

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [4.09 pm] — without notice: I move —

That the house at its rising adjourn until a date and time to be fixed by the Speaker.

It is always a pleasure and an honour as Leader of the House to speak to the motion closing the official sitting of the house each year. The motion that the house at its rising adjourn until a time fixed by you, Mr Speaker, is because, as we are aware, important legislation is being debated in the other place. Indeed, the other place is expected to pass that legislation, albeit amended. Therefore, we will be expected to return to this chamber sometime in December.

Today, though, marks the end of the third year of the fortieth Parliament. It is traditional at this time to reflect on the year that has passed. The opening day of Parliament this year was Tuesday, 12 February. Today marks the sixty-ninth day of the year on which we have sat in this place, if we include the three days of budget estimates hearings. This equates to 22 regular sitting weeks plus one week of budget estimates, and approximately 505 hours of sittings. The house sat until after midnight on 10 occasions. There were around 89 divisions and around 42 petitions tabled in this place. There were 302 brief ministerial statements delivered and around 21 matters of public interest debated. There have also been around 35 suspension of standing orders motions.

Earlier this year, I was getting used to the former manager of opposition business, the member for Churchlands, making his way across and behind you, Mr Speaker, during question time to seek my attention, which I did try to avoid on a number of occasions, but unsuccessfully.

Around 1 435 questions on notice were asked this year, bringing the total for the fortieth Parliament so far to around 5 845 questions on notice asked. It is interesting to compare these figures with those of the thirty-ninth Parliament. During the whole of the thirty-ninth Parliament—I am not looking at anybody in particular—5 963 questions on notice were asked. Around 1 098 questions without notice were asked and answered during question time. Some would claim, of course, that none of these were answered appropriately, but I, of course, would seek to disagree with that view. There have been 22 committee reports tabled in this Parliament this year by the five standing committees and two joint standing committees hosted by the Legislative Assembly.

Around 37 government bills have been introduced and 38 government bills have passed. I will mention a few, by no means all, because it is important to highlight the notable bills the house has dealt with this year. Very importantly, the Minister for Police gave us the Police Amendment (Medical Retirement) Bill, which reformed the legislation governing how injured or ill officers are medically retired from the Western Australia Police Force to acknowledge their service and ensure that they can leave the police force with dignity. The highly prolific Attorney General, who is one of the most prolific Attorneys General in the nation, gave us the High Risk Offenders Bill, which is awaiting passage in the other place. The bill delivers on an election commitment to establish a high risk offenders board and extend the Supreme Court's ability to make a continued detention order or supervision order for serious violent offenders, all while fully preserving the suite of provisions applying to dangerous sexual offenders under the Dangerous Sexual Offenders Act. Still on the subject of delivering election commitments, another great reform of the Minister for Transport—my friend who sits next to me on my left—was the Railway (METRONET) Amendment Bill 2019, which will enable the implementation of the Morley–Ellenbrook line. We wish the bill a speedy passage through the other place. Still on the delivery of election commitments, we have delivered the Premier's Infrastructure Western Australia Bill, which established Infrastructure WA to ensure long-term, quality, evidence-based, strategic and coordinated infrastructure planning and decision-making for Western Australia.

Of course, I have to mention the reform we propose for next year regarding greyhounds. I am very proud of that announcement yesterday, which will see retired greyhounds no longer needing to be muzzled.

Mr J.E. McGrath: What about yourself?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am glad of the interjection, member for South Perth; it was perfectly timed! After the legislation passes next year, retired greyhounds will no longer need to be muzzled. That is fair, because it is unfair that the member for South Perth's schnauzer can go around being untethered and unmuzzled in public parks in South Perth while greyhounds cannot. I think that will be appropriate and fair and will end the current discriminatory practice with greyhounds. I love it when the member for South Perth is here!

We of course know about the important legislation being debated in the other place, the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill, on which this house spent some 71 hours and 47 minutes on debate. Fifty-seven members contributed to the second reading stage of the debate, which took some 20 hours and 52 minutes. Consideration in detail took around 45 hours and 52 minutes spread across six days, with 20 amendments moved and all negated. Twenty members contributed to the third reading stage, speaking for some five hours and three minutes. The house divided 18 times in all. I know that we are all watching the proceedings in the other place with interest.

