

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Motion

Resumed from 16 May on the following motion moved by Ms J.J. Shaw —

That the following Address-in-Reply to Her Excellency's speech be agreed to —

To Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson, AC, Governor of the State of Western Australia.

May it please Your Excellency —

We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [12.29 pm]: Madam Acting Speaker (Ms J.M. Freeman), I would like to congratulate you on your appointment. I also congratulate the member for Albany on his election to the position of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the fortieth Parliament of Western Australia. I wish to acknowledge the crucial role of the Speaker in ensuring that we, as parliamentarians, stay focused on the task at hand in the business of government. From my very limited observation, I suspect that the job is not unlike that of a field umpire. I wish the Speaker all the best in enforcing the rules and making sure that we all play the ball and stay focused on our game.

I speak to you today as the recently elected first member for Bicton. It is a historic moment for which I express my eternal gratitude to the people of Palmyra, Bicton, Attadale, Melville, and parts of Alfred Cove, Myaree and Fremantle.

A new member's first speech is a momentous occasion. It is a speech in which the speechmaker aims to condense and share our past, present and future selves, and our hopes and aspirations in our role as local members and parliamentarians into 20-or-so minutes of engaging, eloquent and hopefully memorable words. It may not be the toughest challenge that we will face in our parliamentary careers, but I think it may be up there. To my new parliamentary colleagues, I acknowledge and congratulate each of you on your election to the fortieth Parliament of our great state of Western Australia, and on the occasion of your first speeches.

I would like to acknowledge that we meet here today on Whadjuk Noongar booja—always was; always will be—and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. On the occasion of my first speech in this house, I also wish to acknowledge and pay my respects to the traditional custodians of the place of my birth, the Bunurong people of the Kulin nation of south central Victoria.

It is with enormous gratitude that I additionally acknowledge the presence of members of my family who are here today, my parents, George and Margaret Hams, who have travelled from Victoria; my parents-in-law, Dennis and Moya O'Malley; my sisters-in-law, Karen and Anne; and my own beautiful family—my husband, Mark, and our children, Aidan and Matilda. Thank you for all that you are and give to me. I also acknowledge my family that cannot be here today; you are with me nonetheless.

Today I may be speaking for the first time as a member of this house, but those who know me will attest to the fact that, for me, speaking is what air is to breathing. However, the many hours of doorknocking, phone calling and street corner pop-up offices throughout the past year of campaigning has taught me that although there is great power in words, it is with listening that I will truly make a difference for the people of Bicton as their local member. Everyone has a story to tell, and I believe it is one of the gifts of public office to be the recipient of those stories. It is an honour, a privilege and a great responsibility to be entrusted as not only the beneficiary of those stories, but, far more critically, to be the facilitator of change brought about by the telling of that story. It is a great thing to be the mechanism by which the storyteller, the constituent, can achieve a positive outcome from the act of sharing their story, despite how challenging this may be, particularly for the vulnerable and marginalised members in our community.

I have listened to many stories of isolation and challenge in our community, from people living alone with dementia who are afraid to venture into a world that is becoming increasingly confusing to them, to those who have worked exceptionally hard to overcome mental health challenges. These are people whose lives may have been reshaped by their experience but who do not deserve to be defined by them. Despite all the advances that have been made in destigmatising mental ill-health, people still encounter discrimination and disrespect in the workplace and in our society. I have listened to stories of women who are trapped in violent and chaotic homes, fearful of what may happen if they stay, but too fearful to leave. I have listened to many, many stories of underemployment, unemployment and looming redundancy, and the enormous financial pressure that places on families.

I have also listened to good news stories from the people of Bicton, of the success of a small local business, of community and individual achievement and of optimism that this Labor government, despite the appalling economic legacy of the previous government, will turn things around, because this government will put people first.

My story is one of people and place. I was born and raised in a small country town located in the Strzelecki Ranges of South Gippsland, Victoria. Growing up with practical, loving and hardworking parents alongside my four brothers in the open spaces and tight-knit community of Korumburra was a gift beyond measure and continues to shape every aspect of my life to this day. From my mum I learnt the values of community, compassion and generosity of heart and hearth. From my dad I learnt the values of hard work, persistence and self-reliance. My brothers taught me to stand up for myself and others and to kick a football.

Both of my parents finished school before their fifteenth birthdays, my mum to work at the Nestle factory in Pakenham, Victoria, and my dad to work alongside his brothers and their father to establish blue metal quarries at Woodlea and later Ruby, Victoria, which provided stone and concrete to build roads and other projects throughout the local region. My homemaker mum was an enthusiastic participant in our town's community and her many fundraising and community commitments instilled in me the importance of collective action and community solidarity. Ours was a home in which the door was always open and a cup of tea never far away. My two eldest brothers followed our father into the family business. My middle brother, my younger brother and I entered university. This was an experience that was new to our family and opened not only our young minds, but also those of our parents as we challenged their conventional views with new perspectives and a greatly expanded understanding of the world and our place in it. I thank my parents for their support, encouragement and patience.

The social and political matters of the time rarely featured in our dinner table conversations; ours was not a political household. But from 1980 to 1983 an environmental issue of world significance—the Gordon-below-Franklin Dam project in Tasmania's south west wilderness—would challenge the political complacency of many small town households, including my own. Thousands protested at the impact the dam would have on this environmentally sensitive place. The Tasmanian state and federal governments of the time were locked in battle and the world watched. It would finally end with the election of a Bob Hawke-led federal government that had committed to stopping the project. The enormity of that moment is still with me today and the connection between that event of 34 years ago and the WA Labor government's recent success in stopping the destruction of remnant wetlands at the site of Roe 8 is of great personal significance to me. It would be many years until I found my political voice but from that moment it was on its way.

A love of sport and physical activity led me to studies in health, fitness and recreation and then into a career in the fitness industry. Although I have long since moved on, I maintain a commitment to the importance of physical activity for preventive health management and community wellbeing. The preservation of the natural environment is integral to this. Health, environment and education are to me the pillars that hold our economic and social fortunes aloft and to lose sight of this is to fail the people of this great state in the most fundamental of ways.

