

## COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS

### *Statement by President*

**THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House):** I wish to say a few words. Firstly, I congratulate and thank all members and staff involved with the Legislative Council on their conduct and professionalism in this chamber throughout 2013. The way we have gone about our business reflects very positively on this chamber. There have been 12 new members in the chamber this year and I am sure that the 12 new members have come to understand the variety of responsibilities that go with this role in terms of the electorate, the committees they may serve on in the Parliament and in some parliamentary roles such as Deputy Chair and so on. Other members throughout the chamber have served in different capacities: some on the executive, some on the frontbench of the opposition and some in roles within their respective political parties. I particularly thank my Deputy President Hon Adele Farina and the five deputy chairs for a job well done this year. I think everyone has settled in very well. Hon Peter Collier, in his first year in the role of Leader of the House, has done an admirable job, in particular in his nurturing of good communication among members, which has put his stamp on the role. Congratulations to other ministers, parliamentary secretaries, and all members of the government benches, both in the Liberal Party and the National Party, for their contributions this year. The opposition, led by the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Sue Ellery, has once again this year demonstrated a very conscientious and professional opposition. To all opposition members, whether of the frontbench or the backbench, congratulations and well done. The contributions of the two members of the Greens party are always very valuable. I am sure this year has been a very interesting initiation for Hon Rick Mazza—the one member of the Shooters and Fishers Party. He has made an excellent contribution. This is the last opportunity we will have to acknowledge the retired Clerk, Malcolm Peacock, and his outstanding service to the Legislative Council and the Parliament in general. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to make a presentation to Malcolm yesterday on behalf of the Legislative Council. Nigel Lake has performed the duties of Acting Clerk on frequent occasions this year and the previous year and we thank him and congratulate him for his excellent work.

To all the Legislative Council table officers and chamber staff, we appreciate your work and your positive contribution. I thank the other staff in the Legislative Council department, whether they serve as office staff, secretaries in administration or heads of departments, and particularly those on the committees. The committee office has quite a few staff and all members know the large amount of work they do for the Legislative Council.

I cannot forget my executive assistant, Lorraine Coogan, and the President's steward, Deb Kapoor, who look after not just me, but also everybody in the Legislative Council; they are my right and left arms in my role and provide valuable assistance to everyone.

I express a general thankyou and congratulations to Russell Bremner and all the staff involved in all sections of the Parliamentary Services Department, whether it be Hansard; finance; the Parliamentary Library; information and technology services; catering, including the dining room and kitchen staff; human resources; building services; and gardening. I add to that list a couple of units that now come under the auspices of the Parliamentary Services Department. There have been two minor changes. The education unit, which has been slightly restructured, now comes under the administration of the Parliamentary Services Department, not the Legislative Assembly as was previously the case. The other unit is the Parliamentary History Advisory Committee, which also comes under that structure. I believe they have settled in very well. They are provided with the support base from the whole of Parliament and perform their work very well on behalf of the whole of Parliament.

Generally, I wish everybody involved with the Legislative Council, members and staff, all the very best for the festive season. Christmas time is for family and relaxation, and the new year is for perhaps a stocktake and resetting goals. I wish you well in sharing time with your family and friends. I look forward to seeing everybody back here on 18 February.

**HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [5.27 pm]:** Mr President, I do not intend to repeat your acknowledgements. Suffice to say, I endorse them and I acknowledge all the people you have identified with one exception—Malcolm Peacock. I would like to pay tribute to Malcolm on behalf of the government. He played a distinguished role over a number of years, and the professional and impartial manner in which he played his role was extraordinary. I wish Malcolm all the best in his retirement.

I thank the members of the opposition and the Greens very much for their cooperation whenever possible this year. Politics is by its very nature adversarial, but we do get on well and we do cooperate. We have our disputes in the chamber, but when we walk out those doors, almost without exception we have a smile, a chat and a laugh, and that is good to know.

Hon Helen Morton and I, as the leadership team for the government, have developed a relationship with Hon Sue Ellery and Hon Kate Doust that I regard as one of trust and, whenever possible, cooperation, and that

has been very much appreciated. It has been a work in progress and we have made a lot of inroads over the last six to eight months, and the last 24 hours have shown that. I thank the Leader of the Opposition and members opposite very much.

To Hon Rick Mazza, it has been quite refreshing to have in the chamber someone who is not from the mainstream parties. It is terrific to have someone who has developed a genuine appetite for not just his role as a member of Parliament, but also the parliamentary process. He has been a great advocate for not just his supporters, but also the community as a whole. It is good to have him on board as a member of the Legislative Council.

I thank my National Party colleagues. Hon Col Holt and I have worked together for a number of years now. It has been an absolute privilege to work with Hon Col Holt. He is very easy to work with and is not afraid to advocate when it is needed on behalf of the National Party specifically, so I thank him particularly, and also the four new members of the National Party who bring with them a wealth of experience from around the state. I take this brief opportunity to congratulate Hon Marty Aldridge, who became a father over the weekend. My congratulations go to Hon Marty Aldridge and Dale on the birth of Casper.

