



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

VALEDICTORY SPEECH



Hon Alyssa Hayden, MLC
(Member for East Metropolitan Region)

Legislative Council

Address-in-Reply

Wednesday, 17 May 2017

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Motion

Resumed from 16 May on the following motion moved by Hon Sally Talbot —

That the following address be presented to Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the state of Western Australia and its dependencies in the commonwealth of Australia —

May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

HON ALYSSA HAYDEN (East Metropolitan) [5.08 pm]: I am extremely pleased to be able to stand here today and have the opportunity to give my Address-in-Reply to the speech of Her Excellency the Governor at the opening of the fortieth Parliament. I would also like to take a moment, if I may, to acknowledge the past Speaker of the lower house, Hon Michael Sutherland, and also the lower house members who have come here today to bear witness to what will hopefully be a smooth speech. I am glad they had the opportunity to witness a question time that is run in a bit more of a civil manner than that of the lower house, and they might have learnt something while they were here! I would also like to thank all my family and friends who are here today. I thought it was a good idea to invite them, but I am now having second thoughts. We will see how we go and if I can get through my speech!

It is a privilege to be able to give an Address-in-Reply, especially at the end of an election in which you have been unsuccessful. After every election we find ourselves in a strange and bizarre position. Many of my friends in the lower house were unable to give an Address-in-Reply. It was a struggle for me to decide whether they had things better or whether I did, but what I can tell you, Mr President, is that the upper house is unique and quirky, and the way we operate is a little bit bizarre and different from any other workplace. After every election we find ourselves in waiting until 21 May. I was elected to this place in 2008 and I had to wait a very long eight months before being sworn into Parliament. Now, at the other end of my term, I have to sit and wait to say goodbye. I have now found new respect for the members who had to depart after the election in 2008, because sitting here for eight months must have been extremely difficult. I recently joked that, unlike Legislative Assembly members—who were thrown from office on the night of the election—Legislative Council members go into palliative care, and our life-support date is set for when the machine is switched off on 21 May. There are some pros and cons on both sides, but as I said earlier, it is actually a very painful time.

Over the past eight years I have got to my feet and spoken many times in this place. However, today takes me back to how I felt the first time I stood here. Over time, you learn to take this place for granted. We walk in through those doors and take our seats. We feel comfortable and familiar, and I suppose we become complacent about our surroundings. But today, as I said, I have been thrown back in time to my first speech, and I feel fortunate, lucky and privileged to be a member of this chamber. However, unlike my first speech, my time, for now—and I do say “now”—has come to an end.

The experiences and friends I have made over this journey cannot be repeated, and it is certainly a special time in our lives for all of us to be a part of this democratic system and of Parliament. We form an exclusive and quirky family, and the friendships we make in this place are like no other. The diversity of this role is another aspect that I will be extremely disappointed to leave, and it will be difficult to replace. Along with the ability to help the community at this level, it is certainly unique.

The young 39-year-old who delivered her inaugural speech eight years ago—I am not asking you to do the maths, Mr President!—has no regrets. I entered this place with the goal of putting the East Metropolitan Region on the map and to represent Western Australia’s small business community and the everyday people I had the privilege of growing up with in the community I grew up in in the hills. I know I have fulfilled those goals plus the many more I set for myself and that the community set for me.

As I mentioned in my first speech, the truck industry stole my heart right up front, and I cannot thank enough the many drivers and industry stakeholders I have met, worked with and who I now call my friends. Transport certainly was not a platform of mine when I decided to enter Parliament; however, my interest was sparked after attending my first public forum during those long eight months as an elected, but not as yet sworn in, member of Parliament. I had no idea that attending that forum to see the then Minister for Transport, Hon Simon O'Brien, was going to have such a massive impact on me. I am sorry; it was not about you, Simon! Nor did I think that forum would take me on two five-day, long-haul, heavy-load truck trips up north, but it did, and it was the start of my very healthy obsession with the transport sector.

The keynote speaker of this forum was an amazing individual who turned her life around against all odds, and although times were tough for her, her passion for the truck industry was, and still is, unwavering. Her name is Heather Jones, and although I have met many influential people in my life, Heather is certainly one of the main women to have had such an important, positive and personal impact—so much so, as I said, that she convinced me to travel with her for five days to Tom Price, pulling an oversize load, to see firsthand the conditions our truck drivers experience. This trip turned into another trip, and the experiences I gained from these trips and the contacts I made started my journey as a passionate advocate for our truck drivers. I share this with you, members, because it is important for us to remember that although we enter this place with our own goals, it is vital that we remain open and that we listen to the needs of our community and work towards achieving their goals as well as our own. Steve Post is another champion of the transport industry, and he has never been shy to pick up the phone when he thought my mind might have turned to another cause. He has certainly kept the needs of this industry at the forefront of my mind.

