

## COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS

### *Statement by President*

**THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House):** As members are aware, this is the last day of this year's sitting. It is also the last day of sitting of the thirty-ninth Parliament before the state election. I will make a few final comments, and party leaders may wish to follow.

I congratulate and thank the ministers and parliamentary secretaries and all the members on the government benches from the Liberal Party and the National Party. I similarly congratulate and thank all the members on the opposition benches from the Labor Party, and also the crossbench members from the Greens and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party. Everybody has made a unique and valuable contribution in their own way over the past four years in this Parliament and is to be congratulated and thanked. It has been a pretty tough four years so I know that members are looking forward to getting a bit of a break from this place. You will be taking a holiday to cart bricks, really, by going into an election campaign, but that is the nature of our representative democracy.

Over the past four years, the Legislative Council has passed a lot of legislation. It has amended and improved a lot of legislation, as you would expect in a house of review. It has also seen many relevant and interesting debates on a wide range of issues. As usual, much of the good work of the Legislative Council has been done in committees. A lot of work has been done on legislation and relevant issues, a lot of valuable research has been done, and a lot of comprehensive and thorough reports have been produced and recommendations made to this house. Out of this have come better legislation and better outcomes for the community at large. The work of committees has been first class, as usual. We know that it is a team effort in the Legislative Council. It is not just about the members and it is not just about political parties; it is about the whole institution. That whole institution operates with a very dedicated, committed and talented staff. Can I congratulate and thank all the staff of the Legislative Council. You are particularly well led by the Clerk, Nigel Pratt, and the executive team. Last year, I said that the executive unit in the Legislative Council was a strong, settled executive unit that provided great leadership. This year, that has been reaffirmed in spades. Congratulations and thank you to the Clerk, Nigel, and all his team. The quality of work and the positive attitude of all the staff are reflected in this chamber, and I include the committee staff in that across the board. Thank you and well done. It is really appreciated by members and the community.

I extend my best wishes also to the Parliamentary Services Department. As you know, there have been some changes this year. Russell Bremner, the former executive manager, retired after 18 years and Rob Hunter was appointed to the role of executive manager; he is doing an outstanding job. Patricia Traegde has become the deputy executive manager. Judy Ballantyne is now in charge of Library and Community Engagement Services—a new, combined role across PSD. Also, our new executive chef, Brett Barrett, has come on board and has not only maintained, but also improved the fabulous cuisine that we are all blessed with in this establishment. Congratulations particularly to those four people mentioned, and also generally across the whole Parliamentary Services Department. As we know, they are responsible for a wide range of activities from supporting the chamber departments—this one and the Legislative Assembly—particularly the Hansard staff, who we are all very conscious of in turning prose into poetry, the library department, the finance department, and the grounds staff who are responsible for the building itself, catering services, security, the education unit, community engagement, accommodation, and the list goes on, and on and on. There is a huge range of support services. They are often in the background and we, perhaps, take them for granted at times. They do a terrific job to maintain, promote and continually improve the way that this Parliament functions. They do not only that, but also relate to the community that we represent.

It is a significant time ahead as we enter the long summer recess. The long summer recess in a parliamentary sense means that Parliament takes the opportunity to engage in some maintenance work and capital works around the building. Members will get further information on this in the next week or so. Just briefly, we know generally that the parliamentary building, as nice as it is, is inadequate for our modern needs. It simply does not cater for all that we require for accommodation for members and staff, it does not cater adequately for function and event spaces and it does not cater for a modern Parliament, as it was put up initially in 1904. The needs are great. Unfortunately, we have not been able to secure the major funding that is required for an upgrade to our parliamentary precinct to include a parliamentary services building and to better connect to the people, as it should. In the absence of that major funding, we as a Parliament do the best we can by using the limited budget that we are provided with to maintain the building and the institution and to make improvements where we can.

