

Hon Sue Ellery; President; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Jacqui Boydell; Hon Robin Chapple; Hon Adele Farina; Hon Simon O'Brien; Hon Lynn MacLaren; Hon Darren West

HON KIM CHANCE

Condolence Motion

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [2.01 pm] — without notice: I move —

That this house expresses its deep regret at the death of Hon Kim Chance, a former member of the Legislative Council for the Agricultural Region; and places on record its appreciation for his long public service, and tenders its profound sympathy to members of his family in their bereavement.

I will start by referring to the biographical details about Hon Kim Chance that are available for everyone to read and then I will talk about Kim Chance the man. Hon Kim Chance was born on 16 November 1946. He was the son of farmers, Geoffrey and Hazel. In 1974, he married his beloved Sue, and they went on to have two much loved children, a daughter and a son. He was educated at Doodlakine Primary School—as it turns out, as were other Labor luminaries—and he went on to Wesley College. His listed occupation was as farmer and truck driver. His employment history is that he started as a share farmer at Doodlakine in the 1960s and ended up as chair of the Dandaragan Camel Dairies Association. He was a member of the Labor Party since 1971. He held a range of positions in the Labor Party, including at the Kellerberrin branch and the O'Connor Electorate Council. He was a former president of the Rural Labor Association, a delegate to state executive and various state and rural conferences over the years.

He was first elected to this place on 18 March 1992, and he retired in 2009. He served as the member for the Agricultural Region. During his time in Parliament, he served in a number of positions on behalf of the party and indeed on behalf of the Parliament. He was shadow Minister for Lands, at various times; shadow Minister for the Midwest; Primary Industry; the Wheatbelt; Fisheries; and assisting the shadow Minister for Health; Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council; leader of the government in the Legislative Council; and Minister for Agriculture; Forestry; and Fisheries. He served Parliament well on committees and, indeed, he told me when I entered Parliament that committees are where I would forge my closest relationships with people across the chamber and where I would learn the workings of Parliament. He served on many of those committees, including the Public Administration Committee, the Select Committee on Batavia Relics and the Select Committee of Privilege and a variety of select committees on privilege matters.

He was a member of a range of organisations as eclectic as the man himself. He was a member of the Transport Workers' Union of Australia and a member and former general treasurer of the Western Australian Farmers Federation. I do not know whether any other members of the TWU have gone on to hold elected positions in the Western Australian Farmers Federation, but I would be interested to find out. He was the delegate to the National Farmers' Federation. He was the director of the *Farm Weekly* newspapers between 1979 and 1980. He was a member of the board of the Water Authority of Western Australia. He was a member of the Kellerberrin Football Club and director of the Avon Football Association. During his time in Parliament, he was chair of both the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council and the Australian Landcare Council.

As I said at the outset of my comments, those facts tell us the kind of statistical information on his time in Parliament, but they do not tell us what we need to acknowledge about the man. I was really shocked at the news during the election campaign that Kim had suddenly passed away. I was shocked because he was a giant of a man who I just assumed would be around forever. He had a giant intellect and giant generosity. He was a giant physically. He had a giant work ethic, a giant love of his state, a giant grace, a giant commitment to progressive politics and a giant love of his family. I assumed he had a certain amount of invincibility about him.

He entered Parliament 21 years after he joined the Labor Party and after he had fought many campaigns; notably, he stood five times for the federal seat of O'Connor. His first speech in this place in 1992 told us a few things beyond the subjects it traversed. The man could write. The man was eloquent. The man was very well read. The man respected those who went before him in this place and in his party. The man was the modern farmer, well across the complex economics of agribusiness and international markets and their drivers, while literally driving for a living and carrying out physically hard work on the land. Kim went on to do the hard yards in the dark times of parliamentary opposition. He did policy consultation, held the government to account with scarce resources and maintained relevance when no-one wanted to engage. Whenever I crossed paths with him in those years, he was always entertaining and great company, and at least gave me the impression he earnestly listened to the bolshie views of a young woman with red hair who thought she knew more than she did.

When he rightfully got a leadership position when Labor came to government in 2001, I as a new backbencher in this place got to see the well-rounded parliamentarian and politician that Kim was. Kim was the most regularly confronted by those who were anxious and therefore sometimes angry about the social and environmental agenda of the new government. His former staffer and good friend "Daggers" described it this way: "He didn't rage. He rarely got it wrong". Very occasionally he would stand in this place after what might be described as

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outrageous or nonsensical argument from the other side and forcefully call the contribution for what it was. When he did, everyone listened because he did not do it very often.

I remember when one night as a parliamentary secretary I was handling a particularly difficult piece of legislation. I think it was one vote, one value but I do not recall. It had been a long night in committee. I was sitting at the committee table against the considerable skill and wrath of Hon Norman Moore, Hon Peter Foss and Hon Derrick Tomlinson. When combined, they were nearly lethal—not quite but nearly. At the end of the night, I was exhausted and the thought of doing it all again the next day was overwhelming to me. He took me aside and talked me off the metaphorical ledge. He told me that he knew I could do it, he had seen me fight tougher battles inside the Labor Party and that between the two of us we would get the job done—and we did.

I liked Kim's judgement, expressed in his valedictory speech, about his relationship with the Labor Party. I will quote from his valedictory speech. He said —

I also want to thank the Australian Labor Party. I have been a continuous member of the Australian Labor Party since 1971, some 38 years. In that time I never lost faith in Labor's ability to somehow find the right answer, be that to a local, state or national issue and particularly so in our global region. It does not mean that I do not think that Labor never made mistakes. It has made some spectacular mistakes, as everybody and every group of people do. In the end it has been my view that Labor has been able to overcome those errors and to move on to try to find the right answers because it has a system that enables it to do that.

Somehow Labor never lost faith in me. I guess in many ways I was not regarded as a classical Labor candidate, although I have to say that if that was Labor's view, it managed to hide it pretty well because I never felt anything but welcome in both the Labor lay party and the parliamentary party. Things were very difficult for me and my family in 1991, the year before I came here to the Legislative Council. The Australian Labor Party picked me up, dusted me down, pointed me in the right direction and enabled me to get on with my life. It is something I will never forget.

It is a funny relationship that exists between an individual and a political party. It is somehow different from the relationship between a person and an organisation almost anywhere else. I can imagine that there would be some military units and possibly even the police service that might have similarities to political parties in the way they build loyalties. The relationship between a person and his political party, particularly for a member of Parliament or a player in the political system, is a two-way loyalty thing that defines this unusual relationship. I can only begin to imagine the pain that is felt when people feel that those bonds of loyalty have been broken and broken unreasonably. I have enormous sympathy for people who find themselves in that position. At one level I have that sympathy; at another level I have nothing but contempt for those people who accept everything a party gives them and then, because they do not get everything they want, set out to destroy the people and the party that put them there in the first place. It is a fine line between that sympathy and contempt. It is a very personal thing. Somebody said the other day that the Labor Party—I imagine the same applies to all political parties—functions as a family. Sometimes in a family the boys might have a punch-up when they are playing cricket in the backyard at mum's house. Perhaps it is not a family one would want as neighbours; it is dysfunctional as a family, but it is a family nonetheless. That is the kind of relationship I am referring to and that is why I feel that sympathy and, indeed, that is why I feel in some cases that degree of contempt.

It is impossible for an ALP member to recognise the role that Labor has played in his life without also recognising the role that the union movement has played. The union movement has been the reason for the Labor Party's existence for over 110 years. It is the reason for our beginning and it is the reason for our future. Every affiliated union warrants my thanks and my ongoing support, but in particular I thank the left unions—the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union and the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union WA and their left affiliates—for the uncompromising support they have given me through my entire political life and long before I became a member of Parliament.

Kim's generosity to me when I took over from him as Leader of the Opposition was outstanding. He prepared documents for me about how an opposition can use the resources available to it and the parliamentary tools that work most effectively. He also told me of his regret that, while leader, he had not been able to really socialise and get to know the newer members of the team. The role of leader and the time pressure just meant something had to be sacrificed and that was it, and he regretted it.

I will do my best to honour him by ensuring I develop relationships with the new MPs who will join us next week. The best advice he gave me was that even on the worst and bleakest days of opposition—there were

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plenty—find something to laugh about. I have kept that tucked away. There were a few such days and I tried to do just that.

