

## CHAIR OF COMMITTEES

### *Election*

**THE PRESIDENT (Hon Kate Doust):** Members, I advise that the office of Chair of Committees is vacant and I therefore call for nominations.

**HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition)** [4.03 pm] — without notice: Thank you, Madam President, and I take this opportunity, once again, to congratulate you on your election as President. Madam President, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to move —

That Hon Simon O'Brien be elected Chair of Committees.

**The PRESIDENT:** Thank you. Is there a seconder?

**HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House)** [4.03 pm]: Madam President, congratulations on your ascension to that position. I am pleased to formally second the motion.

**The PRESIDENT:** Thank you. Is Hon Simon O'Brien willing to accept the nomination?

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan)** [4.04 pm]: Madam President, I submit myself to the will of the House.

**The PRESIDENT:** Are there any further nominations? There being no further nominations, I declare Hon Simon O'Brien elected as Chair of Committees.

[Applause.]

**The PRESIDENT:** I give the call to Hon Simon O'Brien to make a short statement if he so wishes—short!

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan)** [4.04 pm]: Madam President, may I be among the first to offer my congratulations to you upon your election as President of the Legislative Council. May I also express my appreciation and sense of humility to all members of this house for the great honour they have done to me. I hope that the position of Deputy President and Chair of Committees provides a vehicle by which, and through which, I can put something back into the institution that has been in effect my home for some little while and whose position in our society I respect very, very deeply. Madam President, I will have a bit more to say about matters relating to the privileges of the house, its traditions and how we conduct ourselves, and it seems that the debate on the Address-in-Reply will be the suitable time to do that. For now, can I simply restate my willingness to serve and my optimism in working with you, Madam President, to make sure that the rights, privileges and dignities of the Legislative Council are well looked after during the fortieth Parliament.

**The PRESIDENT:** Hon Simon O'Brien, thank you very much for your comments, and congratulations on your new role within the chamber.

We now have some messages from the Governor—sorry, from the Legislative Assembly. I must say it is a learning curve—I have not been in this place for a while, so bear with me!