It is important at this time, as we move to the closure of the Parliament for 2019, that we acknowledge a number of people and, indeed, units of this house for their wonderful work. Mr Speaker, can I acknowledge you and your team. Thank you for your stewardship of the chamber over this last year. Can I also thank the member for Maylands, who is sitting in a different seat —

The SPEAKER: She wants to get on television.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: — for being the very able Deputy Speaker, and I thank all the Acting Speakers, including the members for Forrestfield, Geraldton, Girrawheen, Mirrabooka, Moore, Southern River and Wanneroo. I think we all agree that the Acting Speakers do a tremendous job supporting the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I also highlight that you could not function without Jackie Berry, your executive assistant, and Anna Murphy, the steward. Our thanks go out to them as well. Of course, we also thank the Clerk, Kirsten Robinson, and her team. It was only yesterday that my Facebook page lit up with the experience from four years ago, when, as the then opposition Whip, I closed the house down prematurely, causing much disdain. I must say that the two opposition Whips have tried on occasion, but failed dismally. I thank Kirsten and executive assistant Anne Day. I acknowledge Scott Nalder, Liz Kerr, Mat Bates, our Sergeant-at-Arms Isla Macphail and the wonderful staff in the Assembly office—Denis Hippolyte, Lachlan Gregory, Rachel Wells, Daniel Govus, Alison O'Shaughnessy, Nikolas Carbone and Darren Seet—for your ongoing support of all the members in this chamber. As members of the Assembly staff, we appreciate your tremendous work and thank you sincerely for that.

Can we also acknowledge the incredible committee staff, who worked tirelessly to produce the 22 reports that I referred to a moment ago—Michele, Renee, Pam, Trish, Jovita, Sarah, Alan, Sam, Alison, Catie, Alice, Franchesca, Suzanne, Vanessa, Lucy and Sylvia. We acknowledge your hard work.

I particularly acknowledge the tremendous work of the Whips in the Assembly—both the opposition Whip and the government Whip, my very good friend the member for Balcatta, who is a most hardworking and good-natured government Whip. He is proactive, modern and a reformist. When I was the government Whip, I was still using old technology such as faxes, carrier pigeons, oxen, as well as triplicate booklets to send messages. Immediately when he became the government Whip, he modernised the system. Now you can get online requests for pairs, grievances, member statements, apparel, stationery and other things. He has it. We thank the member for Balcatta.

I also acknowledge the member for Churchlands, who was the manager of opposition business earlier this year, for his support and his cooperation. I also acknowledge the former opposition Whip, the member for Vasse, for her contribution. I acknowledge the current, dapperly dressed, member for Dawesville who, of course, is looking very much like the guy who does the railway things. He looks very much like that—Michael Portillo. Although some did say that he came dressed in costume as a former slave owner. That was said by somebody else—not me! I thank him for his cooperation over this period. I also acknowledge the current opposition Whip, the member for Darling Range, for her support and cooperation with our Whip. I appreciate that. It is very important.

I also acknowledge the parliamentary services team, headed by Mr Hunter and his staff. Many staff are part of the parliamentary services team and I want to acknowledge them—those in human resources and payroll—payroll is very important—led by Tina Hunter; security and reception services, led by Tony Paterson; the reception services coordinator, Stephanie Nguyen and her welcoming team; the building services and cleaning team, led by Hugh McCaffrey; our gardening team, led by David Boag; and Laurie Mansell and the fabulous Hansard team. Once again, the Hansard team is remarkable in its capacity to make some of the very jumbled contributions made in this place read in such an appropriate and effective way. We thank the Hansard team. To John Buchanan and the IT team, Elma Ozich and the finance team, Judy Ballantyne and the library team, and Dave Embry and the audiovisual team, thank you for your tremendous work in this Parliament. Our gratitude, as well as our waistlines, goes to the catering staff service manager, Enno Schijf; the dining room manager, Mark Gabrielli; executive chef, Brett Barrett; and the wonderful staff in the lounges and the dining room, whose work we appreciate very much. One of the great assets of this Parliament is the education staff. All of us know that when we have schools, community organisations and groups that come to this place the education staff do tremendous work. They are remarkable and we thank them. We thank Peter Dooley, Sarah Smith, Michael Loney, Cherie Toovey and Ben Machowiak for their wonderful work.

I thank the Premier's staff here at Parliament for their ongoing work, efforts and cooperation. Reflecting on the comments by the member for Murray–Wellington in her contribution to the debate on the Premier's statement, it is important that we also cast our minds and thanks, as we move towards the festive season, to those people in our communities who, no matter where we live, will be volunteering in a variety of ways to keep us safe. We acknowledge them—the State Emergency Service volunteers, a marine rescue volunteers, the volunteer bush fire fighters, those who are our first responders in the police service, the emergency services and, of course, in our hospitals throughout the state. We acknowledge that many of them will be on duty while we and our families will be enjoying the Christmas and festive period leading into January.

I also acknowledge Rebecca Neilson for her wonderful work. Rebecca, I appreciate all that you do. It is wonderful that you do such wonderful things.

Ms R. Saffioti: That was deep!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes.

I am sure all members will join me in acknowledging our electorate staff throughout the state. To all those electorate officers, research officers and relief electorate offices and research officers, I particularly say thankyou to you on behalf of all members here. We all know that it is our staff in our electorate offices who make us not only look good but who do all the real hard work. We appreciate that. To my own—Larissa Wigmore is about to have a baby in the next week or so. Larissa, we wish you the very best as you and Charlie prepare for what will be a wonderful experience with your firstborn. To Jock Baines, Michael Peck and Krystal Phillips, Fran Harmon, I appreciate all you do. To my ministerial staff, Gary Hamley, Kelly McManus, Kym Coolhaas, Tarnya Widdicombe, Leesa Markussen, Caroline O'Neill, Danielle McKenzie, Megan MacLean, Marty Cunningham, Kelly Howat, Georgia McGovern, Jade Baker—there is a list of thousands—thank you very much for what you have done.