I will highlight some of the projects that will be done over the summer recess, and members will get further details later. There will be an increase in the number of members' offices, and that will be achieved by revamping the Parliamentary Services Department area—downstairs from where we are currently—to accommodate Hansard. That will free up and make available offices in the south east corner of the building. It

will create at least six new members' offices. Work will be done on the courtyard membrane. As we know, that is not only a floor for that area, but also a roof for substantial areas underneath, and it leaks in parts. There will be the installation of security card swipe readers to all members' offices. High-definition cameras will be installed and broadcast room updates will be done in both chambers. Another courtyard canopy will be installed to extend the current canopy to better accommodate members' functions and amenities under all weather conditions. There will be some investigation and planning to make better use of the fountains at the front of Parliament House. As we know, the fountains have been derelict for more than a decade. They have transitioned from what was a great feature of this parliamentary building 30 or 40 years ago to a derelict area, and it now looks like an old Roman ruin. In the absence of the major works that we require, we are investigating converting that area—there is quite substantive space in that area—into staff offices. If we can get all the approvals and get it done, it may pay for itself in three years in terms of the money that we have to outlay to lease space in another building in West Perth. Anyhow, watch this space. We are doing the best we can with limited resources. There will be an upgrade to the wireless network. There also will be an upgrade to the network switch replacement system. Some interesting stuff will be going on around the building.

As 2016 draws to a close, of course, we enter the election campaign and the election period. I anticipate that we will convene again in May next year. None of us can be absolutely sure of that at this stage, but that is the normal course of events. The Legislative Council will continue with the same membership until 21 May next year with the exception of the three members who spoke today who are contesting lower house seats. Of course, we will hear more about that on the other side of the election of 11 March.

Finally, I conclude by wishing all members, staff and their families and friends, firstly, a very restful and peaceful Christmas and New Year period; and, secondly, a harmonious and successful—I am only human, but some more successful than others perhaps—election campaign and election outcome.

I thank you for giving me the privilege of being President of the Legislative Council for the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth Parliaments. I am looking forward to the next six months before finally finishing on 21 May 2017. As I said, I trust that there will be an opening of the new fortieth Parliament, which, in the normal course of events, will occur in the second week of May 2017. The Legislative Council will sit for a few days after that to allow some members—voluntarily in my case and involuntary in others—to make valedictory speeches. Please enjoy your parliamentary break and festive season. I wish everybody all the very best for this upcoming period.

Members: Hear, hear!

**HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the House)** [5.37 pm]: I would like to make a few comments as well. One change we brought in just after I took over as leader, and also in consultation with other leaders, was to not repeat everything the President said. That is not because we do not appreciate and value the contribution of all staff members at Parliament House—in fact, it is very much appreciated—but just so that we do not repeat ourselves. I would like to say collectively to all Parliament House staff thank you most sincerely for continuing the job of excellence that you do day in and day out for each and every one of us.

First, I would like to say a couple of thank yous to members opposite, with the first being to the Leader of the Opposition. Unfortunately, Hon Sue Ellery is on urgent parliamentary business, but I thank her most sincerely for the cooperative and professional manner in which I have been able to work with her over the last three and a half years. Most of our work is done behind the Chair negotiating legislation through et cetera, but we have done it very effectively. I have always found Sue to be accommodating. We have had our moments, but, fundamentally, we have always been able to work through them. The fact that we are here now rising two days before what was scheduled having been able to get through all the legislation in a very fastidious and efficient manner is testament to the relationship that Sue and I have. I pay tribute also to the leaders and members of the other parties, which I will mention in a moment. To Hon Kate Doust, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and members opposite of the Labor Party; and to the Greens, Hon Robin Chapple and Hon Lynn MacLaren, I thank you for not only the last 12 months, but the last three and half years. Politics is by its very nature very tribal so it is very combative and in this place, of course, it is verbally very combative. Sometimes it can become quite heated, but at the same time, I think we are all in it for the right reasons. I know that each and every one of us respects the fact that even though we may disagree on something, we respect the fact that we are entitled to have a difference of opinion, and that is what the sovereignty of the Parliament is all about. Thank you so much to members opposite, as I said, for the manner in which we have been able to get our legislative agenda through. Even when we disagree, we are still able to walk out the doors or behind the Chair for a cup of tea or go into the public arena and be friends. I think that is what it is all about.

Regarding the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, even though Hon Rick Mazza has been in this Parliament only a short period, he is like a seasoned veteran. He has certainly risen to the occasion and he stands up for his constituency in a very strident fashion. I have had what I regard as a very, very good working relationship

with Rick. I always find him very accessible, very supportive and very professional. To Rick and, of course, Hon Nigel Hallett, who is a newcomer to the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party—he got his apprenticeship with us and then decided to move on with Hon Rick Mazza—thank you very much for working with us over the last three and a half years.

