

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [4.30 pm]: I move —

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 15 February 2022 at 2.00 pm.

Moving the motion of adjournment brings to a close the first year of the forty-first Parliament. It is important that we take a few moments to reflect on this year, which as we all know has been an extraordinary one indeed. Opening day for the forty-first Parliament was on Tuesday, 29 April. Following the 13 March election, we welcomed a number of new members including the members for Dawesville, Geraldton, Kimberley, Albany, Mirrabooka, Victoria Park, Bateman, Darling Range, Kalgoorlie, Scarborough, Nedlands, Riverton, Collie–Preston, Hillarys, Churchlands, Cockburn, Carine, Warren–Blackwood and South Perth. We also, of course, had re-elected members in the other seats. The map of the chamber became a very distinct colour, as we can see on this map that I am holding up. The member for Central Wheatbelt was elected as the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Cottesloe as Leader of the Liberal Party.

Madam Speaker, you became the first woman in 100 years to become Speaker in this place, and we acknowledge the tremendous stewardship that you have shown in our first year of Parliament.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Today marks the fifty-second sitting day of the year, excluding the three days of budget estimates. This equates to 17 sitting weeks for 2021, which is approximately 343 hours of sitting. During 2021, a total of around 54 government bills were introduced into this house and a total of around 42 bills were passed. The McGowan government has an ambitious agenda and delivered some outstanding outcomes. Although I have time to mention only a few, they include the following.

In 2021, we saw a continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the house passed important legislation to continue to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Western Australians including the COVID-19 Response Legislation Amendment (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Bill 2021, the COVID-19 Response Legislation Amendment (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Bill (No. 2) 2021 and the Protection of Information (Entry Registration Information Relating to COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases) Bill 2021.

Earlier this year, the house passed the Building and Construction Industry (Security of Payment) Bill 2021 that improves security of payment and fairness across the Western Australian building and construction industry, and ensures that our participants in the industry in Western Australia can be confident of getting paid on time, every time, for the work that they do.

The Minister for Planning fervently delivered the Metropolitan Region Scheme (Beeliar Wetlands) Bill 2021. That legislation now permanently protects Beeliar Regional Park for future generations by creating an A-class conservation reserve of 610 hectares.

A very important piece of legislation that also passed the house earlier this year was the Public Health Amendment (Safe Access Zones) Bill 2021, ensuring that women accessing abortion services in Western Australia can do so safely and peacefully without being confronted by protesters. An extremely important bill—one of the most important—the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021 also passed this house. That will give significant and long overdue reform to the management of cultural assets in the state. Earlier this week, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2021 was passed by this house. That legislation establishes a contemporary framework that will value and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The prolific legislator of this government, the Attorney General, continued to introduce many important pieces of legislation to this house, one of which was the Criminal Law (Unlawful Consorting and Prohibited Insignia) Bill 2021. The legislation will make Western Australia the jurisdiction with the toughest and most comprehensive laws in the country to fight serious and organised crime.

As we have just heard, the Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Bill 2021 has now passed into law with the assent of the Governor. This is significant reform that will ensure that every vote cast in the state is equal, no matter where someone may live.

In terms of business of the house, we have been busy. Around 23 petitions were tabled, 841 papers were tabled and 15 matters of public interest were debated throughout the year. There have also been around six non-procedural suspensions of standing orders this year. There were around 40 divisions this year, using the Templeman method of divisions. I remind members that the vote is still out on that exceptional piece of procedural reform. I urge the Procedure and Privileges Committee to consider very carefully the heritage nature of that particular procedure.

Mr David Templeman; Mr Shane Love; Mr Mark McGowan; Ms Mia Davies; Dr David Honey; Speaker

There were 352 questions on notice asked this year and, excluding today's question time, there have been around 860 questions without notice asked and answered. Lastly, 15 committee reports have been tabled this year. I acknowledge the work of our standing and procedural committees in this place.

Madam Speaker, it is important to thank some people who deserve our thanks and acknowledgement. You are the first. Thank you for your tremendous contribution as Speaker of the House and your stewardship.

We also thank your deputy, the member for Forrestfield, for his exceptional performance as well. The acting speakers have performed very, very well, and we thank the members for Albany, Bateman, Cockburn, Dawesville, Kalgoorlie and Landsdale for their tremendous stewardship of the chair. That was a dramatic pause!

I also acknowledge Madam Speaker's executive assistant, Rashelle Predovnik, and also, of course, our parliamentary staff here in the chamber: our wonderful Clerk, Kirsten Robinson, and her leadership team of executive assistant Anne Day; Liz Kerr; Mat Bates; Scott Nalder; and Sergeant-at-Arms, Isla Macphail—she is over there—and the magnificent staff in the Legislative Assembly Office including Denis Hippolyte, Lachlan Gregory, Alison O'Shaughnessy, Nikolas Carbone, Marie Martin and Darren Seet.

We sincerely thank the wonderful committee staff of the Parliament for their support. They are Alison Sharpe, Michele Chiasson, Catie Parsons, Rachel Wells, Sarah Palmer, Lucy Roberts, Carmen Cummings, Alan Charlton, Sam Hutchinson, Vanessa Beckingham, Sylvia Wolf, Suzanne Velella, Jovita Hogan, Pam Clarke and Trish Woodcock.

Thanks to the Parliamentary Services team, headed by Rob Hunter and his deputy, Patricia Traegde, who work behind the scenes to provide us with all the services that we take for granted. Thanks to the Director of Parliamentary Information and Education, Belinda Corey, and Judy Ballantyne and the Library team.

I particularly acknowledge our wonderful team in the Parliamentary Education Office, led by Peter Dooley. I am pleased that they are all in the chamber in the Speaker's gallery today. Sadly, Peter Dooley is leaving us this year. Peter has not been well. Peter, we thank you sincerely for the contribution you have made to the Parliament and its procedures, and particularly to the many children and members of the community whom you have so well presented the Parliament to in your service to this place. Thank you sincerely, Peter. We wish you the very, very, very best.

[Applause.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Also leaving the education team, retiring from his full-time position, is Mr Michael Loney. I know Michael very well. Michael is an esteemed actor and performer —

Dr D.J. Honey: And a better singer!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: He probably is a better singer than me! We thank you, Michael Loney, for your wonderful contribution to the Parliament over the time you have been here. I am sure your future endeavours in all the fields that you outlined to me this morning when I spoke to you will be delivered with the same outstanding presentation that you are well known for.

[Applause.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: All of us in this place realise how wonderful the education team is. We get so much great feedback from our schools and community organisations who are well looked after by our education team. I also thank Jordana Leavesley, Sarah Knox, Cherie Toovey, David Cox, Tina Beale and Ben Machowiak, who are our wonderful team.