Can we also acknowledge our own families and our loved ones—those people who inspire and support us. They are the most important ones for us. I wish that all members, as they prepare for a busy time with the schools and other things in their electorates, take time out with their families. I acknowledge the wonderful support our loved ones give all of us in this job that we do.

Of course, I always seek inspiration at this time of the year. Some seek it from institutions. Some seek it from other places. Last night I went to the U2 concert. I did for one moment think that might provide me with some inspiration, but that was jettisoned quickly. On Saturday night Elton John will be in town and will probably perform for his last time in Perth with his Yellow Brick Road tour. I have got a song, but it is a brief one. In closing today I think we must keep our sense of humour in this world. It is so important. In this job you could easily get a whole range of diseases, apparently — Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Maybe I should not have said that, but we could! I keep coming back to Monty Python because to me it still epitomises the quirkiness of the world.

Ms M.M. Quirk: Excuse me!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Right on cue. I have written a little song. It is only very brief, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: That is what you said last year.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes, I know. I hope it reflects some of the quirkiness of this place. I hope it reflects that no matter what our party political position is, we are still human beings and we are still here trying to do our very best for the people of Western Australia.

This is my little song for this year —

Some members here are mad
They can really make me sad
Other members make me swear and curse
If you're having party spats
Change parties, join the Nats!
And this'll help things turn out for the best

Always look on the bright side of Parliament
Always look on the light side of Parliament

Parliament can be fine
Except at question time
The answers won't match the question that's been asked
The Speaker calls for order
The opposition it grows bored-er
The time to shout and yell can now begin

Always look on the bright side of Parliament
Always look on the light side of Parliament

Parliament is quite absurd
And that's the final word
You must always greet the Speaker with a bow
Some members here are strange creatures
Who give even stranger speeches
That Hansard can hardly decipher

So always look on the bright side of death
Just before you draw your terminal breath

Parliament is full of grit
When you think of it
Parliament is a laugh, a joke it is true
Voters know it's all a show
Keep 'em laughing as you go
Just remember that the last laugh is on you

Always look on the bright side of Parliament
Always look on the light side of Parliament!

Merry Christmas, everyone!

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Can I just say something to the Leader of the House? You mentioned about 100 names today, but you did not mention that your twins Charlie and Mia turned 10 today.

Mr D.A. Templeman: That is right; they are.

The SPEAKER: We wish them a happy birthday.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Thanks, Mr Speaker. That is lovely.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [4.33 pm]: I also join in wishing all members and the entirety of Western Australia a happy Christmas and a terrific new year. I congratulate the Leader of the House once again. It is the only speech throughout the entire year that people come into the chamber for. There is bipartisan support; people want to come and see the Leader of the House speak. He is the only person I have known in my career who draws people in. He deserves considerable credit for that, because when most people speak, they drive people out. A little-known fact is that this year the Leader of the House, the Minister for Culture and the Arts, represented me at the opening of Fringe World, and I had reports back that the funniest performance at Fringe World was the minister's speech. He is a comic of some note and he is a credit to Parliament and to Mandurah and Northam Senior High School.

In speaking to this adjournment motion, I indicate that it is a bit unusual because I suspect that we will be back here in 10 days' time so we will probably have another one at that point and the Leader of the House can have another song. It is interesting that we are adjourning for the year tonight, but we expect that we will be back in 10 days from now.

This year, 2019, has been a long year. It is apparently the longest sitting year in some time with the most sitting days. The member indicated that we have had five or six nights after midnight over the year, which, of course, is unusual in recent years, but in my earlier years that was not unusual at all. That was virtually the case a couple of nights a week. It has been a bit unusual. The year has been punctuated by a federal election and, of course, we all know elections are draining processes whether they are state or federal. I thank everyone who participated in that exercise of Australian democracy.

In the course of the year, we lost some people. My favourite politician of all time, Bob Hawke, passed away. We lost friends, people I have known well over this time and people not so well, from this house and the other house. I acknowledge in particular my good friend John Kobelke passed away; George Strickland, former Speaker of the house; Richard Lewis, former minister in the Court government; Max Evans, who was also a former minister in the Court government; and Neil Oliver, who was a member of the upper house. I saw him regularly down the gym. He was a nice man and I am sad to see he passed away; he had a somewhat tragic life in some ways. Also, Dave Evans, who was the member for Warren-Blackwood, passed away recently.