One of the major successes I am extremely proud to have been part of was when the Liberal government got involved and supported the establishment of Transafe WA. Since its establishment in 2014, Transafe has held 12 road transport industry safety forums, with each forum attracting more than 800 participants. To say that this was long overdue and needed within the industry is certainly an understatement. Transafe already has its next goal in mind, which is to deliver a safety truck to WA for the sole purpose of visiting schools and regional and metropolitan shows to educate road users on how to share our roads with heavy haulage. Of course, as with any program or project, it needs the support of sponsors and government, and I stand here today to urge the new Minister for Road Safety to get behind this important initiative—an initiative that will certainly save lives on our roads.

With the help of Heather and Steve, I believe we have achieved a lot of great things together, and as I leave this place, I encourage my colleagues to not forget this trucking transport industry that carries our state. It is the simple things we take for granted in our everyday workplace that they do not get to enjoy, and that is why I have worked with our ministers over eight years to deliver improved rest areas, facilities and upgraded roads, so that drivers can continue to do their job in a safer and respectful environment. I have said this many times in this place before, and I could not leave without repeating one last time the one main message that needs to be continually promoted across the state, which is that the general motorist needs to understand how to share our roads safely with heavy vehicles and to show them some respect. Our truck industry is vital to the prosperity of our state. Not only does it provide transport for our mining and farming industries, it also delivers three-quarters of our domestic freight, including every item on the shelves of the supermarkets we visit. Without the hardworking men and women in our transport industry, our state would come to a sudden stop.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to explore the many different industries, associations, groups and individual needs that this role introduces us to. It allows us to continue to learn and listen to the needs and wants of the people we represent. One of the industries that I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in is through my role as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism. The tourism sector became a major focus of mine over the past four years. With two of the major tourism highlights of Perth in my electorate—the Swan Valley and Perth hills—I have always advocated for their recognition and for tourism to be promoted in this sector. When I was made Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism, I can tell members I was over the moon. Many of our tourism operators are small businesses, and with my experience as a small business operator, it did not take long to realise that red tape and bureaucracy is suffocating tourism in WA. The passion within this industry is second to none. We have amazing operators here in WA. While promoting their own businesses, they are also major champions of our state and they bring visitors not only to their doorstep, but also to many other businesses around the state.

I am extremely proud to have been a part of the Barnett Liberal government. I know that the vision and investment made by our Premier, Hon Colin Barnett, provided for the WA tourism sector a city to be proud of. It has given tourism a grand capital city to showcase and to sell across Australia and to countries around the world. Projects such as Elizabeth Quay, Yagan Square and Perth Stadium have improved Perth's attraction and global awareness and have transformed our city forever. The redevelopment of Scarborough, the upgrades on Rottnest Island, the Perth Airport expansion, the 2 000-plus new hotel rooms and the redevelopment of

Busselton Airport all add to the attractiveness of WA as a holiday destination. The Liberal government backed up this investment with effective marketing and the very successful and welcome campaign, Just Another Day in WA. We experienced a massive growth in cruising, with 58 cruise ship visits last year. They brought 152 000 passengers who spent \$275 million in our state.

The past few years under the Liberal government has seen incredible change and opportunities for tourism in this state. However, the most rewarding part of my role in assisting the Minister for Tourism was working with individual operators to cut through the bureaucracy restricting their growth and their potential.