To our wonderful family Hansard family, we thank them sincerely—Laurie Mansell and all the Hansard family and the team. It is not like the old days when we got the little bit of paper of our speeches, for those who remember, and would scribble the amendments on them. It is all done technically now. Heritage is very important!

The SPEAKER: We could bring them back, if you like, those little rolls!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Security and Reception Services are led by Tony Paterson and Stephanie Nguyen. We thank our security staff, particularly during this year, which, as we know, has been challenging for our security. We thank them for ensuring the safety of all members and, indeed, the visitors to this place and the staff.

To Building Services and the cleaning team, led by Hugh McCaffrey, we say thank you. Thanks to our gardeners and those who look after the grounds, led by Mr David Boag. They have shifted those magnificent heritage sewerage bollards. I will heritage list them next year, don't you worry about that! Thank you to the team.

To David Embry and the audiovisual team, thanks very much for your wonderful work down there in the bowels of the Parliament. It is very good work, I might say.

To Catering Services—some of us are showing that we are well looked after in that regard!—Enno Schijf and all the team, including executive chef, Brett Barrett, we thank you for keeping us well fed and well watered. Thanks to the dining room manager, Mark Gabrielli, and all the dining room team. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful team in the dining room. To them, wherever they are if they are listening, thank you very much. There will be some nibblies after the proceedings today. Thank you very much to all the staff in the lounges and the dining room. Happy birthday to Maria, who turns 60 in January—sorry Maria! We love you. We think you are wonderful.

Thanks to John Buchanan and all in the IT team. Thanks to Elma Ozich and the Finance team and to Tina Hunter, who leads the Human Resources and Payroll team.

In this place, I thank sincerely the government Whip, the member for Belmont, for the tremendous job that she is doing. Thank you very much for your ongoing and tremendous support.

[Applause.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I also thank the member for Joondalup, our deputy Whip, who stepped in when required during the year. We thank you sincerely for your work. I thank the opposition Whips for their work. They have a very difficult job. The member for Roe is a very affable man.

Ms M.J. Davies: He's worth every dollar.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Indeed. Thank you to the Whips.

I also thank the member for Moore, the manager of opposition business. I think we got on pretty well again this year. I have been very light on you; you are very keen to help out. Thank you for your work.

I also thank those members whom I have mentioned who have other roles in this place. I also thank all our members who have stepped up when required to speak and have stepped down when not required to speak!

Thank you to Clare Duckworth, Maria Lieschke and Amanda Low, who are in the office next to the Premier's office. They are very good. We have a good chat on Thursday afternoons. We solve the problems of the world, including errant mothers-in-law and all those sorts of things. We have very interesting conversations.

I thank the staff of the Premier's office for their ongoing support, management and assistance in managing this interesting place.

To my staff, thank you. On behalf of everyone here, I thank all our electorate office staff. Many of them have endured a difficult year. We in this place all know that our electorate staff are absolutely critical in their support and, indeed, the representation that they show all of us as elected members. To my electorate office staff—Larissa Wigmore, who had a little bub a few weeks back; Krystal Phillips, Jock Baines and Lucas Martin—I want to thank you.

On behalf of all the ministers, I want to thank our ministerial staff, who provide important support and advise us on ministerial duties. I thank my parliamentary secretary, the member for Swan Hills, for her work. I thank my chief of staff, Gary Hamley; principal policy officer Tarnya Widdicombe; Kym Coolhaas, my media adviser; my policy officers, Ian Johnson, Jake Wittey and Caroline O'Neill; and my other administration officers, including my executive officer, Danielle McKenzie, Megan MacLean, Kelly Howat, Georgia McGovern, Demi-May Renfree, who will get married next year—good on you, Demi-May; and Kelly McManus, who was with us at the beginning of the year but changed over. Thank you, Kelly, and to all those who assisted us in our election.

It was very interesting to consider how to close the day. Some songs came to mind. The Minister for Planning kept harassing me all the time, "What are you doing? What are you going to do?", all the way down the passageway!

Ms R. Saffioti: You still haven't told me.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: No, I still have not told you.

This has been an interesting year. As members know, some remarkable things happened to the state. We had a grand final in Perth, which we never envisaged. At one stage, I was thinking of doing Paul Kelly, "I'm high on the hill, looking over the bridge to the stadium", but I am not going to do that because that is as far as I got. I was going to do a Bee Gees song, and sing about Metronet, "There's a light, another set of traffic lights", but that is as far as I got. Then I thought about what happened through the year and I thought that Western Australia has "done it our way"! Then I forgot that because I did not get very far with it.

Premier, I want to congratulate you. I know you have had a challenging time over the last few months with your family and the threats and things that you have endured. I want to thank you on behalf of the state, quite frankly, because I think you have done a fantastic job and, despite all those challenges, you have been outstanding, so thank you. I have known him for a long time. He always introduces me as the drunkest man at his wedding. No, he does! During the election campaign, when I had my broken leg —

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Actually, my Liberal opponent accused me of doing it on purpose.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Serve the party; that is right.

It was the best campaigning tool ever, as I motored my way around in my little motorised gopher doorknocking. He said, “I reckon that’s not true.” He came up to me during the election campaign and said, “I reckon that’s not true. It’s not real.” I said, “Why, just because I was wearing it on the other foot yesterday? What’s the story?”

So in the end I thought of this little number; it is only short. I dedicate this to you, Peter, and to Western Australia —

And now the end is near
As we draw the Christmas curtain
My friends, well, what a year
Of ups and downs, of that I’m certain
In March, the map turned red
We won seats along every byway
And more, much more than this
We’ve done it our way

Critics, we have had a few
But then again, too many to mention
We did what we had to do
To keep us safe, without exemptions.
We’ve seen things we’ve never seen
As we chat in the urinal
Who would have thought
We’d see a grand final

But we think it’s a bit rough
They want our GST
They can go and get stuffed
’Cause through it all, there is no doubt
Other states put in less than they take out
So we’ll face them all
We’ll stand tall
And do it our way

We’ve loved, we’ve laughed and cried
From Geraldton, right down to Freo
Remember the little girl
When she said, “my name is Cleo.”
The French, are mighty peeved
Somo’s canned their submarines now
But more, much more than this
We’ve done it our way

And so, Christmas nears
Clear your emails, clear your faxes
Dodge Clive Palmer and conspirators
As we endure the anti-vaxxers
Stay safe, enjoy Christmas cheer
And to those who procrastinated
Do your family and the state a turn
Get vaccinated

Merry Christmas everyone.