We have dealt with lots of important legislation. The Leader of the House went over it all, so I will not go over it. I will mention just a couple of highlights. We brought in legislation to deal with high-risk offenders; new railway lines; tax cuts; local government reform; medical requirement for police; no jab, no play; state agreements, terrorism reforms; a container deposit scheme; the TAB; Wittenoom; fine default and Aboriginal incarceration; the future health research fund; scalpers, which may have come in handy last evening, and, recently, domestic violence and workplace health and safety. We have announced we will be reforming by regulation or legislation the rules around the muzzling of greyhounds. I have received a lot of feedback. Whenever I think of this, I look at the member for South Perth, because, of course, old mutts who retire should not be muzzled, should they? Once they leave the workforce, they should be allowed to speak loudly, should they not?

Mr J.E. McGrath: Yes.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The house has seen a couple of milestones. The Speaker announced today that Daniel Govus is on his way from here to a promotion in the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory Parliament is the most extraordinary Parliament in the entire Westminster system from my knowledge, in that it has the greatest scandals and the most extraordinary personal behaviour that I think any Parliament in the entire world could possibly witness. Daniel will have an interesting time in the Northern Territory Parliament and I am sure that he will be

able to write some stories after that. I acknowledge Basil Georgiou, who celebrates 30 years in Parliament this year as well—an important milestone. The day before yesterday, the member for Collie–Preston turned 70 years of age, which I think was an important milestone. We had an interesting set of speeches about his career. I think we could write a book about the member for Collie–Preston and some of his antics over his time in this place.

I will do a few other thank-yous. I thank all the members in this place for the way that the voluntary assisted dying legislation was dealt with. It is a very important piece of legislation that I expect and hope we will deal with again shortly. I thank members for their contributions on a difficult piece of legislation.

I thank all the staff around the place in relation to these things, particularly the chamber staff, the Parliament staff and all the ministerial staff. I thank my caucus, all the ministers, the opposition and other parties in the Parliament for all of their work throughout the course of this year.

I thank the media. People from the media are not listening anyway—there is nothing unusual there! I thank the media for all its work over the course of this year. Being in the media is not easy these days. There is so much to cover and so few people these days to cover it. I thank the media for all its hard work. I look forward to having a drink with people from the media shortly in some hidden-away alcove somewhere in this building, probably in the basement somewhere, or in a dungeon somewhere in this building. I look forward to catching up with them there. As we leave, we may well lock the door and leave them in there!

Finally, I thank all the families of members of this place and the people of Western Australia for their kindness, good sense and good spiritedness. I rarely come across anyone in Western Australia who I ever have a cross word with. I have no idea how everyone I meet votes but I rarely meet anyone who I ever have a cross word with. I would like to thank the people of Western Australia for their good spiritedness and their good nature. I wish everyone across Western Australia a relaxing Christmas and hopefully a terrific new year.

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [4.40 pm]: I rise on behalf of the opposition to support the adjournment motion and, in so doing, make some very brief remarks in what I have now learned is called the Christmas felicitations in this place. On behalf of members of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, clearly, as a lot of the commentary from members opposite has suggested, I do not have any singing ability, so I thought I would play to my home strength, which was looking good!

Several members interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I think I have done not too bad a job!

The SPEAKER: You realise that I can sit you down, don't you?

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Feel free to call me for that, Mr Speaker.

Mr J.N. Carey: I think the member for Carine looks dapper today.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Thank you very much for that, member for Perth. I am sure the member for Carine appreciates it.

There is no doubt that 2019 has been an extraordinary year for this Parliament and in particular for the fortieth session more broadly. Obviously the fact we have a special adjournment that has no fixed date, although we anticipate it to be on 10 December, speaks to the extraordinary and unique nature that we have had to deal with this year. Something that has dominated all contributions thus far is the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2019. As we now know, the VAD bill is likely to finish in the Legislative Council in the coming week. That means we will have to return to this place in a re-call to deal with some amendments. I have to say that during that time, I think all members here handled themselves extraordinarily well with what was a very difficult piece of legislation. There was a divide of members' opinions in this place but at every single point in time, everyone handled themselves with a sense of grace, dignity and discipline. It was a credit to us all.

It has been some decades since the Parliament has dealt with such an extraordinary piece of legislation. I suspect it will be some decades again before we see anything quite so similar. Members here, in line with community expectations, were called on to perform an extraordinary feat in representing their views and, importantly, representing the districts they were elected to serve. In the spirit of that, I am personally very proud to share the floor with all of you. Regardless of your party and your position, I was overwhelmingly impressed by the calibre of all members here. I thank each and every one of you for your contribution during that debate.

I am of course particularly proud of the work and the efforts of my colleagues in the Parliamentary Liberal Party. Being a member of the opposition is not an easy task. I remember thinking that a bad day in government is better than a good day in opposition! I suspect that is still probably the case. Members of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, a very small team, have done an outstanding job in making sure we fight and keep this government to account. I would like to thank the members of the Parliamentary Liberal Party for their support personally.

