

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

### *Special*

**HON NORMAN MOORE (Mining and Pastoral — Leader of the House)** [5.10 pm] — without notice: I move, for the last time, I might add —

That the house at its rising adjourn until a date and time to be fixed by the President.

**THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House):** It has been the practice in recent years for the President to start proceedings and run through a series of issues so that each additional member after me who comments does not have to itemise every person who we all want to thank and acknowledge.

I begin by acknowledging, congratulating and thanking all members and staff for a very successful 2012. I think it has been an effective and productive year for the Legislative Council and has once again demonstrated the importance of this house in the governance of Western Australia.

I thank Hon Norman Moore, the Leader of the Government and Leader of the House. I will say a lot more about Hon Norman Moore when this house reconvenes next year, presumably in April or May after the election. To Ministers Hon Simon O'Brien, Hon Peter Collier, Hon Robyn McSweeney, Hon Helen Morton and Hon Michael Mischin, I thank you for and congratulate you on the work you have done in the interest of good government in this state. I thank the parliamentary secretaries, Hon Wendy Duncan and Hon Donna Faragher, who we wish well in her health issues, very much for their contributions. The government Whip, Hon Ken Baston, has kept the troops in line very nicely throughout the year. I will back step a little bit. I wish Hon Wendy Duncan, as Leader of the National Party, and her colleagues well, particularly Wendy Duncan and Hon Mia Davies, who will be departing this chamber for futures unknown at this stage. To the Labor Party, particularly the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Sue Ellery, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Hon Kate Doust, and all the Labor Party members, congratulations on another very hardworking and committed year. We all know that the essence of the Westminster system is having a government that is accountable through an effective opposition, and I believe you have done that very well. The opposition Whip, Ed Dermer, of course, is retiring—he has not gone already has he? We will say more about Ed and the other retiring members when this house resumes next year. To the leader of the Greens (WA), Hon Giz Watson—although I know you believe in equality and that there is no such thing as leaders—I acknowledge the four Greens members of this chamber for their very enterprising, committed approach and hard work.

I thank in particular my Deputy President and Chair of Committees, Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm. He is a very dedicated, efficient, fair, reasonable and supportive deputy. Thank you. To the Deputy Chairs, Hon Col Holt, Hon Alyssa Hayden, Hon Jon Ford, Hon Brian Ellis, and Hon Ken Travers, thank you for and congratulations on the way you have stepped in and conducted various parts of the business of the house very well throughout the year. Of course, one member of that group, Hon Jon Ford, is also retiring. We will have an opportunity to say more about Hon Jon Ford at a later stage.

I congratulate and thank the Clerk, Malcolm Peacock, in particular. Unfortunately he is unable to be here on the last day of sitting because of a medical procedure. Malcolm has a very close devotion to the Legislative Council and Parliament. I particularly value Malcolm's advice, hard work and real commitment to good governance in Western Australia. To the Deputy Clerk, Nigel Lake; Clerk Assistants, Paul Grant, procedure and Michael Baker, committees; the Usher of the Black Rod, Dr Julia Lawrinson; and the advisory officer, procedure, Grant Hitchcock, thank you very much for your assistance and efficiency in running the administration of this chamber.

To our parliamentary officers in procedure—Chris Hunt and Renae Jewell—you have done an admirable job throughout the year. To our Deputy Usher of the Black Rod, Peter Gale, chamber staff Brian Conn, Hayley Brown and Rachel Wells, we really do value your contribution in the chamber. You do your jobs extremely well, and we thank you for it.

Parliamentary officers Tina Beale and Janice Shaw assist the Leader of the House, in particular, and ministers but I am sure the Leader of the House will join me in thanking them and adding his congratulations.

The committees are a vital part of this chamber. The committees are a very important part of each member's work and a very important part of our role. To David Driscoll and his staff at the Legislative Council committee office, thank you very much for the hard work you do. Thank you very much for the conditions that you do it in. Sometimes it can be a bit cruisy; sometimes it can be under a lot of pressure. We really appreciate your expertise and hard work.

I turn to some other familiar faces around the Legislative Council. Firstly, Hannah Gough, as you may be aware, is on maternity leave. She recently gave birth to a lovely baby girl, Matilda, born in September. Kelly Alcock,

Hon Norman Moore; President; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Alison Xamon; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Mia Davies;  
Hon Simon O'Brien

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our senior projects officer, is going on maternity leave in January to have her second baby. We wish Kelly all the best and congratulate Hannah.