Although I succeeded in assisting with many individual requests, there is one, sadly, that I did not have enough time to complete, so tonight I have decided to raise it here as my last ditch effort to see it achieved. Although it may be seen to be a bit of a minor request in the scheme of the things we do in this place, I can assure you this is not minor to the tourism operator. The tourism industry is made up of many dynamic and usually groundbreaking businesses simply because they need to be quick to respond to the demands of their consumer. In tourism, if you are not offering something new or something exciting, you will not get that visitor to your business and we will not get them to our state. The visitor has so many options available to them and we need to offer our best. Sadly, government is not always up to speed nor does it work fast enough for many of these new businesses to succeed. One of our new operators is Segway Tours WA, which operates out of Barrack Street Jetty. Segway Tours came to me with two simple requests. One was to gain access to Fremantle port and the other was to Kings Park for their tours. I am pleased to say that the Fremantle port tour is up and running and I encourage all members to get out there and enjoy it. However, I leave with unfinished business in negotiating access to Kings Park. I guess I am pleading to the Kings Park Board and to the new minister to simply permit a designated segway pathway through Kings Park for our local community and visitors to enjoy. It is not hard. These segway tours are informative and filled with the history of Perth, and we have an exceptional story to be told and views to be enjoyed in and from Kings Park. As I said, this may seem to be a small matter in the scheme of things, but this is a prime example of government not assisting business to grow and prosper. It is ridiculous restrictions like this that can see a business either succeed or fail. It is up to you. I hope they succeed.

As members of Parliament, we remain true to our purposes and our goals. One of my personal goals was to inject as much commonsense as possible into government bureaucracy—not an easy one. Although I did win some, I can assure you the score still sits in favour of bureaucracy. Taking up the fight to our bureaucracy is a major part of the role I will greatly miss. However, I doubt they will miss me. I ask members who remain to remember that your role is not to just roll over and agree with government agencies. It is about pushing the boundaries and injecting good old-fashioned commonsense.

In the last year I led an investigation into Airbnb with the vision of forming a policy surrounding the information gathered. With the speed at which the shared economy is growing, I knew that as a government we needed to get our heads around the issue and understand the potential impact the new economy will have on tourism in WA. The most overwhelming point identified is that hundreds of Airbnb and short-stay providers operate across the state without approval. This is occurring as it is up to individual local councils to allow or disallow short-term accommodation within their boundaries. Before I go on, it is important when discussing Airbnb that everyone is talking about the same thing. The traditional Airbnb is a homeowner who decides to rent out part of their home to a visitor as a short stay and stay there and host them. That is completely different from a standalone holiday home when the owner or resident is not there and renting out the home in its entirety. It should not be confused nor put into the same category but my investigation highlighted that regardless of the stance local councils take on short-term accommodation, holiday homes and Airbnb providers are operating and open for business. That demonstrates that our existing regulatory and policy framework in Western Australia in this area is obsolete.

It is important to note there is an urgent need to acknowledge and address the modern age of technology and the establishment of the shared economy. Uber is a perfect example. If the result of this election were different, my recommendations would have been to introduce statewide policy simply to permit short-term accommodation at a state government level. It would resolve the ridiculous position we are in. The opportunity to modernise our policy would also have meant that instead of introducing new regulations, we take this opportunity to reduce and remove the red tape associated with the traditional accommodation sector. It is important for government to be part of the solution to enable the new and existing accommodation providers to succeed. A simple statewide regulation to allow short-stay accommodation and reduce the current unnecessary and excessive oversight across the sector is urgently required. The hotel and accommodation sector is heavily over-regulated. We need to acknowledge the huge investment made in developing and operating our hotels. However, the shared economy is here and it is not going away, so a balance needs to be found to ensure that the growth of Airbnb does not impact on the viability of our existing hotel sector. The obvious approach is to develop open competition across the accommodation sector. To make this successful and to reduce red tape, the government

will need to work with the hotel industry and undertake a regulatory mapping exercise of the regulations required to construct and operate a hotel. This should include consideration of potential inconsistencies in the building code requirements and classifications. By doing this, government will be on track to establish an even playing field across the accommodation sector.

I understand that the government is not seeking policy advice from this side of the chamber; however, I am encouraging the new Minister for Tourism, Hon Paul Papalia, who I know shares my passion for tourism, not to shy away from making a bold, radical and stimulating change to the way hotels and the accommodation sector are regulated. Now is the time, minister, to modernise the regulations that are restricting our tourism operators, and allow them to cater to consumer demand. The Liberal government prepared this state for growth in our tourism sector and I am begging the new government not to miss the opportunity that has been laid out for it to succeed. No matter where I end up in the future, I will continue my support for the tourism sector and the many outstanding men and women in this industry. They are remarkable people achieving extraordinary experiences and I thank them for making our state an amazing place to live.

I need to make special mention of a person who has been behind the scenes of tourism for 30 years plus, who is respected by all across the industry, and whose knowledge and understanding of the sector has helped me over the past four years, and that is Ian Johnson. Thank you for taking the late calls and for your extreme professionalism over the past four years. I hope I have not ruined your future career!