In my role here as manager of opposition business since the start of this year, we have seen a change in the Leader of the Opposition. I thank the member for Riverton for his contribution and reflect on the fact that 168 days ago

the member for Scarborough, Hon Liza Harvey, was made Leader of the Opposition. We have gone from strength to strength under the member for Scarborough's leadership on the long march back to government. I suspect, judging from some antics during question time, the government probably knows that we are in the hunt. Whilst we remain the underdogs, we are going to fight tooth and nail to make sure we see the first elected female Premier of Western Australia installed in this state.

I have found the role of manager of opposition business to be something that I have personally enjoyed quite a lot. I have said in this place before that had I known about this job prior to handing John Howard that business card that read "Future Prime Minister" I may have changed the job title to this. It is a job that I really enjoy and I thank the Leader of the Opposition for her confidence in me to perform this role on behalf of the opposition.

While I think about the contributions in this chamber, I would like to thank the Speaker for his stewardship of this place. At times I get a sense from you that you still want to fight on the floor with the government. I think that you have handled this chamber admirably over this past year. I thank you for our relationship and I thank you for your leadership in this place. To your Deputy Speaker and Acting Speakers, particularly during the VAD bill, it was a difficult time when we were in consideration in detail. They were challenging circumstances. I thank each and every one of them, particularly the member for Mirrabooka. I found that she had this great ability to pass things through very, very quickly when she was in the chair. She was very concise. All Chairs conducted themselves very well.

All of us, not just the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Acting Speakers, are supported by the exceptional parliamentary staff who serve us in this place. I will not go over all the names that the Leader of the House mentioned, but I would like to thank in particular Daniel Govus for his 12 years of service to this chamber. I remember Daniel when I was working for the former Premier. I think he started the job then. To now see him go is a great loss to us here. I am sure he will go onto greener pastures in the Northern Territory. I welcome Darren Seet, who has joined us in this place. Whilst going through the list, I did not know that Rachel Wells is the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms. I did not even know we had a Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms. Rachel has served in this place for a number of years, as have many of the parliamentary officers here. I thank each and every one of you, together with the Clerk, Kirsten Robinson, and the Deputy Clerk, Scott Nalder. Thank you very much. You all support me in what are sometimes very bizarre requests when I try to find out what is going on or get some more advice.

As part of that job, members might be aware that I try to record the times that ministers take to respond to parliamentary questions during question time. Interestingly enough, since the time that I have been the manager of opposition business there have been some interesting response times taken. In terms of averages, the government takes about two minutes and 25 seconds to respond to an opposition question and slightly longer, three minutes and 15 seconds, to respond to a dorothy dixer. I have some notable highlights. The Premier takes, on average, two minutes and three seconds to respond to the first question from the opposition, and a minute and 35 seconds to respond to a supplementary; but he takes three minutes and 44 seconds to respond to a dorothy dixer. The Minister for Transport is much more concise. She takes 56 seconds on average to respond to a first question from the opposition, 58 seconds to respond to a supplementary, and then three minutes to respond to a dorothy dixer. The Attorney General takes one minute and 38 seconds to respond to an opposition question, and then an average of 19 seconds to respond to a supplementary. In the past, he has offered a single-word answer to a supplementary. I think that has occurred a number of times, but I found he did that most recently on 13 November, when he simply responded "No" to a question from the member for Hillarys. He then sat back down. The longest cumulative answer between the first question and the supplementary is indeed the member for Warnbro, at seven minutes and 32 seconds. That was a surprise to us all! I might say, for what it is worth, I have noted a recent trend in which the minister's answers have become shorter. At some point there was a blowout but he has tightened up quite a bit. The longest response to a dorothy dixer was the Minister for Water. Although on my count it was only four minutes and seven seconds, it felt like hours!

When I was granted the position of manager of opposition business I was told that the relationship between the Leader of the House and me would determine the nature of how this place operates. I would like to personally thank the member for Mandurah for his counsel, both personally and professionally, and his friendship in our time here together. I am very much appreciative of the relationship. The opposition Whip, the member for Darling Range, and I operate as a very solid team and I am very appreciative of that, even having only taken the job in June. She has done an outstanding job in supporting us as a team, and I really appreciate that. I make special mention of the member for Vasse, who is a very good friend of mine. She is someone I call my work wife, here in this place, and she has supported me through very difficult times more recently. I appreciate all she has done. I thank the government Whip, the member for Balcatta, for his time with us. I also appreciate the opportunity to work alongside our friends in opposition, the National Party, in holding the government to account. I also thank the media for their work, which is a very challenging role in a democracy these days. There are a number of dedicated editors and journalists who bring the news that originates in this place to the people of our great state. I will not go through them all, but I thank our electorate staff and our research staff who help serve in our district offices, and I thank the staff of the Leader of the Opposition.

