



**PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**INAUGURAL SPEECH**



**Mrs Glenys Godfrey, MLA**  
(Member for Belmont)

**Legislative Assembly**

**Address-in-Reply**

**Thursday, 11 April 2013**



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## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

### *Motion*

**MRS G.J. GODFREY (Belmont)** [3.22 pm]: I move —

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's speech be agreed to —

To His Excellency the Honourable Mr Malcolm James McCusker, Governor of the State of Western Australia.

May it please your Excellency —

We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I offer my congratulations on your election to the position of Speaker.

I am honoured to address this chamber for the first time as a member of the thirty-ninth Parliament and as a member of the successful Barnett government. The reason I use the term “successful” to describe the Barnett government is that following its first term, the Barnett government was re-elected with a two-party preferred majority of 58 per cent—the highest two-party preferred result in nearly 100 years. It is with great pride that I am representing the residential and the business communities of Ascot, Belmont, Cloverdale, Kewdale, Rivervale, Redcliffe, South Guildford and Welshpool as the member for Belmont.

When the seat of Belmont was first created in 1962, the Liberal Party did not bother to stand a candidate. However, in 1965 a local general practitioner, Dr Boyd Buttsworth, ran for the Liberal Party and came within 500 votes of winning. Until 9 March this year, that was the best result the Liberal Party had ever achieved in Belmont. As the current member for Belmont, I now acknowledge the previous member, Hon Eric Ripper, who served our community with dedication from 1988 until retiring this year. Those 25 years of service are a long time to commit to public life, and on behalf of our community I thank him and his staff.

Physically, the seat of Belmont is blessed with diversity. It extends from the Rosehill golf club in South Guildford to the Goodwood Parade boat ramp in Rivervale, and from the Kewdale freight marshalling yards to the banks of the Swan River. One of the reasons Belmont is such a great place to live is that it has such a vibrant community. There are many community groups in Belmont, and I would like to acknowledge some of the groups that I have worked with and am proud to have in Belmont. I acknowledge the City of Belmont RSL; the senior citizens association; the Belmont Sports and Recreation Club; the Belmont library; the parents who run all the junior sports; the Faulkner Park retirement village; our primary schools; the two senior high schools of the Belmont City College and the Australian Islamic College, Kewdale; the Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre; the Belmont Forum Shopping Centre; the Rosehill golf club; the Ascot Racecourse; and Perth Airport. I also acknowledge all the Christian leaders in Belmont, especially Dr John Yates, Father Nelson Po,

Pastor Ken Fletcher, Pastor Yat Wan and Reverend Rodger Bull, and I thank them for their spiritual guidance.

Like many of you, I come to this chamber as a proud parent. Raising four children has been one of the greatest learning experiences for me, and I am grateful for the wonderful adults who all my children have become. My eldest daughter, Deborah, is a schoolteacher; my son, Kim, is a train driver in Geraldton; my second daughter, Jenelle, is an artist in Esperance; and my youngest daughter, Renee, is a hairdresser. They have all married lovely people and now have children of their own. Regrettably, late last year, during the campaign, my husband, Ron, died following a long-term illness. I know that he would have wanted to be here today. During this difficult time my children were my anchor. I love them very much and thank them for their encouragement and support.

At this point I remember and pay tribute to my parents, Nell and Eddie Ward, now both deceased. Our parents raised my brother, Lindsay, and my three sisters, Kaye, Noeleen and Coralea, and I in our family home in Como. As a family, our parents guided us with many Liberal beliefs. The three that resonated most with me personally are, firstly, a belief in the innate worth of the individual and the need to encourage initiative and personal responsibility; secondly, a belief in a just and humane society and the value of voluntary effort in community achievements; and, thirdly, a belief in the importance of the family and that the standards of a free society should support family ideals.

With such strongly held beliefs, I eventually joined the Liberal Party in 1995 and since my early years in the party have benefited from the support and guidance of many party members, most notably Don Randall. Twenty years ago, in 1993, Don Randall ran as the Liberal candidate for Belmont. He is now the federal member for Canning and has always given me encouragement along the way, especially during my three attempts to secure, firstly, a seat on the Belmont council and then my three attempts to win the state seat of Belmont.

The support I have received from the Liberal Party, through Menzies House, for this campaign, led by Ben Morton and his team, has been without fault, and I express my sincere gratitude to them. I also thank the Liberal Party Swan division, led by its president, Andre Shannon, and my hardworking campaign committee, which always remained positive despite the many challenges. To the many friends, family and volunteers who played an important role in winning the seat of Belmont, I thank you for your confidence in both the campaign and me.

Having lived and worked in Belmont for over 24 years, I have been involved in my community in many ways and have been fortunate to pursue many areas of personal interest, including sports, community groups, education, local government and waste management. I was first elected a member of the Belmont city council in 1997, and in 2005 I had the privilege of becoming the mayor of the City of Belmont, a position I held for six years. During my time as mayor, I was proud to be the patron of the Belmont Sports and Recreation Club, the Western Australian Chrysanthemum Society and the Belmont Masters Swimming Club.