My heart led me to Western Australia and I moved into my first home in Melville with my Kalgoorlie-born husband in 1993. We moved to Palmyra shortly after and remain there to this day, embedded in our own tight-knit community where local streets become pop-up skate parks and roadside verges a place of gathering and community celebration. In the years that followed, we started our family and our children entered a local public school—Palmyra Primary School—where I quickly became involved in the school's P&C, fundraising and lobbying government to provide the best possible resources for our teachers to teach and our kids to learn. Then the education funding cuts of 2013 came and I knew I had to do more. I became a state councillor for peak parent body the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations, representing and advocating for public schools throughout the Fremantle area. At the time, I joined several other local parents and citizens association presidents to fund the parent lobby group SOS—Save Our Schools. We partnered with the Putting Our Kids First alliance of unions to protest the savage cuts to education funding under the previous Liberal government and to lobby for the return of these vital funds. I was beginning to find my political voice. Parent associations work exceptionally hard to raise funds for their schools and I take this moment to acknowledge and thank the P&Cs and parents and friends associations in our Western Australian schools for the incredible work they do to provide extra resources and support. I also acknowledge the vital role our teachers, education assistants, administrators, school leaders, cleaners and gardeners play in educating and supporting the wellbeing of our children. They inspire our kids to become the leaders of tomorrow, for they are the ones who will shape the future of this state. I thank the unions that protect these incredibly important workers' rights and I am proud to be part of a government that will put 300 education assistants back into our classrooms.

Since arriving in Western Australia 24 years ago, I transitioned from employment in both the private and public sectors to small business ownership with my husband. This gave me a good understanding of the challenges faced in these quite different but equally important areas of our economy. I am particularly proud of my three years of managing the Palmyra Western Farmers Market with my good friend Karen Greenwood. It was a time of 5.00 am starts and grassroots, hands-on community building and I loved every minute of it. Thank you, Karen, for sharing

that time with me and for all your support throughout the campaign and beyond. I am thankful for the many opportunities this great state has given me and I look forward to giving back throughout my parliamentary career.

The story of the electorate of Bicton has only just begun but the history of the district is not dissimilar to my own. Palmyra, Bicton and the other suburbs that make up this new electorate were once mostly farming land; perhaps that is why I feel so at home there. From the 1850s, fledgling communities began to spring up along the southern banks of the Swan River in an area known as Melville Water. Development was slow and the early settlers were isolated by thick, natural vegetation. The river was the primary means of transport and communication. Much has changed since then but the river, its foreshore, bush sites and open public spaces remain at the heart of our district and community identity, with two-thirds of the electorate of Bicton bordered by the majestic Swan River. We may no longer rely on the river in the same way we once did, but the role it plays for the people of Bicton as a meeting point, recreational space and place to reconnect with our natural environment is more important than ever before as our lives become increasingly crowded with noise, distraction and stress. I know through personal experience that physical and emotional health is integral to our sense of self-worth and the preservation of and access to our natural environment plays a critical role in living meaningful and productive lives. Being in nature is an essential antidote to the ills of our modern life. In particular, mental ill health takes a terrible toll on our community and suicide is a human tragedy that touches too many. We must do more and I believe it is a moral responsibility for every one of us to step up to this task—none more so than those of us who are entrusted with the power to make policy. We must do more to stop the terrible loss of life and I make my solemn commitment to playing my part.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the local environmental community groups that dedicate hundreds of volunteer hours every year to protect, preserve and restore the Swan River and its surrounds. They work tirelessly without any expectation of reward or recognition for the vital work they do in the electorate of Bicton. It was with great pleasure that on Thursday, 12 January I stood beside our now Premier Mark McGowan to announce that this government will provide \$300 000 per year for the next four years to assist community volunteer groups to undertake foreshore restoration, waterbird conservation, mosquito monitoring and control, recreational fishing and bacterial monitoring projects along the Canning and Swan Rivers. This funding is even more fortuitous, as it comes at a time of increasing threat of encroaching foreshore development.

To the member for Fremantle, Simone McGurk: your commitment to your constituents and dedication to hard work and never giving up on the good fight has provided both inspiration and motivation to me throughout the past five years. You are an exceptional example of a great local member—the type of local member I aspire to be. Thank you for your support and words of advice, and for pushing me way beyond my comfort zone throughout the past 12 months as my campaign director. You have played an integral part in my journey from P&C president to parliamentarian.

To my campaign manager, Matt Bowden: you ran a remarkable campaign that succeeded in electing a Labor candidate in an area that has not seen red since Hon Barry Hodge held the seat of Melville between 1977 and 1989. I am here today because of your guidance and commitment.

To my Bicton campaign field coordinators, Joe Quick and Kerry Banting: you ran what was arguably the strongest field campaign of this election.

To the members of United Voice and the 121 volunteers who knocked on over 15 000 doors and made more than 20 000 phone calls: I remain in awe of your energy and drive, and humbled by your support.

I also acknowledge and pay tribute to the thousands of people who came together in the fight to save Beeliar wetlands and stop the disaster known as Perth Freight Link. Throughout this past summer of destruction, you held the line and bore witness to the sheer arrogance and callous disregard of the previous government's decision to push on with this deeply flawed plan in the face of a looming election. The environmental and health impacts of that project threatened some of the most vulnerable members of our community—our children. There are 32 primary schools, nine secondary schools, three tertiary schools and 26 day care centres located along the routes of what was to be Perth Freight Link.

[Member's time extended.]

Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY: These 70 places of education and early childhood care are located within two kilometres of the planned road; one day care centre in Bibra Lake is at ground zero, on the very edge of the road reserve. Diesel engine exhaust is declared by the World Health Organization to be a group 1 carcinogen, meaning there is no safe level of exposure for humans. Diesel particulates are found in diesel exhaust and have the ability to cause disease and death; they disperse well beyond the point of origin. Diesel particulates are microscopic particles found in diesel exhaust and are less than one-fifth the thickness of a human hair. They are small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs, where they can contribute to a range of health problems. The elderly and people with emphysema, asthma and chronic heart and lung disease are especially sensitive to fine particle pollution. The still-developing lungs of children place them at a particularly high risk. More roads that bring trucks into our communities is not

the answer to our freight and transport needs, and on 11 March the people of Western Australia delivered that message to the Liberal government. The people of Western Australia held the former government to account for its environmental vandalism and economic irresponsibility with an electoral defeat, the size of which has never before been seen in Western Australia. The people of Western Australia elected a Mark McGowan-led Labor government—a government that will deliver on its promise of effective, sustainable and futureproof transport and infrastructure; a government in which I proudly take my place as the first member for Bicton.

My journey from P&C president to parliamentarian has been driven by a simple belief that people drive policy, and that with collective action and a common purpose great things can be achieved. I view life from the bottom up, not the top down, and believe we can change society one street at a time.

Quite simply, I commit to working with the people of Bicton to get the things done that will make their lives, and those of their children and generations to come, better than they are today. It would seem that I have found my political voice. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [12.49 pm]: Madam Acting Speaker, my congratulations to you and also to the member for Albany on his appointment as Speaker of the fortieth Parliament. I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Whadjuk people, and pay my respects to elders past and present, and also to the elders of the south west from whom I have learnt so much over the 30 years that I have lived in the region.