To our partners in government, the Nationals, it has been a very good working relationship. Hon Col Holt is a very good friend, but also a very professional and efficient member of this Parliament. I think we have a very effective working relationship. At times, with the Nats, we have had differences of opinion, often more so than we have with members opposite, but we have always been able to work through them, and that is the good part of any working relationship. We are able to articulate those views and concerns, and at the same time reach a logical conclusion. It has been a very cohesive and effective relationship with our partners in the National Party. Thank you very much, Hon Col Holt and the other members of the National Party.

I turn to my Liberal colleagues on this side of the chamber and, first of all, Mr President. I know we still have a bit of time to say goodbye to you, but, you know, you were a very good social studies teacher in 1973 at Eastern Goldfields Senior High School. That is how far we go back—count them up! Mr President, I know that you hold the enormous respect of members of this chamber—I will have more to say about that closer to the time—and you have continued to perform your role in a most professional and fastidious fashion. You really do hold the respect of everyone in the chamber.

To my ministerial colleagues, deputy leader of government in the Legislative Council, Hon Michael Mischin; Hon Donna Faragher; and Hon Mark Lewis; and former ministers in this term of government, Hon Helen Morton and Hon Ken Baston, it is a hard gig this—it really is. Not only do we have our own responsibilities but, in some instances, we have five to eight acting responsibilities as well. It is a hard gig, particularly when we have to deal with legislation we are not necessarily around and we have our own issues that we have to deal with. But they have done it with aplomb. All five of my colleagues—the three sitting members and the two members who previously held that role—I thank most sincerely, again, for a job well done. It is really good to have you to my right because I know I can always trust you for your professionalism and efficiency in the chamber. Likewise, for the parliamentary secretaries: Hon Jim Chown, Hon Alyssa Hayden, Hon Nick Goiran and, of course, Hon Col Holt, who I have already mentioned. Again, they have risen to the occasion. They are doing their apprenticeships, and they have done an excellent job. I thoroughly enjoy working with our parliamentary secretaries. I have the confidence that when I turn to my right I can rely on each of those parliamentary secretaries to rise to the occasion on questions, legislation or debate.

I know Hon Kate Doust is going to make some comments and so will the Greens and Hon Rick Mazza. I feel very privileged to be leader of this chamber and the Liberal team. I will repeat an analogy I used, as corny as it might be, at our wonderful dinner last Thursday night. I played a fair bit of tennis in my previous life, Mr President. When you play singles, you have no-one to blame but yourself. You can make errors, but you have no-one to blame but yourself. Some days you play well, but, ultimately, how you play is entirely up to how you perform and the effort you put in. When you play doubles, you take on another responsibility; you have to assume that the person next to you has some weaknesses and some strengths, but, ideally, they will bring something to the relationship that will be successful. Having played all those years, I know that sometimes, of course, you might get angry or frustrated or there would be a lot of elation, but, at the same time, whenever you looked next to you, you knew that the person there is fighting for you and that they would give 100 per cent. Honestly, that is how I feel in this chamber with this group of people behind me. I am proud to say to every single member of the Liberal Party who is sitting here in the Legislative Council that it has been a privilege to be your leader. That does not apply just to the Legislative Council, but to the Liberal Party. We have worked very effectively and efficiently as a team, and that is what it is all about. We have had a lot of challenges this year through preselections and changes in ministerial positions. Of course those things bring a lot of challenges, but when it comes down to it, each and every time I can turn to my right and to my left and look behind me and know that collectively we will work together. Thank you so much to members of the Liberal Party; it has been an absolute pleasure. Just to conclude, as I have said, it has been a privilege to be Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council; it is a great honour. I would like to think it will continue after 11 March, but I have thoroughly enjoyed it. It is just such a privilege. Ultimately, of course, we work on the process and the outcome will take care of itself, and that is what is going to happen on 11 March.

We, as a government, can reflect with a great deal of pride on what we have achieved over the last eight years, and in particular over the last four years with a whole raft of infrastructure initiatives, including Elizabeth Quay, Perth Stadium and Perth City Link, and royalties for regions. There is the social area, of course, with the restructuring of the health system and the magnificent reforms we have done in education to give us an education system that is the envy of the nation. Our job on this side of the chamber is to get that message out. As I said, we worked on the process and now, basically, the outcome will take care of itself. We have a good story to tell and it is

our job to make sure we tell it as effectively as we possibly can. Ultimately, of course, it is now up to the people of Western Australia to determine when we return to this chamber whether we are sitting in the same places we are now or on the other side. I would like to think we will be in the same positions but we live in a liberal democratic system of government and it is up to the people of Western Australia, and I trust their judgement.

