile phone number has the numbers 747 in the middle does not mean a thing; Telstra was not playing around!

**Hon Robyn McSweeney:** It'll probably go up to 380 when you retire!

**Hon BRUCE DONALDSON:** Someone suggested something like an A380, but I could not find a car of that make!

When the Court government first got in, there was a lot of travel undertaken in charter aircraft. I had the pleasure of travelling with the then Premier, the Deputy Premier and ministers such as Hon Peter Foss and Kevin Minson, over time. We flew to different places. There was the iron ore issue down in Esperance, for example. I seemed to spend a lot of time out at the airport and flying around the state. Then along came some of the committees I became involved with, and it just seemed that they needed to travel internationally! It seemed that they had not travelled for a long time, and it was felt that travel could provide some good input. The first attempt we made was knocked back; that was for the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, and the Premier was not very happy. The Clerk at the time was the late Laurie Marquet, and he said to me, "Bruce, you've got to be accountable. Put a report in to the house and get approval to travel." It was an eight-person committee, and it was agreed that either we all went or no-one went. We put the report in, and the house actually approved our travel. We went to the United States, the United Kingdom and France. We were looking at common law and civil law.

**Hon Jon Ford:** Are you trying to put this myth to rest?

**Hon BRUCE DONALDSON:** I was trying to put it to rest!

**Hon Jon Ford:** It's not working!

**Hon BRUCE DONALDSON:** I thought I had better be upfront! If I kept going, I would kill myself, do not worry! I am not going to bury myself!

It was the first time that a committee had come to the house to get approval for travel. I can tell members that the Premier was not very happy with me; neither was Howard Sattler. I finished up having a hell of a round of constant pressure from the media, for about a week, about what a waste of money it was. I had to try to talk about this with the media and explain that it was vital to look at the handling of subsidiary legislation, especially in the Westminster system. They asked me why I was going to France, and I said, "To look at civil law." They looked a bit blank —

**Hon Norman Moore:** That would've thrown Howard a bit!

**Hon BRUCE DONALDSON:** Howard gave up and said, "Bruce, you know what you're talking about", and I said, "Well, I'm not too sure whether I do or not!"

I have another poem, written by Hon Bill Stretch. It was rather unkind, but it was very clever of him! It is titled "Genesis '98". It reads —

—and on the 7<sup>th</sup> day God rested.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> day, He looked at His handiwork and thought 'Maybe Man would look better with wings, like the birds of the air'; but on the 9<sup>th</sup> day God discontinued the development of that model.

But lo, the instinct lived on in certain Men as Man begot Man down through the generations, so after many millennia, God looked down on Earth, saw the Man who could only live half on land and half in the air.

So behold, God sighed deeply, muttered quietly "Even I, God, can't win them all," and He then looked up to the sky, was pleased at what He saw, and said —

"Bless you Bruce My son!"

That is what galvanised this myth—this poem that Bill put around. I have been fortunate to have done a lot of travelling, and I appreciate the knowledge that I have gained over that time. The delegated legislation committee did a DNA report that picked up the mistakes that were made in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales, and we learnt a lot from Scotland Yard and the FBI. We once went to a university where a lot of autopsies were performed. There were a lot of body bags, and they were cutting a bloke open; he looked awful! Derrick Tomlinson looked at the coroner and said in a very droll voice, "That bloke doesn't look too well, does he?" The coroner just about broke up! He could not help but show us everything that was going on. Mia Betjeman was the advisory research officer, and Connie Young was the committee clerk. I do not know whether any members have ever been into a mortuary, but one gets the smell of formaldehyde in one's nose and cannot get rid of it! We were having lunch, and every time I took a mouthful of something, it was awful! We tried to tell Mia about what we had seen, and she said, "Don't say any more; just don't say any more!" Every time we tried to tell her or Connie about it, she just about went off her face!