In terms of administration, Corrine Briant has been an essential part of the administration as the personal assistant to the Clerk for a long time and does her job extremely well. To my PA, Lorraine Coogan, who you all know around the place, can I say a particular thank you. Lorraine has been the PA to four successive Presidents. She has the experience and the ability to carry that job very well, and she perhaps knows where all the skeletons are. To the President's steward, Anthony James, who services not only my requirements extremely well but also the requirements of all members of the Legislative Council, thank you; you do a great job in a very pleasant way.

I turn to the Parliamentary Services Department. The executive manager of Parliamentary Services is Russell Bremner and his staff members include Vanessa and Vicki. Through them, to all Parliamentary Services people, thank you for your expert management of this facility. The deputy executive services manager and human resources manager, Rob Hunter, and his staff Tina and Greg are very important parts of this organisation and they fulfil their responsibilities in a superb way. Building Services manager Graham McDonald and his team sometimes go unnoticed, I am sure, but, like a wicketkeeper in cricket; we only notice them when something goes wrong. Graham McDonald and his team do an outstanding job around the building. They maintain these premises superbly. Every little building project is undertaken in an extremely professional and dedicated way. Peter Pascoe, assistant manager of Building Services, has had some health issues to overcome. We are delighted to see Peter back at work and functioning very well. Thank you very much. To Dan Cochrane, project manager; Rick Lees, facilities coordinator; Gary Hall, project coordinator, who unfortunately departed recently; Joe Fenech, Paul Tupanceski and everybody else whom I have not mentioned, thank you very much for your commitment to this institution, your hard work and the way you go about your job, which demonstrates real loyalty and professionalism.

I thank a person very important to us all, the Catering Services Manager, Enno Schijf, and the head chef, George Webb, and his team. George Webb has been here for over 30 years. He looks after the hospitality in the President's suite, as well as in the dining room. I can assure members that, in comparison with the Gourmet Escape, which was a great event in my local area of Margaret River last weekend, the food that George Webb produces for the Parliament is superior to a lot that I tasted at that event and certainly would hold its own in any company. So thank you, George.

The Dining Room Manager, Mark Gabrielli, and his staff, Roger, Ozzie, Deb, Steve, Anna and Lee, have provided outstanding service to members and guests.

Gardeners have great pride in the appearance of this building, which we all get the benefit of. To David Boag and his staff, Graeme and Ashley, you do a great job and it really is to be applauded.

I thank the Security Manager, Tony Paterson, and his staff. Members will have noticed a significant upgrade this year in that part of our building. Tony and his staff have implemented those changes and operations superbly. I think the whole change in the way that our parliamentary services sector is operating now, with the combination of telephonists, security, education and general welcoming services, has worked out extremely well at the front of Parliament House.

I thank our Hansard staff. We always appreciate and look in wonderment at how they turn some speeches into wonderful prose. Belinda Corey and her staff do a great job, we all agree, in providing the official record of the proceedings of this Parliament.

I thank the Library and Information Services Manager, Judy Ballantyne, and her staff. This service is a vital part of a member's support network. To Judy and her staff, thank you very much for your professionalism and input.

The finance department has been led for the last five years by Dawn Timmerman, with her staff, Jasmine, Cathy, Tony, Natalie, Jess and Donna. Once again, their work is not noticeable to a lot of people unless a mistake is made in their pay cheque! Regrettably, Dawn Timmerman is going to leave us next week to take up an appointment with the largest private school in Western Australia. We thank Dawn. Her expertise has been reflected in a couple of Auditor General's plaudits for the financial management of our three departments—the Legislative Council, the Parliamentary Services Department and the Legislative Assembly. We thank Dawn and wish her well with her future endeavours.

The Information Technology Manager, John Buchanan, and his staff do a great job. They are often not noticed until something goes wrong, but then we really need them. We can all use a laptop or an iPad in some cases, but we do not have the faintest idea what to do when something goes wrong with them! Thank you, John, and your staff.

To the Parliamentary Education Officer, James Sollis, and his staff, Cherie, Michael, Rohan and Sarah, thank you very much. The Parliamentary Education Office staff do a very good job in welcoming the public into this

Hon Norman Moore; President; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Alison Xamon; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Mia Davies;  
Hon Simon O'Brien

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institution. It was reflected recently when we had an open day attended by over 1 000 people. It indicates the general level of interest in the community. I think we all get a sense of appreciation when we see groups of schoolchildren in the public gallery who have come to Parliament to have a look and to get an appreciation of what actually happens here and, hopefully, an appreciation of the importance of it.