Finally, to my Liberal Party colleagues, with whom I have more to do than anyone, I really appreciate your camaraderie, the team spirit that exists amongst us, your friendship, the faith you have shown in me and your loyalty. I cannot speak highly enough of you. I very much appreciate the contribution you have all made to the chamber and within the community over the last eight months. In particular I thank my loyal friend Hon Helen Morton as deputy of the Liberal Party.

I will not take up any more time of the house. Suffice to say, I would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas. I hope that 2014 brings each and every one of you good health and happiness.

**HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition)** [5.30 pm]: I join with you, Mr President, in thanking the staff of the chamber and across the whole of Parliament, both inside and out, for their hard work and support.

I thank the WA Labor team and in particular my deputy, Hon Kate Doust, who executed no mean feat in carrying the load of the legislation in this last week. The final week of Parliament at the end of the year is a tough week in any circumstances, but to carry the responsibility for each piece of legislation that we dealt with was an extra load. I particularly want to thank the new members of the WA Labor team, who have really embraced their roles with energy and enthusiasm and stepped up to each new responsibility.

I will digress for no more than a minute to acknowledge one member in particular who has had a particularly tough day today. He turned up to Parliament and carried out his functions on a day when the High Court deemed his marriage to his partner of 11 years to be invalid. This afternoon he is on a plane to attend a school graduation in his electorate. I ask everyone in this chamber to reflect on how they would feel in these circumstances. He certainly does not know I am saying this. He would not want me to single him out. He does not want our sympathy; he wants the law to change. I ask those members who are married to reflect and consider how they would feel. Would you have turned up to work and carried out your work with the grace that he did today?

I want to thank my staff and the staff of the Leader of the Opposition's office, who perform magnificently under fire—and occasionally that fire comes from me. They are a magnificent team—small but dedicated—and I thank them very much.

I join you, Mr President, and the Leader of the House in wishing every member from the Liberal Party, the National Party, the Greens and the Shooters and Fishers Party a very safe, happy Christmas and a fantastic break. I look forward to 2014 taking us closer to the change of government in 2017.

**HON COL HOLT (South West — Parliamentary Secretary)** [5.32 pm]: On behalf of the National Party, I also add our thanks to the chamber staff for their commitment and dedication to the running of this chamber over the year, and also for their friendship. When we come to this place outside Parliament's sitting hours there is always a friendly face and a chat to welcome us here, so I thank them for that.

I would also like to single out Malcolm Peacock and to wish him all the best on behalf of the Nationals for his future. His service to this Parliament has been exemplary. I also thank Nigel Lake for stepping in and filling in for Malcolm when he was not able to be here; you have done a great job, mate.

I also thank my four new National Party colleagues in this chamber, who probably did not quite know what to expect when they got here. They now have a good eight months under their belt and I expect that they have really enjoyed it. I have enjoyed their company and their collegiality. I thank them very much for all the support they have given to me, as a relatively new member, as their representative in this chamber.

I do not want to add too much more, except to say that I wish everyone goodwill and friendship over the festive season. One of the greatest wishes I have is that people and their families travel safely and we see everyone back here when we reconvene. I would hate for there to be the tragic circumstance whereby we were not able to see everyone's face in here again. I remind members that while we spend a lot of time in this place—probably more time here with our colleagues and other members of the house, in this year, than with our own families—there is still a life that goes on outside these chamber walls. That has been no better demonstrated than by the birth of Casper Eli Spark Aldridge over the weekend. It signals to me that we are but cogs in the motion of the world and we should be celebrating that and the role that we play in our society.

**HON ROBIN CHAPPLE (Mining and Pastoral)** [5.35 pm]: I thank you, Mr President, for your adjudication in this chamber; it has been very, very fair. I will keep it brief because everybody has touched on all the people who need to be touched on. I just would to thank my colleague, the honourable—I have forgotten her name —

Several members interjected.

**Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE:** That is a really good start! I thank Hon Lynn MacLaren and my staff, Maria, Nina and Betty. I would also like to single out a group of people who never really get a thankyou in this chamber. It is the people who never interject and sit here in silence day in, day out taking down our every word; that is the Hansard staff—thank you very much, indeed.

**HON RICK MAZZA (Agricultural)** [5.36 pm]: I would like to thank you, Mr President, also the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition for their guidance and advice in this past six months. It was a little daunting when I first walked in as the “shooter and fisher”; I was not quite sure how I would be received. But I have built some quite good acquaintances, friendship and camaraderie with members of Parliament from all sides of politics, which I am very grateful for. Everyone has been thanked, particularly the parliamentary staff. I would like to wish everybody a merry Christmas and a safe new year.

**The PRESIDENT:** Members, at the adjournment I would like to invite you to the members' lounge to share refreshments.

*House adjourned at 5.37 pm*

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