As a municipality, Belmont was established in 1898, and I am personally proud of the city's coat of arms and its symbolic representation of Belmont. The first section of the coat of arms contains a kiln and a cog to represent respectively the early industry of brickmaking, and modern industry, which is now one of the dominant features of the city. The second section contains two wings, which are symbolic of flight and Perth's airports. The horse in the third section symbolises the thoroughbred horseracing industry, which, in this state, is older than Belmont itself. The colours of green, blue and silver represent, respectively, public open space, the open sky, and the Swan River, which is home to the black swan.

Another area of personal interest on which I have worked is local education, and as a board member of the independent Belmont City College I am proud of the good work being done at the college, particularly in regard to student attendance. Students with attendance of less than 49 per cent are classified as being at severe risk, and through the college's hard work it has managed to drop the percentage of severe-risk students to 11 per cent—far below the average of 25 per cent at other like schools. Currently at the college, Aboriginal students represent 50 per cent of severe-risk students, and I look forward to working with both the college and the government to engage those families so that that figure can be lowered.

I have been a member of the Western Australian Local Government Association for more than six years. Of the various committees I have worked on, I particularly enjoyed working on the governance and honours committees and the Local Government House Trust. In regard to my work with the trust, it is rewarding to finally see the new Local Government House being built on Railway Parade in Leederville. I have enjoyed working with many local representatives from around Western Australia, and I extend my appreciation to the association's president, Troy Pickard, and the chief executive officer, Ricky Burges, for their support and professional leadership within local government.

During my time in council I was a member of the Resource Recovery Committee of the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council for more than eight years. The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council, which serves one-third of the Perth metropolitan area, was constituted under the Local Government Act in 1983. For the past 30 years it has served the east metro region very well in the removal, processing, treatment and disposal of waste. Within the council the Red Hill Waste Management Facility is recognised as a best-practice facility that undertakes a number of activities to divert waste from landfill. I put it to this chamber that one of the greatest challenges in regard to metropolitan waste management is the establishment of a metropolitan-wide organisation to manage waste, similar to the structure of the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council. Such an entity would have a greater capacity to push best-practice benchmarks across the metropolitan area, replacing the ad hoc system that currently exists. Furthermore, a unified approach would also bring about improvements in waste management education, reductions in waste to landfill, and improved economic and environmental outcomes.

During my time on council I also learned the importance of going outside the local area and engaging other communities so that we can learn from each other. The City of Belmont has a sister city relationship with Adachi, a prefecture of Tokyo. This relationship was established in 1984, and next year we will be celebrating its thirtieth anniversary. The relationship has been very successful, receiving the support of the current mayor as well as his four predecessors. To celebrate this relationship, Adachi Park, on the banks of the Swan River, was dedicated to the sister city relationship we both enjoy.

Our interaction with Adachi occurs on many fronts, including annual student and citizen exchanges and art and cultural exchanges that have created many friendships that continue today. With great sadness following the tsunami, I wrote to the mayor of Adachi to send our community's condolences; given the wide impact of the tsunami, our support was very much appreciated.

On Thursday, 28 March—only five days after the polls were officially declared for Belmont—my first official duty as the local member was to host the Prime Minister in opening the newly upgraded Great Eastern Highway. The new artwork and landscaping along the highway looks wonderful, with the drive from the airport to Perth including a beautiful view down the river. Credit for this is due to Belmont council, which purchased residential land adjacent to the Swan River and converted it into parkland. Both state and federal funding contributed to the upgrade, with the federal member for Swan, Steve Irons, MP, having been a strong advocate for the completion of this project. It was

promised in 1990 after the Graham Farmer tunnel was completed, but did not get back on the agenda until 2007. The City East Alliance is to be credited for finishing this project before time and on budget, with no lost time due to injuries.

Having spoken about what has already happened within Belmont, I will now speak of the future of Western Australia. We live in exciting times with the new football stadium, Scitech and Elizabeth Quay set to become great assets for all Western Australians to enjoy. When the Perth Waterfront development—the Elizabeth Quay project—went out for public comment, 56 submissions were received, of which mine was one. One of my reasons for strongly supporting the proposal was that the redevelopment included a nationally significant centre for Indigenous culture, art and learning as a major centrepiece of the new waterfront. This is long overdue; the Noongar people of the eastern region have lobbied for such a centre for many years. Their culture is acknowledged internationally, and this development will be a major tourist attraction as well as a big step in “closing the gap”.

At a local level, the challenges for Belmont I will be working on include resolving the issues around the Ascot kilns, law and order, local education, and infrastructure projects, particularly around the airport. The state challenges I will be taking a personal interest in are the Swan River, waste management, and local government reform. Although I have covered a number of issues that affect the electorate of Belmont, I acknowledge that there are many more I am yet to speak of. I know my election was a close one, but that will not stop me from working hard on behalf of everybody in the seat of Belmont.

I close by saying that I am proud to both live in and represent Belmont as a rapidly developing city with a vision to be home to a diverse and harmonious community.

[Applause.]

**MR N.W. MORTON (Forrestfield)** [3.37 pm]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr J.H.D. Day (Leader of the House)**.

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