In reading through previous inaugural speeches, including those of many members here today, I have been inspired by the deeply personal stories of those who find themselves in this place. My story will be similar. I come to this moment in my life because of the people in Bunbury who voted for me; because of family, friends and colleagues who supported me; because of the deep love I hold for the south west and Bunbury; and because of the absolute commitment of the WA Labor Party to winning back the seat. “Proudly Bunbury”—that was the theme of my campaign to become a member of this house. The people of Bunbury are proud—proud of the place they live in, proud of the contribution they make to our community and proud of their achievements. Having the opportunity to represent the good folk who live in the communities of Bunbury and Dalyellup is one of the proudest moments of my life. The community overwhelmingly gave me its trust in every ballot box across the electorate. I will return that trust to the best of my ability, but in doing so I acknowledge the work of my equally passionate predecessor, Hon John Castrilli.

Bunbury has gone through enormous change. In the mid-1980s it was an industrial port town. Railway marshalling yards made up most of the city centre and the view from the city oil storage tanks was extra special, conveniently located next to the water treatment plants! The change started with Labor’s Bunbury 2000 program to transform Bunbury by removing the industrial heartland that was the CBD and replacing it with new mixed-use precincts and public open spaces. It was a golden era, with investment in a university campus, a new regional entertainment facility, new industrial land developments, new hotels and office complexes, and a new contemporary passenger train service. The then members for Mitchell and Bunbury, Hon David Smith and Phil Smith, and then Deputy Premier, Mal Bryce, were an essential part of the transformation and I acknowledge their contribution, together with those of Dr Ernie Manea and many of the civic leaders of the time who shared the vision. Today, Bunbury’s future is being driven by people passionate about the area they live in. It is a multicultural city that is embracing diversity and generosity. It has a pride festival, a multicultural day and a Diwali festival, all of which flow into activities throughout the year that celebrate both difference and inclusion. It is a city with people who were creative enough to get out in the middle of the night on a long weekend and install signage inviting traffic heading south to Margaret River to travel via the new scenic route of Bunbury’s extensive cappuccino strip.

The people of Bunbury have gumption—a good old-fashioned Yorkshire term that means to get up and go for it. These are the people who create the climate for growth in new and imaginative ways, and we need to celebrate them. “Gumption”—such a great word. Bunbury is more than a second city; it is a potential alternative to Perth for investment and population growth, as Perth increasingly copes with diseconomies of scale. Find yourself stuck in a freeway traffic jam and Bunbury starts to look pretty good as a desirable place to live. It is a city that has great potential to grow international tourism and to be at the forefront of emerging technologies and new industries. Bunbury was the first regional community to achieve gigabyte bandwidth in the CBD and then start using it to drive new industry development. But for all that potential, Bunbury is a city that is suffering as a consequence of the slowdown in Western Australia, and many people and small businesses are doing it tough.

Bunbury needed a plan for jobs. The government’s plan for Bunbury has simple objectives. Firstly, to build jobs through renewed focus on Bunbury’s competitive advantages in manufacturing capability, the port, tourism, agriculture, mineral processing and the new, emerging digital and creative industries. Secondly, to restore our education and training capability with a focus on supporting teachers in the classroom, and skilling for the future—building skills that will allow our kids to adapt to a changing world and enabling people to transition to new opportunities, as old-world jobs disappear. As we know, old-world jobs are disappearing at a much faster rate than

our ability to create the jobs of the future and, as a consequence, investment in education has never been so important. Thirdly, to expand our health services to meet the growing needs of our population by dealing with chronic shortages of beds at Bunbury Hospital, and opening up new opportunities for specialist service delivery. Fourthly, to invest in our transport connectivity, for people, freight, and data, so that transport does not remain a constraint on growth. Fifthly, and importantly, to improve the quality of life through sport, culture and the arts, and recreation, so that our community has a vibrancy that makes people want to be there. This is a plan that will see Bunbury's port taking a greater role in the state freight task to promote new investment in transport logistics and port-related manufacturing industries. Bunbury port has enormous potential for the import and export of manufactured product as well as bulk exports.

When it comes to social infrastructure, Bunbury has been put to the back of the queue for new investment in many areas, including social housing, mental health services, drug addiction services, recreational and sporting facilities, hospital beds and schools. In my doorknocking I found many people living in Department of Housing homes, waiting for basic home maintenance to address damp, mould and leaks. In Dalyellup I found many young families but a lack of basic family support networks to build communities, which means that young parents are isolated in their own homes. People who are worried about friends or relatives with severe mental health problems are still waiting for the step up, step down facility that was promised in 2013 and then forgotten about. When it comes to transport, the *Australind* passenger rail service operates more often as a bus link than as a train link; it is in urgent need of renewal as a contemporary passenger rail service.

Bunbury and Dalyellup are also next to some of the nation's most important biodiversity hotspots. The proposed Preston River to Ocean Regional Park has the potential to be a fantastic nature experience, but weed infestation and a lack of resources for management are threatening the very basis of the park. It, too, has been put to the back of the queue.

My vision for Bunbury is simple—a place where you can have a career, build a home, and have access to good quality education and health care in a place that you love; a city that has a strong commitment to the arts and culture as a basis for generating a shared understanding, and a place where people can get together and enjoy everything from music and art in the streets through to weekend sport. Central to this vision is a city that embraces its Noongar heritage and Noongar people, and celebrates the fact that today we share a rich culture.

The Bunbury plan will take up where Bunbury 2000 left off, and will be implemented with the community. It will position Bunbury as an alternative Western Australian destination for people and industry, and it will send a clear signal for investment. But most importantly, it is a plan for the future that puts people first.

But life is not happy for everyone in Bunbury. Bunbury is increasingly confronted with problems such as homelessness. How can civilised cities accept this as part of the background city noise? How can we continue to step around the person sitting on the pavement and not believe that we should have appropriate and effective options for people to break the cycle? If prosperity and jobs are goals of government, then equally we must build in inclusiveness and fairness and be responsive to happiness. This means addressing domestic violence, poverty, the protection of children, community safety, drug addiction and mental health. It also means a fair go for people living with disability, but we need to do this in partnership with a strong non-government sector and the community. Over the past eight years the non-government sector has been subjected to competitive tendering and short-term contracts. Competitive tendering reflects a dismal lack of understanding about how to build local volunteerism and local capability. More frequently we are seeing eastern states' organisations with slick tender presentations and no local knowledge win tenders for services and close down local providers. I have no doubt this drove a significant part of the mood for change in the electorate of Bunbury. I will be looking for a new deal for our non-government and voluntary sector based on buy-local principles that serve to build our local capability and volunteerism. We need partnerships, not purchasing tenders; mutual obligation, not contract management; and long-term funding certainty, not 12-month agreements continually rolled over at the last minute. If we build the strength of our voluntary non-government organisations through effective partnerships and a commitment to social enterprise, we will reduce the long-run cost to government across a range of portfolios from health to housing to police, and have a happier and healthier community.