I will go back to Kim's valedictory speech. He had one further reflection that I want to refer to. Kim said —

I go back to the beginning of my reflections; that is, why I came here in the first place. I wanted people to feel that their government cared about them—whoever they are, wherever they are and whomever they voted for. In the end, it is that trust and confidence that forms the very basis of our principles of democracy. When people feel that their government is dishonest, that is bad; but it is even worse when people feel that their government is disinterested in them, because if we get to that point then our whole system is challenged.

Kim ended his valedictory speech by telling us that, after leaving this place, he intended to continue to chase the dreams to make rural WA vibrant and full of thriving communities—he did just that.

I will now refer to two elements of what Kim did after leaving Parliament. In an article published in *The West Australian* at the beginning of February 2016, Kim was asked about his new venture involving camel dairies. That is not something that one would immediately think of as a new and emerging industry in Western Australia, but it turns out that it is. The article stated —

Retiring from politics in 2008, Mr Chance has since been further afield looking for the next challenge, including working as a consultant in the Middle East.

I will stray from the article for a minute. About half an hour ago I spoke to one of Kim's former staff members. She advised me of a particular relationship that Hon Kim Chance had with the Middle East. Members might think it was the opportunities afforded to Western Australia to broaden its economic links or the opportunities afforded to Western Australia to make the very best of our agricultural business, but in fact Hon Kim Chance's special relationship with the Middle East, particularly when he was a minister, was because he loved that whenever he went to the region they all called him "Excellency" and he could smoke wherever he wanted!

Kim undertook a series of interviews after leaving Parliament. He explained part of what he was doing then when he said —

I am the executive director of Habitat for Humanity, which is a housing solutions non-government organisation here in Western Australia. And that doesn't leave me much time to spend in my shed, which was the only reason I moved from Guildford ... so that I could have a shed to play with my toys in ... that's the one disappointment I've got.

The interviewer said to Kim, "Your toys of course being your motorcars?" Kim was then asked —

So are you going to win any more Targa events or that sort of thing?

Kim said that he did not race in 2010 and went on to talk about how he was preparing to race again. He said —

So we'll be well and truly ready, because we've had two years to get ready this time ... I intend to keep racing as long as we can. I mean, I'm 65, the driver's 63, we're pretty much "Team Geriatric" now.

Hon Kim Chance was a Labor soldier to the end. As I was leaving the memorial service for him in Mt Lawley and saying my farewells to Sue, his wife, she leant forward and told me that Kim had voted before he passed away. The McGowan government will be its own Labor government but it is built on the building blocks of the government that Hon Kim Chance served in with distinction. We will miss him and we know that Sue and the family will be missing him terribly too. We want them to know that we stand with them as they create a life without him right smack bang in the middle of it because we loved him too.

Distinguished Visitors

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House): I welcome to the President's gallery members and friends of Hon Kim Chance and also two former members, Hon Tom Helm and Hon Alannah MacTiernan.

Motion Resumed

HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [2.18 pm]: I stand to support the condolence motion and make a few comments on behalf of the Liberal Party.

Kim Chance was born into a farming family. He was the nephew of the late Edgar Prowse, a Country Party Senator for Western Australia from 1962 until 1973. Kim was educated at Doodlakine Primary School and at Wesley College. From 1964 until 1991, he was a share farmer and farmer at Doodlakine and Carrabin. His farming career was varied by a stint as a builder's labourer in 1970 and as a truck driver from 1991 to 1992. Kim Chance was a member of both the Transport Workers' Union of Australia and the Western Australian

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Farmers Federation, where he served as treasurer and as a delegate to the National Farmers' Federation. From 1979 to 1980, Kim was a director of *Farm Weekly* and from 1985 to 1992 he was a board member of the Water Authority of Western Australia. He was a member of the Kellerberrin Football Club and a director of the Avon Football Association in 1992.

In 1971, Kim Chance joined the Kellerberrin branch of the Australian Labor Party; also the political home turf of the late Peter Walsh, who was a distinguished Labor Senator and minister. At the 1983 federal election he was endorsed for the division of O'Connor and polled 35.9 per cent of the final vote against Wilson Tuckey. He stood again in the subsequent federal elections of 1984, 1987 and 1990 with predictable results for a Labor candidate in what was a relatively safe conservative seat. However, at each of these elections he finished in second rather than third place. He also carried the Labor banner at the 1986 state election in the Central Province of the Legislative Council, comprising the seats of Avon, Mount Marshall and Merredin. He polled 26.1 per cent of the vote in a three-cornered contest with Hon Mick Gayfer, MLC, and future Liberal Senator John Panizza. With the introduction of proportional representation for the Legislative Council in 1989, he ran in the second position for the Australian Labor Party team for the Agricultural Region. In 1992, when Hon Jim Brown, MLC, resigned from the Legislative Council, Kim Chance was elected to his Agricultural Region vacancy. His long and tough political apprenticeship and his experience in rural organisations gave him an assuredness and confidence not always possessed by new members of this chamber. For the next four elections he was re-elected at the head of his party's ticket as the sole Australian Labor Party MLC for the Agricultural Region. In opposition after 1993 he served as a shadow Minister for Lands; MidWest; Wheatbelt; Primary Industry; and Fisheries. He was briefly Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council in late 1996.

Hon Kim Chance was Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council and a senior minister from 2001 until 2008. He held the portfolios of Agriculture and Food; Forestry, along with responsibility for the Midwest, Wheatbelt and Great Southern. From 2001 until 2005 he was Minister for Fisheries. It was the first time for many years that a Labor minister had directly represented the state's broadacre farming regions. He had decided not to contest the 2008 election and stepped down from the front bench for the remainder of his term.

After leaving Parliament in 2009, Hon Kim Chance maintained his contribution to the rural and regional community of Western Australia. From 2010 he was chairman of the Australian Landcare Council and national director of the Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry, having become principal of Gulf Australia Trading in 2009. In this role he was food security adviser to the government of Abu Dhabi, and as chair of Dandaragan Camel Dairies, he was actively engaged in creating a new rural export industry from what had been a feral pest. From 2015 he was chair of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council, and he has been praised for the independence and experience that he brought to this role. At the time of his premature death, he had intended to fly to Abu Dhabi the day after a WAFIC meeting and had only recently appeared on ABC television extolling the advantage of camel milk.

Hon Kim Chance had the courage and perseverance to represent his political party consistently in the most adverse electoral circumstances. He served Western Australia, and especially the rural community, most effectively as a minister and a business leader. In Parliament he will be remembered for his good humour and lack of partisan rancour.

Personally, I always held Hon Kim Chance in extremely high regard. As an incoming member of the Legislative Council in 2005, I first met Hon Kim Chance who was then the Leader of the House. I was immediately attracted to his warm, affable and welcoming nature. The notion of a tribal and confrontationist environment that I had been expecting rapidly dissipated. Although inevitably there were periods of tension and hostility in the chamber during that next term of government, I never found Kim Chance to be unreasonable or aggressive. He always treated us on the other side of the chamber with genuine respect. Outside of the chamber I got to know Kim extremely well and met with him on a number of occasions in the years following his retirement from Parliament in 2008. The positive judgement that I had made of him on that very first day of my parliamentary career was reinforced over these years. He was an outstanding man in so many ways. He was an interested, compassionate and sincere man who had an altruistic outlook on life; that is, an endeavour to assist all members of the community, particularly those less fortunate. I will always reflect very fondly upon Kim Chance.

The Liberal Party extends our sympathy to Mrs Sue Chance, his son, Tom, and daughter, Ceridwen, and their families.

HON JACQUI BOYDELL (Mining and Pastoral — Deputy Leader of the National Party) [2.24 pm]: On behalf of the National Party, I rise today to make a brief contribution to this condolence motion for Hon Kim Chance. Firstly, I would like to express our condolences to his family and friends who join us in the President's gallery today, and to the Labor Party for the loss of its former member.

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Hon Kim Chance was a member of the house before I became a member of the house, but in doing some research on this condolence motion, I read his inaugural speech and valedictory speech. I learnt that Kim was a great advocate for country people. It is important to me, as a member for country people, that people continue to advocate on behalf of the regions represented in the chamber. He was determined to bring a better political understanding of the challenges country people faced, as well as their aims and desires as he served as a member for Agricultural Region. In reading his speeches, it was also evident that he considered the opportunity to represent the people of the Agricultural Region—with which he had a close connection, being a farmer himself—to be an immense privilege. Any person who can run for Parliament the number of times that he did deserves a medal; that is not easy. All members of this house understand the support that our families give us in undertaking our role, and I want to share with the chamber the role that his family played in supporting him. On 21 May 2009 Hon Kim Chance gave his valedictory speech to this chamber, and I quote —

My family, of course, has to come first in that list. My family were there when we ran all of those tough campaigns out in what was pretty much tiger country for a Labor candidate—electorates like O'Connor, where I ran for election five times, Central Province, and eventually the Agricultural Region. My family would stand all day on their own at isolated country polling booths—some of which were pretty remote—knowing that I had no chance at all of winning.

All members for regional Western Australia can relate to that. For your family to come out and do that on your behalf is a great thing that you share in supporting each other as a family. He continues —

They did that because they thought that one day I might get here.

And he did. He also went on to say —

My daughter, when she was five years old, fronted and stared down the local Liberal Party branch president because she thought a comment that he had made about me in my absence was inappropriate. She was five years old, and she has just got tougher.

I do not know whether his daughter is in the President's gallery today, but I thought that was a beautiful reflection on the role that family, and children in particular, do play to us as members.

I also want to quote from a story from *The West Australian* of 24 February this year, relating a comment that his son, Tom, posted on Facebook. It states —

“I am heartbroken to say that we have lost a great man, my dad,” he wrote. “I think many of us grow up thinking our dads are the smartest and strongest people in the world. Some may grow out of that notion but I never did.”

I think that that tells the chamber what sort of a man Hon Kim Chance was. On behalf of the National Party, I want to express our condolences at the passing of Hon Kim Chance and thank him for his service to the people of Western Australia. As a member for regional Western Australia, I hope to emulate that sort of history. Thank you.

HON ROBIN CHAPPLE (Mining and Pastoral) [2.28 pm]: The Greens also pass on their sympathy to the family of Hon Kim Chance. In 2001, I was very privileged when entering this chamber to find Hon Kim Chance as the Leader of the House. He was a gentle giant. He provided guidance to us in many ways and we were not even with his party. He took upon himself a role in this chamber that was one of consensus, in many ways, because he had really established the role of meeting behind the Chair to work through the legislative agenda between all parties that were in this place at that time.

In 2001, as Leader of the House in the thirty-sixth Parliament, he extended an incredible amount of support and compassion to all us newbies. I then went on to work with Kim on matters that were affecting Western Australian herbicide workers. Looking back at some of the debates and around the establishment of committees and inquiries on that matter, Kim genuinely brought to the fore a sense of compassion for those workers in this place. Over a three-year period, something like 30 debates on the Derby herbicide workers took place. He was genuinely a gentle giant. To a large extent we had entered the chamber very much like rabbits caught in the headlights. We did not know what we were up to and because of his compassionate nature, Kim genuinely took us under his wing. He was a great mentor to many of us because he showed us that we could enter this place and genuinely debate and discuss matters without rancour. I and my colleagues at the time really appreciated that.

The humour that often arose in the chamber between 2001 and 2005 was a result of continual chatter about Doodlakine. Hon Jim Scott was also from Doodlakine, as was Senator Peter Walsh and Kim. Just down the road near Doodlakine, from Bullfinch, came Noel Crichton-Browne and Norman Moore and obviously some difference lay between those two towns that led to a political divide. There was a lot of banter in this house about that divide. Unfortunately, when Frank Hough entered the chamber, he ruined it. Frank came from Doodlakine

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as well, but there was a lot of chatter that he had broken the mould. There was genuine humour in the debate in the chamber at that time.

At a personal level, I will miss Kim. I was unaware of his passing until we literally resumed sitting and I saw the notice on POWAnet. Personally, I am sad to hear of his passing. I pass my condolences on behalf of the Greens to his family and friends gathered here. He was a mountain of a man, but a very compassionate man.

HON ADELE FARINA (South West) [2.32 pm]: Kim Chance was not only big in stature; he had a big heart, he was genuinely interested and he cared. Speaking to a condolence motion for Kim Chance was the last thing I thought I would be doing as a member of Parliament. Kim died far too young and his passing is our loss.

Kim had a deep commitment to the Labor cause. He first contested the federal seat of O'Connor for the Labor Party in 1983 and contested three more federal elections. At the 1989 state election Kim ran in second position on Labor's ticket in the Agricultural Region, a position we did not win; however, with Hon Jim Brown's retirement in 1992, Kim filled the vacancy.

Over the years that Kim was a member of Parliament he worked hard to get a second Labor person elected in the Agricultural Region. It is with great sadness to me that Kim did not get to see Labor win the number two position on Labor's ticket for the Agricultural Region in our most recent election. Although Kim did not get to share this victory, I am sure most will agree with me when I say that it was Kim's hard work over many years that made this win possible. Kim was a shadow minister under opposition leaders Ian Taylor, Jim McGinty and Geoff Gallop. Labor's victory at the 2001 election saw Kim Chance become a minister and Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, positions he held until 2009, having decided not to recontest the 2008 election.

Kim's portfolios were a perfect fit. They were directly relevant to my South West Region and, hence, I had the privilege of working more closely with Kim than perhaps others did. His knowledge of and experience in agriculture made him the perfect choice for the agriculture portfolio. He had served on the executive of the Western Australian Farmers Federation and was well respected by industry. He became agriculture minister at a time of great hardship for many farmers caused by many years of drought. The personal tragedies of these farmers and their desperation weighed heavily on Kim. He understood the investment in and hard work of farming. He ensured the government acted to provide financial support for farmers and improved the system for accessing this assistance. Kim made a significant contribution to promoting WA agriculture overseas and providing a firm foundation for agriculture in this state. He understood the challenges of farming and genuinely believed that although mining makes a big contribution to our state's economy, agriculture would always be a significant economic driver. He saw opportunities to grow the industry, and after his political career Kim pursued a number of those opportunities, including camel dairy farming.

Kim was a popular fisheries minister at a time when a lot of changes were needed and there was great tension between commercial and recreational fishermen on how those changes were to be implemented. Kim impressed me with the considered way he handled these challenges. He was always listening to stakeholders and understanding the science and the ramifications of any decision he was making. Those changes had an impact on my region as they did on other regions around the state. Kim always made himself available to listen to me and my constituents. Although not everyone agreed with the decisions he made, Kim genuinely believed he was making the right decisions and genuinely tried to do right by stakeholders and the wider community. Kim understood that Western Australians enjoy eating fresh fish, but he needed to ensure the future sustainability of the commercial fishing industry while also understanding the passion of recreational fishers, the role recreational fishing plays in tourism, especially in the south west, and the need to ensure its sustainability. I know many fishers in my electorate warmly welcomed Kim's appointment as chairman of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council, a position he held at the time of his death. Kim brought a wealth of knowledge of the fishing industry that he obtained during his period as Minister for Fisheries to the WAFIC board and, with no direct pecuniary interest in fishing in WA, he was able to bring independence to the position.

Although I often turned to Kim in his roles as agriculture and fisheries minister in advocating for the needs of my south west community, it was perhaps in the forestry portfolio that I had the privilege to work most closely with Kim. Labor came to government in 2001 on the back of its policy to end logging in old-growth forests. Although it was a position hugely supported by the wider community, it was a huge kick in the guts for the forestry industry and a very difficult period that imposed significant changes for the forestry industry, with many job losses and huge upheaval for timber communities. As forestry minister, it was left to Kim to take the lead in implementing these changes.

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As the newly elected member for the South West Region in 2001, the region most impacted by this policy position and election commitment, I saw firsthand how hard Kim fought to ensure cabinet understood the impact of the decision on timber workers, their families and timber communities. Kim fought hard to ensure that cabinet dealt reasonably and fairly with the industry and timber communities, including compensation and retraining packages for those forced out of the industry. He also ensured those businesses left in the industry were provided with a 10-year supply guarantee to enable businesses to continue to obtain financing.