In conclusion, I wish all members a blessed Christmas. I would like to wish everyone all the best for 2017. May it bring you good health and happiness, and thank you very much for your support over the last three and half years.

**HON KATE DOUST (South Metropolitan — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [5.47 pm]: I rise tonight to say some words on behalf of Hon Sue Ellery, who unfortunately is absent on urgent parliamentary business. She has asked me to say some words on behalf of the Labor Party. Firstly, I would like to join with both the President and Hon Peter Collier, the Leader of the House, in thanking all staff right across the parliamentary precinct. At the end of the year, we formally acknowledge how well resourced and looked after we are by every person who works in and around this building. I think we need to acknowledge that we work with a great team here in Parliament House, and we thank them for that. We thank the chamber staff and acknowledge the Clerk, Nigel Pratt, and his team. We know that over the last couple of years it has been a very challenging time for the Clerk and his staff, but that is being managed in an extremely professional manner and we thank him for that. We thank Hansard, who go out of their way to make us all sound a lot more literate, researched and intelligent than we perhaps are, and that is always a good thing. We thank the Leader of the House and acknowledge his team, the Liberal Party. We acknowledge the members of the National Party, with Hon Colin Holt.

I will veer off Sue's words and say that it has been an interesting term. We have all worked very hard in this chamber to try to bring the best outcomes through both our committee work and the legislation that has been put to this place, and I hope that will continue in the future regardless of where people are seated after the election. We acknowledge our friends in the Greens and also our friends in the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party. I must say that the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party has probably been the most successful party in this place, because it has doubled in size without having been to an election! I think it is probably the party to watch to see whether it can repeat that event during the election.

I particularly want to acknowledge our own team. We have had our own challenges to deal with. We have survived the retirement of Hon Ken Travers, who has left a significant gap, but we have also welcomed two new members into our team over the last year or so and we want to thank them as well. I particularly want to note our hardworking Whip, Hon Samantha Rowe, who works very hard to keep us organised and in the house; if not, she knows where to find us and she has put in place a very interesting system. Hon Sue Ellery also wanted me to note that she is very calm and very good at tolerating the Leader of the Opposition's rants from time to time! We appreciate the good work she does.

There are now 108 days to go before the state election on 11 March. For those members who have not downloaded the app that tells them how the days click off, I encourage them to do so and I am happy to share it with them later. Once we finish here today, everyone will go straight into the hard work of campaigning. A lot of us are keen to get out there into the communities to talk about the things we want to do leading up to the election and beyond. Elections in February and March are always difficult; I do not think anyone really enjoys doorknocking in the heat of February and March, but that is something we can all look forward to doing.

We on the Labor Party side are firmly of the view that, post-March, Mark McGowan will indeed be Premier. He has worked extremely hard and we believe he can indeed win the election, and will do so by putting in a lot of hard work and putting in place some very smart policies and quick responses for the community. He will win that election if he is able to gain the faith of the people of Western Australia, and we believe he will do so.

It has been an interesting four years. We look forward to the challenges of campaigning and, to reiterate the words of the Leader of the Opposition, I hope we can all work in a collegiate way on the campaign trail. Sometimes things can get a bit warm, and it is not just the weather, but at the end of the day, this is about trying to achieve the best outcomes for the people of our state.

Mr President, I thank you; you have done an outstanding job as President, and I know we will have occasion next year to make further comments. I just want to wish all members in this house, on behalf of Hon Sue Ellery and the Labor team, a very happy and restful period over the Christmas break. You will be resting; we will be working! I look forward to seeing everyone out on the campaign trail and returning here next year.

**HON ROBIN CHAPPLE (Mining and Pastoral)** [5.52 pm]: Thank you, Mr President, for your leadership over the recent years. It is always a difficult job to be President and to be impartial. I have stood in this chamber and congratulated other Presidents and I do the same to you, because you have led this chamber well and I genuinely believe that you have done a tremendous job.

I would like to thank all members of this place, and I would especially like to thank my fellow committee members on the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. A lot of people look at delegated

legislation as some sort of thankless task, but I can tell members that we have really worked well in that committee and I would like to thank the members of the committee for the tireless work they have done.