Speaking of outstanding individuals, of course, there are many more I wish to thank today. On 11 March the people of WA voted and made their decision. As a result of that decision, I and many of my friends lost our positions. I do not call them “colleagues” as this is a job we share far more. The people who make up our team become family. There is no other job like this. We rely on each other and put trust in one another. I want to thank my many lower house members who lost their seats on 11 March, especially my East Metropolitan colleagues and friends and, of course, my upper house family for their friendship, guidance and support. To our leader, Hon Peter Collier, you have been an inclusive leader and you have always encouraged each of your team members to be their best. You are a true mate and I thank you for all the support you have shown me. To my roommate, Hon Jim Chown, we have sat next to each other in this place since the day we entered. Even when faced with the wrath of our former leader, you stuck by me, buddy. We have shared a great bond and I liken it to a brother and sister relationship. We never let up on each other. We were always looking for a dig and I suppose it is because I can give as good as I get that we get on so well.

Hon Jim Chown: Only sometimes!

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: But sometimes loyal. My East Metropolitan colleague Hon Donna Faragher also shared the burden of sitting next to Jim over the past few years. I think, Donna, it is only fair that as I depart, and given you have moved from sitting next to Jim, that we should brief our chamber mates who will be taking on this burden when I leave. There is payment for sitting next to Jim and the currency is in the form of sherbies, payment of which is made by his electorate staff because they are forever grateful for our sacrifice and for keeping him out of their hair. Donna, I am sorry that I now leave you to the huge challenge ahead in looking after the East Metropolitan Region alone, but the good people of East Metro will be looking for a shining light to guide them back and I know that you will be there for them.

We make long-term and special friends in this place and without an ongoing commentary or listing them all, I would not have ended this journey as sane as I am without them: Hon Nick Goiran, confidant and awesome friend; and Hon Liz Behjat, one word—sisterhood. To all my Liberal Legislative Council, or black-hand gang, members, I know that you are all only a phone call away—I know where you live if you change your number!

To a special few in the lower house, Paul Miles and Michael Sutherland, I know our friendship will last the test of time and will continue outside these walls. To Hon Colin Barnett, the man who brought us back in 2008 and, as a result, gave me the opportunity to stand in this place and be a member of the Legislative Council, an opportunity that I will always appreciate and thank him for, being a leader is no easy feat. A leader of a political team would have to be one of the toughest and loneliest gigs around. Sadly, politics is a brutal game and although we know this before we start, I do not believe we ever really appreciate how brutal it is until it hits us. Tonight I wish to thank Colin for his support and leadership. He respected the position he held and he made it his goal to ensure that the position of Premier was never tainted or stained. It was obvious in the first year that he had an agenda to make our state great, and I believe he achieved that and then some. Apart from the investments I referred to earlier within our capital city, Colin delivered a record spend in the East Metropolitan Region, with the new Midland Public Hospital; the Midland Curtin University campus; the Gateway WA project along Tonkin Highway; NorthLink, previously known as the Perth to Darwin highway and Swan Valley bypass—I think it still has an identity crisis; the train line to Forrestfield; and hundreds of road projects. People cannot drive around East Metro without having to go through roadworks. There were also schools and tourist attractions, and the list goes on. This, in my opinion, is one of his major achievements that he can be extremely

proud of. For decades, all sides of government had neglected and ignored this region, but not the Barnett Liberal government, and for that I believe the work of the former Liberal government will be known and held in high regard across the East Metropolitan Region for many years to come. The challenge now, my friends who sit opposite, is to hope that the McGowan government does not revert to its old ways and turn its back on the eastern suburbs. I will be watching.

I had the privilege of working with Hon Kim Hames, former Deputy Premier, as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health; Tourism. I guess you can all pick which one I liked better! I wish to thank him for his friendship and guidance and Melinda in his office for helping me pronounce the big long words in question time on all the health issues. Kim's retirement saw an old friend of mine become a new member, the new member for Dawesville, Zak Kirkup. I have known Zak since he was 16 years old, so if members want any dirt, I have got it! It saddens me that unfortunately we will not be serving together—for now. Zak, you will be a massive contributor and I know you will have a long and exciting career.