Joe Lubout is the fitness expert in the gym for those who go down there!

I thank the parliamentary telephonists and receptionists. Here we are talking about Cathy, Rosalie, Karyn and Stephanie. As I just mentioned a while ago, they have been incorporated into the Parliamentary Services Department. This is the last time I will be able to mention Cathy Harrison in this context because, after 30 years, Cathy is retiring in January. Cathy is a distinctive part of the Parliament of Western Australia. She is the face of the Parliament of Western Australia for many, many people and she is a friend to all members and staff. Cathy has been a wonderful servant of this institution, and we wish her well with her husband, Ian, for the future. I am nearly coming to the end.

Although the thirty-eighth Parliament will not finish for this Legislative Council until 21 May next year, I expect to see you all before then, by the way, when Parliament resumes in April or May next year. In the interim, I wish all members and staff a happy and productive time away from this chamber until we convene again. For the members, of course, this time will obviously be spent preoccupied with the election campaign. I wish everybody well in whatever you wish for in those few months before we meet again. In particular, for the festive season with your families, I wish you all a very happy, healthy and enjoyable Christmas and new year. Thank you.

Members: Hear, hear!

**HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition)** [5.26 pm]: Mr President, I want to thank you for your best wishes and note my appreciation for the way that you manage the business of the house. You pretend to be angry at us but we know you love us really. I join you in placing on the record my thanks also to all the staff you named as part of the Parliament's well-oiled machine—a machine that keeps us clean, fed and watered and keeps the equipment, the building and all its facilities and services working so that we can come in and mess them all up. We are not always easy to work with, and their graciousness and exemplary service make us look good, particularly Cathy at reception. A better example of grace under fire you really could not find. I wish her a fabulous, happy and healthy retirement as well.

There are 99 days until the election on 9 March. That means that the break is going to be much less about rest and recreation than has been the case in the last couple of years. It is the time of the electoral cycle that we in elected positions live for. It is the pointy end, and, in particular, in the South Metropolitan Region, I relish what is ahead in the next couple of months. Nonetheless, I hope that all members at least get some time to relax, enjoy good food and good company and acquaint yourselves with your families before the race to 9 March starts again in earnest.

I wish the Leader of the House and his government team—the Nationals and the maybe Nationals, and the Liberal members—all the best for the festive season. To the Leader of the House in particular, who teased and tantalised us about this time last year when it looked as though he might be off to colder climes—there is a view that we really should not believe he is actually retiring until we see his replacement in here—you are an institution in this place. We just hope that you are not too institutionalised yourself to acclimatise back into the real world. Despite the political and generational differences between us, your public service to the state of Western Australia through your time in Parliament is substantial and worthy of recognition.

Members: Hear, hear!

**Hon SUE ELLERY:** I wish you well in whatever lies ahead. I suspect part of it is going to focus on chasing a little white ball around with a big stick.

To the Greens as well, I wish you the best for the festive season.

To the Legislative Council members of the WA Labor team, thank you for your hard work, your support of each other and your support of me. To those who are not running again, there will be other opportunities to acknowledge your contribution, but I take the opportunity now to express, on behalf of the party, our appreciation. To one in particular, Hon Ed Dermer—our Whip, and possibly the man with the loudest whisper in the history of humanity!—I say a very big thank you. Leaders and Whips often have to share personal information about members that others do not. Your professional standards have always been beyond reproach, and your impartial response to pair requests is appreciated. Equally, I know absolutely that at any moment I could turn around and ask you to make a speech about anything, and you will do it without hesitation. The chamber will not be the same without you. In his absence, to Malcolm Peacock, the Clerks party and chamber

staff, thank you for your support, as ever. To my staff in my electorate office and Rod Clark, thank you for always going the extra mile.

Finally, we on this side are working our hardest to ensure that next year we have different seats and a different view. We will see you in the trenches.