Madam Acting Speaker, before I leave this topic I want to draw the attention of the house to the needs of the aged. During my campaign I discovered that many people are caring for high-need elderly parents, just as Helen and I do in our home. Bunbury's aged population is going to increase significantly, and as people live longer and require more services, this will place more demand on carers and service providers. Although aged care is a commonwealth responsibility, I will promote the needs of both carers and the aged to achieve healthy and active ageing and appropriate care during people's final years.

Prior to entering this place, I had a long career in the public service, from Wyndham to Albany and Bunbury to Kalgoorlie. I started out in 1981 when I headed to Moora with the keys to a Holden Kingswood in one hand and a copy of the Child Welfare Act in the other. I finished my career as head of the South West Development

Commission in July 2017. The Kingswood was long gone, but in its place a rich tapestry of experience and an insight developed over many years about social and economic policy and practice across regional Western Australia.

I have a special interest in the public sector's future, especially for those people who work in difficult and often isolated circumstances. Increasingly, those people have spoken to me about the devaluing of their skills and abilities as departments become increasingly preoccupied with budget shortfalls, risk avoidance and centralised decision-making. I support this government's approach to public sector reform. It is bold and it will drive change. A combination of the previous government's approach to budget management and efficiency dividends, without any strategy to guide them, together with multiple departments that duplicate effort, has driven the need for this government to act. Reducing the number of departments will reduce cost, streamline decision-making and provide a clearer line of sight to outcomes for the community. Together with the services priority review, the reform has the potential to empower staff and create a better basis for local decision-making. It is a welcome change.

Prior to the election I was proud to campaign to keep Western Power in public ownership. This asset has been developed over three generations and we should hand it on to the next generation better than we found it—fit for purpose and capable of responding to changing energy technology. I do not intend to repeat here the argument for retaining Western Power in public ownership, suffice to say that the community of Bunbury and Dalyellup, along with the rest of the state, did not need much convincing. Very few of the people I spoke with had any faith that privatisation was in Western Australia's interest. This does not mean our energy sector should not change. However, changes need to take place in the context of a rational and well thought out energy policy that is firmly linked to manufacturing and industry development, as well as the new industries that will shape our future economy.

Manufacturing and baseload electricity supply are interlinked. We cannot have one without the other—both are vital to our state's future. A strong manufacturing sector needs access to reliable baseload supply. We do need to transition our energy mix. However, we need to use sound engineering principles in a manner that builds system reliability while reducing emissions.

I want to acknowledge the men and women from the Australian Services Union and the Electrical Trades Union who campaigned to save Western Power. They took their argument to the community in a respectful manner and the community listened. They have a lot of knowledge and experience to contribute to the energy debate and in the transition to new technologies all they are seeking is a fair deal for their members in managing the transition.

There are many people who have brought me to this point in time. I firstly want to acknowledge the campaign leadership group of John Whitelaw, Sonya Dye and Tom Palmer, together with Tom French. They are an incredibly creative, energetic and passionate group of people who lifted me when I was down and smacked me down when I was too excited. Yes, Madam Acting Speaker, I do occasionally get excited!

[Member's time extended.]

Mr D.T. PUNCH: Lenda Oshalem, who initially directed my campaign, always had faith that we would succeed and from whom I have learned so much about modern campaigning and Patrick Gorman, clinically insightful and great to have on your own team—I am very grateful to you both. My political mentor Hon Mal Bryce's wisdom over many years has helped to shape my thinking about questions of our collective future and in the last year he has provided considerable insight into the role of a parish politician, not to mention regular inspections of my shoes during doorknocking. My thanks go to Gordon Hill, Tony Buti, and David and Tresslyn Smith, who have extended their friendship and support to me on very many occasions, and to the wonderful volunteers from south west branches of the Labor Party, especially the Bunbury branch, as well as many community volunteers. I also thank Hon Alannah MacTiernan, an incredible campaigner; Tim Hammond; Hon Rita Saffioti; Hon Sue Ellery and Hon Steve Dawson. I would also like to thank the members of the Australian Services Union, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, the Electrical Trades Union, United Voice and the WA Prison Officers' Union, who provided immense support right through the campaign. These members work right across our community and wanted to dedicate their time and effort to help build a better future.

David Kerr, a special friend whose immense contribution to Bunbury and the south west deserves acknowledgement in this house, and Jan Tierney, whose good humour put new life into doorknocking. David and Jan will be lifelong friends.

I also thank the Premier, Hon Mark McGowan, whom I first met when he was a new, slightly nervous Minister for the South West and I was a slightly anxious CEO. I was confident he had not read *Yes Minister*, so I thought there was a chance I might have the upper hand. That thought lasted all of a nanosecond. He was a fantastic minister and I am immensely honoured to be part of his team today.

I came to Western Australia in 1971 as a 14-year-old boy looking for a new future. I had left a family that had gone its separate ways and I had not attended school for a number of years. I had no idea what the future held but

I was sensible enough to take an opportunity when it was offered. I joined my brother Tony and his wife, Ann, who provided stability, support and a home and I learned just how special growing up in a country community can be. I am not sure they quite knew what they were taking on but they gave me a fresh start and I am forever grateful for that. I went back to school, firstly in Manjimup, and then Collie, which will appeal to the member for Collie–Preston. It was a shock to wear a school uniform again. But I owe a great debt to the teachers of those schools for their support and dedication in making up for the lost years of my education. Their example has stayed with me throughout my life and provided a foundation for the person I have become and it drives my belief in the public school system. For those of you in this house who have a teaching background, you have my admiration.

I was lucky enough to enter university in 1974 following the Whitlam government's university reforms that made university education accessible. I and many others remember Gough Whitlam for that great and memorable change in Australia's values that opened university access to everyday people. My education has enabled me to have a career that has taken me all over Western Australia and overseas. I have met and worked with many people from all walks of life and learned so much. It has taught me that relationships are the most important thing we have and that everybody has their own story to tell. Perhaps most importantly it has taught me about acceptance of our shared humanity and the importance of diversity.

Western Australia is a land that has reached out to me as a migrant from England, and I am very grateful for it. I owe a great debt to my brother Vic. He has always been there in the background with advice, guidance, good humour and a sense of fun. I am blessed to have him as a brother.

Most importantly, in this house before my fellow parliamentarians I thank my wife, Helen, and our three sons, Alan, Daniel and David. Together they set an example that I can only aspire to, in not only what they do but also the people they are.