[Applause.]

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.53 pm]: So there you there! Thank you, Leader of the House, for yet another fine example of why you are a very good actor and a good singer. We all look forward to this part of the year to hear what you will come up with next. I think you have made a rod for your own back, though, because every year you are now expected to get a bit higher over the bar from last year, and you are being criticised, not on the level of what we could all do, but for what you were able to do last year, so it is a bit unfortunate in that sense, but we all enjoy it very much.

I hope that if there is at any stage a reshuffle or anything changes and there is a new Leader of the House—the Deputy Premier or the Minister for Transport, whoever might end up in that role—they will carry on that fine tradition of providing such wonderful entertainment at the end of the parliamentary year. I am sure you will be able to coach them. You have got plenty of skill and ability in teaching. They have a lot to learn, but plenty of time to do it in.

This year has seen, as the Leader of the House has pointed out so kindly, a tremendous change in the composition of the chamber. That has thrown some particular pressures upon this side of the house. I want to acknowledge that as Leader of the House, you have been quite decent and helpful to deal with. I appreciate your affable manner when we come to you and discuss issues that we might have, and we do try to get along. We are also very much looking forward to the count on the new way of doing divisions, where perhaps we will not have to sit here and look around the room but can just leave and come back later. That would be very good. If members have not already filled out their survey forms, could they please do that, and vote for change. Be progressive—vote for change.

There has been a big change in the composition of the Parliament generally. In the 100th year since the election of the first woman to this Parliament, we have had the ascension, if you like, of the then mother of the house when she sat over there, I think behind members of the Liberal Party in fact, and was dragged reluctantly to the chair, even though she was presiding over it. I cannot quite remember how that worked. It was quite unique to see a bit of history happening right here in front of us, with the appointment of the first female Speaker in that very significant 100th year. This is also the year that we saw the 100th woman elected to this Parliament. I understand that in total terms, there might actually be more women in the Parliament now than men. That is a tremendous change for the betterment of our Parliament, as it reflects more fully the society that it seeks to represent.

I have walked past a picture in the hall near the Speaker's office. It is the “black mask” picture of when the Speaker had the presentation with the Governor. It is a picture of our female Speaker, and two female members of the Australian Labor Party, one of them being the 100th person, I believe, to have been elected. I cannot quite recall which particular one it was. Put your hand up, Caitlin! She is over there.

The SPEAKER: It was the members for Kimberley and Kalgoorlie who accompanied us.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Sorry. There you go! I will not look so begrudgingly at that photograph anymore, because along with those significant facts, there is also a female Clerk and a female Sergeant-at-Arms. Just before we decided who should go up there from our party, the Leader of the Opposition, the first female Leader of the National Party in Western Australia, said to me, “I’ve been up there lots of times. You go.” It is a great pity that that photograph does not have our first female leader in there as well as a commemoration of that tremendously significant moment in time.

Madam Speaker, you have impressed us all with the way that you manage the business of the house. Through all those difficult moments that occur in the chair, you carry yourself with great authority. You deliberate fairly and are well respected by all sides of the house and are a credit to this house and to this Parliament.

I would also like to thank the Deputy Speaker, the member for Forrestfield. I note that the first time that he actually opened the proceedings of Parliament, he did stumble over the words of the prayer a little, and it was becoming quite amusing for him, but he eventually got through—he is very professional—and managed to carry on and get the business underway.

I would like to thank the Acting Speakers—the members for Albany, Bateman, Cockburn, Dawesville and Kalgoorlie—who have all taken on their new roles very seriously. I would also like to make note of the member for Maylands, who was Deputy Speaker in the previous Parliament, which was in this calendar year as well, so I acknowledge her also. To the new members: congratulations on your election. I say that with mixed feelings, but in a genuine sense, it is a tremendous honour to serve in this place. On a personal level, many of us understand that we might have different views, but the great thing we have in this country, as a rule, is a respectful understanding that there are differences of opinion.

To the Premier, I would like to put on the record that we do not like to see the sorts of threats and pressure that is being put on you at the moment. It is un-Australian and un-Western Australian and it should not happen. People should be able to do their job as members of Parliament and not be put in that position. You have the support of the Nationals WA in that regard.

The Leader of the House went through a whole lot of statistics so I will not bore everyone with the numbers of questions and bills. I note, though, that there were a few more than he claimed; I think 46 bills have gone through this chamber. I have to say, they go through pretty quickly, and sometimes we do not think there is enough time to discuss them, but there is no doubt that a very large number of bills have been dealt with since the March election, principally with the help of the Attorney General. When this Parliament first started, the Leader of the Opposition was tasked with representing the opposition in this place when the Attorney General brought bills here, but it became clear that she would never be able to do anything else other than sit in Parliament, so there has been a bit of a changing of the guard in that regard.

I would like to thank our Whip, Peter Rundle, and acknowledge the work of the government Whip, the member for Belmont, in making sure that the house works well. It is not easy, when there is such an imbalance of numbers, to make sure everything runs smoothly, so well done to both of you for that.

I would like to thank all the staff. The Leader of the House went through them all in great detail, but I would like to make mention of the Clerk, Kirsten, who always gives good advice. I know she gives just as good advice to other members, and she always lays out how the parliamentary processes work and explains it all very well. She is ably supported by her Deputy Clerk, Scott Nalder, who similarly offers great advice. To Mat and Liz sitting over there: thank you. Mat has had to go through many petitions for me, straightening them out and making a few helpful suggestions as to how I get all these nonconforming petitions actually recognised, so thanks very much, Mat. I have nearly forgiven you for the change of cuisine at the committee offices when you first went over there and got rid of the sausage rolls and installed the stale Arnott's biscuits! We have almost forgiven you; you did say that I hold a grudge longer than anyone you have ever met, and I think you are right!

I acknowledge the Sergeant-at-Arms, Dr Isla Macphail; the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms, Denis Hippolyte; and the parliamentary officers: Lachlan Gregory, Nik Carbone, Alison O'Shaughnessy, Marie Martin and Darren Seet; all of the Legislative Assembly research office staff and the committee staff; the Hansard reporters; and our education crew, who have already been recognised here. I did not know that Michael was retiring, so that is sad, and Peter is also leaving. Thanks very much for the service you provide, because one of my favourite things here is having a school visit from my electorate. It might be from a very small town in a quite remote place, and the kids are really excited to be coming to Perth. The quality of our education staff is high, as is the way they handle the kids by getting them excited and interested in what goes on and what has happened here in the past—the history of the colony of Western Australia. I have heard them downstairs looking at an early meeting of the Legislative Council. I have actually learnt quite a bit just from listening to them talk to the kids. When I have to show people around, I have picked up on some of those clues and repeat what was said.