Quite clearly, as everybody else has done, I wish members a very festive season. The one advantage of fixed-term elections is that we get two rest periods: we have Christmas, then we work like billyo up to the state election and then, whatever the outcome, members of the Legislative Council get another rest period before we come back into this chamber, so I look forward, along with all of you, to two rest periods! Hopefully, those of us who return will feel refreshed, and I look forward to working with another team after the election, if I should be so lucky to do so.

I would like to congratulate those members who gave their valedictory speeches today. They encompassed what I think we all think about this place, which is that, whatever our differences are, we are all here striving for the constituent base that puts us here. In the words of Hon George Cash, it is really important that we remember to forget our differences; we are all human beings and we all fulfil a role that we think we are justified to fulfil. George was a great mentor to me, and I took on board many of the words he said.

Quite clearly, I would like to thank the Clerk—it has been a trying year for him, and I hope that everything is now going well—and the executive staff who support the Clerk. Also, I thank the Council staff, the unsung heroes who sit behind us and bring us water, papers and questions. They are remarkable, and I thank them all. They are not all here; some are away on urgent parliamentary business at the moment, but they are a great team. Then, to the Hansard reporters, who sit there and turn my drivel, at times, into seemingly good prose—for that I thank them. Should they ever be in Broome—this is to go on the parliamentary record, and one of the staff members will appreciate this—I will shout them all a Matso's beer! I would also like to thank all the officers in the departments that service us in the Parliament, and the staff of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. They do a tremendous job, as do all the committee staff, and are quite often seemingly invisible to the general public. At a very personal level, I would like to thank the parliamentary education staff. I have had some cause to work with them, and I have been to a number of their presentations. They demystified Parliament for me, and I have been here, on and off, for 16 years. They are really good.

Last, but not least, I want to thank my colleague Hon Lynn MacLaren, who has been my backstop, and I have been her backstop at different times. We are still trying to work out who is the leader. We do it with rock–paper–scissors on any given day! It is tremendous to be working with my Labor colleagues, and I hope to be on the other side next year. I also thank the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party. I have a great deal of respect for Hon Rick Mazza. I have watched him occasionally get a few questions. I get really excited when he is asking a question. I also thank the Nationals and the Liberal government. I hope that next year will be great for all of them, for different reasons. Some are retiring; some are trying to come back here, but the one marvellous thing about this place is that we will come back on 22 May and see a whole lot of new faces, and then we will have to go back to kindergarten again.

**HON RICK MAZZA (Agricultural)** [5.58 pm]: I echo the sentiments of previous speakers today. I would firstly like to congratulate Hon Paul Brown, Hon Peter Katsambanis and Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson for their inspiring and heartfelt valedictory speeches today. The chamber will be all the poorer without them, and I wish them all the best in their endeavours to win Legislative Assembly seats.

I take this opportunity to announce an early Christmas present that I got yesterday—the arrival of Isla Patricia Jones, my sixth granddaughter, who was born at a very healthy seven pounds. We are very excited about that.

**The PRESIDENT:** Well done, grandad.

**Hon RICK MAZZA:** I also thank the members of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations. I have been a very freshly minted chair of that committee in the past couple of months, with the departure of a very experienced chair in Hon Ken Travers, who is sorely missed. We had to get through 26 agencies in short order over the last month or so. The committee has been great—Hon Helen Morton, Hon Peter Katsambanis, Hon Alanna Clohesy and Hon Sally Talbot assisted with that. The committee staff were absolutely amazing in making sure that everything ran smoothly.

I would like to make a special mention of Hon Phil Edman, the government Whip. I am not a government member but he has been very good at making sure that I was aware of things that were coming up. Being on the crossbench and fairly new, sometimes it is very difficult to find out exactly what the workings are. He has always been very good at letting me know what is coming up and what I should be aware of. I thank him for that.

Lastly, I have not been known for very long speeches so I will get to the point. I wish everybody a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. I hope you all stay safe. I wish you all the best in your endeavours in the up-and-coming election campaign. Stay safe.

**HON COL HOLT (South West — Parliamentary Secretary)** [6.00 pm]: I just want to reiterate some of the sentiment that has been delivered already. Obviously, we are at the end of another year and, more importantly, the end of another term. From my perspective, it has gone very, very quickly. Not that long ago I was sitting in this very seat. I gradually made my way around that way and then came back down here. It seems just like yesterday. There was a bit of musical chairs with many members in this chamber along the way.