In closing, I remember the remarks of Hon David Templeman introducing the class of 2017 to Parliament when he warned us to be careful about our Address-in-Reply. In a voice full of doom that can only be conveyed by the member for Mandurah, he told us it will be the first reference used when the time comes for condolence motions! In anticipation of what is hopefully a far-off event, I intend to have a very good time in this house, have fun and be the best I possibly can be in representing the proud people of Bunbury.

[Applause.]

MR B. URBAN (Darling Range) [1.11 pm]: I thank Madam Acting Speaker (Ms S.E. Winton) for the opportunity to address members of the Legislative Assembly on my first occasion rising in this great chamber as the member for Darling Range. Firstly, I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Whadjuk people from the Noongar nation. I wish to pay my respect to their elders, past, present and future. It is a great privilege and honour to have been elected by the people of Darling Range and I will do my best to represent their interests here in Parliament.

I wish to pay tribute to the Darling Range campaign team. Those people include my campaign directors, Matt Keogh, the federal member for Burt, and Dr Tony Buti, the member for Armadale; my campaign manager, Callan Tree; my field organiser, Harrisan Burrows; and my special helpers from the east, Ethan Stein, John McManus and Lucy Collier.

With the assistance of many local volunteers from our community, and rank and file members from the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, the Maritime Union of Australia, the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, the Australian Services Union, the Electrical Trades Union, the Transport Workers' Union, the Australian Workers' Union, and United Voice, we engaged in an energetic and professional campaign, talking to thousands of Darling Range residents. We listened to their concerns and aspirations. I come to this place motivated and committed to address my community's concerns and seeking to realise its aspirations.

I was fortunate to receive outstanding assistance and support from many of my parliamentary colleagues, including the Premier, who, as the Leader of the Labor Party, visited Darling Range many times before and during the election campaign. Like me, the Premier is committed to improving the lives of my constituents and the lives of all Western Australians. I must make special mention of Matthew Swinbourn, a newly elected upper house member for East Metropolitan Region. Without doubt, he was a confidante and a great boost to my personal morale on days when it was tough. He was with me every single step of the way during the campaign. I thank you, Matt, and I very much look forward to working with you as we seek to improve the lives of people in my electorate.

I am truly grateful for the friendship and support I have had along the way from Phil Eva, who is not here today, Dave Elliott, Mark Keeler, Wayne Eadon, Ron Mellowship, Yazi, of course, John Kirkpatrick and Chelle Rich. You were there when I needed you the most.

The community of Darling Range, like the rest of the state, have given the McGowan Labor government a clear mandate to stop the privatisation of Western Power. On this front, our campaign on this issue was well supported

by Wayne Wood and his Australian Services Union team, and Les McLaughlan and his Electrical Trades Union team. Thank you for such a great campaign and for your strong personal support.

My brother John was not able to be here today as he lives in the UK. My brother amazes me in so many ways. I am going to cry now, so just accept it! We were in the best regiment and battery together, which I will go into later. We grew up with love, hatred, hard times and good times, and we have remained best friends. We are so close to each other, and even though distance separates us we keep in regular contact through Skype, along with my niece Larissa and her son Ryan. My brother works long hours in the south east of England as an installations manager for a central heating company. When he has downtime, he spends lots of time raising money for the British cancer foundation. He has emerged as one of the major events organisers for fun runs, Relay for Life and Tough Mudder events. He has been known to wear pink with pride. He wears tutus quite regularly and attacks competitors with water pistols. All this he does to raise awareness for one of the biggest causes of death in our communities. The big C has taken many of our friends and family members far too early. Our great friend Doug Fagg, only in his mid-40s, is fighting this illness. Every day I think of him, Donna and the family, and he will always be in my prayers.

This next bit is going to be hard. Finally, thank you to my family, Rosemary or “Ye Olde Bat”, Lachlan, Nathan, Jack, our adopted daughter Tanya and all my family members in the UK, Australia and Canada. Some are watching this on the internet. I am supposed to be rough and tough, aren't I? Right! Thank you to my wife, Jen, who has supported me through all my craziness over the years. We do all the mad things together. We ride motorbikes and put on wetsuits to dive in the most amazing locations in Australia and around the world. We both love travelling and meeting people from different customs and cultures. I cannot understand why she refuses to join me parachuting or BASE-jumping! She just will not do it. She has supported me through my time as a councillor at the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale and has single-handedly kept our family together. I can never thank her enough.

Today is a day I will never forget. I have just crossed over into my eighteenth year of living in Australia. It has been an eventful journey. Let me go back a little over 48 years. I was born in a coalmining village called Ashington in Northumberland. My father was a coalminer and my mother was an auxiliary nurse in a local mental hospital. My brother and I had a mixed and varied upbringing. Like many other families, we were not well-off. My parents saved all year to take us on a holiday and often took out personal loans to pay for our trips. Our upbringing was like most kids in the north east of England; it was a mixture of mischief and adventure. My love for judo and rugby started in Ashington, where I represented the local area in both sports. I am forever grateful to people like Ronnie “Chuckie” Morris and Davy Garrett—may he rest in peace—who introduced discipline and compassion to many kids who entered the dojo. Even if we were not in a financial position to pay the fees, we were always welcome and made to feel welcome.

When I was a kid, north east communities centred on the local coalmines. Kids left school to work down the pit in many varied roles. This started to change in the 1980s under the Thatcher government. The Tories attacked the heart of the union and the working class and the communities. Workers' rights, workers' conditions and wages were all under attack, even though productivity was at its highest. This was a direct assault on my community. The 1984 miners' strike consolidated our community behind the National Union of Mineworkers. Throughout the year-long strike, my family saw others struggle financially, and my family endured that too. Houses were being repossessed and families were falling apart. The Thatcher government broke the once-proud mining communities of the north east of England. Some of them have never recovered. Families were torn apart as men stepped over the picket lines against the will of their brothers and sisters to save their families from further humiliation. Some men killed themselves, as they thought life would be better for their families if they were not there. Others ended up with criminal records, as they were committing offences in order to put food on the table for their families. My family survived on food parcels from strangers and handouts from friends and family. The strike concluded in early 1985 with promises of better working conditions, better workers' rights and fairer wages. These promises were broken by the Thatcher government and pits were closed at alarming rates. In 1986 the last mine in my area was closed and the community as I knew it no longer exists.

Where I come from, there were not a lot of opportunities available. With the closure of the mines, it was pretty much the dole or commencing a career in petty crime, with some ending up being placed at Her Majesty's pleasure at Durham or Acklington prisons, although there was another option—the military. My brother joined the Army in 1983 while I was still in high school. I had a great time at Hirst High School. I was an average student, gaining average qualifications. We were not supposed to amount to much. However, we were fortunate to have some great teachers, and three in particular encouraged us to break the mould and achieve the best we could. Brian Hannaford, Sheila Harrison and Lynn Mills became mentors for so many kids and made a real difference in my life. At school I forged friendships that have stood the test of time: Don and Doug Kindley; and, of course, my second parents, Dot and Les; Steve Pirt; and Kevin Horwood. Our friendship has been over 40 years long.