To all the other people, the Library staff, Rob Hunter and his crew, the caterers, the gardeners, the maintenance crew, security, those people who work somewhere in the bowels of the building churning out our pay and making sure that everything runs properly, thank you to all of you for everything that you do in this place. I hope I have not forgotten anyone. I would also like to thank the security staff and the police who greet us at the door and make sure that everything is going well around the precinct of Parliament. Thanks very much to all those people.

I would like to thank all the family members who support all members of Parliament when we are sitting and when we are in our day-to-day lives, not just here in Parliament but also out and about in the community. Now that we are heading into this time of a more, supposedly, restful period, I would urge everyone to take care. Especially for country members, it gets very chaotic as we try to drive from one town or one place to the next and from one function to the next. The next couple of weeks will be a very busy time when we leave this place, as we get around to all those end-of-year events, all the school and other events that we get to attend as members of Parliament.

I hope everybody enjoys their break and that one day soon we will all be able to reunite with family and friends interstate and overseas. We all look forward to that happening in the near future.

I have a daughter who works near the Bayswater underpass, Minister for Transport. I travel up and down Guildford Road quite a bit as well, going to and from my electorate—it is the easiest way. I hope that the changes around Whatley Crescent can be resolved as quickly as possible because there is a bit of a problem going on there at the moment. I understand from someone that another truck got stuck recently under the Bayswater underpass. When the truck was approached by one of the Metronet crew to see whether it could be moved, it appeared it was not actually stuck; it had just run out of fuel because it had been sitting there that long in the traffic jam!

With that, I hope everybody enjoys their Christmas and keeps very safe and well. Thanks very much to all staff and everybody who has contributed to 2021.

MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [5.07 pm]: Firstly, I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for his kind words towards me. Thank you so much; that is much appreciated.

I also thank the Leader of the House, the member for Mandurah, for his very kind words to me and for his very warm and entertaining address, and his wonderful song. What he does every year becomes a YouTube sensation! He is quite famous. Apparently in some parts of the world he is highly recognised as he walks down the street! There are villages in Siberia that have his photo up in the town hall. He is an amazingly famous person. He was truthful when he said that he was the drunkest man at my wedding, and that was a very tough competition. He came through that night and the garden was never the same! He also has created a bit of parliamentary history with the voting system he has put in place, which I call the "Templeman technique". We are all very hopeful that the Procedure and Privileges Committee will come down with a new technique and the Templeman technique will be a footnote in a volume of Erskine May's *Parliamentary practice* at some point in the future, which parliamentary historians will analyse.

The year 2021 has been a long one, just as 2020 was. We started the year with an election campaign. As all members know, the election campaign is a gruelling period. For me, it was basically 70 days from 4 January through to the day of the election. It was every day for 10 weeks, with all the stresses and pressures involved in an election campaign. It is a gruelling period, and all of us in elected office understand that. Indeed, every parliamentarian around Australia understands that, and it is probably worse at a federal level. That is what we put ourselves through as part of our system—this remarkable effort to be successful and implement your agenda. That is the democratic process. Although I cannot say that I enjoyed it, it was certainly harder than perhaps it appeared from the outside.

On 31 January, during the election campaign, we went into a five-day lockdown. A day later, there was the devastating bushfire in the Perth hills, and that was followed by cyclones, floods and even a landslide. We had a lot of natural disasters throughout the year. We also had the wonderfully uplifting news of the discovery of Cleo in Carnarvon, which brought a tear to many eyes. It was a very exciting event. I have had people come up to me and say that they woke up that morning to the news on their phone and they woke up their husband or wife to tell them that Cleo had been found. It was an event of world significance. Congratulations to all the police officers and analysts involved in that success. It was an amazing effort and all our thoughts go to Cleo and her family.

Throughout 2021, we continued to deal with the pandemic, which has caused devastation across the globe. Since the lockdown periods in March, April and May last year, we have had a total of 12 days of lockdown. Other states have had hundreds of days of lockdown. It has been very debilitating for their societies, their health systems and their economies, and for the mental health of their people. Our situation has been immeasurably better. We had the general election, which I will talk about in a moment. Parliament still managed to sit for a full calendar of 18 weeks. Ordinarily, it is around 19 to 20 weeks, but this year we crammed in 18 weeks in the period after the election in March, so it has been an intense period of parliamentary sitting.

Back in March, we started the vaccination rollout for the largest jurisdiction in the entire world. As all members know, we had a very limited number of people who could get a vaccination up-front, but supplies increased and now everyone over the age of 12 years is eligible. We now have a first-dose rate of well over 85 per cent for that group, which, in a jurisdiction the size of Western Australia, with all the difficulties that that involves, is a wonderful outcome.

For the first time in history, we held the AFL grand final in Perth. It was a marvellously wonderful few weeks of excitement that I think lifted spirits all over the state.

We had the election, and I want to say a few things about that. Firstly, I acknowledge those people who lost their seats during the election. It is a very hard experience. I have not been through it myself, but I know from people who have that it is very hard and very mentally taxing. A lot of the time, the reason for it has nothing to do with the member involved. Our thoughts are with all those people. To those who left voluntarily and went out on their own terms, I wish them all the best. A few names come to mind, and they are quite famous names when we think about it: Ben Wyatt, Fran Logan, Mick Murray, Peter Watson, John McGrath, Janine Freeman and Josie Farrer. Perhaps there were some others.

Mr R.H. Cook: Mike Nahan.

Mr M. McGOWAN: And Mike Nahan.

Mr Y. Mubarakai: Dean Nalder.

Mr M. McGOWAN: And Dean Nalder. There you go. There were a few others. They are quite famous names in Western Australian political history who left of their own accord, and some other people left as well who perhaps did not want to leave.

I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on her ascension to the role. It is a difficult job, as those of us who have been there know. It has many challenges, including getting up and doing it when you do not want to. I congratulate her on that. I congratulate the Leader of the Liberal Party, the member for Cottesloe, on assuming the role of leadership of one of the major political parties of Australia, which is quite an achievement.

I also acknowledge you, Madam Speaker, the first female speaker of the Assembly. That is quite an achievement. After 27 years here—1994—the Speaker probably does not know this, but I doorknocked or letterboxed for her in her first campaign in Glendalough. I was out there wandering the streets of Glendalough. I had no idea where I was! Back then, I went and did that for her, and it is great to see you in this important role. By the way, you are doing a wonderful job; everyone says it. And I am not just saying that!

