

**EXTINCTION REBELLION RALLY — PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

*Statement*

**HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan)** [5.35 pm]: Bearing in mind there is quite a queue behind me to speak, I will do the house a service and try to keep my remarks as brief as possible.

I have been listening intently to the debate on two key topics raised during the last two sitting days. The theme of this contribution is the preservation of the integrity of Parliament. I will not dwell on the motions we discussed earlier in the day, but I want to reflect on a number of injunctions that members have received, particularly from Hon Tim Clifford, to take seriously the protesters who align themselves with this Extinction Rebellion movement. We have been extolled to listen to these people, take them seriously and give them some credibility, which I think they demonstrated today they do not deserve. The protesters came to Parliament with one plan only—to disrupt the proceedings of this Parliament—which, unfortunately, they did in the other place. I understand proceedings in the Assembly were suspended for 30 to 45 minutes. The protesters came to Parliament with an intended purpose. I do not know how they found themselves to be inside this building or who provided them that escort, but I would ask those people to reflect upon the outcomes of today's protest and commit to not facilitating that kind of disruption again.

I am also dismayed at the completely unnecessary disruption to the public caused by protesters lying down on the section of Harvest Terrace that comes up from the Kwinana Freeway. That action was completely unnecessary and dangerous. That road is the primary route for people coming off the Kwinana Freeway to West Perth. The action placed the lives of not only the protesters in danger, but also the police and police horses that were attempting to manage that protest.

This cannot pass without a mention. I find a deep but sad irony in this situation. I observed between seven and 10 protesters carrying the seed spears of balga trees and bracing them as if they were lances. I think those people have potentially committed an offence under the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations. In a small but significant scale, that is a form of the environmental vandalism they declare they are opposed to.

I make the observation that, generally, I am predisposed, as I think most members of this house are, to listen to members of the community who might have very different political views and social values from me, but I think it behoves all members of this house to treat with contempt irrational, extreme people who are intent on nothing more than seeking attention and disrupting the lawful processes that this place is supposed to enshrine. I call upon members of this place who attempt to encourage other members to treat these people seriously to reflect a little more critically on the causes that they align themselves with and the people they support, because the people I saw protesting today are a group of irrational, extremist no-hopers, and I cannot and will never treat them seriously.