I would like to mention the Parliament House staff and the Presidents of this house whilst I have been a member: Hon Clive Griffiths, Hon George Cash, Hon John Cowdell and Hon Nick Griffiths. We have been very fortunate to have had such outstanding, unbiased Presidents, and I think they have delivered on and strongly defended the customs and usage of the house and the role of the Legislative Council, and have played a big role in what has gone on.

In the chamber, of course Malcolm Peacock is now the Clerk of the house. Before Malcolm there was Mia Betjeman for a while, and before her was the late Laurie Marquet. I also thank Chris, Donald, Paul and Nigel; as well as Alice, Lisa, Brian, and Peter, Glen and Grant. What wonderful people they all are! They always have a happy smile, and they put up with all of us every day. They really make it a pleasure for us to come into this place and do our job because the professional support they give us all is just fantastic. I acknowledge all of those people and thank them very much for it.

I would like to thank the catering department, especially the chefs and people like Ossie and Romero and Steve and Mark and young Deb. I will not go any further, because I would have to name everybody and I am not sure of all their names. It is silver service dining—it really is! It is reasonably priced—I will not say it is cheap, but it is reasonably priced! The food is excellent, and I can see myself coming back on a non-sitting day and having lunch, maybe with my very good colleagues Hon George Cash and Hon Ray Halligan. We will save up our pensions and just come in occasionally! It is better if we save up, because I do not want to have to write to all members and ask for a food parcel!

I was telling a few people recently that there was a big thing about adopting a pensioner—you would have to tick the box each side of course! I did not want to adopt a pensioner; I wanted to be adopted! I have some friends who said, "Thank goodness you've been around long enough, your pension should be reasonably good from Parliament

and we don't have to look after you"; I said, "Don't worry, that'll soon run out and I might need some help!" If any continuing members would like to invite me or George or Ray Halligan or Hon Barbara Scott, feel free to do so! We will not be upset if you do not invite us every week, but every now and then it would be terrific—especially for dinner!

I wanted to say a few things about the work of the committees. The committees have certainly come a long, long way. I have been a passionate advocate of committee work. We had categories of bills that we thought would be non-controversial that we would bring straight into the house. We had about four categories, and the ones we knew there was going to be difficulty with, we would automatically send off to a committee. The funny part about it was that we spent a fortnight arguing about the ones we did not think were going to be controversial. That was another thing I got mixed up about that really turned out to be a bit of a failure, but anyway.

The Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation has the explanatory memorandum supplied to it by the commonwealth Parliament. When something is tabled in this place by the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, it could be argued that it is executive government by stealth. Because unless members really want to go and get the act out and read up on why they are doing it, members do not understand it. What is wrong with supplying the explanatory memorandum, or at least tabling it in this place with the regulations? That is something I have argued for before, and I say to Hon Norman Moore that maybe he should be considering progressing something like that. I do not know; there may be very good reasons why the government will not do it, but I cannot think of one good reason why it would not. No doubt I will probably be told in the future.

Another great concern to me is what I saw in the newspaper this morning; the commonwealth's attempt to grab the marine waters off Western Australia beyond three nautical miles, to 200 nautical miles. It will destroy our fishing, but forget the fishing even. It would destroy a lot of our tourism, the people who go out beyond that three nautical miles to look at whales et cetera, which is quite safe and has not ruined the environment. There will be no resource development—some of our good gas fields are within that 200 nautical miles. The commonwealth has been fiddling around for a number of years on this, and I would urge the government and the opposition to actually stand up for Western Australia. There are ways and means of doing it, but not the blanket-type move that has been proposed by the Rudd government. I think it should be a real concern to everybody in Western Australia, and they should rally around and say, "Just keep your hands off it!" There may be room for establishing some sanctuary areas, as there may be some areas that are not needed, but at the end of the day, I believe it would be almost immoral of a commonwealth government to do that. It does not matter which persuasion the government is, because when the Howard government was in power, it was also considering doing the same thing. This is not an attack on the Rudd government; it is really an attack on the commonwealth. Maybe we should declare war on them, then we will surrender, and as part of that surrender deal they give us our waters back up to 200 nautical miles!