To all the new members, there are 19 new members of the Assembly and 13 are women. Can I congratulate each and every one of you. It is a job like no other. Always remember, it is a privilege to be here. No matter what happens—if you are here for 30 years—it is a privilege just to be here. For every one of us who gets here, a lot of people have tried, so always be appreciative of the importance of the role that you are performing here. You represent thousands of people in your electorates and millions of people across the state, so it is a very important role, and that should never be lost.

Can I acknowledge that it was an unusual election, and it has created a few First World problems for me. Firstly, the caucus room is too small! That is a problem no leader of the government in Western Australia has ever had before. We have had to occupy the dining room, which causes its own issues, but that is obviously a First World problem. Secondly, it was problematic—and I will tell you honestly, opposition—working out the seating plan for you. Another First World problem was how to deal with that. I think we came up with a good compromise. It means that when future historians look at the picture of the Parliament, they will think the member for Mandurah was the Premier as a consequence of the new seating arrangements! I obviously upset some of our members, because sometimes in full flight, as do other ministers, we will yell that those opposite are useless or those opposite are hopeless and we are looking at all our own MPs! “Those opposite” is just a turn of phrase. It is another First World problem we have created.

There are lots of MPs I would like to congratulate on our own side, and I do not mean to be partisan, especially those new Labor MPs who won electorates that had never been held by Labor before. Off the top of my head, I came up with Nedlands, Churchlands, Carine, South Perth, Bateman and Dawesville. Some of the seats that were won had not been held by Labor for 30 years or so. To those of you who won seats for the first time, congratulations; it is quite an achievement. I suspect your constituents will be pleasantly surprised that you are normal, reasonable, decent human beings. That would be a good thing for your constituents to experience! By the way, you are all enthusiastic, excited, great people. It is a great team we have in government.

Can I comment on this year. When we were sworn in, we were wearing face masks. Today we are living with minimal restrictions. Over the course of the last two years we have had a very normal life in Western Australia, but despite all of that—I know COVID dominates a lot of the attention around the country in Western Australia—we have had a program of reform. I will read some of our program of achievement and reform, because government is about achievement. That is all it is about. Over the course of this year I am very pleased that we have been able to put in place a record \$5.8 billion budget surplus, something that Ben Wyatt was not able to achieve!

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I said it under privilege! I am seeing him tomorrow; I will remind him!

We achieved electoral equality in the upper house; the lowest rate of national unemployment; 120 000 jobs over the last four and a half years; the implementation of voluntary assisted dying; railcar manufacturing back in Midland; the Beeliar wetlands protected; more TAFE courses with lower fees, and even free courses across the state; safe access zones for women; and the ending of logging of native forests, with 400 000 hectares put into national parks. There is the security of payment laws, the Plan for Plastics and even the ticket scalping legislation, which I think we got through in time for the grand final, so hopefully it made a difference. Recently we put in place the domestic gas arrangements for the Scarborough gas project. We have had the biggest expansion of national marine parks in the state’s history, our vaccination rates climb every single day and, obviously, we beat Clive Palmer in the High Court—not that I am happy about that!

We should also not forget our friends in the Council are still sitting and dealing with and passing important legislation. We thank them for all their hard work.

In closing, I will acknowledge staff and people. Firstly, I thank the people from the Parliamentary Education Office, which the member for Mandurah mentioned, in particular, the retiring Peter Dooley and Michael Loney. Thank you so much for all your work. I find that they are so knowledgeable and so enthusiastic with school students. Such an incredible number of students come to Parliament; virtually every single day I walk out of my office, there is a school group there. So many students are coming through, which is great. Learning about civics and government is terrific. I always say hello to the kids. The education office does a wonderful job, so thank you to Peter Dooley and Michael Loney on your retirement.

I acknowledge all the chamber staff, Parliament staff, in particular the kitchen staff and the gardeners who do a marvellous job around the building, and all the other staff in the building. I thank all the parliamentary security staff. They obviously have an important role now. I thank the police at Parliament. In particular, I just want to thank my dignitary protection unit officers, the police officers I work with. They are terrific people. It would be fair to say that my first four years and seven months in this role were fairly calm, but to quote my favourite philosopher from *Anchorman*, Ron Burgundy, “It escalated quickly.” I thank the dignitary protection unit staff for their assistance over recent months.

I also acknowledge the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Public Sector Commission and Treasury staff who work directly with me. They are all great public servants.

I thank the press corps who are here. Yes, he is here. The press corps is here—there he is! I thank the press corps for all their work over the course of this year covering an election campaign, COVID, finding Cleo and everything else. It has been a big year. They work with limited resources and have to do multiple jobs these days. I thank them for all their work. That front page about me going to the footy—not so much. But I thought everything else was quite fair and balanced.

I thank the ministerial and electorate office staff, particular my electorate office staff, who have had a hard time. Thank you to all the ministerial staff across government for your work. I thank all my staff in the Premier's office. They are great people but I do not get much time to talk to them, honestly. Thank you so much for all the work you do supporting me, in particular my chief of staff, Daniel Pastorelli. I thank my retiring staff who left after the election. There were a few, but in particular I want to acknowledge Guy Houston and Jo Gaines. They are wonderful people and I miss them every day.

The Deputy Premier and I thank the emergency management team. We go to emergency management team meetings in the morning probably three times a week now. I would like to thank staff in the Departments of Health and Premier and Cabinet, the Public Sector Commissioner, the Chief Health Officer, the directors general of Health and Premier and Cabinet, the Commissioner of Police, the Minister for Health, and all the associated staff who do a marvellous job as part of the emergency management team, making decisions to keep the state safe.

Finally, I thank my family, my wife and three children. My oldest boy is shortly to return from leavers so I am sure he will be doing a lot of sleeping! Each of them has been wonderful. I am sure that goes for all of us about all our families who support us in this role. Thank you very much and happy Christmas.

[Applause.]

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition) [5.25 pm]: I rise on behalf of the opposition to contribute to this adjournment debate and offer our thanks and appreciation to everyone in this house who makes it possible for us to do our jobs as members of Parliament, and what a year it has been! Congratulations, Leader of the House, on that performance. I concur with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. That was a marvellous performance and we all looked forward to it very much.

I will start with you, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much for your service this year. It has been wonderful to see you take that position as the first woman in that role and to make sure that the house is in order, most of the time, during the year.

To the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Kirsten, and your team, thank you very much. We have appreciated your guidance and support, particularly in a year in which many of us have been in new roles and had to deal with very unfamiliar processes, despite some of us having been in this place for a number of years. You are also very conscientious and your expertise is invaluable in assisting us with those roles.