These were difficult times. As the local Labor member, it fell on me to attend the numerous public meetings in timber communities throughout the south west immediately following Labor's election win and through the many years over which the policy was fine-tuned and implemented. Timber workers and their families were understandably very upset as they faced an uncertain period of not knowing many of them would be out of a job at the end of the process. The policy impacted on not only families, but also timber communities in such a significant way that many questioned whether those towns would survive the implementation of the policy.

Of all the ministers responsible for the implementation of this policy position, Kim Chance was the only minister to attend as many of those public meetings as his busy ministerial diary permitted. He understood, like I did, that those affected by this decision had a right to be heard, and we had a duty to be honest, transparent and provide what reassurance we could at each stage of the process in an effort to minimise the fear and uncertainty in the timber communities.

I learnt a lot from Kim Chance during this period. Kim was genuinely interested and he cared. Even though we were implementing changes the timber workers and timber businesses did not want, Kim had a way of letting people know that he was in their corner, fighting for them. They always felt that Kim gave them a good hearing. Listening to worker after worker and their families tell their stories and their fears for the future at these public meetings was gut-wrenching. For some, their fear drove them to verbal abuse and tempers flared at some of these meetings—all perfectly understandable. Having Kim at the meeting he was able to attend and knowing he was always available and genuinely took on board my representations on behalf of my timber communities was a great comfort, especially in those early dark days when workers accused us of selling out on a core Labor value of supporting the workers.

During Kim's time in that portfolio, a statutory review of the Forest Products Act 2000 was required. Kim asked me to chair the review, a decision that was unpopular with many of his colleagues in the left. Kim never wavered in his support, reassuring me that my knowledge of the industry and the competing pro-green interests made me the right person for the job and that I should ignore the protests. I will always be grateful to Kim for the opportunity and his faith in me.

Often the position of undertaking a legislative review is a poisoned chalice, with the minister holding very firm views on the outcomes of the review process. That was not the case with Kim. He gave me and the committee free rein to listen to the stakeholders and make genuine recommendations as we believed best. Kim was as interested in the stakeholder feedback as he was in our recommendations. As always, Kim was interested and open to considering different options. I thought I knew the forestry industry, but through that review process I learned more about all aspects of the industry and the Forest Products Commission than most people in the industry think they know. It was one of the most interesting and fulfilling tasks I have undertaken as a member of Parliament, even if the government did not implement all our recommendations.

Despite all the challenges and controversial issues Kim had to manage in his portfolios, he earned the genuine respect of those in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries and of his colleagues. He always gave everyone a good hearing and was a fair and honest person. Kim left big shoes to fill in each of these portfolios. However, perhaps the biggest shoes he left to fill were in his position as Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. He took this position in 2001, the same year that I started as a member of Parliament. As a new member I could not have asked for a better leader. Kim did not lead with a heavy hand; he guided and nurtured.

Kim had a heavy portfolio load with significant and controversial policy changes in his forestry portfolio, which he had to manage together with his responsibilities as Leader of the House. Lesser people would have struggled with this workload and perhaps lost their temper on occasion, but not Kim. Regardless of his work pressures, Kim was always a gentleman, always approachable and always retained his sense of humour.

With formidable and experienced opposition members such as Norman Moore, Peter Foss and George Cash, Kim had his job as Leader of the House cut out for him. Regardless, Kim made it all look effortless. He handled everything in his stride, making it look like a well-oiled machine, when that was not always the case. Labor's lack of a majority in the house during the period that Kim was Leader of the House made the job of Leader of the House more challenging than anyone holding the position would want it. Although I have not undertaken

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a thorough review, I am confident that more bills were referred to committees for scrutiny during Kim's time as Leader of the House than ever before or since.

Although Kim always had to have an eye to progressing government business through the house, he never felt threatened by the scrutiny of legislation process and believed the committee process added value. He respected the opinions of others, even if he did not always agree with them. He was always willing to explain the government's decisions and to try to persuade the opposition of the merit of the government's decision without reverting to personal attacks. When he did not agree with a committee recommendation, he did not mount a personal attack on the committee, its chair or its members; he respectfully put his reasons for disagreeing with the committee report.

The adversarial nature of the house means that, despite our best intentions, we sometimes find ourselves in heated debate with passions running high. When this happens, some members resort to playing the person rather than the ball. I do not recall Kim ever being guilty of this. He was always respectful and always focused on the ball.

As a new member, Kim helped me enormously to settle into my role as a member of Parliament, providing support, encouragement and the occasional word of advice. He was always approachable to explain process and procedure and to listen to alternative suggestions. He was never threatened by an alternative viewpoint. He sought and respected his colleagues' opinions.

As Leader of the House, Kim provided opportunities for us, his colleagues, to develop our talents. Kim provided me with a number of such opportunities. I have already spoken about Kim's decision to appoint me to lead the legislative review of the Forest Products Commission and how rewarding I found this opportunity.

Kim was never quick to judge; he always chose to believe the best in a person and their motives. He trusted people to do the right thing and people responded to that trust by doing right. Under Kim's leadership, there was always a strong sense of unity of purpose, inclusion and that Kim had our backs.

There was one task Kim asked me to undertake that I did not want to do and was determined not to do for good reasons. Over a number of respectful discussions—no bullying, no pulling rank, no direction—Kim persuaded me to take on the task despite my strong reservations. Had someone asked me at the beginning of that process whether Kim would have succeeded in persuading me, my answer would have been, "No way." Yet, he did. When Kim asked you to do something or not do something, you knew his motives were pure, he had faith in you and he would have your back. He had the qualities of a good leader and was difficult to say no to.

Kim's respectful manner, his openness, fairness, honesty and good humour earned him the respect of his colleagues, including opposition members, and is a credit to Kim. He lifted the bar high and encouraged us all to follow his lead. Kim made a significant contribution to the Labor cause and to this state. This was reflected in the huge numbers that turned out to pay their respects at his memorial.

If Kim were here today, I am sure he would agree that his achievements were made possible with the support of his wife, Sue. Sue was often by Kim's side supporting him and it was obvious that this meant the world to him and that attending all the events his job required was made more enjoyable with Sue by his side. Sue was also his campaign manager and ran a local branch.

I am sure that Kim would also want to acknowledge, as he did in his valedictory, John D'Agostino, who worked for Kim for 13 years and whom Kim often referred to as his right hand.

To Sue, Kim's children, grandchildren and extended family, I offer my sincere condolences and consider myself fortunate and a better person for having known Kim, worked with him and learned from him as a friend and a colleague.

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan) [2.46 pm]: It is with a great deal of sadness that I rise today to offer my comments in support of this motion. I do so in the hope that my remarks might offer some further degree of comfort and pride to the loved ones of the late Hon Kim Chance and also provide some insight for colleagues here in the chamber, now and in the future.

I did not know Kim Chance outside of this Parliament, its precincts and what goes on here. However, I felt that I knew him very well indeed. I felt it personally when I received the news of his, in my view, untimely passing. I was saddened not only for his family and loved ones, but also for me—that I would not have the pleasure again of enjoying conversation and his company. Already this afternoon, a lot has been said about his achievements professionally in so many occupations and disciplines. I will not seek to add further to that now. I want to talk about the other dimensions, which are about him as a human being.

Even though my contact with him was only in this chamber and these immediate environs, I felt I knew him very well. That was how engaging he was for so many people. That is something that we can all learn. Perhaps part of

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his legacy is that I have tried, at least in a little way, to follow his example in how he treated other members of this place. He understood that there are certain things here that have to be put firmly to one side to create the capacity to get on with the things that have to be done for the good of the state. He understood that there is no point in arguing and bickering with people for the sake of parochialism or political pointscore. Mind you, he was a pretty tough player when the need arose. He understood that we have to interact, that we have to get on, that the house has to work and that we may as well be civilised about it.

