

STABBING ATTACKS — NEW SOUTH WALES

*Statement by Premier*

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Premier)** [1.08 pm]: This week, as Western Australians, we grieve with the nation. Together we mourn the horrific massacre of six innocent people at a Bondi Junction shopping centre last Saturday. We also condemn the act of terror carried out at the Wakely church yesterday, an abhorrent act in a place of peace and solace. Today we stand with the people of Sydney, our fellow Australians, who have had this dreadful tragedy inflicted upon their city. We remember and honour the six victims, and our thoughts are with those who were injured. In doing so, we remember they are someone's family, someone's friend, someone's colleague, someone's neighbour. They were just innocent people going about their business on a Saturday afternoon. They all had so much more to live for. To the friends and family of those victims whose lives have been changed forever, to say that our hearts go out to you simply does not fully convey enough comfort to salve the grief you would be feeling right now. No words can possibly do that. What we can say is that the community of Australia is here for you in the coming weeks, months and beyond. There is not a home in Australia that is untouched by the sorrow, anger and uncertainty this tragedy has caused. Every child, partner, sibling or parent in the country has probably been hugged that little bit harder in recent days. I say: keep it up. In expressing our deepest condolences, on behalf of Western Australia, I also extend our gratitude to the first responders. The brave and selfless acts of many people surely prevented further loss of life. Members, we stand with New South Wales.

**Members:** Hear, hear!

**The SPEAKER:** I would request that all members rise for one minute's silence as a mark of respect.

[Members and officers stood and observed a minute's silence.]

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