On 17 June 1985, I left school and 10 days later I was on the train to the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Artillery. Later I became a member of the 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, the mighty J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery. This is

where I learned the true meaning of mateship. We worked hard and played even harder. We backed each other and we supported each other through many situations. My regimental colleagues remain loyal friends to this day and I remain loyal to them: Rob “Jock” Donoghue, Sheds, Jimmy Hilton, Taff Laff, Scouse Burton, and, of course, my brother, John, and many, many more. I apologise for not naming you, but I will probably need an extension sometime anyway. I stand in this chamber proudly wearing my regimental tie in respect to you all. Thank you to Jerry Herbert, RHA (Rtd), and Alec “Jock” Downie for your wisdom and advice.

In 1989 my police life commenced, again with a huge sense of pride. I spent time with the Hertfordshire Constabulary, West Midlands Police and Western Australia Police, almost 24 years in total. In the police force I met some of the most important mentors in my life such as Thomas Kennedy—PC 607—and his wife, Anne, Ian Langdon, Ian Herbert and Mick McCarthy who, it later transpired, came to Western Australia Police and now we cannot get rid of the big Irishman. The police force supported me twice through university, for which I will be eternally grateful. I have stated to my police and lawyer mates in the United Kingdom that I will somehow introduce the words “penguin” and “iceberg” into my speech, so I will see what I can do.

In late 1998, following a period investigating atrocities that humans do to each other in the Balkans, I left the British police to get a clear understanding of my personal journey. My life and outlook on life changed. I travelled the world and caught up with a long-term friend in Rockingham, Willy Buglass, who is also known as Boogie. He has supported me through so much and I have achieved so much in life with his support and that of his wife, Lesley, including their introduction to my beautiful wife.

It is with reflection and a sense of balance that I see the suffering people endure on a daily basis. I have spent much of my adult life defending and fighting for people who cannot fight for themselves. As a police officer I have defended and supported victims of crime, victims of assaults and victims of domestic-related incidents and their families. I will continue to defend vulnerable people in our community.

Police officers face many issues on a daily basis. We expect a lot from them. We expect our men and women in blue to run towards danger when everyone else runs away. They see more tragedy, loss and life-changing moments than the average person in our community. It should be a no-brainer that we look after our police officers and their mental wellbeing, and that we support them financially if they can no longer work due to a psychological injury. The health and wellbeing of our police officers should be an absolute priority. Although there are no official statistics, we know that in the past three years three Western Australian police officers have tragically taken their life. Three is simply too many. One is too many. Sadly, it was in February this year that a senior constable took her life leaving behind a young son. Police officers on the frontline still say there is a lack of accountability for the unsupportive and often dismissive attitude of the agency following trauma-related incidents and work-acquired medical issues, particularly those of a psychological nature. They agree that the approach to mental health training and awareness is ad hoc and that a pervasive police culture sees illnesses and injuries, particularly those of a psychological nature, as a weakness. This combined with a perceived lack of support from management or the hierarchy exacerbates the propensity for officers to suffer in silence. Our police officers should feel valued and supported for the work that they do in our community and not like a burden on our community.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr B. URBAN: Police officers should not be medically retired through the same process as officers who have been accused of misconduct or corruption. The Western Australian Labor government has committed to change the medical retirement process to ensure that officers can leave WA Police with dignity and respect. The WA Police Union has campaigned for a workers' compensation-style scheme for medically retired officers and the WA Labor government has undertaken to sit down and talk with key stakeholders about providing financial compensation for officers who gave their all to support our community. Policing is a difficult and dangerous job. A career-ending illness or injury can occur anywhere and at any time, even when they are not on duty. Police officers are the only workers who are agents of the Crown. As such, police officers are never off duty, due to their oath of office and common law responsibility to uphold the law. If police officers are injured but still able to work, the current system is very good. However, if an officer is deemed medically unfit, it can leave them and their family destitute. It not only affects the officer, but also has a profound impact on their immediate family. This can mean many things: losing the family home, bankruptcy, a breakdown of family relationships, loss of self-worth, depression or worse. A scheme to rectify this is a priority for this government and I want to help right the wrongs to keep medically retired officers off the scrap heap and give them the respect that they deserve. “Crab man” Ryan Marron, I have your back.

For the past three years I have worked in the area of youth justice in the south west metro area under the management of Claire Heffernan, De-arnne Rayner and Stephannie McPherson. Youth justice officers across the state have the enormous responsibility of trying to assist young offenders by helping them integrate into the community and hopefully break the cycle of reoffending. I am not forgetting you Renee, so do not stress. Looking at the issues youth in the Peel region face on a daily basis there are five recurring themes: trouble within family;

friends who are engaged in criminal behaviour; disengagement from school; disconnection from the community; and personal issues including drug and alcohol use, cognitive disorders and mental health issues.

Methamphetamine and alpha-PVP—a synthetic drug known as the zombie drug—are the worst drugs to hit our communities. These drugs are being used by children as young as 11 years old on a daily basis. These drugs are destroying families in many ways. Offences committed by these offenders are not just stealing or damage related but also assaults and domestic violence. Many young people are exposed to drug and alcohol use in the home and they feel encouraged to use drugs themselves. A lack of money and the absence of basic needs such as food, clothing and housing are commonly identified as reasons for young people getting into trouble. Many young people described stealing as a means of getting money for things that they need.

Many not-for-profit agencies are working with young people in the Peel region—Peel Youth Services, the Peel Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, the Peel Youth Medical Service, Shelter WA, Fairbridge Village, the Palmerston Association and SMYL Community Services, to name but a few. These agencies work tirelessly to support those in our community who need support. As a government we must do better in supporting government agencies and not-for-profit organisations towards achieving better outcomes for those youth who are at risk. Whilst a member of this chamber I will be advocating for this section of our community that needs a voice here.

I want to acknowledge the 24 000 Western Australians living with epilepsy and the challenges that they face every day. Epilepsy is the most common brain disorder in the world and yet sufferers often feel vulnerable, frustrated and isolated. They can face many limits to their independence, restricted opportunities, discrimination, stigmatisation and impacts on their health and wellbeing. Epilepsy WA continues to provide them with support to achieve a better outcome and a better quality of life and to raise community awareness about this condition. I am sure members agree that people with epilepsy deserve consideration by us, both the government and the community, to be given a fair go and to feel well supported.