As we head into the election campaign, it will be very, very interesting. It will be a very interesting election. I think it will be very close. I think the outcome is far from assured. We should all remember that the electors do not get it wrong. I am sure they will get it right again come 11 March, and the make-up of this chamber and the other chamber will be decided then.

Congratulations to the members who made their valedictories today. Hon Paul Brown, Hon Peter Katsambanis and Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson, congratulations on your service in this house. As Dr Seuss would say, “Don’t cry because it’s over; smile because it happened.” Undoubtedly, there is still more to happen for you three members. Good luck in the campaign and good luck in your endeavours. If I was going to make another prediction about how close it is going to be, I believe you will make your way into the Assembly chamber.

Mr President, thank you for your leadership and the outstanding role that you have played as the figurehead of this chamber and this Parliament. I think you have set the tone for this chamber and been consistent with that over your presidency, and more so in the last four years. You should be congratulated for the way that you hold yourself and this house to account.

To Nigel Pratt and your team, thank you for your professionalism. You have made an outstanding contribution. I really enjoy coming to work to interact with people in the team, whom I consider to be mates and friends and people you can have a beer with, as I will be doing at some point very soon.

To all the parliamentary staff, you really do make it a pleasure to come to work. This is the strangest workplace in the world. We have the strangest job in the world. To see friendly, smiling faces each time we come here is an absolute blessing.

I would just like to take a couple of minutes to thank some people, with the indulgence of the house. I would like to thank our National Party support team. We are a small party with only five members in this house. We need to scrape together resources to build a network behind us. I would like to mention a few people who have been on this journey with us over this term: Andrew Corke, Judi James, Charles Smith, Lachlan Hunter, Allyson Cantrall, Cale Hill and Jess Hayes in particular. I would also like a moment of indulgence to thank the ministerial staff who supported me in those times I was minister, especially the staff of the Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming, who are all still there. It was a pleasure to work with them. They are a bunch of incredibly dedicated people who put in as many long hours in their roles as we do in this chamber. I would like to especially mention the “Divine Miss M”, who answers the telephone and is the most pleasant person we would ever want to talk to on the other end of the phone.

To Hon Peter Collier, the Leader of the House, thanks for the working relationship, mate. It has been fun. We have often had a fair bit of a dig at each other but always in good spirits. Yes, we have had our differences. I have had my differences with my own parliamentary colleagues. There are no secrets about that either. We have always worked through them. Your willingness to work through those issues with me and with the Nationals has been much appreciated. Thank you. As you reflect, we have done a lot in two terms in government. I think we delivered great and outstanding outcomes for the people of Western Australia and we should be proud of that.

I thank all members of the Liberal Party for their collegiality. To the Labor Party, the opposition, and members of the Greens, I think we have always had a friendly working relationship; I have always tried my hardest to accommodate you. To the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, it has been a great honour to work with you.

Can I just say thank you to all members in the chamber for their collective commitment to the people of Western Australia, because it is an outstanding commitment and it is often unheralded, but we do it every day for the right reasons and outcomes. I thank you for the ongoing commitment over this last year and this last term.

I thank my National Party colleagues for their friendship and support. I call them friends first and parliamentary colleagues second. We have had an interesting ride and there have always been interesting times. We are a bunch of strong-willed people with our own ideas about what the outcome should look like, but we have worked together to reach the outcome that we have needed to. We are still friends, we still talk to each other and we will continue to do that.

As always, to all members and staff, please have a safe and happy break, and travel safely. I heard on the news this morning that the Western Australian regional road toll is already 30 above what it was last year. It can be a trap for us all. If people are travelling in country Western Australia, be especially careful, although accidents

**Extract from *Hansard***

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President; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Kate Doust; Hon Robin Chapple; Hon Rick Mazza; Hon Col Holt

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do occur on roads in metropolitan Perth. I wish everyone happy travels and happy campaigning. It is going to be great fun and a great ride, and we will wait to see what happens on 11 March.

Finally, I hope everyone takes the opportunity to connect with their families and communities, because I truly believe that that connection is the reason we come here every day; the reason we campaign is to make sure that we represent the people of Western Australia and to deliver for them.

*House adjourned at 6.07 pm*

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