**HON ALISON XAMON (East Metropolitan)** [5.30 pm]: I rise to make some comments on behalf of the Greens (WA). I wanted to rise to thank you, Mr President, for the fairness and propriety you have brought to the role of President. It is actually something the Greens were talking about over lunch, and we were talking very favourably about the way in which you have conducted yourself in the role. We wanted to express our appreciation for that. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Clerks for all their help, forbearance and patience. They are eternal fonts of wisdom and advice, and for that the Greens are particularly grateful, so thank you.

Of course, we want to acknowledge the incredible work of the hardworking committee staff, about whom the comment has been made in the past that sometimes we feel as though they are a lot smarter than anyone else in the room. They are an incredibly talented bunch who work very, very hard for extremely long hours, and we are very grateful for the work they do. We also want to thank the rest of the parliamentary staff, who, as has been outlined, basically keep this place running and keep up with us and our very long hours, and in many instances keep even longer hours than us. We are very grateful for the efforts they put into this place to keep it going.

I would like to thank the members of this house—we see more of you sometimes than we see of our own families! There is an interesting dynamic in this quite small place where we are for extended periods of time. Generally speaking, I think people come in with goodwill and occasionally a degree of good humour—or maybe even often—and I want to pay tribute to the people in this place.

Undoubtedly, we will be meeting up over the next few months as we go into yet another election, which every single one of us in this place has been through before. I know some people in this place are not planning to run for re-election, but I have no doubt they will be helping their respective parties out on the hustings, so we are anticipating that we will be seeing plenty more of you over the next few months, even if we are not seeing you in this place.

Having said that, Christmas is coming, and Christmas is a very special time. I wish members a wonderful and joyous Christmas season; I hope you all have an opportunity to spend time, even if it is just a little, with family and loved ones, and to at least have a small opportunity to reflect on those things that are important and those things that actually really make life worth living. I hope there is an opportunity for people to have even a small break.

In relation to the Greens, I would like to thank my colleagues. We are a small team but we are a tight-knit team, and I will continue to enjoy working with them. I want to thank our staff, who always work over and above the call of duty—they are an incredibly hardworking bunch—particularly Cameron Poustie, who works for the four of us. I also want to thank the numerous volunteers, the individuals who work in our offices, without whose hard work and diligence we would find our job even more difficult. It has been a busy year, and we are going into an even busier time with no immediate respite in sight, but, having said that, on behalf of the Greens I would like to wish you all well. I wish that you all go safely and stay well, and hopefully you will enjoy the upcoming election campaign. Thank you.

**HON WENDY DUNCAN (Mining and Pastoral — Parliamentary Secretary)** [5.35 pm]: Mr President, I would like to join with the other leaders in thanking you for your good wishes this afternoon, and also of course the parliamentary staff who have served us so well over the period; they really are all part of the family. We get to know each other well, and it all runs very, very smoothly, from library services to security, Hansard and the Clerks; and, of course, we need to specially mention Cathy Harrison because she is not only the face of this place, but also the voice of this place! I hear her voice calling people to telephone calls and so on in a tone that I really never tire of; she has a very special talent. Certainly I and my colleagues in the Nationals wish her and all of the parliamentary staff who have served us so well the very best for the festive season; it is a time to refresh and reinvigorate and to spend time with families and, I guess, to review our priorities in life so that when we front up to the next year we make sure we do it with some balance.

I would particularly like to thank the Leader of the House, Hon Norman Moore, who has led his team of lady leaders very well. It has been a good experience for us all. We have worked well together; in particular, I think about our experience in dealing with the standing orders. One of the challenges for a member of Parliament coming into this place is that there are so many things that we could become involved in, and so many things that stimulate the mind and that we could really learn more on. For me, it is things like the workings of Parliament,

Hon Norman Moore; President; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Alison Xamon; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Mia Davies;  
Hon Simon O'Brien

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the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and a lot of the committee work that has happened. I feel that I personally have only really scratched the surface and there is plenty more to do.

I also thank Hon Sue Ellery for your mentoring along the way.

**Hon Sue Ellery:** Never got your vote though!

**Hon WENDY DUNCAN:** There is always another chance, perhaps!

Also, of course, I thank the Greens for the debate we have had in this house, and the strong opposition that I agree makes good government.

I would also like to thank my Nationals colleagues, our little team here. We have had some great times along the way and some interesting times. Certainly, it is very stimulating to deal with free-thinking people as we work out which is the best way forward for the constituency we represent.