Thank you to all the teams that make the Parliament work: the Parliamentary Services Department, the Administration/Executive team, Security and Library and Information Services. As the opposition, we moved downstairs into the rooms just outside the chamber. We were originally in the top corner of the building in the old President's suite for a number of years. That move was a mammoth task in itself. The Premier talked about the positions here and I know that Rob and his team, in trying to figure out how to fit us all in after the election, were equally as challenged. He has unending patience. From the Nationals' perspective, we miss walking through the Library and stealing their Minties. We are not nearly as regular visitors these days.

Thank you to the Hansard reporters for their tireless efforts. I now sit much closer to Hansard and the team that scribes here between the front benches. It is an absolute marvel to watch them work away, especially when the house gets a little unruly. They are quite an amazing group of people. When I explain to people outside this chamber that we get a full transcript of everything that has been said in this house at the end of every day, it is always met with great astonishment. They are a very talented and diligent group and they make us sound as sensible as possible when we go back and read our speeches.

Thank you to the delightful Parliamentary Education Office staff who host tours throughout the year, both here and in the community. I have attended a number in Albany and I have seen them out and about in the regions, sharing the purpose and role of the Parliament and parliamentarians. To Michael and Peter, we wish you all the very best in your retirement. You have been fixtures in this place for such a long time. It will be very strange not to see you hosting students and guests around our Parliament.

Thank you to the security guards who always meet us with a smile and keep us safe and to the dining room staff and hospitality staff who keep us fed and/or coffee-ed. Thank you to the police. I think it has been mentioned a number of times the significant increase in their presence here. I am not sure that it is the most exciting detail for the Western Australia police, but we appreciate very much having them here, particularly as we have had to deal with some difficult issues this year. To the cleaning and gardening staff working behind the scenes, thank you; we are truly blessed to work in such a beautiful building.

To the media and the team that walk the corridors of Parliament House and also those who are spread across the entire state, we appreciate very much the fact that there are limited resources and that it is a job. We are almost symbiotic in what we do in this place. We rely as much on you as you do on us to fill those column inches and television screens, and we appreciate the opportunity to work with you all. I, like you, dream of press conferences that are a COVID-free

affair. I suspect that we have some way to go on this, but we hope that next year there will be some other issues that we can turn our minds to every time we meet.

To my colleagues in the alliance, the member for Cottesloe and the member for Vasse, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, I thank you for your hard work, goodwill and commitment to making the alliance work. It has been a different year for us in the context of the outcome of the election and we truly have had to find ways to work together in a very short period. To my team, the Nationals WA, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, manager of opposition business and member for Moore; the member for North West Central; and the member for Roe, who is our Whip and earns every last dollar, along with all the shadow portfolios that they have taken on in addition to their electorate duties, thank you very much for your commitment and persistence.

It has been an enormous year from a parliamentary perspective. I know that in the froth and bubble of debate, there are accusations slung from one side to the other about work ethic and what we do on this side of the house. I can truly say that, despite the truly extraordinary circumstances we started the year in, we have managed to turn up every day and make sure that we have asked the questions, run the debates, got across the legislation when we can and continued to work in our electorates and manage those shadow portfolios to the very best of our ability. The Premier acknowledged that he was the Leader of the Opposition for five and a half years and well knows the slog that comes with the joy of sitting on this side of the chamber. Thank you for acknowledging that, because it has been a hard slog with severely depleted numbers; that is a fact, but that is how the people of Western Australia voted. As the Premier said, it is a privilege to turn up here every day and be a member of Parliament, regardless of how the numbers look.

I offer a huge thankyou and a debt of gratitude to our electorate office staff—those who are on the frontline in our electorates every day. We work hand in glove with these remarkable, patient and dedicated people who are very passionate about serving their community. I make a very special mention of my electorate staff: Kath Brown, Rhonda Lawrence, Michelle Alvaro and Wendy Chambers. They are all amazing women. I could not do the job without them and I look forward to spending some time in the electorate between now and Christmas as the parliamentary year draws to a close. To the team we have working behind the scenes here in Parliament in the leader's office—Sam Harma, Heather York, Tay Allers, Douglas Rogers, Emily Evans, Maddison McNeil, Liza Day and Michelle Rossouw—thank you very much for your hard work and dedication, early starts, late finishes and operating under pressure while maintaining good grace and patience with a boss who could lighten up every now and then. You certainly make our lives a lot easier. To Josh Nyman, Anthea Wesley and Ashwini Saseedaran, who left us during the year for new adventures, thank you for your service. We wish you all the very best.

In closing, I want to say to the Premier and the cabinet and the ministers who work with us across the chamber that we appreciate it. To all the new members in this chamber, it has been an experience to share this chamber and halls of Parliament with you all. Premier, I echo what the member for Moore said. I truly hope the behaviour that has been displayed towards you, your family and other members will cease and desist. There is no place for violence and threats towards any person to get their point across, and anybody who does that should be condemned for their behaviour. It has been appalling to see that behaviour in public. Despite what may be said, there is no difference between us and the government in relation to vaccinations. I have absolutely no patience for people who peddle anti-vaccination misinformation. I urge everyone, as we head towards Christmas, to get out there and roll up their sleeves. We are all asked from time to time to do things that we may not agree with for the greater good of our community, and this is absolutely one of those things. To keep our community safe, for our friends, our family and our loved ones, our colleagues and the vulnerable, I share the message that the Minister for Health and the Premier speak so often, as I know every member does: just get vaccinated.

To those who are going into the Christmas break after the Wooroloo fires and cyclone Seroja, which were mentioned earlier, we think of you and those who have been displaced or are trying to rebuild. Our hearts go out to you. Things move on very quickly and the world moves on, but they are all still dealing with the fallout of those challenges. We all think of you at this very difficult time. I hope everyone gets to spend some time with their family and friends. I hope everyone in here gets to spend some time with family and friends, because nothing is more important.

Have a wonderful time over Christmas and the New Year, and we will see you, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, ready for opposition in 2022. Thank you, everyone.

[Applause.]

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [5.34 pm]: I am pleased to add a few comments to the end of year adjournment motion. It is a considerable understatement to say that the past year has been a very dramatic time for my party. The state election result was devastating. We lost the majority of our Parliamentary Liberal Party members. I wish to place on the public record my thanks to and respect for the contribution all those members made to this place. Obviously, as members know, those who lost their seats did not have the opportunity to make a valedictory speech, which is a pity, but I would like to acknowledge the contribution that the following members who lost their seats made to this place and their communities in the last Parliament: Zak Kirkup, Hon Liza Harvey, Hon Bill Marmion, Sean L'Estrange, Tony Krsticevic, Alyssa Hayden, Peter Katsambanis, Kyran O'Donnell,

Hon Jim Chown and Hon Michael Mischin. I would also like to especially acknowledge Hon Terry Redman, who was not returned to his seat for the National Party.