My offering this afternoon to colleagues here and to the extended circle of Kim's family and friends is a couple of examples of his essential humanity that I experienced. They may help provide an illustration and understanding of my affection for him. I think it was very early in my career, maybe on my first day in this place, that I was sitting over there. I hope the record does not confuse this, because I was going to say that I was to the left of Hon Lynn MacLaren, in that seat over there. I was describing, in the face of Kim's interjections, how, although I was on the government side of the house in those days—this was in 1997—I was not of the government. The government started with Hon Peter Foss, who was to my left, and I said that the seat cushion was a very wide barrier indeed. Hon Kim Chance interjected, saying, "You'll get there." That was the sort of encouragement, as we have already heard this afternoon, he offered to every member. It did not matter what party, colour or creed we were, that was the advice he gave, and that is what helped us get on. I never served on a committee with Hon Kim Chance, apart from the Committee of the Whole, which is hardly the same thing, but I have served on committees with just about everyone else, and we got to know each other very well. However, I felt I knew Hon Kim Chance very well indeed, because we got together to share some explicit or implicit exchanges within the chamber, and also behind the Chair and outside in other places around here.

I will fast-forward from when I first came into this place to just before Hon Kim Chance departed from the Parliament. By then I was actually a minister, and I was sitting over there next to Hon Norman Moore, who was Leader of the House. The election was not really due until 2009, but it had been held early, in 2008. I do not think that Kim would have been very happy with the outcome or the timing, as he had contemplated retiring in 2009. There was a change of government, so he came back, not as the Minister for Agriculture and Food, but as a backbencher. Parliament was reformed and there was plenty of time between the election and the following May, and he found himself as Deputy Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. That is how he came to rise from his seat just here on Thursday, 2 April 2009, and gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move, at the direction of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation —

That the Seeds Amendment Regulations 2008, published in the *Government Gazette* on 16 September 2008 and tabled in the Legislative Council on 25 November 2008 under the Seeds Act 1981, be and are hereby disallowed.

It was a delicious moment, as I said, with a twinkle in my eye, "Hang on, aren't they your regulations?" He said, with a big grin and a twinkle in his eye, "Yes, they are." That is what happened. He had created the regulations and then he had come around again in the committee and directed that a motion be put forward that they be disallowed. I do not think they were disallowed; I think they went through in the end.

Those are some examples of Hon Kim Chance. I am sure those of us who knew him, whether intimately outside of the political processes or in the capacity that I have described, will never forget the twinkle in the eye and the sense of humour, the sense of good fellowship, the gentlemanliness and the friendship. I will miss him, as will all of us. With those thoughts very much in mind, I give my condolences to his family on his untimely passing.

HON LYNN MacLAREN (South Metropolitan) [2.54 pm]: I too rise to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Hon Kim Chance, and also to the Labor Party. I know that many members were very close to him, and it is indeed a tragic loss, and an unexpected one, which makes it all the more difficult to cope with.

I first met Hon Kim Chance as an activist. I think he might have been the first minister I ever lobbied. He took my delegation into the strangers' bar. It was a small delegation, and he was a very busy minister at the time, finding it difficult to fit in meals. He had got up early and had to be in a meeting straightaway, so he needed to have something to eat, so he took us into the strangers' bar for morning tea. As we bent his ear about our issue, he hoed into some sausage rolls. I was with the delegation from People Against Cruelty in Animal Transport, and we bent his ear about the long-distance transportation of sheep and cattle. That was his sense of humour, but he was such a lovely guy to work with, and of course we just had to go along with it, and we had a cup of tea or whatever. I was either lobbying him as an activist or dealing with him; I was also on the staff of Hon Jim Scott, and we dealt with Kim quite a bit. He was the Minister for Fisheries, which was a big issue in the Fremantle region, and there was a lot to do with rock lobsters, as I recall. Of course there was the issue of genetically modified crops, and the boys from Doodlakine would always talk and banter about where they stood on that issue.

Ten years after the time I was lobbying him as the honourable minister, he was kind enough to mention me as a future legislator, in response to my first valedictory speech. I served for three months in 2005, and he was very

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kind to mention me in his remarks, and I felt that I should do him the same favour. I knew him best when I was working for Hon Jim Scott. He and Hon Chrissy Sharp—two Greens who were passionate about changing the law on genetically modified crops—worked with Kim, and I want to reflect on his legacy in that area. Although neither opposed to nor in support of GM technology, he was increasingly aware of the lack of proof of safety, the need for independent science and the clear rejection of GM foods by consumers and markets. He said that the government was not anti-GM, but responded to voter concerns about the health impacts of the technology. Following a meeting with a Japanese consumer delegation, he remarked that the only important group, as always, is the customer and that next to no effort had been made to convince consumers that this was a technology that they should adopt.

His concerns on GM safety grew after examining 137 feeding studies and finding that not one concerned a long-term feeding trial that was dedicated to assessing mortality and morbidity in the animals subject to the feeding trials. More independent studies on GM food showing health concerns led him to remark that consumers were right to be suspicious about claims from GM companies that the foods are safe to eat. This led to him allocating, in 2007, \$92 000 to Dr Judy Carman and the Adelaide-based Institute of Health and Environmental Research to help resolve the information gap on GM food safety. His stance, and that of the WA Labor Party, was not inflexible. He invited the GM industry to hold small trials to enable farmers to judge for themselves, but in four years none took place. He also set up industry reference groups for GM cotton and GM canola. He was open to GM canola being grown as a biofuel as long as segregation could be guaranteed. He said that the government was not short-sighted, but was taking a cautious, long-term view. He felt it was the responsibility of the government to work with farmers and industry to understand the impacts of the technology prior to its release, not afterwards when it is too late. Kim introduced the Seeds Amendment Bill 2007 to further protect the state's moratorium on the growing of GM crops and intentional or inadvertent GM contamination. He was unconvinced that there were agricultural benefits in growing GM canola and called on Australian companies to undertake independent performance trials before recommending GM crops as a viable alternative to Western Australian farmers.

Doubts about the safety of GM foods soon led to former Premier Hon Alan Carpenter repeating Kim's concerns and calling for the nationwide suspension of approval of foods from GM crops until more health research was carried out. He said at the time —

There are still unresolved issues and questions about the effect of GM foods on human beings and we believe in the absence of absolute crystal clear knowledge and unequivocal reassurance to the consumer that GM foods are not potentially dangerous or harmful, GM foods should be labelled.

The doubt eventually permeated to the Nationals. Just prior to the 2008 state election, the then Leader of the National Party, Wendy Duncan, threw her support behind the Labor stance when she called for a halt to the approval of all GM foods in Australia until, to quote her words, "independent scientific trials had been completed". Wendy Duncan was also quoted as saying, "As far as GM food is concerned we believe that caution is the best way to go at this time"—a move that concerned GM lobbyists.

The change of state government in 2008 soon led to GM cotton and GM canola being approved for commercialisation. In the final days of the Barnett government, the moratorium was removed. Consumer concerns were dismissed, markets were ignored, and GM-free farmers were treated with disdain.

At Hon Kim Chance's memorial service, his former principal policy adviser, John D'Agostino, remembered Kim as having defended the GM moratorium from corporate onslaught for over a decade. For consumers, Hon Kim Chance will be remembered as an influential minister who listened to people and understood their concerns, and for that we will be eternally grateful.

I express my sincere condolences to Kim's family and friends.

HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.00 pm]: I, too, rise with a rather heavy heart to support the motion before us today on the passing of our colleague and friend Hon Kim Chance. As has been mentioned by previous speakers, Kimberley Maurice—Kim—Chance was born on 16 November 1946. He was the son of Geoff, and Hazel, who was the daughter of Country Party senator Ed Prowse. Kim grew up in Doodlakine, an area of hot political activity, which, as has been mentioned, was also the home of former federal Minister for Finance Peter Walsh. Kim attended Doodlakine Primary School, and Wesley College in South Perth. He returned to Doodlakine to go share farming and then ran his own farm at Doodlakine and Carrabin.

As has been mentioned by earlier speakers, Kim had an eclectic and varied life. I want to point to a few things that are unusual. It was relatively unusual that a Labor member of Parliament and Leader of the House in the Legislative Council would serve as treasurer of the then Western Australian Farmers Federation. However, that is the sort of fellow Kim was. He was able to be a jack-of-all-trades and turn his hands to whatever was required of him and do whatever he was asked, and he did that throughout his life.