The electorate of Darling Range is a special place. The community pulls together in so many ways, whether it is the heritage society in both Jarrahdale and Pickering Brook, the many community groups or the wonderful bush volunteer fire services. Our community is strong and committed to the hills and foothills. As people are aware, my wife and I, and our eldest son, Lachlan, are active members of the Jarrahdale brigade. Like all brigades in this state we are indebted to many people in our community who volunteer in whatever capacity they can.

WA Labor has made a number of key commitments: the extension of the train line from Armadale to Byford, the transfer of land to the Serpentine–Jarrahdale shire for the regional sports facility in Whitby and the many grant allocations to numerous community groups. I will work hard to ensure that my community benefits from future infrastructure projects and job opportunities.

Finally, as members can see, there are many things in my life that I cherish. It is true that, like the member for Armadale, my family are Dockers supporters. Western Force is my rugby team, alongside Newcastle Falcons, and I am an avid Newcastle United Football Club supporter. At the end of the 2015–16 season Newcastle were relegated from the Premier League to the Champions League. This season they stood proud behind their manager, Rafa Benitez, and thousands of fanatical Geordies to win the Champions League ahead of Brighton on the final day. Next season the “Toon Army” will represent the north east of England in football’s top division as both Sunderland and Middlesbrough have been relegated.

With my electorate officers I look forward to kicking some strategic goals for the people of Darling Range. I will do my best to ensure that the people of Darling Range—my constituents, my community—are strongly represented in this place. I am committed to doing this. This is why I stood as a Labor candidate for Darling Range in 2013 and again in 2017. I was unsuccessful in 2013 and I note the contribution made by the former member for Darling Range, Tony Simpson. Fortunately, 2017 was my day and here I am, the proud local member for Darling Range in the Legislative Assembly—with a Geordie accent. I will work so hard not to disappoint my electorate and to improve the quality of life for our community. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MS J.M. FREEMAN (Mirrabooka) [1.39 pm]: I congratulate the member for Darling Range on a fantastic speech, and I congratulate all the new members who are giving their inaugural speech here today. I place on record that I think it is an inaugural or first speech—the times of “maidens” are over. The new members should all be very proud to be able to get to their feet and tell us their stories and share their ambitions and dreams. For most of those I have heard today, their ambition is to represent the people who have put their faith in them and their faith in WA Labor to form government in this Parliament.

I also congratulate all the speakers who began their inaugural speeches by recognising the traditional owners on the land on which we meet—the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, their elders, past, present and emerging. I also recognise in this place that this is Noongar boodjar and always will be.

It was such a proud moment for me to be in the previous Parliament when we changed the Western Australian Constitution to recognise the first nation people—the Aboriginal people. It was such a proud moment to see both sides of the house come together and acknowledge that our broad and encompassing history is very much what has made Australia such a great place in which to live. It makes me so proud to be a representative in the Western Australian Parliament.

I saw one of the education officers stand in front of the picture of the first commonwealth-type Parliament in Western Australia, showing Captain Stirling standing up and John Septimus Roe in the middle. He spoke to the students of Mercy College who were visiting here yesterday. Mercy College is a great college in the seat of Mirrabooka, which I represent. I was truly heartened by his talk about that first Parliament, which was all unelected blokes—I am happy to take any of the new members on my irreverent feminist tour of Parliament House any time they like—because he said that although it was the first administration, it could not be said that it was the first government. He pointed out that there would have been government before this; it would have been government by all of the different people—the Balladong, Whadjuk and Bibbulmun people. It is fantastic that the young people in the community that I represent can get that depth of history from our education officers.

When I stand up at citizenship speeches, which all the new members have probably already done—I know the member for Mount Lawley spoke about that in his speech—to begin by acknowledging the traditional owners gives me a great way to open that dialogue with newly arrived Australians. It enables me to talk to them about acknowledging our past, while standing fully in the present and celebrating the present, and looking forward to a progressive future that is filled with potential and capacity. I am so lucky to do that in the seat of Mirrabooka. It is the most diverse electorate; that is my claim.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: No, member for Cannington!

Mr W.J. Johnston: Forty-four per cent are born overseas.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Let me tell the member for Cannington —

Mr W.J. Johnston: Forty-five per cent!

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: No! Fifty-four per cent of the people in the electorate I represent are born overseas.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Forty-five per cent.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: I will give the member for Cannington this challenge: go to the SBS website under “diversity”, which will pop up with a little —

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Acting Speaker (Ms S.E. Winton), please protect me. I need protection from this brutal interjector! Can I congratulate you, Acting Speaker, on your new role. Please feel free to call the minister for his brutal interjections on me.

If the minister looks at “diversity” on the SBS website—I suggest that all members do this—a site will pop up that will allow members to enter suburbs. It summarises the 2011 census, showing diversity on ancestry, birth and religion. I am hanging out for the 2016 census. If the Minister for Mines and Petroleum does that, he will find that the thirteenth most diverse suburb in the whole of Australia is Mirrabooka and that it is the first to pop up for Western Australia. That is why when we celebrate our past we embrace our future, and I congratulate all new members on doing that.

As part of celebrating the past, I acknowledge that 27 May marks 50 years since the 1967 referendum, in which Australians made history by voting overwhelmingly to amend the Australian Constitution to include Aboriginals in the census and allowed the commonwealth to create laws for them. We know that referendums can be difficult to result in a yes vote, but that referendum resulted in an overwhelming yes vote and the whole of Australia heart-warmingly embraced change. Some people believe that it was at that time that Aboriginal people got the vote, but that is not the case. Interestingly, before Australia became a Federation, Aboriginal people had had the vote in South Australia, as had women, and they lost it at Federation. That is always a good point to acknowledge.

Whilst I am talking about the first nation people in our communities, can I congratulate Walter Eatts, a very important Aboriginal elder in the Mirrabooka community. On Saturday night we celebrated his eightieth birthday. That is a great achievement because the average age an Aboriginal man reaches is still 67 years, 11 years less than in the general population. There was a real sense of celebration and enjoyment that evening as people came together to celebrate and a lot of Aboriginal people in the room recognised the milestone Walter has set. Walter has written two books about his life. Members are welcome to contact me if they want me to put them into contact with him. He, along with his wife, Doolann Leisha Eatts, have written books about their lives. They have told me great stories about how they once hunted for kangaroos on the site where Mirrabooka Square is now located.