As we turn our minds to Christmas, I want only to wish each and every member here a very safe and happy time spent with their families. I have come to realise recently that being a member of Parliament does not make one a great companion or a great friend. At times, we are shared much more with our districts and the people who elect us to this place than we are with our families and our friends and those who we care for. As a result, I think it is important that we take this time to enjoy the pause, and enjoy the time we get to spend with our loved ones. Of course, there are loved ones whom we sorely miss who have now passed, and this may be the first Christmas some of us spend without those we care about, and our thoughts are with them during that time. For those who have the opportunity to pause and enjoy and revel in the summer for the moment, next year will be the year before the election, and the election will be bearing down on us. It is very important to get away and escape, and I certainly will be taking the opportunity and I hope all members get the opportunity to do so. Although this is not a goodbye but more of a see you again soon, because we will be back here, undoubtedly, on 10 December, I wish all members, on behalf of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, a safe and happy Christmas and all the very best for 2020.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Leader of the Opposition) [4.52 pm]: I, too, rise to contribute to this adjournment motion at the end of what has felt like a very long and somewhat difficult parliamentary year, mainly because of the content of some of the debate that we have all been engaged in. I would like to put on the record my congratulations to the manager of opposition business on his statistical prowess. When I asked him to take on the job, I did not realise that he was actually going to be sitting there timing people's response times to questions. It will make for interesting reading, I am sure, in 100 years' time.

I will start by thanking all the Parliamentary staff who support us here, particularly the Clerk, Kirsten Robinson, and the Deputy Clerk, Scott Nalder, and also the Clerk Assistants, Mathew Bates and Liz Kerr. We appreciate all the advice that they provide us as we try to navigate the standing orders and understand, particularly from an opposition perspective, with many of us not having served in opposition before, the tools that are available to us to hold the government to account in this place. I thank all the assistant clerks who support us. I bid a special farewell to Dan Govus. I wish him all the very best on his next endeavour and congratulate him on his promotion. I might know somebody who can provide him with a really good barra fishing rod and some lures, and I hope that he catches a one-metre-plus barramundi some time in his recreational pursuits as he heads for the wild north. I thank the Sergeant-at-Arms, Isla McPhail, and the deputy sergeant, and also Tony Patterson and the security staff and the police team who keep us safe, protecting us from the disruptive actions of Extinction Rebellion and other protesting parties who cause a commotion in this place from time to time. Thank you to all of those people who are part of those protective roles.

I thank all of the Parliamentary Services team, Rob Hunter and Hugh McCaffrey. I would like to say special thanks to the gardening staff. I am sure that the Premier will well remember that there is a very special parking space in the car park, underneath the tree that drops lilac flowers and ants. If you happen to occupy the parking space of the Leader of the Opposition, every day you need to fumigate your car, and deal with the sticky, nectary mess of lilac flowers that accumulate on the windscreen. My heart goes out to the gardening staff who deal with that across the entire grounds of the Parliament. They do a tremendous job in keeping the place looking presentable. We appreciate the work that Enno Schijf and the catering department do, in not only helping us entertain our constituents but also looking after all the various groups that visit the Parliament. They do a terrific job.

I would like to especially thank the library and the education team here at Parliament. In opposition, when we have very few resources at our disposal, the library staff become our best friends. That is when we really start to understand the benefit of having the library staff and their research skills to assist us in doing our job in holding the government to account. In particular, I would like to thank the education staff. I have had a number of school groups and community groups come through the Parliament this year for tours, and the education staff do the most fantastic job in keeping all of those kids entertained. The information they provide is always useful and entertaining, and everyone who has a tour of Parliament House goes away with a feeling that they have had a valued experience. I would like to put my thanks on the record to those people.

To Laurie Mansell, Hansard Manager, and the Hansard team, thank you for making our contributions read intelligently. Hansard is always in the firing line. I have a high regard for the work that Hansard does, particularly when it gets heated, and when confronting matters are being debated and it becomes highly charged and often emotional. In the middle of all of that, sitting at the table here, Hansard is diligently trying to record the words that we say so that those words can be sourced in perpetuity.

It has been a difficult year, and I would like to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, and also the staff here at Parliament for providing wonderful wraparound support services during the voluntary assisted dying debate. I know that the Deputy Speaker was part of that, and I thank the member for Maylands for her contribution to providing those services. The contributions of members in this place—we saw it also with the legislation around changing the requirements for medically retired police officers—often get very gritty and emotional. They can be quite confronting and quite difficult to listen to, and I think we are all feeling, at the end of this year, that we are glad that we may not have to encounter such a difficult and confronting debate again. I just want to thank you, Mr Speaker, and the

Parliamentary Services Department staff for ensuring that all of the people who work here and support us had a support network available to them during a very difficult period of time recording our words.

To Mr Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and all the Acting Speakers, on behalf of the opposition, I thank you for your forbearance. It is often a very difficult task to try to manage a highly adrenaline-charged environment. Indeed, we all get a bit excited. All of us want to seek your protection, but in the next moment we also want to test the water. We appreciate the challenges that the position of holding this chamber steady and keeping the debate flowing pose to you, the Deputy Speaker and all the Acting Speakers, so thank you very much for your very fair and diplomatic management of the business of the house.