It surprises me when I think that it is five years that I have been in this house. I came in in January 2008, yet today when I was dealing with the Browse (Land) Agreement Bill I still could not quite get it right as to how we move from the second reading to the third reading, so there certainly is a lot to learn. As was noted by Hon Norman Moore, I will be leaving this place, but I hope I am not leaving these hallowed halls. I suppose that is one of the reasons I declined to do a valedictory speech, because I am a little bit superstitious about that. But after the insistence of several people in the house, I would like to make a few quick comments about my time here and as a member representing the Mining and Pastoral Region. It certainly has been steep learning curve for me, but I really rate it amongst the best five years of my life. I have really thoroughly enjoyed it. I have enjoyed the challenge and the people I have dealt with, and I have enjoyed the vast electorate of Mining and Pastoral.

When I first came into this place, I was the only member of the Nationals in opposition, which was a situation I found pretty difficult. I would like to thank Hon Helen Morton, who took me under her wing at that time, and Hon Barbara Scott as well. They gave me a few pointers on how to cope and what all these different varieties of questions that were on the notice paper were, and to keep an eye open for the “Weekly Bulletin”, which is what gives us an idea of what is coming on next week—some of these really crucial things that we need to know. It is amazing how sometimes it takes quite some time to discover the things that go on in this place; I know that it took nearly 12 months for me to realise that lunch is available in the members’ bar! Obviously, I did not go in there too much.

The Mining and Pastoral Region is a massive electorate, but it is a spectacular electorate. It is probably, I think, one of the best in the world. It is not only visually one of the best in the world, but also for me the people of that electorate are very special. They are there because they want to be. They are there because they have chosen to be. They are there because they have a bit of feistiness about them. They are happy to take the challenges and solve the problems themselves if they are in isolated places.

Today we talked about the Browse land agreement and the Indigenous people getting together to agree on where the gas hub should be. Probably one of the most moving moments of my time as a member for the Mining and Pastoral Region was the unveiling of the statue dedicated to the female pearl divers in Broome. Members must see that when they are in Broome; I am sure they will all find an excuse to be there at some stage. It took nearly 10 years for the women of Broome to agree on what that statue should be to represent the involvement of women in the pearling industry, such as the Indigenous women who were stolen from inland and forced to dive for pearls. Because they could hold their breath better when they were pregnant, that was the state in which they were forced to dive. The women in the pearling industry ranged from those Indigenous women right through to the wives of the owners of the pearl luggers who were waiting onshore to see the pearl luggers return. People of Japanese descent, people from the islands, people of Aboriginal descent and the Irish all got together and stood in front of this amazing statue, which in the end they agreed would be a young Aboriginal woman reaching out of the water with a pearl shell and a slightly rounded belly. I had the incredible honour of unveiling that statue with those women and we were all in tears. It was such a coming together of different cultures and different histories and a real demonstration that we can all work together and we can all get along. There was not a dry eye in the house. Every time I recount that story I feel the emotion of it. I hope that when members see that statue, they will think about that.

My experiences have ranged from that to another really special one, which was also in the Kimberley, when I went out to Burks Park station; the agriculture department was assisting Helen and Roy Wilson put young Indigenous station hands through training in certificates II, III and IV in agriculture. These people were each given an unbroken horse and a saddle and bridle, and after the end of their 12 months each horse was ready to work in the stock camp. Having handed out the certificates to these fabulous young people, they said, “Come down and see our horses.” So we did and, of course, being a bit of a horse person—I think they guessed that—

they asked me whether I would like to have a ride. They brought out this fabulous chestnut stallion for me to ride with these young Indigenous trainees. They were so proud of what they had achieved in that 12 months. The other fabulous thing about that program is that it is so successful that the non-Indigenous people in the Kimberley want to take part in it. It is also something we really need to keep in mind when we talk about live exports and the cattle industry in the north, because it is not all just rich kings in grass castles and cattle barons who are in that industry. It is these young people who are on country, close to the land and close to animals and doing work that they love and that sits very naturally with them.

We have seen an incredible transformation in the regions over the last four years, ranging from the massive developments in Port Hedland and Karratha, through to the pretty little main street of Cue. Hon Norman Moore was with me in Cue when we celebrated the opening of the new main street there. But there is so much more to do, and I guess that is why I am doing what I am doing, which is standing for the seat of Kalgoorlie. We need to continue with this particular focus on regional Western Australia. But we also need to broaden our focus to some of the social issues that are out there—the drug and alcohol issues, the mental health issues, and the need for our young children and families to get the support systems that they need. There is a great opportunity now, having established that there is room for extra expenditure in the regions, to broaden that and achieve what we have set out to achieve, which is well-rounded regional communities that provide for the needs of normal families and enable people to come to the regions to live and work and retire.