I have also enjoyed working with many amazing people amongst our community and we are extremely fortunate to have such amazing volunteers and people committed to making our community better. In no particular order, because I truly value them all, I wish to place on the record the dedication and commitment of a few outstanding members of the local East Metro community: Patsy Molloy and her board at the Midland Women's Health Care Place; all the amazing men at Midland Men's Shed, in particular Dave Savage and Kevin Buckland; and the coaches and players at the Northern Redbacks Womens Soccer Club, who stole not only my heart, but also Colin's, resulting in us building the club great and fantastic new change rooms. It has made me its patron and has asked me to stay on, and that is something I will cherish and I will do my utmost to support it. There are also the many Swan Valley operators, Anthony Yurisich, James Talijancich, Daniel Pinelli, Peter Prendiville, Allan Erceg, Caroline Taylor and, of course, the godmother of the valley, Corin Lamont; the Perth Hills Vignerons Association, in particular Josh and Rachael Davenport; Mike Foley, CEO of the City of Swan; and Kieran Kinsella from the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority.

The City of Swan has been extremely professional to work with and in our role as government, we teamed up with the City of Swan on many major and small projects, from dualling Gngangara Road and major intersection upgrades on Roe and Reid Highways to the many local road and roundabout improvements, the Ellenbrook sporting complex, river restorations, anti-crime initiatives and so on. The city also worked closely and successfully with the many private developments that were undertaken by the former Midland Redevelopment Authority and now Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority. I honestly believe the work that has been achieved is a credit to the aptitude and professionalism of the two CEOs, Mike Foley and Kieran Kinsella. I wish them every success and hope that our paths cross again soon.

Of course, my respect goes to the Liberal Party of Western Australia for granting me the honour to represent our party in this chamber. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the thousands of Liberal members and young Liberals around our state for their dedication to protecting our Liberal beliefs and for the tireless support they give to our party. Of course, a special mention must go to all the branch members across the East Metropolitan Region. They worked tirelessly across the election and they have worked very hard on hundreds of campaigns. I am sorry we let you down this time around, but please keep your faith in us, because we will be back in four years. To all the candidates who stood and waved the Liberal flag on our behalf, thank you; it is a huge commitment giving up your work and your time, and I thank you for everything you have done to help us win more seats for the Liberal Party. To our small team at headquarters, both past and present, a few of whom have supported me greatly over the years, Ben Morton, Zak Kirkup, Ben Allen, Sam Calabrese, Andrew Cox, Cerena Moir, Shelbie Owen, Amy Calabrese and, of course, proxy Chris Gardner, a big thankyou to you all.

I also have a few acknowledgements and thankyou's to a special team, and that is team Midland. I have been accused of being Midland-centric and I will never apologise for it. Daniel Parasiliti, I am not meant to cry over you! I have never met such a determined and dynamic individual. His compassion and enthusiasm to achieve for his communities is a trait he is well known for. Daniel has been my so-called political running partner for the past few years. I am just sorry that we were not able to get over the line together—or at least one of us. I know that there is a great future ahead waiting for you, buddy, and I will be there to support you in whatever you do. Graeme Harris has dedicated his life to supporting and promoting the business community of Midland and the Liberal Party and has been a long-term friend of mine. Ray Gianoli has been a strong supporter and will continue to be a great friend. Henk Loochys, you are an amazing individual; we will miss you unless we can entice you back at the next campaign. Liam Staltari is a true young gentleman with a huge future.

To my three stooges, Stefan Deselys-Claite, Jessica Wright and Jasmine Lares, you guys added sparkle when sparkle was needed. I look forward to watching all of your amazing futures that you have ahead of you. There are two very special ladies who have been with me since the start of my journey and who, as usual, are sitting up the back. They are, of course, my two amazing staff, Allison McNee and Lynn Butler. Although we have worked as a team for the past eight years, our journeys together started long before then. We have shared in each

other's highs and lows. I will not lie; our friendship has been tested from the pressures of this workplace, but I know that our friendship—Jim, will you stop me; what are you good for?

Hon Jim Chown: Keep going.

Hon ALYSSA HAYDEN: Our friendship will last the test of time, and I am looking forward to going back to just being friends. Whenever people would ask how I managed to keep the same staff for eight years—they are sick of hearing this—my answer was always that it was because we have too much dirt on each other and we cannot part. It is not a joke! Unfortunately, they now have a lot more on me than I have on them, so I will be sticking close. Our staff are our eyes, our ears and sometimes the targets in the community we represent. They are the unsung heroes, because they do understand that it is all about us. I know that I have been extremely lucky to end my term with the same two staff I started with. I also know this is extremely rare and I cannot thank them enough for standing by my side, for having my back and for representing the community I chose to stand for. That is something that every member needs to remember: we chose this job; we chose our electorate; our staff chose us. I am looking forward to a well-earned farewell lunch together.