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I did not realise until much later that Kim was also on the board of the then Water Authority of Western Australia—now the Water Corporation—from 1985 until 1992. That was at a time of tremendous change within that organisation. Kim had many skills. He had great oratory skills, as anyone who has heard him in action in the house would know. He also had an affinity and empathy for people, which is very rare in today's world. Kim will be remembered as not only a strong parliamentary performer but also a person who, as Tom said—I will get to that later—stood up for the little guy. The most endearing part of Kim for me was that he had time for everyone.

Kim joined the Labor Party in 1971. I am told—I will stand corrected on this story—that Kim's father was a Liberal voter. However, after Malcolm Fraser was elected leader of the Liberal Party, Kim's father swore that he would never vote Liberal again, and Kim became a Labor man. As was mentioned earlier, Kim ran for the federal seat of O'Connor four times. What an effort that was! For the benefit of people who read *Hansard* in years to come, O'Connor is a very, very conservative seat. It is always difficult for a progressive candidate to win that seat. On many occasions, the best a candidate can do is finish second, or, if they finish third, try to influence the result and build those votes for Senate or upper house seats, as Kim did. That was in the years 1983, 1984, 1987 and 1990. Those were all elections that Labor won. However, as was mentioned earlier, Kim had very little chance, or no chance, of winning the seat of O'Connor at that time.

I can relate to stories of having family members on polling booths in remote areas at a young age to do their bit and help out dad in his quest to become a member of Parliament. Kim eventually did become a member of the WA Parliament when he was number two on the Agricultural Region ticket, and although he did not win at that time, a casual vacancy arose as a result of the retirement of Hon Jim Brown, and Kim entered the Parliament in 1992. It was fitting that Kim put in an early vote at that election and registered his vote for Labor, and, for the first time in many years, Labor was successful in picking up two spots in the Agricultural Region. I am sure that would have made Kim very happy and very proud because, as Hon Adele Farina has touched on, the bedrock of Kim's many years of service to the Labor Party was to make people understand that Labor was there for them. Kim wanted people to understand that Labor is not the evil beast that it is often portrayed to be in regional areas but cares about regional people, and that is why Kim joined the Labor Party.

I have gone over many of Kim's speeches. There is a lot to research about Kim Chance, and members should do so if they get the opportunity. He was an incredible human being. I will read a little bit from his inaugural speech. A lot of the comments I wanted to make have already been made, so I will try to add some new material. As all members of the house would know, making an inaugural speech is a very daunting time in our lives and we often get very nervous. Kim Chance talked in his inaugural speech about how he got to be a member of Parliament and he thanked his family. He also mentioned Hon Muriel Patterson and said —

Hon Muriel Patterson said in her welcome to me that it was good to see another farmer in this place and that it was unfortunate that I was—in her words—in the wrong party. My colleagues disagreed with her in respect of one if not both sentiments. For my part, I will follow some of her line of reasoning because I believe I may have heard it expressed once or twice before. All I can say in response to Hon Muriel Patterson is that I hope that in the next few minutes I will be able to explain what I am doing here and why I am doing it. In any case, I thank her for her generosity.

Kim was very thankful and respectful to everyone. As members have heard today, Kim was highly regarded by people from all corners of the political spectrum, especially his Liberal opponents. It is a sign of success in politics when we are highly regarded and highly respected by our colleagues and opponents alike. Kim went on in his inaugural speech to make some wise utterances about the success of the wool industry and about how agriculture has been proven to have carried this country for many years and will continue to do so, and of course he was right. Kim certainly added to that strength in the agricultural sector in the way that he conducted himself as a minister.

Kim had an enormous workload in the Parliament. The Parliament of Western Australia website lists the enormous number of roles that Kim played in the Parliament. I will read from that list, because it is fitting that those roles be recorded. Kim was member for the Agricultural Region and was declared elected to the thirty-third Parliament in March 1992, following a recount for the casual vacancy consequent upon the resignation of Hon James McMillan Brown. He was re-elected in 1993, 1996, 2001 and 2005. He retired on 21 May 2009.

His ministerial appointments were as follows. He was Minister for Agriculture; Forestry; Fisheries. He was Minister for the Midwest, Wheatbelt and Great Southern. He was Leader of the House in the Legislative Council. He was Minister for Agriculture; Forestry; Fisheries. He was Minister for Local Government and Regional Development. He was Minister for Heritage. He was Minister for the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne. He was Minister for Goldfields–Esperance. He was Minister for Agriculture and Forestry. He was

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Minister for the Midwest and Wheatbelt. He was Minister for Agriculture and Food. He was Minister for Forestry. He was Minister for the Great Southern.

Kim also had parliamentary party and shadow ministerial appointments. He was the opposition manager of business and parliamentary secretary in the Legislative Council. He was shadow Minister for Lands; Mid West and Wheatbelt; assisting the Minister for Health. He was shadow Minister for Primary Industry, Mid West and Wheatbelt; assisting the shadow Minister for Health. He was shadow Minister for Fisheries. He was Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council. He was shadow minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries; assisting the shadow Minister for Health. He was shadow minister for Primary Industry; Fisheries; Mid West and Wheatbelt.

Kim also served on many parliamentary committees. He served on the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. He was a member of the Standing Committee on Public Administration and he was chairman of that committee for a while. He was a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. He was also on the Select Committee on Batavia Relics, the Select Committee of Privilege on Hon Reg Davies' Telephone Tapping Concerns, the Select Committee of Privilege on Petition presented by Hon John Halden; and Select Committee of Privilege of Non-compliance of Brian Easton with an Order of the House. He was chairman of the Select Committee of Privilege on Documents held by the Royal Commission into the Use of Executive Power. He was a member of two select committees on failures to produce documents under summons. He was also a member of the Select Committee on Rules, Orders and Usage of the House. He was a member of the Select Committee into the Appropriateness of Powers and Penalties for Breaches of Parliamentary Privilege and Contempts of Parliament.

He had a very extensive parliamentary role. But, members, I love how when we look near the bottom of Kim's biography, we see that it states —

Occupation before entering Parliament and Qualifications

Farmer and truck driver.

What a pearler. That goes to the show the extent of the man's knowledge and capacity that he could come from being a farmer and truck driver and fulfil those very important and specific parliamentary roles. I think that is great because that is very similar to my background and it gives me great confidence that these things are achievable.

I also want to speak a bit about Kim's family, who are here with us today in the main. It is great to have them here with us to celebrate this great career of Kim's and to see this condolence motion passed. Of course, we wish we were not here, but we are. It is great to have you along today. Welcome. I hope that the occasion is as good as it can be. To Sue, Tom and Ceridwen, and all the extended family, friends and colleagues—I note Hon Tom Helm is also with us to be part of what we are doing—it is terrific to have you all here.

I first met Kim at a meeting of the Northam branch of the Labor Party in about 1999 and I hung around after the meeting because I wanted to talk to this bloke. I was just becoming interested in Labor politics and to me Kim was the go-to man from a similar background. Surprisingly to me, Kim stood and talked in the car park with me for about half an hour after the meeting had finished. We discussed all kinds of ways I might go about getting involved in the Labor Party and the pathways to Parliament that he had found; it was always an ambition of mine. He was very generous with his time both then and throughout his time as a minister.

I contested the state seat of Moore in 2001. Through Kim's encouragement I sought preselection for that very safe conservative seat. I think the margin was about 28 per cent. I worked with Kim, John D'Agostino and Judy Riggs. On that campaign Kim was a member for Agricultural Region and oversaw all those lower house campaigns. I was like a sponge. I could not hang around Kim enough and spend time with him enough to pick up all the things he knew. He was a great influence on my early career. I watched Kim as an ag minister handle very difficult issues. As Hon Adele Farina mentioned earlier, the forestry reforms were extremely challenging and very few people could have got through that process in the way that Kim did. He also took up the tough challenges of dairy deregulation. Challenge Dairy went into administration when he was the minister and 40 dairy farmers needed to find a new home for their milk. Kim was able to navigate that.

As Hon Lynn MacLaren pointed out, Hon Kim Chance was never sold on the value of genetically modified crops. He could always see the little guy, the consumer, was not convinced by genetically modified crops and he stood firm throughout his entire parliamentary career and stood up for the little guy. I think that is what was most notable about his position on that. Kim also fought the good fight against the deregulation of the potato industry. He held out on that for many, many years. We noted today at lunch that Kim always enjoyed having some chips with his lunch, so we all had some today even though they were deregulated potato chips, rather than regulated potato chips.

