

### ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Clerk (Mr N. Pratt) reported that the office of President was vacant and called for nominations.

**HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House)** [2.00 pm]: without notice — I am delighted to move —

That Hon Kate Doust do take the chair in the Council as President.

**HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition)** [2.01 pm]: I am equally delighted to formally second the motion.

**HON KATE DOUST (South Metropolitan)** [2.01 pm]: Mr Clerk, I submit myself to the will of the house.

[There being no other nomination, Hon Kate Doust was declared elected as President, and was conducted to the chair by the mover and seconder of the motion.]

[Applause.]

**THE PRESIDENT (Hon Kate Doust)**: I would like firstly to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet. I thank all members in the chamber for putting their faith and trust in me to take on this role, and I commit to conducting myself in a fair and impartial way by way of engagement with each and every one of you over the next four years. I acknowledge the significance of being elected as the first female President of this Parliament. This is our fortieth Parliament, so it has taken us a while to get there, but I think it certainly opens up the doors to demonstrate that women have the opportunity to participate in this place at all levels. I also acknowledge the Leader of the House in her role, which is also a significant change for this place. I acknowledge my predecessor, Hon Barry House, who operated this place in an exemplary manner; he is a particularly fine role model. He certainly conducted himself in an impartial way and I hope that over the next few years we are able to continue some of the work that he put in place, making sure that this very important place in our democracy is able to continue and be sustainable. Given my own experience as a working mother, I am very keen to make sure that we look at ways to make Parliament much more family friendly. I am also very keen, given my passion for all things tech, to investigate ways in which we can incorporate technology into this place in a range of areas, to not only make us more productive, but also open up opportunities for better engagement with our community. I am very excited about this opportunity and I look forward to working with members in this place and the very excellent staff we have in this chamber. I wish all members well for the fortieth Parliament.

Members: Hear, hear!