I love the diversity that exists in Mirrabooka and it was evident to me when I was doorknocking with a woman called Carrie. As we were walking along a particular street I felt as though I was in downtown multicultural central. I see that the member for Thornlie has quickly googled whether Mirrabooka is the most multicultural suburb in WA and has found that it is easy to find! Carrie and I were out doorknocking on this particular day and we witnessed this remarkable multicultural diversity. A Vietnamese man was being helped by an Afghani neighbour. When I came up to greet them, they were standing in the street where the Afghani neighbour was helping his Vietnamese neighbour. The Vietnamese man owns some great koi. Koi are huge in the seat of Mirrabooka. If members ever want to see koi, they should walk around the backyards of Mirrabooka where they will find pools of them. This Vietnamese man was exceptionally proud to be talking to me—we had met before and it was lovely to see him—about his son who is a deputy mayor in a council in Victoria. We also saw a Burmese family that works with their community, and they live alongside a Punjabi family that I regularly see walking around Mirrabooka parks. The Aboriginal kids were out playing with the Anglo-Australian kids in the front yards. A Macedonian businessman was telling me how he helps the bloke across the road with his fledgling transport business, and there is a bloke across the road from him who is from Thailand. It goes on.

I recently spoke about the celebration of the renewed Mirrabooka mural. If members did not see that in *The Sunday Times*, they should google “Mirrabooka mural”. There was a big spread in *The Sunday Times* on the Mirrabooka mural, which is in the centre and heart of Mirrabooka. Right in the centre of that spread was Doolann Leisha Eatts, our Aboriginal elder. As I said in that article, it is not whether we are born in Australia; it is whether Australia is in our hearts, and that is certainly what we heard today from the member for Darling Range.

Part of that, and the heart of the community that I represent, are the people who came out to assist me to retain the seat of Mirrabooka, and how proud I am to retain that seat. I will just place a few people on the record, and if I forget someone, I apologise to them; they are close to my heart, not just in my addled brain sometimes. Jim and Lester put out signs and did a lot of the mechanical little jobs that need to be done in campaigns. Chris delivered leaflets, and I thank all the other people who delivered leaflets. Our campaign managed to get four leaflets produced and hand-delivered, without using Australia Post. That is a sign of a great volunteer base. It is obviously not possible in some electorates, and I take that into account. I saw the Leader of the National Party looking at me just then; I understand it might be a bit more difficult for her. I am sure she could do it in Corrigin. My partner comes from Corrigin, and he tells me it is one of the heartlands of the Nationals.

Robert stood guard over the corflutes he placed all the way along Mirrabooka Avenue every morning and every afternoon. Many people told me I have to take that man to lunch at Parliament House to thank him for his efforts; he was a champion. Judith was my volunteer coordinator, and my campaign team was Sue, Donata, Amanda and Geoff. I thank Arn and Miranda for ringing their communities. One of the things about having one of the most diverse electorates in the Western Australian Parliament is that even though we can telephone people, trying to talk politics to people for whom English is a second language adds a whole new complexity. Meeting them on the doorstep is better. Everyone in Australia has a good capacity to communicate, but it is somewhat different on the telephone. I thank those people who telephoned the Vietnamese, Chinese, Burmese and Eritrean communities, and I also thank those people who posted messages to their communities on Viva and Facebook. It was great to be supported, and it gives me great heart for the work that I love doing.

I thank all the doorknockers, in particular Abraham, Michael, Danny, Carrie, Toofan and, of course, my partner, John O'Brien. I have to place on record that I am not a great doorknocker. It is not something I love, but every Sunday afternoon, like clockwork—rain, hail or shine—my partner would have me out there; he has got my number. It was a delight, and I enjoyed it. There is no doubt that, when we went out to the community, we found that people were endorsing the WA Labor message and wanted to engage with us and tell their stories, and that was great. I thank my dad, Arthur, and Don for driving the truck, and the pre-poll workers, Kayende and others. My success in the seat of Mirrabooka came through the warmth and the love I am provided with by so many in the Mirrabooka community. I also express my gratitude to Chris, Eva, Karen, Piok, Jignesh, Parveen, Jogia, Charles, Andrew and Chris, and many more who make it such a delight to do this job.

One of the things that is not delightful about being the member for Mirrabooka is when Mirrabooka is stigmatised or vilified. Recently, to justify drug testing people on Newstart and Youth allowances, the Turnbull government released Centrelink data to a journalist in Victoria. Australian Taxation Office figures, which were actually the March ATO figures, were released suddenly in a package this time around to vilify those less fortunate than ourselves. The article asked, “Which postcode is WA’s welfare capital?” The article was in every newspaper. It was a national way to vilify people in order to justify what the federal government was about to do. In the last five minutes that I have the opportunity to speak, I want to put this on the record.

[Member’s time extended.]

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: I understand that Nathan Hondros wrote an opinion piece in the *Mandurah Mail* because Mandurah was the largest postcode vilified in this particular reference that called the article fake news. The

postcode 6061, which covers Nollamara, Mirrabooka, Westminster and Balga, was the other area vilified in the article. Daniel Emerson tweeted —

... can we please reserve 'fake news' for that which is fabricated or concocted, not which you believe to be inaccurate. It harms us all.

News like this harms us all. Vilification like this harms us all. When someone like Ben Morton writes an op-ed piece about the safety net versus the hammock, it harms every person, and it is inaccurate. I know the member for Cannington wants to talk to me, but I want to get a few facts out and then I will welcome his interjection.

In the Mirrabooka postcode, 6061, which covers the areas I mentioned, \$6 000 per person was spent on welfare. In Dalkeith \$3 497 per person was spent on tax advice. We know that the federal Leader of the Opposition is talking about the impact of tax advice at the moment. In Mirrabooka only \$230 per person was spent on tax advice. Mirrabooka produced \$914 580 545 in wages. Dalkeith produced \$800 228 676 in wages. Mirrabooka is producing more wages and Dalkeith gets more tax advice. The average tax deduction in Dalkeith is \$10 568. Dalkeith spends \$16 741 891 on tax accountants. Mirrabooka gets \$12 388 028 in pensions and allowances. That tells me that those ATO figures were used very, very pointedly to vilify and to undermine the people that I represent. Those people are doing it tough. We have a really high level of unemployment in the Mirrabooka area. I have raised this time and again in this Parliament in the time that I have represented Mirrabooka, but the previous government did not listen, to its detriment. To its detriment, the previous government did not hear that the people of Perth, the people of Mirrabooka and the people of Nollamara were suffering, and now former government members are suffering the consequences of that.

We have seen the amazing talent that the WA Labor team was able to offer the community. With the amazing talent we put before the people, not only was the Barnett government voted out of office, but we were voted in. There is no doubt that we would not be listening to all these amazing speeches if it was not for the efforts, the tenacity, the commitment and the passion that all these people brought to the March election. They did that because, like me, they believe in the people that they represent and they do not want people, like the Liberals, vilifying those people by releasing old ATO data and saying, "Look at them. They are all into welfare." That is vilification and it is nasty. The Liberals have form, they are nasty, and the people wanted something different.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 196.]