



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### THURSDAY, 30 MAY 2024

### 10.00am

#### 1. Meeting of Council

The Council assembled at 10.00am pursuant to order.  
The President, Hon Alanna Clohesy, took the Chair.  
Prayers and an Acknowledgement of Country were read.

#### 2. Petition

Hon Neil Thomson presented a petition from 928 petitioners requesting the Legislative Council to support immediate and urgent steps to curb growing antisocial and criminal behaviour affecting our regional communities. (Tabled Paper 3192).

#### 3. Papers

The following Papers were laid on the Table by —

##### President

*Documents* —

Amended Annual Schedule of Allocation of Motions on Notice 2024 (May 2024) .....3187  
Amended Non-Government Member's Business Schedule 2024 (May 2024).....3188

##### Minister for Emergency Services

*Documents* —

Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation Fund —  
Recommendation regarding Application of Future Health Research and  
Innovation Account Moneys During (2023-2024) and future financial years  
(14 May 2024).....3189

*Letters* —

Correspondence from the Minister for Medical Research to the Future Health  
Research and Innovation Fund Advisory Council  
Recommendations (28 May 2024).....3190  
Correspondence from the Minister for Medical Research to the Future Health  
Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund Advisory Council in regard to section  
4D of the Western Australian FHRI Fund Act 2012 (20 April 2022).....3191

#### 4. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Hon Shelley Payne: To move on the next day of sitting —

That this House commends the Cook Labor Government for its investment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in our schools, including an increased focus on encouraging more women into STEM related careers.

## **5. Non-Government Business**

Leader of the House moved, without notice —

That, pursuant to Standing Order 111(4), the revised schedule for Non-Government Business tabled today by the President be adopted.

Question — put and passed.

## **6. Community Safety**

Non-Government Business No. 1 having been called, Hon Colin de Grussa moved, without notice —

That the Legislative Council calls on the Cook Labor Government to act on its promises to improve community safety.

Debate ensued.

*Motion lapsed.*

## **7. Order of Business**

Ordered — That Order of the Day No. 2 *Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Cat Local Law 2023 — Disallowance*, be taken after Order of the Day No. 7, *State Superannuation Amendment Bill 2023*. (Leader of the House).

## **8. Shire of Williams Cats Local Law 2024 — Disallowance — Disallowance — Discharge from Notice Paper**

The Order of the Day having been called, Hon Lorna Harper moved, without notice —

That pursuant to recommendation of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, Order of the Day No. 1, *Shire of Williams Cats Local Law 2024 — Disallowance*, be discharged from the Notice Paper.

Question — put and passed.

## **9. Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure — Consolidated Account Estimates 2024–2025**

The Order of the Day having been read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer as follows —

That pursuant to Standing Order 69(1) the Legislative Council take note of Tabled Paper No. 3131A-E (2024–2025 Budget Statements), laid upon the Table of the House on Thursday, 9 May 2024.

Debate ensued.

Hon Wilson Tucker, by leave, tabled a graph depicting fixed term evictions in Australian jurisdictions — National comparison of tenancy laws. (Tabled Paper 3193).

On the motion of Hon Peter Foster the debate was adjourned to the next sitting.

## **10. Firearms Bill 2024**

The Order of the Day having been read for the adjourned debate on the second reading of this Bill. Debate resumed.

## **11. Questions Without Notice**

Questions without notice were taken.

The Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Defence Industry tabled, a response to a question without notice asked by Hon Tjorn Sibma. (Tabled Paper 3194).

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Energy, by leave, incorporated into *Hansard* a response to a question without notice asked by Hon Dr Steve Thomas.

The Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Police by leave, incorporated into *Hansard* a response to a question without notice asked by Hon Peter Collier.

The Leader of the House representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, by leave, incorporated into *Hansard* a response to a question without notice asked by Hon Neil Thomson.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Water, by leave, incorporated into *Hansard* a response to a question without notice asked by Hon Dr Steve Thomas.

The Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Police, by leave, incorporated into *Hansard* a response to a question without notice asked by Hon Sophia Moermond.

The Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Police, by leave, incorporated into *Hansard* a response to a question without notice asked by Hon Dr Brian Walker.

The Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Police, by leave, incorporated into *Hansard* a response to a question without notice asked by Hon Louise Kingston.

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The Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Police, by leave, incorporated into *Hansard* a response to a question without notice asked by Hon Tjorn Sibma.

The Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming, by leave, incorporated into *Hansard* a response to a question without notice asked by Hon Peter Collier.

The Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education, by leave, incorporated into *Hansard* a response to a question without notice asked by Hon Dr Steve Thomas.

## **12. Firearms Bill 2024**

Debate resumed on the second reading of this Bill (*see item 10 above*).

*Interruption pursuant to order.*

## **13. Statement by President — Ruby Hutchison**

The President made the following Statement —

Members

22 May 2024 marks the anniversary of the election of the Hon Ruby Hutchison MLC, the first woman elected to the Western Australian Legislative Council.

Ruby represented Suburban then North-East Metropolitan Provinces from 1954 to 1971. She was elected to the chamber at a time when only a very narrow number of people could participate in its elections.

Suffrage was restricted to property owners excluding many working-class people and was in her words “definitely against women.”

Ruby delivered her Inaugural Speech in June 1954 where she stated:

“A great many women have played a worthy part in history. I hope to follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before and play my part in the future.”

Throughout her time in Parliament, Ruby focused on improving the rights of women. Her contributions were essential in the campaign to change the Jury Act allowing women to serve on juries and participate in the administration of justice.

Ruby campaigned for accessible higher education for working people and their children who were being excluded from rising university fees.

Ruby's main cause in her political career was to democratise the Legislative Council. She introduced a private member's Bill to allow naturalised Australians to enrol for Legislative Council elections, without having to wait for the previously required twelve months.

During that debate, Ruby gained the record for being the first woman suspended from the chamber for stating that she was "ashamed" to belong to the Legislative Council because of the "undemocratic" nature of the house.

While Ruby's bill was defeated, the Government introduced a bill on similar terms that was passed, ensuring universal suffrage from the 1965 election.

Reflecting on her time in Parliament, in her final speech, Ruby said:

"Up till now we have only one lady member of this House. I will do all I can to help women to be elected to this Chamber."

Ruby helped secure the nomination of the Hon Lyla Elliot MLC to replace her in the Legislative Council and continue her advocacy on behalf of Western Australian women.

In addition to her work in Parliament, Ruby raised seven children and was a fearless community organiser and advocate.

Ruby was the founder of the WA Epilepsy Association, establishing Nulsen Haven as well as the Australian Consumers Association – today known as CHOICE. She died aged 82 at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

The stories of trailblazing women like Ruby Hutchison provide inspiration for me and my work in the Legislative Council.

We owe a great deal to their courage.

#### **14. Members' Statements**

Statements were taken.

#### **15. Adjournment**

The Council adjourned at 5.45pm until Tuesday 11 June 2024 at 1.00pm.

#### **Members present during the day's proceedings**

Attendance: Present all Members except Hon Ben Dawkins, Hon Sophia Moermond, Hon Dr Brad Pettitt, Hon Rosetta Sahanna and Hon Dr Sally Talbot.

**SAM HASTINGS**

Clerk of the Legislative Council

**HON ALANNA CLOHESY MLC**

President of the Legislative Council