That is not a selfish desire. It is actually good for the nation. We talk a lot about the congestion here in Perth. In fact, just last week there was an article in *The West Australian* about what we can do about the transport congestion in Perth. They asked the Greens (WA) representative, they asked the Labor Party representative and they asked the Liberal Party representative what they would do. They did not ask Brendon Grylls, the leader of the Nationals. If they had asked the Nationals, we would have said, “Why do we not make it possible for more people to live comfortably in the regions, where actually a lot of the work is?”

I know that we are all dying to get home and finish this year, so I will not keep members for much longer. I just wanted to note in my closing words my thanks to my family. They have, as always, been fantastic, particularly my wonderful husband, Ian, who lives down in Esperance with the dog. When I was elected to Parliament, I did three things for my husband: I said yes, he could have Foxtel after all, which I had always objected to; I bought him a big-screen television for Christmas; and I bought him a dog. That has sufficed to a certain extent. But I see this wonderful man only about three or four days a month. I think that if I am successful in standing for the seat of Kalgoorlie and we both move to Kalgoorlie, I will certainly have more opportunity to spend time with him, and that is something that I am looking forward to.

I close my comments by wishing everybody all the best. I would encourage all members to take time with family and to reflect on their priorities. I look forward to seeing all members in the corridors of this place next year.

Members: Hear, hear!

**HON MIA DAVIES (Agricultural)** [5.48 pm]: I rise this afternoon to say a few short words. As members will know, I will not be returning to this house, so I would like to take this opportunity to put on the record my thanks to those who have supported me during the past four years as I have gone about representing the Agricultural Region. Thank you to you, Mr President, for your wise counsel in this place. It has been a privilege and an honour to be a member of this house, and I am sure every member here will agree that we must have a good support network in order to do this job.

I am indebted to my staff, Theresa Middis and Laureta Wallace, for their support, their patience and their good humour, even when we are dealing with the most challenging of situations. I thank them for the empathy and the thorough way that they have worked with everyone in the electorate; no issue has been too trifling or too hard. In this I add my sincere thanks to Ms Clare Creegan, who started the journey with me when I was first elected to this place and took my seat in 2009. Nothing is ever too much for this incredibly competent lady and I thank her for deciding to return home to WA from a stint in Canberra to join me and the team. Thanks also to Sarah Downe, who has been a great support as well. She is currently on maternity leave with her second gorgeous bub. Thank you to Jane Bevan who has been a great support to our members in the Legislative Council. Coming all the way from Tasmania, Jane has thrown herself into her role here. I know that she has dealt with ministers and ministers' staff and that she has always done that very professionally. I am sure I speak on behalf of all our MPs in the National Party when I say thank you to her for the value she has added to our team. To Amy McCallister, our parliamentary executive officer, and prior to that, Ms Jacqui Boydell, thank you; we could not operate without you. Hon Col Holt and I have had the pleasure of sharing the office with both of them. While it was a tad tight in there sometimes, and I am not sure whether the feeling is mutual, we have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and they have always provided such a great support.

Hon Norman Moore; President; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Alison Xamon; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Mia Davies;  
Hon Simon O'Brien

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I want to echo the words of the President and members who spoke before by saying thank you to the chamber staff, to Hansard staff and to all the staff who work in Parliament House. We are truly privileged to work in this place and I sincerely thank everyone who makes it a pleasure to come here to work.

Outside this place, I extend my appreciation to the communities throughout the Agricultural Region who have made me feel so welcome. I give them an undertaking to continue to work very hard as part of the Nationals team to make regional WA a better place in which to live, to work and to invest.

Thank you to my colleagues in the Parliamentary National Party. There is nothing better than being part of a team with a clear and shared vision, and one that is willing to stand its ground when needed while taking a responsible and balanced approach as a partner in government. Thank you to our government colleagues; it has been a pleasure to serve with you.

Thank you to the opposition. I echo the sentiments that have been made in the house today. It has really been a pleasure and a privilege to work with every single one of you. Again, it is still remarkable to me that this small number of people has such a responsible and important part to play in what happens in this state.