I always felt that Kim had a great belief in me as a young up-and-coming person with political aspirations. I am not the only one, of course. He had belief in all whom he worked with, but when we start out it is heartening to

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work with that person who knows that we have a chance and sticks with us and gives us every opportunity and piece of advice that we need. I think it is safe for me to say that the reason that I stand here today is because of Kim Chance, and I am eternally grateful for that.

Kim always had time for us. He had time for everyone who wanted his time. He made time for them. I can remember a story at his memorial service when Ceridwen made an outstanding contribution and said that the family was sitting around about to have lunch on Christmas Day and the phone rang. Kim went out and took the call and the family was waiting for Kim to get off the phone and come back and join them for Christmas lunch, but it turned out that the person who made that call on Christmas Day had no-one else to call. That person called Kim and he took the call and gave his time at lunchtime on Christmas Day. That is the kind of guy he was. Ceridwen also told us that the only time Kim ever got angry, which I never saw, was the one time he had to assemble flat-pack Ikea furniture.

Kim was a great bloke and in country politics that is what we want to be. We just want to be great blokes that everybody likes. He was respected by his political opponents, the general public and Liberal and National Party voters, and by all of us in the Labor Party as a soldier and good man to lead us. To make it in country politics, we need to be straight with people and make sense to them, and Kim did both those things. He was straight up and down with people. If he did not have good news, he would deliver it straight and people respected that. He always made sense to people. He was always able to put an argument in a way that country people could understand. He had commonsense and he used it regularly.

He always offered me good advice. I knew that when Kim Chance gave me a piece of advice or information, it was rock-solid and I could trust him and rely on his judgement; I always did. I sent Kim a text message before the 2013 election and said, "I have the best offer you've had in years. I would like you to stand on the Wagin polling booth for two days at the Woolorama and talk to all these non-Labor voting farmers. There's no pay and you've got to bring your own lunch and water." He said that it sounded like a great idea to him and asked me to let him know when I needed him. He went and stood on the polling booth at the Wagin Woolorama, which happened to be the Friday before, and the Saturday of, the election. Thousands of voters went through. We had to run down extra absentee how-to-vote cards. Kim made time to be there and chat to them all. He loved the day.

Kim also worked in the Middle East and passed on what he had learnt to other areas of the world that could use his advice and help. He spent much time over there. I think that although towards the end he was glad that the tenure was ending, he enjoyed his time over there immensely, working with people from other countries.

As has been mentioned, he was also chair of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council. I see Bert Boschetti, a fisherman from Geraldton, is here today. He was instrumental in getting Kim appointed to that position. Kim was an outstanding, independent, unbiased and knowledgeable chair of that council and will be missed by the fishing industry in WA.

Kim also had a love of racing cars in the Targa rally, as mentioned earlier. I remember seeing a documentary with Kim and Mike Moylan driving around in the car and they took a wrong turn and ran off the road. Mike Moylan was the driver and Kim was the navigator and Mick commented that we cannot believe a word that a politician tells us. On that occasion he was right, but it was not always that way.

Dandaragan Camel Dairies was a dream of Kim's. When he returned from the Middle East, he had this vision to set up Western Australia's first camel dairy. That venture will be a success and Kim paved the way for that success. I thought it was an incredibly brave decision, but once I talked to Kim more about it and learnt about the future of camel's milk, which does not contain lactose, I think it has enormous potential.

As I said, Kim would have been very proud to see the election of Laurie Graham to the Legislative Council, the number 2 in Agricultural Region. Laurie and Kim worked very closely together. Laurie managed Geraldton port for many years and was a long-serving councillor. Kim convinced Laurie to run for the seat of Geraldton in 1996. He did not win the seat, but decreased the margin so that the Labor Party was able to take the seat in 2001. It is a shame that Laurie was not sworn in today, but I am sure that he will also mention Kim in his inaugural speech.

Kim's death is a loss to us all. It is a loss to the political community, it is a loss to the Parliament of Western Australia and it is a loss to regional people. Kim gave much to regional WA, and he did it selflessly.

I will summarise some bits of Kim's valedictory speech that I think are pertinent. He said —

I am not entirely sure how it is we should go about this job of summing up our own parliamentary career ... There seems to be general agreement that it is a good time to reflect on why we came here in the first place, and then to comment on which of those objectives we articulated in our first speech in this place that we think we have achieved. It is also a time to pass on a few comments to people—particularly to those who are fairly new in their own careers—that we think might be helpful. Most

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importantly, I think it is a time to thank those who have been our supporters, our friends, our colleagues, our adversaries, our advisers and our shoulders to lean on.

That was the very first paragraph of his valedictory speech. He went on to say —

My family, of course, has to come first in that list.

As Hon Jacqui Boydell pointed out, Kim went on to talk about his children standing at polling booths in very remote places. He paid special tribute to Sue and the kids. He also talked about when he was in Algiers. He said —

There are also those wonderful people who work with me in my office. John D'Agostino was my right hand for 13 years, both in opposition and government. I once tried in Algeria to explain to government officials what John's role was.

...

Given that they do not speak a lot of English in Algiers, and my French is even worse than my Arabic, the best I could come up with was that he was my commissar. That drew understanding looks from the Algerian officers and "Daggers" assured me that he was given a great deal more respect than he previously had from those same officials.

He was able to find a way, and I loved it. That is what is done when one comes from a truck driving and a farming background.

Kim went on to make special mention of the people who worked in his electorate office. He mentioned Dianne Spowart, who had worked in his office for many years. He also mentioned Judy Riggs, who came from the community sector rather than from the political structure. Judy Riggs now works in my electorate office in Geraldton and has been a great source of knowledge and understanding of all the things that she learned from Kim.

I have already spoken at reasonable length, but with the President's indulgence I will read a eulogy. I went to Kim's memorial service and found it very moving. As a matter of fact, I do not think there was a dry eye in the place at one stage—the speeches were outstanding. I just mentioned John Dagostino, who had worked with Kim for many years and probably knew him from the political side as well as anyone. John gave an outstanding eulogy, which I will read. I think it puts Kim's parliamentary career in the best way. John's eulogy states —

In his valedictory speech, Kim asked the question of how you might best sum up your political life. It is a question, as he noted, that is difficult to answer, and we cannot do justice to all of his achievements today.

Briefly then, I will talk about Kim's public life, and talk about Kim as a person in that world: and try to give you a sense of how Kim dealt with the politics, the policies and most importantly the people in his public role.

I think for Kim you have to start with the people. Kim loved people, he loved to talk to people and he loved the people of Western Australia in all of their diversity, colour; in their weaknesses and strength. His personal experience of being a truckie and a farmer, and living in Country WA, gave him a grounding in the everyday reality of working people's lives that he never lost. He could talk to a Chief Scientist as well as a truckie, and he had a greatness about him, a ranging empathy for people that could not be quelled, a curiosity about how to make things better, and an unshakeable belief in the importance of human dignity.

All of these values and attributes were well formed by the time I met and worked for Kim in the early nineties. By then he had already served, by today's standards, an unthinkable long political apprenticeship; running for the Federal seat of O'Connor for five successive elections, and gaining long experience in agri-politics. Kim was widely read, worldly and well informed of the usual policy debates swirling around at that time. All of this experience came together in a gracefulness with people or issues, his quick mind always fair, discarding received ideas and relying on his own wisdom and convictions for judgement.

...

Kim's first year in Parliament was as a backbencher, and in talking to me of that time, I always got the idea of Kim's own modesty, for he was in awe of the Leaders around him and, it seemed to me, surprised at that time that anyone would talk to him. It added another perspective to his rich experience, and so after the election loss of 93 Kim set out on a journey that would take him through the long years of Opposition.