I congratulate all members. It has been a great pleasure to meet you and see the different perspectives you bring to this place. I have sympathy for you insofar as there are so many of you that it is perhaps hard for you to get the experience you deserve, but I can tell you that on this side we are getting a little bit too much experience in the parliamentary process, but we hope to remedy that problem at the next election. I miss the good company and support in Parliament of those colleagues who I have mentioned.

Premier, thank you for your kind words. I think that I said when I first came into this place that I have great respect for the role that you and the government have. I have a great respect for and understanding of the difficulty of the role that you have. For all of us, it is more often our families who carry the real burden because they do not get the chance to be in the fray and they just hear the hurtful things and they just have to put up with it. But in the case of the Premier, for his family to be subject to the things that they have been subject to, and his staff in his electorate office, that is utterly unacceptable. As the member for Moore said, you have our complete understanding and support. It is utterly intolerable and unacceptable behaviour for anyone to demonstrate. I hope that you take strength from that support from this side.

One of the fortunate consequences of the resounding loss was the need to form an alliance with our National Party colleagues and to make sure that we could be an effective opposition, because that is no small thing, as members opposite know. One of the highlights of the new Parliament for me has been the effective way that we have worked so well together to perform this task. I am extremely grateful for the support and leadership shown by the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mia Davies, and the genuine spirit of cooperation and goodwill displayed by members from both parties, and especially to my deputy, Libby Mettam, the member for Vasse, who has been a fantastic support for me in my role.

I thank the Speaker and all her team for their valiant efforts to maintain order in this place. I think you do a wonderful job, and that assists us all. I thank all the parliamentary staff, who serve us so well, for their professionalism and discretion. The way that they ensure our processes run smoothly is just wonderful. I know that I can safely rely on their support and guidance whenever it is required. I thank all the dining room staff for their kindness and good company. Afternoon tea with Anna is a wonderful salve for the bruising parliamentary encounters! I want to acknowledge my staff, who do the hard work for little public recognition. I will not go through all those staff, but in particular I acknowledge Blair Stratton for the superb contribution he has made to our party and Parliament since 2005. Blair's considerable talent will go to good use in his new role at Rio Tinto.

I will not pretend that it has been an easy time since the last election. Given the compression of sittings during the second half of the year, the workload has been considerable for our reduced team. Nevertheless, I believe that in these difficult circumstances we have been up to the task of holding the government to account. I thank all my Liberal and National Party colleagues for their collegiality and hard work this year.

The coming year will be a challenging time for Western Australia. At some stage our state will be opened up to the rest of Australia. This will be a welcome time for the many thousands of Western Australians who have been stranded overseas and interstate over the past 18 months, as well as the very many businesses that are desperate for workers. It will also mean that there is a near certainty that COVID-19 will enter our state. That will put pressure on our medical services and other parts of our state. Our health services are likely to be put under even more pressure. I genuinely wish the government every success in dealing with this eventuality. Whatever our political views, no-one wishes illness or disease on our community. I hope that the plans and contingencies put in place by the government are successful in minimising any negative impacts on our community.

Otherwise, members, I wish all of you a very happy and safe Christmas and new year. Next year will be a very busy time for all of us and for everyone involved in government and the affairs of our state. I hope you all have the opportunity to relax and spend time with the people you love and return refreshed and invigorated next year.

[Applause.]

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [5.40 pm]: Members, as others have reflected, 2021 has been a truly momentous year. Many of you in this chamber will have had your lives changed—some of them turned upside down. This time last year, many of you probably did not anticipate that you would necessarily be sitting in this chamber. Other members would not have anticipated being in the roles that they currently occupy.

It has been a huge honour for me. I thank each and every one of you for supporting me in the role as Speaker. It is a particular honour to be the first woman Speaker in the 100th year since the election of Edith Cowan, the first woman to enter Parliament, not just in Western Australia but in Australia. It is also a special privilege, given that we nearly have an equal number of women members in this chamber as men. We are a fraction of a per cent short. I have reflected on the change since I entered Parliament 27 and a half years ago, when there was a vast majority of men in here. As others have commented, today's numbers so much better reflect the community we represent.

As part of the change that has happened in my life, this role has been a really significant change for me. Members will be aware that I served as the police spokesperson in government and in opposition for some 18 years, nine of those in government—five years in the Gallop government and the last four years in the McGowan government. Front and centre of mind for me in taking on that role was the welfare and wellbeing of our police officers—looking after those people who put their lives on the line to look after us. With a little indulgence, given the passing of the Police Amendment (Compensation Scheme) Bill 2021 today, I would like to make a couple of reflections.

I had the huge privilege of introducing a range of measures to better protect our police officers. They were things that we now take for granted, such as occupational health and safety coverage; the universal issue of the Glock firearm for all officers, so they do not have to have lots of different firearms; and the universal issue of tasers as a nonlethal force option for our police officers. We initiated a post-service medical for police officers so that those who were medically retired could get their medical bills paid post-service. We introduced other entitlements such as mobile phones, body cameras and, very importantly, personal issue stab-proof vests, which are among the best in the world. We introduced a redress scheme for police officers who were dismissed for medical reasons in years gone by. We also made a legislative amendment to section 8 of the Police Act to ensure that those who were medically retired were not retired under the same section of the act as those in whom the Commissioner of Police had lost confidence because of corruption or issues of that nature. It was an undignified exit for medically retired officers to be retired under that same provision. We also introduced a certificate of honourable discharge for those officers and backdated those certificates. Those officers who were willing to come in attended a ceremony to get that honourable discharge because, unfortunately, many of them left the service without so much as a thankyou.

The final matter that I wanted to achieve in my time as police minister was to have a workers' compensation—like scheme for our police officers. That was the final piece of the jigsaw and it was not an easy thing to achieve. It was not easy because it was not as simple as just giving police access to the same workers' compensation scheme that other workers have. Police had a range of different entitlements that were pre-existing and those entitlements were embedded into the Police Act. They had vastly, and rightfully, more generous leave entitlements than other employees and other workers. They also had vastly and justifiably better arrangements to provide for their medical care whilst they were engaged as police officers. Historically, they were not even regarded as workers; they were officers of the Crown and that is why they were not included under various pieces of state legislation. It was not a matter of just incorporating them within an act. There was a lot of toing and froing by various people over the years; most of it involved negotiations that suggested that perhaps police could lose some of their existing entitlements for medical coverage or leave coverage or the like, in exchange for getting the lump sum compensation payment post-service. Fortunately, with the support of the Premier and government ministers in the last term of government, I was able to negotiate with the Western Australian Police Union of Workers terms of agreement for us to put in place a scheme specifically for medically retired police officers.