Finally a big thank you to my friends and family who have provided unwavering support to me during these four years.

In my first speech in this house I recounted the words that my father spoke during his first speech as a member representing the Agricultural Region. He said that the great qualities of innovation, adventure and pioneering spirit are in the blood and bones of the people in these regional communities. This remains a true and accurate statement and it is why I have enjoyed being a representative of the Agricultural Region. We live in the greatest nation and in the greatest state. I am firmly of the view, despite what Hon Wendy Duncan has just said, that I have the privilege of representing one of the greatest parts of this state! I take the experiences of the past four years forward with confidence knowing that the Nationals WA and this state government have indeed made a difference for all regional Western Australians, and I am looking forward to continuing on being part of the team that continues to deliver real and positive outcomes.

I would like to leave members with a quote. It is one that I use quite often when I am speaking in my electorate and on other occasions. It hung framed in my grandparents' house on the kitchen wall on the farm in Yorkkrakine, and it really describes the work ethic of any one of the people that I admire and aspire to be like —

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live.

Thank you Mr President. I wish everyone in this chamber good health and happiness as we break for the Christmas period and I do hope to see you in 2013 in this great place.

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Commerce)** [5.53 pm]: The house should not adjourn until it observes one more key element—that is, what is happening on today's date. I recall that when I arrived in this place at the end of the last century—indeed at the end of the last millennium!—there was a member who had been a member of this place for 20 years already, and he was then the Leader of the House. He remained leader of the state Parliamentary Liberal Party through the long years in opposition and returned to these benches in 2008 upon returning to government. I do not know whether there is anyone in the history of this place who has had a length of leadership of a major political party that long, or who has served in such a high office in government and then in opposition and then in government again—certainly not in recent times. I recall that the furniture that used to grace this place, which had been here since the year dot, included a drawer at this position here. The inside of that drawer had been defaced by some unlikely vandals. Successive leaders of the government over the past century had scratched in their names; the George Cashes, the Joe Berinsons—all of them. When Hon Norman Moore, following his homing instinct, returned here at length in 2008—at a time when he should have been enjoying his retirement but was overtaken by a sense of loyalty and service to his party—and when he opened up the lid of the drawer he simply wrote, next to his pre-existing name, “x2”! I think that is a remarkable thing. I do not think we have seen too much of that happen before, or will since.

With the indulgence of other members in this place, on behalf of the state Parliamentary Liberal Party, particularly the so-called Black Hand Gang, I would like to record, sir, our appreciation to you as you rise to give for the last time, probably—though not necessarily!—the closing remarks of the motion that the house adjourn at the end of this Parliament. You certainly do so with our thanks and all of our goodwill and appreciation for the quite extraordinary service that you have given in your role as leader over so many years. We thank you for it.

**HON NORMAN MOORE (Mining and Pastoral — Leader of the House)** [5.56 pm] — in reply: As they say, first in, last out; or something like that! I begin by thanking the President for his very even-handed, impartial

**Extract from *Hansard***

[COUNCIL — Friday, 30 November 2012]

p9149c-9157a

Hon Norman Moore; President; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Alison Xamon; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Mia Davies;  
Hon Simon O'Brien

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chairmanship of this chamber. You have done an extraordinarily good job in the time you have been our President. Indeed, the Chair of Committees, Matt Benson-Lidholm, has done an equally tremendous job in that position. I acknowledge the deputy chairs for the work they have done. My ministerial colleague Simon O'Brien, thank you very much for those very generous comments. I thank Peter Collier, Robyn McSweeney, Helen Morton and Michael Mischin for the hard work and dedication they have displayed in that very tough role of being Legislative Council ministers.

I thank the parliamentary secretaries, Donna Faragher—we hope that Donna gets well soon and is back here displaying the great talent that she has—and Wendy Duncan, of course, who is also the Leader of the National Party; congratulations on the comments you made tonight. I should say I hope you come a good second in Kalgoorlie, but that would be very unfair on an occasion like this; so I will not say that! I also congratulate our Whip, Ken Baston, who, unlike his predecessor, Bruce Donaldson, has had many, many victories. Bruce went through about five years of being a Whip without a win! Ken has had a number of those; I congratulate him on that and thank him very much for the support he has given me. Similarly, to all my Black Hand Gang colleagues and National Party colleagues, thank you very much for the support you have given to the government over the past four years.