Looking across the chamber at Hon Kim Chance, I remember a couple of things about him. One of those was the Western Power break up. I opposed it in this house. I said that I would not cross the floor because of our party position, but I spoke against the disaggregation of Western Power. I looked across and I said, "I hope I don't have the opportunity in a couple of years' time to say 'I told you so'"—well, I told you so!

Hon Kim Chance and I have had an argument about whether we were outside Wyalkatchem Town Hall or the Dowerin Town Hall when this next story happened. Hon Jim Brown was about to retire, and it was mentioned that Kim Chance—being number two on the ticket—would be coming into Parliament. We were probably both having a smoke outside at the time, I think, Kim! Hon Kim Chance said, "It's not right to just go into Parliament that way; there should be an election." Well, I saw him about 12 months after he had come into Parliament, when I joined, and I said to him, "Are you still unhappy about this arrangement?" He said, "No, I've had a rethink—it's not a bad idea after all!" I said I would tell that story as I was retiring!

**Hon Kim Chance:** It was Dowerin.

**Hon BRUCE DONALDSON:** Was it? Okay. Was that a drought meeting?

**Hon Kim Chance:** No.

**Hon BRUCE DONALDSON:** No? Okay.

A good thing that has happened as I am about to retire is that daylight saving is now no longer a problem for me. I had an unfortunate incident when I spoke during that debate, when I happened to say that the husband said to his wife as they were frolicking on the beach at about eight o'clock —

**Hon Sue Ellery:** Are you going to say it again?

**Hon BRUCE DONALDSON:** I might as well have the joke on myself! I said that the husband said to the wife, "Are you going to go home and put the spuds on? You haven't put the spuds on, and when you get home, you'd better put the chops on the barbie." Well, I made the lead news items on the four channels that night over this comment, and I had never received so many emails in all my life, as my staff will tell members. But one was a beauty; it read, "You're two chops short of a barbecue". I thought, "I've made it!" It had taken me 12 years or

13 years to get noticed, and all of sudden, over some stupid remark, I made the top news story on all four channels! If I had said it the other way, there would not have been a problem.

**Hon Sue Ellery:** No, because that would have been true!

**Hon BRUCE DONALDSON:** A couple of women did actually say to me, "Bruce, you've got it all wrong; you should have said the woman said to the man, 'Will you please go home and would you put the spuds on and chuck the chops on the barbecue?'," and there would not have been a problem."

There are a whole lot of other things I want to say but my time is going to run out. I feel very, very privileged to have been in Parliament, and I was pleased that we got back into government. I think it was a great credit to our Premier. They said he would never make it; well he did! I think the government is doing a damn good job at the moment and I hope it continues. If it does not, as I said to my friend Hon Norman Moore, he will see some letters to the editor. I do not know whether I will be game enough to put my name to them. I might get a nom de plume or someone else to put his name to them. I am sure the government will continue to do a good job. That is the sad part about it. When one gets back into government, it is nice to be mixed up with the government. Friends we have in opposition become ministers. We have a better knowledge of them, so we know how they operate and think, and we also have access to them, which we do not always get to ministers when in opposition.

I thank Hon Jon Ford for allowing me to be very much a part of what was happening within the fishing industry. He made sure that I was looked after very well in New South Wales and Victoria when I went there to look at recreational fishing licences.

**Hon Jon Ford:** Boston, LA, Brussels.

**Hon BRUCE DONALDSON:** I had forgotten about Boston and Brussels. That is for another day. I appreciate the fact that I was able to phone people in the Department of Fisheries. I welcomed that opportunity because it gave me a better idea of what was happening in the industry, not having to come from left field all the time.

I wish everyone all the best. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your family.

Members: Hear, hear!

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