



About the *Hansard* archives

Material in these archives has been produced from digitised editions of the original bound volumes of the *Parliamentary Debates (Hansard)*. These archives are intended to be an ongoing resource to the public of Western Australia and to make the debates of the Western Australian Parliament widely accessible.

The Legislative Council of Western Australia first met on 6 February 1832, comprising members appointed by the Governor. Representative government in Western Australia was established in 1870, and on 5 December 1870, the Legislative Council under representative government met for the first time. Responsible government was introduced in Western Australia in 1890, and a bicameral Parliament was established, with a 15-member Legislative Council and a 30-member Legislative Assembly.

The Hansard reporting service commenced in 1876, and Hansard has provided a continuous record of parliamentary debates to this day. In 1990, to mark the centenary of responsible government in Western Australia, a record of the debates from 1870 to 1876 was published, based on the detailed reports of proceedings published in *The Inquirer and Commercial News*, the *Perth Gazette and W.A. Times* and *The Herald* newspapers; and also on the official *Votes and Proceedings* of the Legislative Council. With the publication of these archives, all the recorded debates of the Parliament of Western Australia are now available online. The *Hansard* records not only capture the political mood of the state, but also provide a window into the events, issues and legislation affecting Western Australians since 1870 to the present day.

Material on this site is text-searchable; however, due to the quality of some of the earlier volumes, a full text search may not be available. The index for each sitting year is available, and files can be searched for by page number, by year, by member or by keyword. It is intended that, over time, additional metadata to refine searches will be added to this site.

The Parliament values the assistance of users in improving this database. If you have any suggestions or comments about these archives, please contact

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