To the two managers of opposition business, the member for Churchlands and the member for Dawesville, thank you very much for the effort you put in; also to the opposition Whips, the member for Vasse and the member for Darling Range, both of whom have done terrific jobs. I think we all rely very heavily on our Whips and managers of opposition business. There is often not any remuneration to back up the extra effort they put into keeping those incredibly concise statistical records, so we thank them for the work that they do.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the contributions of all members to the debate this year. It is always very interesting to listen to the different perspectives and points of view that people bring to this place, particularly sometimes in the different debates when we get to see a different side of someone. Sometimes with legislation that seems somewhat innocuous we end up with an outstanding contribution from a member who exposes a part of their experience or a part of their personality that we had no window into until they have stood up and decided to share that contribution in this place. So I thank all members for their contributions over the year.

In closing, I would like to thank my team. I am really proud of my team and the work we have done. It is difficult in opposition to stay cohesive, and I think we have been doing a really good job of that. I am really proud that each and every time one of my members gets to their feet, they have the support of a very small but compact unit behind them while they make their contributions. I really appreciate that.

To the Leader of the Opposition staff—I think the acronym LOOP is aptly named, because it does feel like a madhouse sometimes in that office—my heartfelt appreciation for all the work they do, particularly for closing the door when I come charging in, ranting and raving about something. I do appreciate their discretely closing the door and providing a sound barrier to prevent other people from having their ears boxed.

To our partners in opposition, the Nationals WA, thank you for your contribution and support. Over the past six months that I have been in the job I have really appreciated being able to work together on strategy and issues, and being able to work around private members' business and other motions that we bring to this chamber. Thank you for supporting us and, please, know that we very much appreciate and delight in supporting your motions as well—except around FIFO.

On behalf of the parliamentary Liberal team, to all of you and to all those you love, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year. I look forward to seeing everybody back on 10 December and then, obviously, in 2020.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Nationals WA) [5.02 pm]: I rise briefly on behalf of the Nationals WA to express our thanks to everyone in this house who makes an enormous effort to keep it running smoothly for all of us who work here. To you, Mr Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and Acting Speakers, thank you for your guidance and advice as we have worked our way through the government's legislative agenda and the other issues that we have dealt with on the floor of this place. To the Clerk, Kirsten, and your team, thank you very much. We appreciate your patience and guidance. You are all incredibly conscientious and we rely on your expertise and calm heads as we do the work that we are here to do on behalf of our constituency.

Thank you to all of the teams that make this Parliament work—the cogs that are so very important—the Parliamentary Services Department, the corporate management team, security and the library. Thank you to the library team for having our National Party team members wander through on a regular basis stealing your Minties and Tim Tams, and for always making sure there is milk in the fridge for our leader's office team. Thank you to Hansard for making us sound far better than most of us usually do in this place, particularly late at night. Thank you to the Education Services staff, security, the dining room staff, and the cleaning and outside crew who have been mentioned. Thank you to the police who are assigned to Parliament House. They all make it a very easy and special place to work and they always look after us, our staff and our guests. We very much appreciate the work that you all do.

To my colleagues in the Nationals, thank you for your hard work throughout the year both in this place and in your electorates and more broadly. Our electorates are large and most of them remote from Perth, and you travel vast distances to make yourselves available to your constituents and ensure that we can bring their concerns to this Parliament and the government. Thank you to the member for Moore for acting as the Nationals WA Whip along with the additional duties of being an Acting Speaker.

To the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and your team, it is a thankless task in opposition, there is no doubt about it. I would say to you that we appreciate the opportunity to work alongside you in holding the government to account and making sure that this place works how it is supposed to. So thank you very much to all of you who have reached out and provided support throughout the year. We look forward to doing that again next year.

To the Premier and his team, thank you. Thank you to those ministers who reach across party lines to assist us as members representing our constituencies and to your ministerial teams who provide support in our electorate offices and to us individually, who provide briefings and papers, and make sure that we can do our job. We really do very much appreciate it. That support has been there from all of the ministerial teams, so thank you very much to the government and the role that they play.

To our electorate officers who play such an important role in assisting us to serve our electorates, thank you. In the Nationals WA's case, many of them do not see us for a number of weeks at a time when we are travelling in other parts of our electorates. On behalf of my colleagues, I extend a sincere thanks to our extended team who work hard in the electorates in regional Western Australia.

I would like to especially thank my leader's office team who work out of the Parliament, led by the very hardworking Josh Nyman, my chief of staff; who is joined by Ross Lewis, Tracey King, Cale Hill, Tay Alers and Theresa Middis. They are unendingly patient and work hours beyond the call. We are lucky to have such a committed and enthusiastic team and they are very, very loyal. I add my sincere thanks to Alex Massey, who moved on during the year to new opportunities. He was an incredible asset to our team and he is missed.