I want to thank a number of my colleagues for that, in particular. Most importantly, I would like to thank the current Minister for Police not just for bringing the bill to the house, but for his genuine support over very many years, because I think with his service background, he had very ready empathy for those police officers. I also thank the Premier, the former member for Victoria Park, the member for Mandurah and the member for Landsdale, who did the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee's *The toll of trauma on Western Australian emergency staff and volunteers* report. Those ministers and members all met with medically retired police officers who were very affected by their service. Some of the officers' names who come to mind include Dave Bentley, David Matthews, Dave Nelson and Mike Thornbury. I know that the particular members I mentioned met with quite a number of those persons. I pay particular tribute to David Bentley, who headed up the Medically Retired Western Australian Police Officers Association and took on a whole lot of the burden of the redress and also the anxieties of those people who had been medically retired, because you cannot make everybody happy in that circumstance.

The greatest tribute I think must go to Rachel Sackville-Minchin, who stood with me and who now stands with the current police minister, and who really did the nuts-and-bolts work of getting the legislation to a state in which it was to be able to be presented to the house. For those who do not know, Rachel was many years ago employed by the police union before she came to work for me in the Gallop government and then as my chief of staff in the McGowan government. We have stayed the course. Minister, I am very pleased that finally that legislation has been able to pass the house.

I thank members for their indulgence on that topic, but as Speaker, I do not get the opportunity that all of you get to talk about lots of things of interest to me every day.

Today marks the end of the parliamentary calendar for the Legislative Assembly. I am inspired by all the new members who have been elected and I am also very grateful for the support of members who were re-elected. I want to give a special thanks to the member for Forrestfield as the Deputy Speaker, who has always stood at the ready and done a fantastic job whenever he has been in the chair. I would also like to thank the Acting Speakers, one very experienced in the member for Landsdale, but also five newbies: the members for Albany, Bateman, Cockburn,

Dawesville and Kalgoorlie. Those members had never sat in this house before, and they have been doing a fantastic job as Acting Speakers—even though some of you have given them a bit of angst!

There is a whole range of other people whom I would like to thank for their support to the Parliament. This is a new role, and I have got to know a lot more about the workings of Parliament, particularly the Parliamentary Services area, than I previously knew. I, too, would like to thank Mr Tony Paterson, our security manager; our reception services coordinator, Stephanie Nguyen; and our Hansard Manager, Laurie Mansell, and his team. In particular, I want to single out Barbara Pickett, a Hansard reporter. Barbara has been here for 32 and a half years—five years longer than me, Barbara! That is fantastic! We often see the Hansard reporters in the chamber each day, but to have so many longstanding and experienced Hansard reporters is a real asset to the Parliament. I understand that Barbara started in 1989 when Peter Dowding was the Premier of Western Australia. Over her time as a Hansard reporter, Barbara has seen seven Premiers, four changes of government and eight Speakers. I thank Barbara for her long service to the WA Parliament, and I wish you all the best, Barbara, for your well-deserved retirement.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: I would like to thank our Information Technology manager, John Buchanan, and his team; the Library manager, Ms Judy Ballantyne, who I see up in the Speaker's gallery, and her team; and the Education Office and their team. In particular, I want to mention two people who have already been mentioned. The first is Mr Michael Loney. Michael is retiring at the end of the year. He has been a fixture in the education program at Parliament House since 2007. He has regaled thousands of students and community members with his dramatic flair and his extensive knowledge of the Western Australian Parliament and its history. Michael has also lent his acting skills to our programs here at Parliament House over the years. I think none of those were more special or fabulous than the performance of *Edith* earlier this year, Michael. That was a first and I think a real high point of the year. Michael will not be leaving us entirely. Hopefully he will be coming back to do the occasional tour, and maybe we can find some other ways of enticing you back, Michael, to do some work for us as well as enjoying your retirement.

I also want to mention Mr Peter Dooley. Peter will be leaving Parliamentary Services in the next few weeks. Peter commenced in the Parliament Education Office in 2017. He has provided excellent leadership to the education team over that time, at all times demonstrating immense creativity and a passion for education. Peter is well known throughout the Parliament for his positive attitude, his boundless energy and his talent for poetry. We wish Peter and his family all the very best, and we thank him for his service to parliamentary education.

I will also quickly acknowledge other people who are very important to the running of this house, our Chief Finance Officer, Elma Ozich, and our acting Chief Finance Officer, Mr John Mordini, and their team; Tina Hunter, our Human Resources Manager and her team; and obviously Mr Rob Hunter, the Executive Manager Parliamentary Services, and his deputy, Patricia—I always have difficulty with her name—Traegde. Who else is there at the back? I also want to thank Belinda Corey, Director of Parliamentary Information and Education and her team; Hugh McCaffrey, our Building Services Manager and his team; and Mr Enno Schijf and the catering team, who are the ones I think most of us get to know the best. I particularly thank Anna Murphy, who is the Speaker's steward, and obviously provides good company for people over afternoon tea.

My final staff thanks go to the team we work most closely with, and that is our Assembly team: our Clerk, Kirsten Robinson; our Deputy Clerk, Scott Nalder; Dr Isla Macphail; Mr Mathew Bates; Ms Anne Day and Ms Rashelle Predovnik. Those people have provided us with excellent service and have certainly made my job as Speaker a much, much easier one. Also in the Assembly office are a whole range of people; I will not delay the house by mentioning them all, but their work is very much appreciated in the Legislative Assembly office and the Legislative Assembly committee office. The Leader of the House mentioned quite a number of the people and the teams that work with his committees. I thank each and every one of them.

Finally, I want to thank those who have spoken already for your very kind words; I certainly appreciate them. To the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Leader of the House and the Labor team: thank you for your support. To the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and your team: thank you, too, for your kind words and support. To the Leader of the Liberal Party and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party: thank you, too, for your kind words and support.

One of the things people touched on is the experience of this job and the impact it can have on your family; sometimes not just your immediate family—your spouse, partner or children—but sometimes even more distant relatives and friends who are affected by your role in this house. Hold those people close. We are about to head into the Christmas period, so make sure that you spend that time with your family and celebrate with your family. I hope that each and every one of you have a brilliant Christmas and some really joyous times with your close family and friends.

Members: Hear, hear!

[Applause.]

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 25 November 2021]

p5959a-5971a

Mr David Templeman; Mr Shane Love; Mr Mark McGowan; Ms Mia Davies; Dr David Honey; Speaker

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.55 pm