Our family and friends are the ones who take the brunt of the long hours and commitments of this job. I will not look up because I will lose it. I want to thank those who have stood by and given their support. To my friends who have shared a glass or two or three with me over the years: you have kept me sane. Rosalie Dolliver, I thank you very much for your friendship.

To my amazing and beautiful extended family, you know that I think you are simply the best and I look forward to spending more quality time with you. To my extremely proud parents, Arthur and Sandra Wallis, I know I could not make them any prouder, and, as a daughter, that is the ultimate. I could not ask for anything more than knowing that I have lived up to the dreams and wishes of my parents, but I need them to know that they certainly over-delivered as parents and I could not ask for anything more or anything better. I love you both so much.

Now I turn to Terry, the man who always makes me laugh, the one who thinks that it is always about him—my husband of 23 years. Our partners certainly pay the price for our choice of careers—the late nights, the early starts, and the crankiness of preparing our week and speeches like this. I will not say that I have been lucky; I prefer to mark it down to the fact that I actually made the right choice when picking my husband. Although Terry has many great attributes, which he reminds me about every day, the most important one I thrive on, and am forever grateful for, is that I never have to worry about jealousy or resentment. I have never had to apologise for working late or staying back for a drink with friends or for holding such a busy job. Instead, I have always received nothing but encouragement, humour, love and support from Terry. I know that we should not have to acknowledge or celebrate this, but, unfortunately, for many this is not the norm, and although it can cross both genders, we have come a long way in supporting women in the workplace. We still need to go a long way to enable women to reach their full potential—and it starts with our partners. I know that I am lucky to have Terry to encourage me to reach mine. The one thing that Terry hates to share is the limelight. As I step down at the end of this week—I have a couple more days here—I know that he is already planning his comeback, and that he will take his rightful place to be centre of attention once again, as he so deserves.

Mr President, I want to thank you for the friendship and support you have shown me over the years. Your wise counsel has always been appreciated, and I know this place will certainly miss your presence and wisdom. You have raised the standard and your legacy to uphold our traditional values are ones that I hope are continued. I wish you a very happy retirement and I look forward to sharing a Margaret River red with you when I pop by.

To the staff of the chamber, Parliament House security and Hansard, thank you for making Parliament run so smoothly, for assisting us to do our jobs and for making us look as though we know what we are doing. I sincerely appreciate the many and varied roles that help this place operate. I thank you all for your friendliness and eagerness to help.

I really do hope that this is not the end of my parliamentary career. As I leave this place, I am going to refer to them as my gap years. I never had a gap year as a younger person, so I figure that this is as good a time as any. I still have much more I wish to contribute and I will use this time to reflect and win back the confidence of the community that we must have lost along the way. But I cannot leave this place without placing on the record the need for a review of the preferential voting system, especially the extremely complicated system that we have in the Legislative Council. Please do not mistake this and my points as bitterness, because they certainly are not. I understand these are the rules we operate under and how our vote is counted. However, I also value the democratic right, and I believe that in this case the system has not delivered for the voters of Western Australia. A democratic system is meant to reflect the desire of the community, with the majority's voice being reflected in the result. The result of the Legislative Council, I fear, this time did not reflect the view or the desire of the community. The fact that 12 parties with quotas ranging from 0.10 to as low as 0.01 determined the fate of the sixth position on the East Metropolitan Region ticket demonstrates exactly that. I urge this chamber to

acknowledge that the current preferential voting system is not serving the people of Western Australia, and that an overhaul of the system needs to take place—not for my sake or for that of any of you in this chamber; it is for the respect of those who turn out to vote. The ticketing system that failed in the Senate in the 2013 federal election has been replaced—in effect, optional preferential voting above and below the line. In 2016, it was no longer possible for preference harvesters to engineer complex deals between micro parties such as the disgraceful win by parties with less than one per cent of the vote. In WA there was no time to change the Legislative Council voting system to bring it into line with the Senate, but, if it had been, we would have had a different result today. I encourage the powers that be to take a good, long, hard look and adopt the Senate system.

I am a positive person and although it saddens me to leave this place for now, I am looking forward to what lies ahead and to the new chapter in my life. As I ended my maiden speech, I will do the same in this speech. My mum gave me a line when I was very young—a line that I have lived my life by and that has served me well: if it is to be, it is up to me. You have not seen the last of me. I will be back.

[Applause.]