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While the nineties now look in some ways quiet and quaint, there were emerging the many forces that would shape Kim's political life and the world we now find ourselves in. Like many farmers Kim was technically minded, an early adopter who loved technology (and also, dare I say it, Fords) and he was quick to seize the internet and email as tools essential to being a Country MP. Climate change and environmental threats emerged as processes with political force and real world everyday impacts. Kim's love of the Australian bush and its people always founded his understanding of policy decisions and the politics that ran through these issues. But if Kim had a natural home in a policy or political sense, it was in economic and industry policy, most especially for Agriculture. Kim belonged to an old Labor school that had orderly economic policy and the welfare of workers at its core. He had a far vision for Western Australian agriculture, a vision that saw opportunity to further develop the agriculture sector down the value chain, creating jobs in the country while enabling farmers and their communities escape the vicissitudes of the commodity cycle. This vision was a bulwark against the angry populism that had begun to emerge in the nineties, a deep widespread anger against economic rationalism that Kim understood and had to deal with in community forums, at Field Days, in town halls and in the Parliament.

Apart from his vision for a bright future for country WA, another roadblock against populism that Kim carried was his love for people. Kim personified (he would hate the idea) the old Australian values of the fair go, of equal services no matter where you lived, and dignity for all. It was these values that came out in Opposition and later in Government, values that tried to minimise the very human cost of reform and change.

In Opposition he worked hard on Shadow portfolios as they came to him, firstly Lands and then Agriculture and Fisheries and assisting Regional Development. Kim quietly began to make a name for himself as an advocate who could take a constituent's concerns with Government forward, air them, and get something done. Kim believed in natural justice, and in those years he was always fair in his discernment of issues in the Parliament: he didn't rage; he rarely got it wrong and from time to time he began to achieve hard earned successes for people who otherwise would have been hurt by the blunt instruments of Government.

And there were hard lessons in realpolitik, such as in 2000 when Kim tried to frustrate the Federal Government's agenda to deregulate the dairy industry nationally. He stood alone, and was in the end outmaneuvered, although it was a near run thing in the Parliament that came down to hours. "Never try to move the world with a short lever mate" he said to me afterwards; he learnt and went on.

...

In Government, as Leader of the Legislative Council in a minority position, Kim found he was at the sharp end of a progressive Government determined to deliver meaningful social and economic reform. As Leader, in Parliament and in the community, it was Kim who took the case to those most opposed to the Government's agenda.

In Parliament his experience as a legislator equipped him well for the many long nights of debate. In the community, Kim was of the Old Flat Bed Truck Class; he really would take on and talk round an angry crowd. And as Leader he delivered passage of legislative reforms like One Vote One Value, Gay Law Reform, the delivery of the Old Growth Forests Policy, the introduction of new laws to properly regulate the clearing of native vegetation and of course industrial relations laws to replace the unpopular State system in place.

There was organized, effective and ceaseless resistance to the Government's legislation, for good reasons and for bad. I never really understood Kim's courage, his resolution and his boldness until that time. You may recall, I do well, when Kim knocked through the Industrial Relations reform legislation while the Opposition were, due to a mix up, absent from the Chamber. There was a very strong reaction; the Opposition withdrew pairs, stopped cooperating entirely in the management of the House and declared a new cold war. But the Parliament, and its performance, became the issue of the day, and many months later, Kim with the Opposition's support, oversaw a process which substantially increased the performance of the Chamber. We passed 80 odd bills in one year—I doubt that number has been surpassed since.

It sounds like dry and tedious work and it was—and Kim had the support of his Ministers and colleagues in the House. But it took courage and real personal sacrifice to lead under such relentless pressure; and he paid the price without complaint or rancour.

Outside Parliament, the world and your portfolios move on. As Minister, Kim brought energy and vigour to his portfolios; and it was wanted for the challenges were many. His concern for workers and industry

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helped deliver a large assistance package to minimise the reform costs of the Old Growth Forests Policy, while in agriculture he managed to save Treasury funds from NCP penalties by sensible changes to the Grain Marketing Act to liberalise the export of coarse grains, the careful deregulation of the egg industry, the merger of the CBH and the Grain Pool of WA. After years of reform when it came to the Potato's the Boss had had enough, it went to Cabinet and then Caucus and the Potato Marketing Board stayed.

And there were the hot issues, from GM Crops where he defended a moratorium for a decade against significant corporate challenge, to the near disaster of the Cormo Express, the lost sheep ship that bedeviled the State and Federal Government with its animal welfare failures until Kim persuaded the Premier to take the diseased ship back, and to say so publicly. Deadlock broken, the sheep went to Eritrea.

Then, all too often, we had the drought years: sharp, unexpected and savage, with a real human cost in the country Kim loved. His reaction to the drought, his empathy and persistence in championing the cause of those impacted, saw him deliver meaningful drought policy reform from the Federal Government and begin a process of adjustment to protect the industry against climate risk in the long term. When we were in Government cloudless skies to ANZAC day were a disaster; today, the farmers could manage as long as the rains eventually arrive. It was the small victories that mattered; the farmer who rang back two years later to thank him for advice and assistance to keep his sheep.

Kim was the most accessible Minister I have ever come across: he would meet with anyone. He was very hard working—for nearly 8 years of Government when Parliament sat he would start meetings at 7.30 in the morning and then have to manage the House up until 10 or 11pm and then get up and do it again. When Parliament was not sitting he was relentless, having up to ten external meetings a day, or getting out and about in the State that he loved. After one Dowerin Field Day I was politically and physically exhausted: Kim's stamina was undrained and he was annoyed we had to leave. I think he felt a tremendous sense of privilege and obligation in his role—he would rest on Sundays by wading through the Cabinet papers.

...

Kim had broad shoulders and overtime I think we saw a greatness develop; he had this largeness of heart that could take criticism, admit failure, find courage and persist while others despaired. In moments of supreme crisis, or perhaps in just another occasion of political snafu or administrative failure, he never once lost his nerve, never once raised his voice with his staff. Of course he was not flawless; but who is? Many people didn't notice his emerging greatness, his centrality to the success of the whole, and for that I think he was grateful—his unaffected modesty was rarely troubled. He was the gifted and rugged fullback of the team as it organised for the contest, playing a defensive game that allowed victory elsewhere.

Perhaps not comprehensively enough, but I hope I have given you a sense of the courage, grace and personal conviction Kim brought to his political life. It came with very real personal sacrifices, both for himself and for his family, and I know he bettered many lives because of his involvement in politics.

He was in many ways the most politically graceful and dignified person I have ever met; we are lessened by his departure. But we should be grateful for his gifts and generosity of spirit:

I myself not the least: by unstinting effort he left world a better place than he found it, and devoted so much of his own life to public good. For that Kim, I thank you.

Fare well, Mate.

John Dagostino

Mate, we all thank you, Kim. You were a great member of our community, a great parliamentarian and a great man, and we will remember you for that.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House): Members, I also wish to make some comments and join other members in expressing my condolences on the sudden and untimely passing of Kim Chance. I also want to pay respects to his contribution and to his legacy. I shared many years in this chamber with Kim Chance, from 1992 to 2009, and got to know him best, I guess, in committee work. We worked together on the Standing Committee on Government Agencies and the Standing Committee on Public Administration. His death, I must admit, was a huge shock. I certainly did not expect it, just as his family and friends and other members who knew him well did not expect it.

Right from the start, there was never any doubt about Kim Chance's intellect, his capacity for work, his knowledge and his ability to express it very well and put his thoughts into effect, and the sincerity with which he approached his role as a public figure and a parliamentarian. He quickly took on prominent leadership positions in the Legislative Council in opposition and in government. As we have heard, he was Leader of the Opposition

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in the Legislative Council, he was the Leader of the House from 2001 to 2008 and he was Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and many other portfolios. Kim always took his roles very seriously. He treated his portfolios, his responsibilities and members, as well as this institution, with respect. This was consequently returned to him in spades because of the way he treated other people. That is why we heard today of the many positive, pleasant memories of our dealings with Kim Chance.

After Parliament, of course, he went on to do many other very constructive things in fisheries, land care and camel farming, and he had roles in the Middle East, as well as many other things. Kim Chance was universally known and respected as a really good, capable bloke and a very good parliamentarian.

I extend my personal condolences and the condolences of the Legislative Council to his family and friends who have gathered here today. Members, as is the usual practice, a copy of the *Hansard* of this debate will be forwarded to Hon Kim Chance's family. Thank you for your attendance today. In the usual way, I ask members to stand in their places for a minute's silence out of respect for Hon Kim Chance.

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