I know that we are likely to return for a day to complete debate on the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2019. I would like to add to my colleagues' comments earlier that it was an extraordinary bill to be a part of and something that I think we will all look back on as part of our parliamentary careers, and I commend the behaviour of everyone in this team as they brought their personal and constituents' experiences to this place as we debated it. I look forward to the conclusion of that business in the other place. Although I may not agree with the positions of some of those who are contributing at the moment, I think that the upper house has absolutely every right to do the job that it is doing, and I am sure that we will be back here to finalise that. That will be a landmark moment for this Parliament and for this state.

This is my very last comment, Mr Speaker. As everybody leaves this place and you all depart to spend some time with your friends and family, if you are traveling in this state, make sure you do it safely, drive to the conditions and make sure that you arrive and get home safely. Merry Christmas and a very happy new year to you all.

THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson) [5.07 pm]: Members, I get the last say for the first time! I am going to mention some people who have already been mentioned but they are a very, very important part of the way the Parliament runs. I would like to thank the Deputy Speaker, the member for Maylands; and the Acting Speakers, the members for Geraldton, Moore, Wanneroo, Southern River, Mirrabooka, Forrestfield and Girrawheen. I thank the Clerk, Kirsten Robinson—as they say, my rock. She has got so much intelligence about what happens in Parliament she makes me look fairly good. But it is great to have Kirsten sitting down there. I am trying to get her a computer so I can type and ask questions, but we are having a bit of trouble with that at the moment. I thank the executive team: Scott Nalder, who does a tremendous job as the Deputy Clerk; and Liz Kerr; and Mat Bates. Isla Macphail, the Sergeant-at-Arms, when she was with me in Hobart, is the only person who has enabled the Speaker to break his foot, so that will go down in history. But she does a tremendous job as the Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you to Jaclyn Berry and Anne Day who provide executive assistance to the Assembly. Thank you to Denis, Rachel, Lachlan, Dan, Nik, Alison and Darren in the Assembly office; and to Michele, Renee, Pam, Trish, Jovita, Sarah, Alan, Sam, Alison, Catie, Alice, Franchesca, Suzanne, Vanessa, Lucy and Sylvia in the committee office.

I now want to talk about the next group. We come to Parliament every day and everything works—well, maybe not the air conditioning. But everything works. You walk in, the security is there, the flowers are out and everything is done. It is not just done by chance. It is done by a tremendous group of people. Having been a country member for 18 years, these people have become part of my family, and I know that is the case for other country members here today. City members go home at night and see their families and maybe go to work the next morning. Country members go home to an empty house, probably. They come in here, and these people are just tremendous. I would like to rock off some of the names. There is the Parliamentary Services Department team headed by Rob Hunter. They just keep this building going—with not enough money! There is Human Resources and payroll under Tina Hunter, and Security and Reception Services, with manager, Tony Paterson, and reception service coordinator, Stephanie Nguyen. There is Building Services and the cleaning team led by Hugh McCaffrey, with head gardener David Boag. As the Leader of the Opposition was saying, they are out there every day and everything looks fantastic when everyone walks past. There is Information Technology, with manager, John Buchanan, and Finance, with chief finance officer, Elma Ozich. There is Reporting Services, with manager, Laurie Mansell. Three people have left or will leave Hansard this year: Emily Hewitt, who left to have a baby; Amanda Simpson, who left to

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Mr David Templeman; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr Zak Kirkup; Mrs Liza Harvey; Ms Mia Davies; Speaker

take up work in private enterprise; and Bryce Moore, who will leave on 13 December to retire after 20 years' service to the Parliament. There is audiovisual and broadcast coordinator, Dave Embry; Catering Services manager, Enno Schijf; the dining room and catering staff; dining room manager, Mark Gabrielli; executive chef, Brett Barrett; Library and Information Services manager, Judy Ballantyne; and Parliamentary Education Office, with Peter Dooley and the team. All these people make this place work. We come along and then we go home, and they are still here. They keep everything going. I would just like to congratulate all those people in that team.

I would like to congratulate the Procedure and Privileges Committee for bringing in welcome to country this year for the first time. I think it is a very important thing. I am a little bit disappointed with both sides of the chamber that we did not get some of the family friendly issues done. The committee worked very hard to make Parliament a more family friendly place. What were your twins' names again, David? I do not want to get their names wrong for a second time! They are Mia and Charlie. I always thought it was Jack. No wonder—they all look the same! David has 10 kids? No, six—I mean four—no, six!

I would like to thank my electorate office staff, Guy, Ian, Christine, Owen and Trish. I am sure all country members here would know that they run your office when you are up in Perth. They do a tremendous job. I would like to thank them for all the work that they have done.

It is going to be a busy time next year. I have been in this job 18 years, and probably in the early years Christmas time was the same as everything else. I was worrying about the election or worrying about something or going to functions—everything like that. It does not work very well that way. It does not matter how stressed you are, you have got to spend this time with your families, because the next 12 to 15 months are going to be hectic. Be with the ones you love, enjoy it, and then come back and we will be into it in the new year. To everybody, have a safe and prosperous Christmas and a happy new year. Just enjoy the break with the ones you love.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.13 pm