In respect of the other leaders, I thank Hon Sue Ellery very much for her very generous comments. I have no doubt that “relevance deprivation syndrome” is something I will experience very shortly. It is a matter of time. It will be a question of character as to how quickly I get over that. I suspect she might be right; there is a degree of institutionalisation in being in the same place for a very long time and I need to get that out of my system as quickly as possible. I will do my very best to do that. So, members will not see me coming up here for lunch every second day, I can guarantee them that! Hon Giz Watson and Hon Wendy Duncan, the other leaders, thank you very much for the cooperation that you have given me in the time I have been the leader. I think we have been able to collectively manage the house in a way that has seen an ultimate outcome. We get the work done and finished, as we have today.

I also want to thank the Clerk, the Deputy Clerks and all of the chamber staff who are extraordinarily helpful people. I thank them very much for their dedication to our house and for their hard work. The Hansard staff, of course, as we have already heard, do amazing things with what we say and hear and make them readable when we read *Hansard*. I thank all the Parliament House staff, particularly Cathy Harrison, who has been here almost as long as me. I give particular thanks to her; congratulations on an excellent career. My apologies to the kitchen staff for not telling them in time to cancel dinner last night. I was not sure when we would finish. They mentioned to me that they had all prepared dinner and there was nobody there to eat it, so I apologise profusely for that. I can guarantee them one thing: it will not happen again under my watch!

I am a very fortunate person in the sense that the support staff for the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council are three quite delightful people. Julie Holmes, Tina Beale and Janice Shaw are three very, very special people in my mind. They are people for whom I have an enduring admiration and I thank them absolutely from the bottom of my heart for the very significant help they have given me since I have been the leader, especially Julie who also works in my ministerial office and as the liaison between my office and the other parties. I think she does that very well indeed; she is just a very special person.

Thank you very much to all of those people who are involved at Parliament House. I thank them very much for the work they do and wish them all the best in the future.

As members may be aware, this is the last sitting day in which I will occupy this chair. I am very privileged to have been sitting here for quite some time. If the house resumes before 21 May next year, I intend to spend a bit of time reflecting on the last 35 years, but there is a rough outside chance that we might not come back before 21 May, so there is one person I particularly want to mention today just in case I do not get a chance then—that is, my wife, Lee. Some of you may know that we were married about six weeks before I was elected to Parliament, so for the duration of our married life I have been a member of Parliament. You all know the effects that being a member of Parliament have on your family. It is not a good job from the point of view of having good family relationships because you are away so often; particularly if you have a country electorate, you travel a lot. Therefore, I want to say to my wife that I am very, very grateful for the unquestioned support she has given me over the last 35 years. She raised our children virtually singlehandedly. I think she has done a great job because our children, Kathryn, Georgia and Daniel, are, in my view, seriously good citizens. Indeed, I am very, very proud of them and Lee has done an amazing job with the work that she had to do without a lot of help from me. At the same time as she did all that, she in fact developed an exceptional career of her own. She was without question the very best schoolteacher I have ever met, the best classroom teacher and an outstanding principal. She was, indeed, a finalist for Principal of the Year a couple of years ago, and did amazing work in the schools in which she worked. She has been fantastic. I just wanted to say to those people who make up my family that I



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[COUNCIL — Friday, 30 November 2012]

p9149c-9157a

Hon Norman Moore; President; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Alison Xamon; Hon Wendy Duncan; Hon Mia Davies;  
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am extraordinarily grateful for the support that they have given me. I wanted to make sure I got that on the public record just in case I do not get a chance to say it before 21 May next year.

I have been privileged to be a member of this place for over 35 years. It has been a real honour to represent my electorate for that period and an absolute honour to represent the Liberal Party over that time. I can only hope, as we all do, that the work we do will in some small way make a positive contribution to the state of Western Australia, a place that I am privileged to call my home. I think Western Australia is the most wonderful place on earth. Perhaps I am a bit biased, but I think it is an amazing part of the world and has huge potential for continued growth. Therefore, it has been a privilege to have been a member of the Western Australian Parliament for that time and, hopefully, I made some small contribution to Western Australia.

I offer my best wishes to all members for Christmas and the new year and best wishes for the forthcoming election. Can I say that if the numbers for the next election are a similar reflection to what they are in this Parliament, I think that would be a pretty good outcome! Again, thank you to all members, best wishes for Christmas and good luck in the election.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 6.04 pm*

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