

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Clerk reported that the office of President was vacant and called for nominations.

HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [11.32 am]: without notice — I move —

That Hon Barry House do take the chair in the Council as President.

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [11.32 am]: I second the motion.

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [11.32 am]: Mr Clerk, I submit to the will of the house.

[There being no other nomination, Hon Barry House was declared elected as President, and was conducted to the chair by the mover and seconder of the motion.]

[Applause.]

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Barry House): Members, I first thank you very much for extending your confidence in me to re-elect me as President for the next four years. It is a great honour and privilege to perform this role for the Legislative Council. Having learnt the ropes, I guess, in the last four years, I look forward enormously to the next four years of this Legislative Council and the role it will play in the thirty-ninth Parliament of Western Australia.

I want to briefly summarise four things that I will set as goals for this four-year period. Firstly, to maintain the orderly and effective conduct of business in the Legislative Council so that we play our important role in the parliamentary democracy of Western Australia. Secondly, to ensure fair and equitable treatment and opportunities for all members. Thirdly, to improve and build on the professional development opportunities for members and staff so that we function effectively as a house of review and so that individual members operate as parliamentarians representing the community and this institution in a positive and constructive way. Fourthly, to work with the Speaker as joint administrators of the Parliament, akin to the relationship that ministers have with their departments, to convince the government and the community to improve the symbolic, educational and physical links between Parliament, the City of Perth and the Western Australian people.

Thank you for electing me as your President for another four years. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that await us all. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]