



14 September 2021

Hon Peter Tinley MLA
Chair
Economics and Industry Standing Committee
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Chair

Report No. 1 – Turning to India: Investing in our Future: The findings and recommendations of Report No. 10 of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee in the 40th Parliament

Thank you for your letter dated 17 June 2021 regarding the Economics and Industry Standing Committee's report from the previous Parliament on the inquiry into Western Australia's economic relationship with the Republic of India. In that report, a response was sought from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly as follows:

Recommendation 27

That the Parliament of Western Australia:

- increase the frequency of parliamentary delegations to India; and
- invite Indian state parliamentary delegations to visit Western Australia.

I welcome the opportunity provided by the Committee in this Parliament to respond to Recommendation 27.

Since the early 1990s, Speakers of the Legislative Assembly have led delegations of members of the Legislative Assembly to visit Western Australia's major trading partners. These visits have included India, China, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, the Gulf Region, and South Africa. The Speaker decides on the destination, timing and composition of the delegation, and funding is provided from the budget of the Department of the Legislative Assembly. The itinerary and meetings are arranged by the respective Western

Australian Government international office and by officers from the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation in Perth. Western Australian Trade Commissioners have usually accompanied delegations.

The principal aims of these visits have been to develop friendship and understanding at a high level between the Western Australian Parliament and Western Australia's partners and neighbours, and to involve members in discussions with businesses and others with significant interests in Western Australia. In this way, these visits have helped to broaden the understanding of Western Australian members of political, governmental, economic, educational and cultural matters in those countries and to pursue the aims of sister-state arrangements where they exist.

In 2010 Speaker Woodhams led a multi-party parliamentary delegation to India, visiting Bangalore, Mysore, Chennai, Delhi, Goa and Mumbai, while in 2012 he led a delegation to India and Sri Lanka, with the members visiting Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi, Chennai, and Colombo. In April 2020 Speaker Watson was due to take a three-member delegation to India but it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reciprocal visits have been made to Western Australia from time to time by parliamentary delegations from Western Australia's major trading partners. As part of these visits, the Western Australian Parliament has hosted delegations and provided briefings. However, I am not aware of any Indian state parliamentary delegations visiting the Western Australian Parliament in recent years.

Parliamentary delegations play an important role in promoting Western Australia with our major trading partners and close neighbours, and in enabling a proper understanding by our members of the continuing importance of these links. I look forward to leading a parliamentary delegation to India at some stage in the future once overseas travel can be safely resumed.

Yours sincerely



HON MICHELLE ROBERTS MLA
SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY