

Mr Roger Cook; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Shane Love; Deputy Speaker; Ms C.M. Tonkin; Mr G. Baker; Ms M.J. Hammat; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Mr D.A.E. Scaife; Mr H.T. Jones; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Amendment to Motion

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health) [2.55 pm]: Prior to question time, we were talking about ambulances, and it would be important to note that Western Australia has the best ambulance response times in Australia. Although there are issues with transfer-of-care times at the moment, as a result of the pressures on our emergency departments, our patients get collected up quicker than anyone else. I might add that they are admitted to the hospital immediately if they are a category 1 or a critical or trauma patient. Ambulance ramping has a regrettable impact on our system, but our EDs continue to perform the best in the country with the fastest ambulance response times. This is an important point for people to note: they do an extraordinary job. I focus more on transfer of care because that is the statistic that is held with and recorded by the Department of Health and so it sits on the Department of Health website. I note that ramping is 30 per cent lower than what it was last month and that is pleasing. Obviously, we need to continue to see that trend go down, and we will continue to monitor the transfer-of-care times to make sure that we see improvements on that. Maybe it is because some of the measures that we are putting in place now are starting to work; maybe there are other factors involved. When I recently met with the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, it said that the problems are probably multifactorial, but we continue to look at all these things that we need to do to help our EDs work better.

I will counsel the member for Vasse not to compare ambulance ramping times in April 2021 with April 2020 because I do not know whether you were aware of what was going on in April 2020, member for Vasse, but there was a worldwide lockdown, and so there was not a lot of ambulance activity at all! This month, as I said, is 30 per cent lower than what it was last month. That is very pleasing and we need to make sure that continues into the future.

I had plenty of opportunity in question time to expand on the issues that, obviously, impact on this debate. That includes our response with the expansion of EDs. The significant expansion of beds we are seeing at the moment include the 117 beds that we are bringing on. There is the significant recruitment of staff, including midwives at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, as well as the extra 600 people. As a result of efforts by the Department of Health and the Labor Party's election commitments, we will see an extra 1 000 this year in 2021 and 1 000 next year in 2022 as part of the recruitment process.

All our hospitals are under pressure at the moment. That is a phenomenon that is taking place right around the country, but we have a plan to fix it and we are implementing that plan. We look forward to continuing to invest heavily in our hospital system to make sure that we can continue to provide world-class health care. As I said, our EDs are the best in the country. In elective surgery, we are the second best in the country. We should be proud of the work that the doctors and nurses do in our hospitals, and they do it every single day under difficult circumstances. I greatly respect their commitment and professionalism.

We will oppose this amendment. The amendment is inaccurate in its description and it is simply unnecessary in its intent. From that point of view, we will oppose the amendment.

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary) [2.59 pm]: I rise to also speak in opposition to this ridiculous amendment that has been proposed by the opposition and to echo the sentiments of the Minister for Health. Managing a complicated world-class health system is simply beyond the capability of this opposition. Over the last four years, we have seen that this health minister is part of a united team capable of delivering on election commitments and capable of delivering a world-class health system. Immediately after the election, the McGowan government took the necessary steps to implement a sustainable health review. Good financial management underpins the effective operation of our health system, because the ballooning costs that we inherited when we were elected to government in 2017 were, frankly, unsustainable. Immediately, the necessary financial management was put in place and the Minister for Health organised the sustainable health review. Not only that, we have also seen an innovative approach to delivering health services.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a lot of background noise going on, members. If you want to have a conversation, take it outside. Carry on, member for Mount Lawley.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and congratulations on your elevation to that role.

There has been an innovative approach to the delivery of health services over the past four years of the McGowan Labor government. The new medical research portfolio has been established. Telehealth is being deployed wider, and world-class, cutting edge community mental health facilities are now in place. The minister is driven by an empathic and compassionate approach. There is a new emphasis on palliative care and end-of-life care. I highlight to the member for Albany the announcement of the \$13.1 million oncology unit at the Albany Health Campus. Other hospitals such as Bunbury Hospital and the Peel Health Campus have been upgraded. The \$13.1 million unit at Albany will deliver 50 local jobs.

Extract from Hansard
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While I am on the topic of jobs, I want to talk about the 600 newly qualified nurses who are being recruited to provide the service needed in our system. Emergency department upgrades are being undertaken at Peel and Armadale hospitals. This government cuts through red tape to promote aged-care developments. I compare that with what we inherited when we came to office. The health system is on a sustainable financial footing and is presided over by a minister who knows precisely what he is doing and has the necessary whole-of-government response to make it a priority to put patients first. The government has achieved all of that in the face of a global pandemic. The member for Roe criticises us because our COVID-19 clinics do not have any patients in them. I would class that as a mark of success, but not according to members opposite; they never get it right on COVID.

Lastly—I would like to come back to this point—this is the state of the hospital system. Members should compare that with the hospital system we inherited. The previous government could not even finish building Perth Children’s Hospital, which had asbestos in the ceiling and lead in the water. This is a ridiculous amendment, and I for one will be voting against it.

Division

Amendment put and a division taken, the Deputy Speaker casting his vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (6)

Mr V.A. Catania
Ms M.J. Davies

Dr D.J. Honey
Mr R.S. Love

Ms L. Mettam
Mr P.J. Rundle (*Teller*)

Noes (48)

Mr S.N. Aubrey
Mr G. Baker
Ms H.M. Beazley
Dr A.D. Buti
Mr J.N. Carey
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke
Ms C.M. Collins
Mr R.H. Cook
Ms L. Dalton
Ms D.G. D’Anna
Mr M.J. Folkard
Ms K.E. Giddens

Ms M.J. Hammat
Ms J.L. Hanns
Mr T.J. Healy
Mr W.J. Johnston
Mr H.T. Jones
Mr D.J. Kelly
Ms E.J. Kelsbie
Ms A.E. Kent
Dr J. Krishnan
Mr P. Lilburne
Mr M. McGowan
Ms S.F. McGurk

Mr D.R. Michael
Mr S.A. Millman
Mr Y. Mubarakai
Ms L.A. Munday
Mrs L.M. O’Malley
Mr P. Papalia
Mr S.J. Price
Mr D.T. Punch
Mr J.R. Quigley
Ms M.M. Quirk
Ms R. Saffioti
Ms A. Sanderson

Mr D.A.E. Scaife
Ms J.J. Shaw
Ms R.S. Stephens
Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Dr K. Stratton
Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mr D.A. Templeman
Mr P.C. Tinley
Ms C.M. Tonkin
Mr R.R. Whitby
Ms S.E. Winton
Ms E.L. Hamilton (*Teller*)

Amendment thus negatived.

Motion Resumed

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [3.09 pm]: First and foremost, I wish to thank the electors in the Cottesloe electorate for having faith in me as their local member and for returning me in the general election. I point out to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum that by some distance I had the lowest swing of any member in our party, something the minister may say is a dubious thing of which to be proud; nevertheless, I am proud.

Mr W.J. Johnston: What was your swing?

Dr D.J. HONEY: It was six per cent, minister. Come on—do not talk it down.

Seriously, I thank the electors in the Cottesloe electorate for having faith in me as their local member and for returning me in this general election. I especially thank the many people who helped me with my campaign, including my campaign chair, Mr Angus Murray, and his excellent committee. As members who have been here for some time would know, it is a privilege to be a member of Parliament and have the opportunity to represent our district. I have never taken my electorate for granted and I never will. I work hard to represent the views and concerns of the people in the Cottesloe electorate. That is my primary role and I will always prioritise that duty above my other duties.

I have mentioned many times in this place that Cottesloe is a very diverse electorate, where some of the most privileged people in Australia live almost alongside people who are in the most desperate personal circumstances. I care for them equally and will do everything I can to represent their diverse needs.

I am very thankful to the Liberal Party and my parliamentary colleagues for electing me as the Leader of the Liberal Party. I am conscious that I am following in the footsteps of some remarkable people, such as Hon Sir David Brand, Hon Sir Charles Court, Hon Richard Court and Hon Colin Barnett, who have made such enormous contributions to the state of Western Australia. I also thank my colleagues who were not re-elected or who chose to retire at the election. Standing for Parliament and representing your community is no small thing. I thank all of them for their service to this Parliament and their communities. On a personal note, I congratulate and welcome the new member

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for Kalgoorlie, but I think everyone in this place will miss Kyran O’Donnell, the previous member for Kalgoorlie. I will certainly miss his contributions and his company in this place.

The opposition plays a pivotal role in our parliamentary democracy. It is a substantial and important role that has been made all the more difficult by our reduced numbers. On that point, I am very encouraged by the alliance agreement completed between the Nationals WA and the Liberal Party. I hold the Leader of the Nationals WA, Hon Mia Davies, in very high regard, along with her parliamentary colleagues. We have been working closely together and I am confident that we will collectively form a potent team to hold this government to account. We may be substantially diminished in number, but not in spirit.

I intended to begin my speech by quoting the ironic curse “May you live in interesting times.” But a very brief online search revealed that it is incorrectly referenced as a Chinese curse. Apparently, the nearest Chinese expression is “Better to be a dog in times of tranquillity than a human in times of chaos.” Whatever the phrase, we have certainly been through a very unusual election—one unlike any that I have known during my entire involvement in state politics. At the outset—repeating what I said last week—I congratulate the Premier on what will very likely stand as the most resounding electoral victory in the history of Western Australia and, more broadly, Australia. That is a remarkable achievement. It was very clear during the campaign that the election was exclusively conducted as a referendum on the Premier’s handling of the COVID-19 crisis. That was the only theme of Labor’s campaign and advertising. There is no doubt whatsoever that the public overwhelmingly accepted the claims of that campaign and rewarded the Premier with a massive majority for the way that his government has handled the COVID-19 crisis. However, the election result does not give this government any mandate beyond that issue. I have already heard the Premier and other ministers talk about their mandate on various issues. There is no mandate for those issues because few to none in Western Australia are aware of Labor’s other policies.

The government has a clear mandate to continue its cautious approach to managing the COVID-19 crisis; however, government members should be very careful about letting this victory go to their heads. In saying that, very unfortunately, I think that it already has. During the debate yesterday on our amendment to the Address-in-Reply on government accountability and transparency, I pointed out the duplicity of the McGowan Labor government suddenly announcing its electoral reform agenda. There is no mandate for this. The Premier stated repeatedly during the recent state election campaign that electoral reform was “not on the agenda”. The Premier knew that this was a key concern for people across the state, particularly people living in regional areas. The Premier knew that many people who were considering voting for Labor candidates would not vote for them if there was any prospect that Labor intended to reduce representation in regional areas.

Last Friday, the Attorney General made a detailed announcement about a review of the Electoral Act, with a view to reducing regional representation in the Legislative Council. As I pointed out yesterday, no-one doubts the credentials of the appointed head of the committee, Hon Malcolm McCusker; however, the committee is stacked with so-titled “experts” who are all on the public record, as late as January this year, promoting radical reform of the upper house to reduce regional representation. They have already formed their conclusions. The Attorney General knows this, and that is why he appointed them. I have the greatest respect for Mr McCusker, but no respect for the Attorney General misusing such a fine person in this cynical way.

WA Labor knew that it had already won the 2021 election at the start of the campaign, so it did not even bother to provide any economic policy or plan for Western Australia for the next four years and beyond. I doubt that members opposite could name one piece of substantive economic reform that WA Labor intends to deliver in the next four years or beyond, whether that is tax reform, productivity gains, new international markets or product diversification.

Mr W.J. Johnston: So, are you the one Stooge? You can’t get the Three Stooges together.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Maybe a powerline from Three Springs to Geraldton, minister!

Dealing properly with the COVID-19 crisis is very important; protecting the lives of our citizens must be the top priority of any government. However, the government needs to have other priorities. Foremost amongst those priorities is a need to have a clear economic plan for Western Australia for the future. We can already see the arrogance of this government post-election, with the Premier appointing himself Treasurer, despite having no economic, commercial or financial experience. Imagine, there are 52 Labor Party members in this house, but the Premier has so little confidence in them that he has taken the second most important role in the executive for himself. The Minister for Health, the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Mines and Petroleum are all considered incapable of taking on this critical role. The reality is that the Premier, as Treasurer, has absolutely no clear economic plan for reform for Western Australia over the next four years, nor any long-term economic plan for the state.

Before the election, we heard the Premier promise that there will be no change to regional representation in the upper house, and he has now put the wheels in motion to do that. We know that the Minister for Planning apparently secretly negotiated a 300-apartment block development on public land in my electorate before the election, but kept it quiet

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until after the election. In the coming months and years, the opposition will highlight the Premier's and this Labor government's arrogance, complete lack of an economic plan and complete lack of economic, commercial or financial experience. The Premier has been lucky, with massive iron ore and GST windfalls. However, the Premier's and Western Australia's run of good luck cannot last forever. What is the plan when iron ore prices fall, which inevitably they will? For example, what will happen when Brazil gets COVID under control and can lift global iron ore supply? What will happen when Chinese companies develop mines in the high-grade iron ore deposits in Africa? What will happen when China eases off its COVID infrastructure stimulus, reducing global steel demand?

In 2017, WA Labor promised to diversify the Western Australian economy to reduce our reliance on iron ore. It has failed to deliver any significant economic diversification. In fact, the WA economy has become significantly more reliant on iron ore exports and prices. The iron ore boom has masked serious deterioration in major employing sectors impacted by COVID and trade tensions. These include international tourism, international education, the wine and crayfish industries, barley exports and a number of others. I have not seen any meaningful actions or plans from the government to diversify the economy or to provide proper assistance to those impacted by COVID and trade tensions. What new markets is the government opening up to assist those impacted by trade tensions? None. In fact, it seems as though the government is abandoning any hope of market expansion, as witnessed by the elimination of the position of Minister for Asian Engagement and a downgrading of our overseas trade offices—something that has upset and offended our important Asian neighbours. What planning has been undertaken for international students and tourists when it is safe to reopen travel?

WA Labor has also overseen the loss of the BP Kwinana oil refinery, which has very serious implications for Western Australia's fuel economy.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Minister for Mines and Petroleum, it is not a laughing matter at all, especially for diesel.

As a result, Western Australia is now more reliant on foreign fuel supplies and at greater risk from geopolitical instability.

WA Labor was elected in 2017 on the basis of delivering local jobs for Western Australians. It passed the Western Australian Jobs Act to give effect to this policy. Bizarrely, the act defines local industry as —

... suppliers of goods produced, or services provided, in Western Australia, another State, a Territory or New Zealand;

Unbelievably, WA Labor determines “local” as including all states, territories and New Zealand. How can it be possible that New Zealand is local? WA Labor likes to boast about Matagarup Bridge at the same time that it gives massive Metronet projects to foreign companies, including the Yanchep and Thornlie–Cockburn lines to Spanish-owned CPB Contractors, and the Bayswater train station to the Spanish Acciona subsidiary Coleman Rail. New member for Collie–Preston, even a Melbourne company was awarded the contract for the provision of barbecues at Lake Kepwari in Collie. That is complete hypocrisy and hollow rhetoric from WA Labor.

WA Labor promised at the 2017 election not to increase the cost of living. It introduced a number of one-off COVID-19 sugar hits that have long since faded, but the ongoing cost-of-living increases by this government are now an average of \$600 a year per household, year on year. That is \$600 more than in 2017. The government hurt large families and people living on larger outer-suburban blocks by increasing the 500 kilolitre water tariff by 40 per cent in one hit in the 2018–19 budget—this from a party that claims to represent the most vulnerable in the community. In addition to cost-of-living increases, Labor's mean-spirited attacks were worse in regional communities with its attempts to close Schools of the Air and Moora Residential College.

In 2017, the Premier also promised no new taxes or increases to existing taxes. Once elected, he increased payroll tax; introduced a new housing tax, the foreign investor surcharge; and tried to introduce a new gold tax, twice. I know the gold industry is now extremely concerned about what will happen to it once iron ore prices drop, despite the Minister for Mines and Petroleum's assurances, given Labor now has absolute control.

The Premier does not care in any meaningful way about the financial impact of his decisions on struggling Western Australians and Western Australian small businesses. The Premier may have absolute financial security for the rest of his life, but many people in small business struggle daily to make ends meet and forgo personal superannuation in the hope that they can realise a capital gain in the value of their business when they retire. Small businesses need to be properly compensated when there are snap lockdowns due to COVID-19 outbreaks, especially when they are clearly the fault of this government's mismanagement and entirely avoidable. The Premier has made it clear that if there are outbreaks, there will be further snap lockdowns. If that is the case, a clear compensation process needs to be codified that outlines what compensation is available for different stages of lockdown so that businesses have some certainty about the future. This Premier has a Treasury bursting at the seams with riches from the iron ore boom; however, he seems oblivious to the pain he is inflicting on small businesses.

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The Premier promised to pay down debt like a mortgage. However, net debt under Labor—I think members should listen to this—has increased from \$31.9 billion in 2017 to a forecast \$40.2 billion. That is an increase of almost \$8 billion in the first term of the Labor government despite massive windfalls from record iron ore prices and the commonwealth GST fix. This steep increase in debt does not include the \$5 billion outer harbour that not only is unnecessary, given Fremantle port is only at one-third capacity, but also will harm the marine environment in Cockburn Sound. The real question is: where have all the windfall gains gone to allow this debt to increase by \$8 billion? The lion's share of this massive debt blowout has been committed to Metronet projects. The Premier, our new Treasurer, promised at the 2017 election that the cost of Metronet would be \$2.945 billion, a very precise number; however, we now know from the budget that the cost is over \$7 billion and climbing. This is the largest cost blowout in a state government project in the state's history and accounts for more than half of the \$8 billion increase in net debt. That cost does not include the much lauded Metronet stage 2 that was discussed before the 2017 election. The public will remember that the government promised a number of interconnecting circle lines that interestingly wound through the marginal seats of Perth. Has anyone seen or heard the plans for Metronet stage 2 yet? In addition to the cost blowouts, there was the bungled Huawei communications contract that the government had to abandon on national security grounds, at presumably great expense to taxpayers. WA Labor still has not come clean on how much that debacle cost Western Australian taxpayers.

[Member's time extended.]

Dr D.J. HONEY: Despite all these blowouts, bumbles and a raft of safety issues, Labor still has not delivered a single inch of rail after four years, other than claiming the work of the former government on the Forrestfield line. This Minister for Transport is large on rhetoric and short on delivery. We can expect to continue to see what we have seen over the past four years: plenty of high-vis media events and a continuation of schedule slippage and cost blowouts, overseeing the largest cost blowout of any project in the state's history.

Another major financial impact was Synergy's net loss of over \$650 million in 2018–19.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Listen closely, minister.

To give some indication of the magnitude of this loss, the loss during the dark days of WA Inc, Rothwells and the petrochemical plant issue was only \$408 million.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Dr D.J. HONEY: A large percentage of the \$650 million loss is the impairment on Muja 5 and 6 Collie coal-fired power stations, which are about to be closed down.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Sorry, what was that? What did you say?

Dr D.J. HONEY: Read *Hansard*, minister.

However, I find it really interesting that the Treasurer does not appear to have made any adjustment to the asset value of the remaining coal-fired power stations. By comparison, the private sector Bluewaters power station has been completely written off because there is no remaining economic value for coal-fired power. This is despite Bluewaters being much younger than the government power stations. It is clear that the government is artificially maintaining the asset value of the power stations, despite them having little or no financial value, so that net debt will be artificially reported as being lower than it should be.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: This is hardly the required level of transparency that we should expect from our government.

Point of Order

Mr R.S. LOVE: Deputy Speaker, there are constant interjections from the Minister for Mines and Petroleum. I am sitting right in front of the Leader of the Liberal Party and I cannot hear him. Could you please call the house to order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member. There is no point of order. The member is actually taking some of the interjections. There is a bit of banter going on between them, which is okay. Carry on, please.

Debate Resumed

Dr D.J. HONEY: Thank you.

Another major cost blowout is the ballooning public sector, especially in union-dominated areas. When WA Labor was elected, it promised to save taxpayers \$1 billion by slashing the public sector by 3 000 FTE at a cost to taxpayers of \$300 million. This was known as the voluntary targeted separation scheme. In reality, the McGowan Labor government gave redundancies to many bureaucrats who simply took a break for six months and returned to the

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public service at the end of their exclusion period. According to the *Western Australian public sector quarterly workforce report*, the government did not achieve a cut of 3 000 FTEs and the public sector has actually ballooned to 117 664 FTE, an increase of 7 769 since March 2017.

Mr D.R. Michael: So would you cut the number?

Dr D.J. HONEY: Definitely!

Effectively, there are now 10 769 more public sector workers than Labor promised, despite the government spending \$300 million to reduce numbers. The increase in the wages bill under WA Labor is \$470 million a year and \$1.88 billion over the forward estimates. That is a negative turnaround of \$2.88 billion against Labor's so-called \$1 billion targeted saving. So much for a government that cares about fiscal management in the state of Western Australia!

Western Australia also has a substantial skills crisis that is starting to hurt our economy. Labor's handling of training and workforce development has been woefully inadequate, with apprenticeship completions plummeting every single year under this government. The number of trade apprenticeship completions has plummeted from 6 410 in the last year of the previous coalition government to 3 565 in 2020. That is an unbelievable 44.3 per cent drop in the number of apprentices under the McGowan Labor government. This is despite massive windfall gains from mining projects, which now contribute to the Construction Training Fund designed to train the workers whom Western Australia needs. Despite all the rhetoric about being the party of training, the Minister for Education and Training has simply failed to deliver the skilled workers needed to support this state's economy. WA Labor also has been unable to secure enough seasonal workers for the agricultural, horticultural and viticultural industries, and that has caused unnecessary financial harm. Horticulturalists in our northern suburbs have had to plough whole fields of lettuce and other fresh produce back into the ground because they could not get workers.

These training and workforce development failures are having ongoing negative impacts for Western Australians, especially in the regions. For instance, we have all been told that the residents of cyclone-ravaged Kalbarri may have to wait years to rebuild their homes due to the lack of skilled tradespeople. Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd has reported that it cannot get last season's crop to port in time to take advantage of seasonally high grain prices. Farmers depend on CBH to take advantage of the price spike to realise the best income from their crop. We have heard that the major iron ore companies are experiencing shortfalls in ore to export because of a lack of skilled workers. We have also heard that the housing industry is expecting cost blowouts and schedule delays because of a shortage of workers. Everyone understands that the COVID-19 crisis has impacted the mobility of workers around Australia and overseas. The important question is: what has this government done to facilitate the safe movement of workers into this state? We have seen arrangements made to suit some of our mining industry. What about other industries? COVID-19 has been with us for over 14 months. The likely effects and the need to facilitate the safe movement of people were well understood. The state Labor government is happy to play a pointscore game with the federal government over who has responsibility for quarantine while ignoring the needs of its citizens. Western Australia does not need cheap pointscore. Our state needs skilled workers to continue to grow our economy. We need to train our young people and, when needed, safely bring other skilled workers into this state.

Western Australia is facing a major housing crisis. Despite the obvious need for more social housing to help deal with this crisis, the McGowan government secretly sold off over 1 000 social houses. I am certain that would interest many of the new Labor members coming into this house. The Labor government did that in its first term without any net replacement of those houses. That has compounded the homelessness crisis, forcing many vulnerable Western Australians onto the streets. Heartbreakingly, we now see people with jobs being homeless; families and mothers with children are living in tents in backyards and on the streets because they simply cannot get a home. Now, with the extremely low rental vacancy rates and the end of the moratorium on evictions and rent increases, we are experiencing a new wave of homelessness. The government knows, or should know, that these vulnerable people are often forced to present to emergency departments for care. This is one of the most significant factors that is contributing to bed block and our ambulance ramping crisis.

Labor's poorly designed housing stimulus package, piggybacking off the commonwealth's housing stimulus package, is also creating significant issues. I suspect that everyone in this chamber supports people being able to own their own home. The issue is that the stimulus scheme is poorly targeted and has created massive overheating in the market, with demand significantly exceeding supply. As a result, the cost of building homes has increased substantially to the point that there are large cost escalations and homebuyers may be in negative equity when the home is finished. People desperately need to get into a home. Those impacted by cyclone Seroja may be forced to wait years to get back into their homes. Another major economic threat is that Labor's poorly designed policy has pulled forward so much demand that once the pipeline of work has been completed in the next couple of years, there will be a significant reduction in home building, starting another cycle of unemployment in the sector.

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Another crisis facing Western Australians is our out-of-control crime; gangland assassinations have become a feature in our community. According to WA police statistics, the number of violent crimes in Western Australia has hit a record high. For the year ending 2020, the number of violent crimes in WA reached 48 758 offences. That is an eye-watering increase of 8.7 per cent in just 12 months, during the middle of a global pandemic. Violent crime is even worse in regional WA, with an increase of 9.2 per cent last financial year. The Premier and the Minister for Police try to hide the truth by conflating violent crime with total crime, which includes less serious crime such as theft and fraud. The fact is that under WA Labor, violent crime is truly out of control, especially in the city centre. It is a truly unbelievable statistic. Violent crime in the city in the first term of WA Labor increased by 46.7 per cent—almost 50 per cent. That is unforgivable, and that is why many families and tourists are too scared to visit our CBD.

The COVID-19 crisis has been the dominant issue for everyone in Western Australia over the past 14 months. No doubt this government has done a good job protecting the people of Western Australia from the worst impacts of this terrible disease. The government was recognised and rewarded for that with a historic victory at the state election. While the impacts of COVID-19 are far from over, there is every reason to believe that mass vaccinations against the disease in Australia and overseas will gradually allow a return to normal life. What then? As I demonstrated earlier, besides its handling of COVID-19, this government has an appalling record of failures and mismanagement. We have a government that is big on rhetoric but short on delivery and vision. Massive infrastructure spending by itself does not create lasting jobs in our economy. The iron ore boom will come to an end and the wellbeing of the people in the state of Western Australia will be threatened unless this government develops a genuine vision for the future.

I encourage the government to use its majority to grow our state economy and resolve key issues such as homelessness and the health crisis. However, the speech by the Governor on the McGowan Labor government's priorities gave me no confidence whatsoever that it will resolve these or other key issues facing our state in this term of Parliament.

MS C.M. TONKIN (Churchlands) [3.37 pm]: Deputy Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your elevation to the office of Deputy Speaker and also join other members in congratulating Hon Michelle Roberts upon her election to the position of Speaker. It is most fitting that we have a woman fill this role in this hundredth year since the election of Edith Dircksey Cowan, MLA.

Today I acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation as the traditional owners of the land on which the district of Churchlands is situated, and I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. I am truly in awe of the ancient culture of the Whadjuk people and the thousands of years of their belonging in this special place.

I am privileged to be part of the cohort of new members that includes the 100th woman elected to the Western Australian Parliament. For this reason, I honour the memory and contribution of Edith Cowan and that of all the women who have followed her.

About Churchlands: the district of Churchlands is a beautiful place. It includes the important wetlands of Lake Monger, or Galup; Herdsman Lake; and Jackadder Lake. It is very close to Perry Lakes and the adjacent Bold Park, and is also blessed with magnificent beaches. These natural features are treasured by the locals. Lake Monger is a special place for me because I have been visiting it since I was a small child. When we would go to see my grandparents, after a lavish Sunday lunch prepared by my grandmother Margarete Tonkin, we would walk to the lake. Since I now live down the street from the house that was my grandparents' house, I am still going to the lake. It is the place I love most in the world and the place I first visit whenever I return from my travels.

The district of Churchlands includes significant parts of the suburbs of City Beach, Floreat, Wembley and West Leederville, some of Doubleview, and the entire suburbs of Glendalough, Churchlands, Woodlands and Wembley Downs, as well as a little slice of Scarborough. It is always tempting to characterise Churchlands as being part of the leafy western suburbs, but the lived reality of people in Churchlands is something quite different. In fact, the character of the electorate is changing. It contains pockets of extreme wealth, as well as socio-economically disadvantaged areas, and everything in between. It is ethnically diverse and includes people who have come to Australia in recent years as refugees.

Even without much campaigning effort, Labor has achieved respectable swings in past state and federal elections, and now no-one can take the political loyalties of the people of Churchlands for granted, least of all me. I am very privileged to have been elected to represent the people of Churchlands in this place, and I am also conscious that I won by only 408 votes. As such, I will strive to understand and represent the interests of all sections of our community, not only those people who voted for me.

Although I am the first Labor woman to hold the seat of Churchlands, Dr Elizabeth Constable, AM, who held the seat from 1996 to 2013, was the first woman. She was succeeded by Sean L'Estrange, who ably represented the district as a member, a minister and a shadow minister for two terms. I wish him and his family well as he pursues new endeavours.

Mr Roger Cook; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Shane Love; Deputy Speaker; Ms C.M. Tonkin; Mr G. Baker; Ms M.J. Hammat; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Mr D.A.E. Scaife; Mr H.T. Jones; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton

Upon entering Parliament, Edith Cowan identified herself as an old woman. At the time of her election, she was a mere 59 years old. I am also an “old woman”, having had my sixty-fifth birthday two days after election day. I wear the badge of old woman proudly, because I have some experience and perhaps have gained a little wisdom.

Becoming a member of Parliament represents a significant career change for me. In making this change, I am inspired by my aunt, Sister Bernice Tonkin of the Brigidine Community. Bernice had a distinguished career as a teacher and a school principal, and many local people recall Bernice’s time as principal at Newman College in Floreat. After retiring, Bernice commenced working with refugees in the United States and Central America, and upon returning to Perth worked with refugees who are the victims of trauma and torture. Bernice grew up in Wembley and continues to reside there. I am proud to be her niece and her local member and to be making a later in life career change like her.

For most of the past 20 years, I have been working internationally in the field of public procurement and on its reform. Having based myself in Brussels while undertaking research, I was offered a secondment from the Queensland government to the Department of Finance in the Republic of Ireland. For a year I worked with 11 civil servants who had little or no background in procurement, helping them develop their capabilities in modern procurement management and practices. From Ireland, I was recruited by the United Nations Development Programme, where I held a director-level post for three and a half years. While based in Copenhagen, my work supporting UNDP offices took me all over the world. Subsequently, for two years, I worked to establish and make operational the procurement and contract management functions of the United Nations–African Union peacekeeping mission in the Darfur region of Sudan. From there, I took up a post as the director of the Office of Procurement Services at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. After retiring early from the UN system at the beginning of 2013, I continued my work in public procurement as an international consultant under UNDP contracts in Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Eswatini and the Philippines, and for the Asian Development Bank in Papua New Guinea and Bangladesh.

My background in public procurement management gives me some confidence that I can make a useful contribution to supporting the government’s agenda to drive more local content through public sector procurement. Apart from this, my international experience has also taught me many things about working with people from diverse backgrounds and with often very differing and sometimes conflicting perspectives on the resolution of common problems and concerns.

In her inaugural speech, Edith Cowan set out a vision for what could be achieved through the contribution of women. She said —

If men and women can work for the State side by side and represent all the different sections of the community, and if the male members of the House would be satisfied to allow women to help them and would accept their suggestions when they are offered, I cannot doubt that we should do very much better work in the community than was ever done before.

I look to us fulfilling Edith Cowan’s vision of doing very much better work in the community than was ever done before, because we now have close to a gender balance in this Parliament. However, I believe that Edith Cowan was also reflecting a deeper insight—that we work better together when we embrace diversity. Different sections of the community have different insights, aspirations, challenges and resources. When we come together around particular problems or opportunities, drawing upon this diversity provides us with many more options for action and for resolution. As the member for Churchlands, I intend to seek out and embrace diversity within our community, and bring us together to meet the various challenges that affect our quality of life.

During the election campaign, a number of issues were raised and so many people of goodwill have indicated a willingness to work together to address them. There are five issues of particular interest in our community that were repeatedly identified, and I will list them because I think they are important. They are: traffic congestion, traffic flow and road safety; the quality of state school facilities and educational opportunities; the fragile nature of our wetlands and bush habitats in the electorate and its surrounds; issues affecting the quality of life of ageing members of our community; and building constructive and cooperative relationships between the state government and the City of Stirling and the Town of Cambridge around planning and roads issues.

In addition to these very local considerations, two issues with broader community interest were identified; namely, the need for preventive mental health services and support, and climate change, with a focus on green jobs through leveraging technological innovation and local manufacturing. We have invited interested members of the community to come together to plan our actions to address these issues and identify the opportunities that can arise from them. I look forward to supporting the efforts of the working groups that will be formed and doing very much better work in the community than has ever been done before. It is one thing to identify a problem or an opportunity, but it is quite another to invest energy into finding practical options and solutions.

We are very fortunate in Churchlands to have people who are enthusiastic about our community and prepared to make a significant contribution. I would like to acknowledge just a few of these outstanding individuals.

Mr Roger Cook; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Shane Love; Deputy Speaker; Ms C.M. Tonkin; Mr G. Baker; Ms M.J. Hammat; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Mr D.A.E. Scaife; Mr H.T. Jones; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton

Cory Johnson is passionate about solving some vexed traffic congestion issues in and around the Churchlands area. What I admire so much about his approach is that he would like to work with all relevant stakeholders to find solutions that do not involve shifting the problem further down the road, both literally and figuratively.

Mary Lamb, who is in her 80s, was a nurse. She survived an abusive relationship. Through determination and courage, she raised her children and migrated to Australia from London to provide them with a better life. Mary is one of those characters who lights up your life with her enthusiasm. She helps her elderly friends and neighbours with the same diligence and cheerfulness that she showed when addressing the many challenges that life has thrown at her.

Kane Blackman is the vice president of the Leederville Sporting Club. Kane and other dads from the West Leederville area have become the movers and shakers behind the revitalisation of that club. It has been transformed into a significant community social hub for the Wembley and West Leederville area, with its membership increasing from fewer than 100 to about 450 in the last 12 months.

Samantha Lyon and Paula Kuka of the Lake Monger Primary School P&C are the forces of nature behind the development of a nature playground and outdoor classroom at the school. Many of the children attending Lake Monger Primary come from high-density residential areas and have limited access to outdoor play spaces close to home. The nature playground will make a big difference to the quality of their lives and education.

Ben Jacques is a young man who is passionate about the environment and urgently addressing climate change. He is also very much a friend of Lake Monger, which Aboriginal people call Galup, the place of fire. Ben is keen to work with the community to increase the native vegetation and water quality of the lake, and is moving to form a friends of Lake Monger group for this purpose.

Apart from the immediacy of managing the pandemic, our greatest global challenge is climate change. As Ben often reminds me, concerted action is urgent. Climate change is an issue that is repeatedly raised with me in the electorate. In fact, trust in the McGowan Labor government's ability to take climate action was reflected in a small but significant swing from the Greens to Labor in Churchlands. Climate change is a big topic, with many of the policy levers under the control of the federal government. However, the state government, through its control of the supply, transmission and retailing of electricity, has a major role to play in managing the transition to renewables. The challenge is to not only reduce our emissions, but also remove carbon from the atmosphere. We must therefore transition our state's economy away from its reliance on the mineral and energy resources sectors and into green industries, including manufacturing. For example, instead of exporting minerals, we could be manufacturing green steel and aluminium and transforming these through local manufacturing into the components that become part of sustainable international supply chains.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms C.M. TONKIN: International companies under pressure from other jurisdictions to reduce their carbon footprints are scouring their supply chains to incorporate more sustainable sources. We must also scour our supply chains under our state's major projects and incorporate into our definition of "value for money" sustainability and local green industry inputs. Amazing fledgling companies in this state are innovating in the green space. Those involved in public sector procurement must proactively seek out and understand the operation of these sustainable local supply markets. This will involve a significant shift in the application of proactive strategic procurement management and practices in the public sector. There are people in Churchlands who are passionate about our state's green manufacturing potential. We will be working hard to play our part in fulfilling the McGowan government's commitment to diversifying our economy and creating green jobs.

I am here today because of the goodwill, generosity, strength of purpose and plain hard work of the many people who supported my campaign. I am especially grateful to the members of the western suburbs, Churchlands, West Leederville and Perth Labor Women's branches, who volunteered their time, energy and resources in the belief that this was the very best opportunity for WA Labor to win Churchlands. In particular, I thank Rob Meecham, who worked with me from the beginning as my campaign manager and director. His depth of experience, constancy and good humour kept me focused throughout. He also made sure that there were no gaps in the campaign efforts in letterboxing and coverage at the pre-polls and on election day. He often did so by filling the gaps himself. Thank you also to John Morrissy and Astrid Serventy, who particularly shared with me the joys and challenges of doorstep conversations. They made this aspect of campaigning an absolute pleasure.

Jeremy Mowe took annual leave to organise our efforts at the polling booths, and his diligence ensured that every booth was covered. Lena Hee of the Churchlands branch organised many of its members to help cover each of the polling places on election day. I must also thank Pauline Meecham, Kate Grayson and John Morrissy, who provisioned our booths, and Nick Mayman and Kate Grayson, who organised the daily setting up of the pre-polling places at the Subiaco and Shenton Park Community Centres. During the campaign, so many branch members, volunteers and family members came forward and participated in the various aspects of the campaign, including

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letterboxing, doorknocking, hand-delivering letters from me to every elector, handing out how-to-vote cards at the pre-polls and on election day, scrutineering and supporting our fundraising efforts.

Mine was very much a low-key grassroots campaign in which every vote was hard won. For that reason, I am going to mention the names of those good people whose individual and collective efforts counted for so much in a very close election race. Please forgive me if I have inadvertently missed anybody. Thank you to Glenn Ruscoe, Wendy Mayman, Kanthi Perera, Jim Crossland, Chris Rumley, Donna White, Rami Lee-Newman, Ben Jacques, Damian Norvilas, Bec Ward, Peter Norvilas, Kirsten Norvilas, Carolyn Tonkin, Charmaine Tonkin, Kevin Tonkin, Hazel Toutounji, Elaine Tranter, Sultan Hazara, Wendy Lloyd, Joan Broughton, Tony Paxton, Paul Bengough, Liam Costello, Ellis Griffiths, Colleen Prout, Eve Morrissey, Kristan Morrissey, Dong Yu, Richard Tarnow, Jay Weatherill, Melissa Bailey, Neryl Atkins, Angela Perry, Yenly Yenly, Hui Jia, Alison Morley, Qin Wan, Kuen Tsoi, Zhe Li, Kim Morrison, Naomi McCrae, Seda AYGUN, Hasnain Ibrahim, Naila Ibrahim, Yew Hee, Tony McDonald, Don He, Anne McCrudden, Kc Liang, Glenice Duffy, Erica Hampson, Alison Morley, Edward Anthony, Leo Li, Steven Zheng, Maxine Isbel, Jincheng Wang, Tuija Heikura, Justin Whitely, Gabrielle Iwanow, Jane Allison, Mike Allison, Mark Reynolds, Eva Chye, Ping Chen and Bev Jowle. I am immensely grateful to all of you.

On a personal note, I would like to say that from the day I was selected as a candidate I had an image in my mind that motivated me throughout the campaign. That was the image of three of our beautiful grandchildren listening from the public gallery to my inaugural speech. Well, today, here I am and there they are. Andie, Louis and Felix, I want you to know how much I love you. I thank each of you for helping make kids' corner at my electorate office a bright, fun and inviting place to visit, and just a gentle reminder that I need more of your colourful artworks for the wall.

Like many families during this pandemic we are separated from our Canadian family. The situation in parts of Canada such as Ontario province is fraught. The health system is overwhelmed because the spread of COVID has been out of control. We have family in Ontario, but our two-year-old grandson, Liam, is relatively safe in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia, as well as the other maritime provinces, have had much less transmission of the virus than the rest of the country because their provincial governments adopted similar measures to those adopted by our own state government. It may be a couple of years before we can give big hugs to Liam again, but until then we can see him grow into a smiling, healthy little boy through regular FaceTime sessions.

My mum, Irene Tonkin, who was 92 years of age, died just a few days before the election. I had not told her that I was running for Parliament because mum's politics were conservative. However, on the day that mum chose palliative care, my brother, Kevin, announced that I was running for Labor. It cheered mum to hear this, and for the next two weeks whenever I visited, mum was interested to hear about the latest twists and turns on the campaign trail. What seemed to amuse her the most was me updating her on my betting odds. I would tell her that there was very serious money to be made backing me for the win, and she would smile! On Sunday evening, 7 March, I was on my way home after delivering some items for the election day kits when I decided to call in to see mum. I was with her when she died about an hour later. I was grateful to be there and I am sure that she knew that I would be elected, and I know I had her blessing.

[Applause.]

Distinguished Visitors — Hon Kay Hallahan, Janine Freeman and Andrew Waddell

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr S.J. Price) [4.05 pm]: Before I give the call, I would like to acknowledge a few past members of Parliament who are here at the moment. We have Kay Hallahan, AO, former member for Armadale; Janine Freeman, former member for Mirrabooka; and upstairs is Andrew Waddell, the former member for Forrestfield. Welcome to you all. It is great to see you here.

This sounds like a really unusual call, but I now give the call to the Labor member for South Perth.

Debate Resumed

MR G. BAKER (South Perth) [4.06 pm]: I rise for the first time in this Assembly as the first Labor member for South Perth. I want to first acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, who are the traditional owners of this land on which the Parliament was founded and on which we meet today. I recognise and respect the cultural beliefs and relationship with the land that remains important to the Noongar people today, and I pay my respects to elders past and present. We recently achieved a significant milestone as the state of Western Australia finalised the south west native title settlement, which has been described as Australia's first treaty. This settlement stems from the very overdue acknowledgement in this place that the Noongar people are one of the oldest surviving living cultures on Earth. Despite the violence they have experienced, their connection to this land remains strong and unbroken.

I also congratulate Madam Speaker on her appointment as the first woman in this role. The work of righting the wrongs of the past is ongoing, but I am proud to be a member of a new government that has achieved one more important milestone on the journey towards gender equality.

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In this recent election, the voters spoke as clearly as they have ever spoken. They voted for good government. They voted for a government that is keeping them safe from the pandemic, keeping the economy strong and protecting jobs. It could not be plainer. I have campaigned for Labor for 30 years and I have never before experienced such willingness to engage in political conversation or heard such gratitude towards the government. I heard voters say this day in and day out, again and again in Karawara, Manning, Waterford, Kensington, Como, Salter Point and South Perth. Ours is a seat that has never voted Labor in the previous 71 years, but in a time of crisis, when the McGowan government stepped up to protect Western Australians, the voters of South Perth gave their verdict loud and clear. Until now, there have been only four members for South Perth: George Yates, Bill Grayden, Phil Pental and John McGrath. I never met George Yates, but I have had the pleasure of meeting Bill, Phil and John. Despite holding one of the safer conservative seats, they never took South Perth for granted. All three were a touch liberal in their conservatism. They all had an independent streak and served their constituents loyally. South Perth itself is a bit of a maverick amongst conservative-leaning seats. Bill Grayden won the seat twice as an Independent, as did Phil Pental. John McGrath, my immediate predecessor, has left big shoes to fill. He is well regarded by people of all political persuasions, and he has made me feel welcome in this small club. I will work hard to represent South Perth voters for at least as effectively and as long as my predecessors did.

My grandparents Dudley and Nell Baker knew the first member for South Perth, George Yates. They were dentists with a practice on Angelo Street at the corner of Waverley Street, opposite Wesley College. Nell was the first woman admitted to practice as a dentist in WA. She was a member of the Karrakatta Club, the bastion of blue stockings and suffragettes, albeit with a conservative tint. We often forget that Western Australia was among the first places to grant women the right to vote. The Karrakatta Club, with members such as Edith Cowan, inspired suffragettes in Britain and around the world.

The WA Parliament has a long and proud history in this area, with the first woman elected to an Australian Parliament and the first woman Premier. I am proud that my grandmother was a trailblazer in this journey. When I was growing up, I did not know anything about this. I grew up on Morrison Street in Como, and later on Ridge Street in South Perth. My first kindergarten was Koonawarra Kindergarten, now McDougall Park Community Kindergarten. My first school was Koonawarra Primary School, now Curtin Primary School. This was in the early 1970s, when I witnessed the construction of Karawara next to the school. I loved the design of that neighbourhood. I think much can be done today to make Karawara a better place. Later, I moved to Collier Primary School and into that wonderful community. I still have many friends from those years. This was when I had my first experience of doorknocking in South Perth, helping my mum volunteer for a Red Cross appeal. We knocked the best part of Ryrie and Todd Avenues that day.

My dad, Rob, also grew up in South Perth, and my mum, Jill, in the goldfields. They met while they were studying physiotherapy. Dad was obsessed with boating at the time. Later, he built his own speedboat from plywood. This led to an accidental side gig in selling marine jet engines, supplying to Transperth ferries and even Austal in its early days. Even in his work as a physiotherapist, Dad was a quiet innovator. He was a pioneer of ultrasound treatment in WA and treated a wide range of patients, including the ballerina Margot Fonteyn, Flea from the Red Hot Chili Peppers and several of Perth's notable racehorses. Mum put all her energies into me and my brothers and sister, supporting us in school and our many sports. Her assistance gradually grew from after-school transport to enthusiastic sideline supporter to club volunteer. She eventually became president of the Perth Redbacks Basketball Association. She could not dribble and she could not shoot, but she ran the club!

Mum and Dad brought all these diverse trends together in their lives and in their physiotherapy practice. The practice looked like an ordinary medical establishment, but it also ran the basketball club, with photos of basketballers such as Luc Longley and Andrew Vlahov on the walls. If someone went through the wrong door, they ended up in the mechanic's workshop surrounded by engine blocks and boat parts. I grew up thinking that this sort of approach to career planning was perfectly normal.

Like my parents, my career has been wide and varied. I studied psychology at Curtin University and Murdoch University, and then taught research methods, statistics and much more to psychology and business students. I have worked in government and business and in the union movement, and I have made a modest living as a music composer and a producer. Like my parents, at times it was hard to tell what my main job was and what was a side gig.

I first ran across Labor values at Wesley College. My media studies teacher, Bill Lyon, showed me an alternative view of the world to the conservative circles I had been living in and made me think deeply about my own beliefs. He encouraged me to look out for the underdog, for the powerless and for the quiet voices, even if his own voice was loud, cynical and witty. Later, in 1993, he ran as a Labor candidate for Jandakot and Melville. I was very sad when he passed two years ago.

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Since then, I have run across many great individuals who have lived Labor values, including former members of this house. Andrew Waddell, a former member for Forrestfield, recruited me to the Labor Party and convinced me that to be the party of reform, you had to be the party of government. The late Jaye Radisich, a former member for Swan Hills, showed me that anything is possible. Many times while campaigning in South Perth, I thought of the surprise victory that she had in Swan Hills in 2001. Kay Hallahan, a former deputy leader of the Labor Party and member for Armadale, was an inspiration to me even before I met her. Janine Freeman, the former member for Mirrabooka, whose moral compass and generosity of spirit has always been obvious to everyone, guided me.

My path through the Labor Party has included service from Forrestfield to Mirrabooka to Rockingham, which was a valuable opportunity to learn about the lives of constituents from many different walks of life. During this government's first term, I worked as a policy officer for the former Minister for Police; Road Safety, now Madam Speaker. The one boring task that I am proud of is the Road Traffic Amendment (Blood Alcohol Content) Act 2019, which some members might remember. It is known to the WA Police Force as "what you blow is what you go". I was given this task by the minister and nudged it through the legislative process, from agency brief, to drafting, cabinet, parliamentary briefings, which I think I saw some of the members at, the Legislative Assembly—the member for Burns Beach gave a memorable speech there—the Legislative Council and on to the Governor for signature. It was not a major reform but it achieved something good. Recently, I was out with the present Minister for Police at a booze bus on Hayman Road. I asked officers on the line how things were going. Without prompting, they responded enthusiastically about this very piece of legislation. It had made their lives easier and made the process simpler and more transparent for drivers. Officers had been wanting this change for 30 years. It was personally rewarding to hear that the circle had been completed.

The arrival of the worldwide pandemic has made politics feel a great deal more personal. I do not think I am alone in feeling that way. As the pandemic took hold, we saw a wide variety of responses from around the world. On the one hand, the McGowan government listened to medical advice and adopted a cautious approach designed to stop the virus at the border. On the other hand, we had people from other places, including politicians and business leaders, show disregard for safety, demanding we open the borders and let the virus tear through our community. We saw High Court challenges in Australia and conspiracy theorists around the world. These dangerous thoughts had consequences.

My wife is from America. We saw what her family went through day to day. I saw what some of my own family members were going through in the UK. When I compared their disrupted and isolated lives in the USA and the UK with our safe place, it was a stark and horrible contrast. We all know that. Coming from a family steeped in health sciences and given my background in research methodologies, the choices for government seemed to be very clear, yet too many public figures failed to grasp the problem and the solution. That is when I knew that my background as a native in South Perth, my education and my training would bring something unique to this Parliament, so I offered myself to the voters of South Perth and they said yes, with an 18 per cent swing to Labor, a 50 per cent primary vote and a 60 per cent two-party preferred vote.

But this election was not just about the pandemic; it was also about the community we live in and what people want when this pandemic has passed. South Perth is known for some pre-eminent private schools. However, the local public schools have been a tad neglected by successive conservative governments. Curtin Primary School, my first school, has largely the same buildings as when I was there as a kid. Como Secondary College has had only one major new building in 50 years. With a great deal of pleasure, I was able to announce commitments for a re-elected McGowan government for schools across South Perth: for Collier Primary School to extend its nature playground; for Curtin Primary School to convert one of its old bitumen quadrangles into a class breakout space and shaded play area; for Kensington Primary School to renovate its basketball courts; and for Collier Secondary College to address traffic problems, get a new STEM transportable classroom and be given \$1 million for a cafeteria upgrade.

WA Labor has a great record in public education. We believe that every child, no matter what their background, should get access to quality education from kindergarten to high school and beyond. We have shown this by providing many wonderful building commitments to high schools across Perth, slashing TAFE fees for students and supporting teaching assistants in our classrooms. Our current Minister for Education and Training has led a huge change across Western Australia. We will all benefit from this work for decades to come. But there is still more to do.

On the campaign trail, I had many conversations with so many passionate parents about the high standards they expect from their local government high school. As WA Labor policy says, access to high quality education is the keystone to a just and cohesive society. Improving outcomes for Como Secondary College will be one of my top priorities for this term. That is a commitment that I made to the parents I spoke to, and I know they will hold me to that. I look forward to working with the Minister for Education and Training so that Como Secondary College is best supported to ensure that its students can achieve their full potential, and that it is seen as a standout school that is known for its achievements and a valued asset of the local community.

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The residents of South Perth have a keen idea of what the community should look like. It is no accident that South Perth is known as a leafy green seat. When I was younger, I took that beauty for granted. Now I see it as the combined effort of the residents and the City of South Perth over many decades. Many green thumbs have made the trees and gardens of the suburbs a delight for everyone to enjoy. However, South Perth is in the middle of a growing city and it is feeling the pressure of development. It is irresponsible to keep expanding Perth city endlessly to new suburbs on the fringes. This is economically costly and environmentally damaging. It is also socially dislocating. Parents want their children to be able to grow up and live nearby, to become grandparents who live near their grandchildren. We must ensure that the choice to live close to the city is not closed off to anyone who is not already on the property ladder. We should and could, and probably can and should, accommodate growth while keeping the essence of South Perth.

I have had many conversations with locals about the current planning framework and the planning scheme and its outcomes. I believe that we can find the best outcomes for our community as long as we engage fully and openly with the community. Not everyone will agree with everything and there will be times for understanding and times for compromise. But it is critical that we continue to engage and be respectful to others.

I would like to briefly outline my vision for development in South Perth. We can keep high-density living to appropriately designated areas while maintaining the suburban feel for the rest of the suburbs.

We can keep streets in high-rise areas from feeling overwhelming though the use of low podiums of one or two storeys at street level, with higher building elements set back from the street, and maintaining view corridors where possible between neighbouring buildings. We can then activate high streets through retail and community facilities at ground level, and keep local neighbourhoods walkable, with gardens and active spaces at ground level, and set space for tree canopy and public open space.

I would like to see innovative transport options explored, whether better roads, a South Perth train station, new ferry routes, better bus routes, or even light rail. Technology, imagination and good planning should guide us here.

Finally, we should expect a tangible contribution to the community and to community facilities by high-rise developments beyond the block being developed.

Some of these issues are being addressed with amendment 61, currently being advanced by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the City of South Perth, but, as always, the devil will be in the detail. I will remain very engaged with planning matters where appropriate to make sure that developments are designed to make South Perth a better place to live.

Above all, I want a new discussion around the planning framework in general. The current planning framework is complicated and confusing, and ordinary people often feel like they have little chance of understanding it,

Finally, I have some very important thankyou's. To the Premier, the Minister for Health, the former Minister for Police, and the WA government, thank you.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr G. BAKER: When we won the 2017 election, our focus was on budget repair. In a few short years, careful government spending brought the budget back into surplus, and long-term debt trending down. WA's economic fundamentals were heading back in the right direction.

Then the pandemic happened and the world-leading response of the WA government kept us safe. Without this world-leading response, this historic election result would not have been possible.

I have been lucky enough to work for the Premier in the lead-up to the 2017 election, and also for you, Madam Speaker, when you served as Minister for Police. I thank both of you for the example you set by your hard work, diligence and service, and for taking a chance on me and my occasional outlandish ideas—like “I want to run for South Perth”.

Two personal highlights—please indulge me—of the campaign involve the Premier and the Speaker. Especially memorable was arriving at the Perth Zoo for a policy announcement, but then finding myself in the giraffe enclosure with the Premier and the now member for Victoria Park, face to face with those gigantic and beautiful animals. It just seemed to be completely unrelated to the campaign, and then the Premier announced some initiatives for the Zoo just to finish it off.

The other highlight was standing by the side of the road in Karawara, in the rain, with the then the Minister for Police, meeting local residents to talk about community safety. As everyone in this house knows, community safety raises strong emotions, and this meeting was no different. But she acknowledged every angry point and every grievance with grace and understanding. She made a big impression upon that gathering, and from that a great discussion about community safety in Karawara has developed.

Mr Roger Cook; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Shane Love; Deputy Speaker; Ms C.M. Tonkin; Mr G. Baker; Ms M.J. Hammat; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Mr D.A.E. Scaife; Mr H.T. Jones; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton

I also want to thank everyone in the health system, in the WA Police Force, our doctors, nurses and other workers, both frontline and behind the scenes, who kept us safe during last year and are still keeping us safe now.

Now I have some final thankyou's. I want to thank Hon Kate Doust for her mentorship and her guiding hand. I appreciate all her efforts, and without her this project would never have started. To Dr Amanda Rainey and Dragana Flynn, thank you for saying yes when I asked. Your efforts turned a whiff of a chance into a huge win. We had a campaign built on expertise, efficiency and trust. It was a campaign unlike any I had been involved with before, and I was extremely lucky to have you on my campaign. If anyone has a campaign for a good cause, run on a tiny budget, with an outside chance of success, they are your people.

My campaign seemed to be full of doctors. Thank you to Dr Ramanathan, Dr Selvandra, Dr Strahan, Dr Baker—who is in the gallery there—and Dr McKenna. I was overwhelmed with your support. You injected a great deal of enthusiasm and resources in to the campaign. And I believe it reflects the appreciation that the wider medical community has for this government.

To all my supporters and those of you who volunteered on the campaign, who stood on polling booths, dropped leaflets, doorknocked, and helped in any way—over 70 of you—thank you! I would like to acknowledge: Robert Lowney, Bevan Green, Brad McGuire, Brendan Jackson, Noolifar Shiekh, Lauren Kinder, Sarah Haynes, Don He, Phil Kemp, Michael Schaper, Willam Bower, Trevor Todd, Dave Cake, Harry Saunders and the assistance of the member for Bateman and her Bateman campaign, the member for Victoria Park and her campaign and the member for Cannington and his campaign for their assistance in the pre-poll. My apologies to anyone I missed out. Two notable contributions are from Michael Voros, for paving the way in 2017 as the Labor candidate who got a 12 per cent swing, which was a massive effort, and Phil O'Donaghue, for being my doorknock mentor. Many of you will know what assistance he can give!

To Mum and Dad, Jacque Jamie and Michael, and my extended family, the Bakers, the Prodonovichs and the Annears, your support has meant the world to me, and you all worked so hard on the campaign trail. Often it felt like I was talking more about dentistry than about the campaign as I knocked on the doors of people who remembered my grandfather and grandmother from years before.

Rachel, Macy and Alex—are they in or are they out of the gallery? Rachel, are you listening? Thank you! Thank you for your support, even through your doubts. I love you. None of this would have happened without you.

For much of the campaign I was full-time carer for Macy and Alex. I took them to many meetings, much to people's surprise, and I would like to thank them for their patience but also apologise to the following establishments for the inconvenience and minor damages that may have been suffered: Blue Jamaica Cafe in Waterford Plaza—a fine place; Halo Cafe in Angelo Street, South Perth; Hangout on Preston cafe in Preston Street, Como; the ice creams at WA Labor HQ, much diminished; Atomic cafe, Mendis Street, South Perth; the office of the headmaster of Wesley College; Raktacino cafe in Manning; Manning Road markets, Karawara; the giraffe enclosure at Perth Zoo; Little Banksia Cafe, Kensington; the Lego collection in the office of the member for Perth; Secret Garden Cafe on Angelo Street; and the piano in the Royal Perth Golf Club clubrooms.

And to the people of South Perth, you have done something you have never done before. I hope to never let you down. Thank you.

[Applause.]

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Members, we will just wait for the changing of the guard.

MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka) [4.30 pm]: I add my congratulations to Madam Speaker on her election as the first female Speaker of this house. I also congratulate the Premier and all members who have been elected to this Parliament, especially those who, like me, are here for the first time.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, the traditional owners on whose country we meet. I acknowledge their continuing connection to the land and pay my deep respects to their elders past and present.

First and foremost, I thank the good people of Mirrabooka for the faith that they have shown in electing me as the member for Mirrabooka. It is a great privilege to be here, and I promise I will work hard for you and I will do my best for you. I would like to acknowledge the former member for Mirrabooka, Janine Freeman, and thank her for her passionate advocacy for our community over the last 12 years. She has worked tirelessly for the people of Mirrabooka, and she has an abiding affection for our community. In return, she is much loved by people in the electorate, as they have reminded me almost daily since I was preselected as the Labor candidate! I am very grateful to Janine for her friendship and for her generous support. I am aware that I have big shoes to fill as I seek to follow in her footsteps.

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I also need to acknowledge you, Madam Acting Speaker, as the member for Landsdale, who until this election represented the suburbs of Girrawheen and Marangaroo. People in these suburbs have also been quick to tell me that the member for Landsdale has been a committed, hardworking local member for them for more than 20 years and that they, quite rightly, expect nothing less from me. While campaigning, I regularly assured people that I will work hard to live up to the high standard that both Janine and Margaret have set, and I reconfirm that promise to the good people of Mirrabooka today.

On a wall in my office hangs a letter written in 1954 by the then Under Secretary for Lands that tells us that Mirrabooka is named for the Southern Cross. However, the well-known Aboriginal poet Oodgeroo Noonuccal, or Kath Walker as she has also been known, tells the story in more detail in her book *Stradbroke Dreamtime*. She tells the story of Biame, the good spirit in the sky, who was extremely busy guarding the Aboriginal people and found that he could not watch them all the time. He decided he needed the assistance of someone to help him to care for and protect his people. He chose a man named Mirrabooka, who was wise and much loved by his people for the way he cared for the welfare of his tribe. She writes —

‘Biame gave him a spirit form and placed him in the sky among the stars ... Biame gave Mirrabooka lights for his hands and feet and stretched him across the sky, so that he could watch for ever over the tribes he loved. And the tribes could look up to him from the Earth and see the stars which were Mirrabooka’s eyes gazing down on them’.

The electorate of Mirrabooka comprises the suburbs of Balga, Mirrabooka, Koondoola, Girrawheen, Marangaroo and part of Dianella. It is one of the most ethnically diverse electorates in the state. Many Aboriginal Australians call Mirrabooka home, with a continuous connection to the land stretching back tens of thousands of years. The area was considered a rich source of food for Aboriginal people for thousands of years. In the same way that the Mirrabooka of Aboriginal legend cared for and protected the Aboriginal people, so, too, the electorate of Mirrabooka provides refuge for those who come from around the world to settle in its suburbs. Of those new arrivals, some have come as migrants and others have come as refugees, having left political, social and economic upheaval in their home country. Around half of all people in the electorate were born overseas and around half speak a language other than English while at home. The largest group—outside those with Australian or English backgrounds—are people who have come from Vietnam, followed by Burmese people from Myanmar and those of Indian descent. I am fortunate to have recently been a part of many joyful community gatherings, such as the celebration of the Kachin harvest festival, the Karen and Chin New Year celebrations and the Lohri festival. It was a great pleasure to join with the Vietnamese community for its Tet celebrations, welcoming the Vietnamese New Year, at the Girrawheen Senior High School oval in March. The vibrant community celebration brought crowds and festivity, culture, dancing and amazing food to the heart of our community.

Representing the people of Mirrabooka has also brought me closer to world events, as local constituents regularly speak with me about social and political upheaval being experienced by friends and family in their country of origin. Many have reflected on how fortunate we are to live in Western Australia during the global pandemic that has wrought havoc on the health and economic welfare of so many people around the world. The contrast between our experience in WA and how other parts of the world have fared during the pandemic is stark. Quite rightly, people have praised the leadership of the McGowan Labor government in keeping our community safe during these most challenging of times. They have expressed their gratitude for our amazing healthcare workers and a public health system that has responded so capably to the challenge of keeping us safe during these past 12 months. Reverberations from global upheaval touch the lives of my constituents every day. The Burmese people in Mirrabooka have been deeply impacted since the military seized control in Myanmar on 1 February this year. Many civilians in Myanmar have lost their lives in the violence that has followed. These are not just events happening in some country far away, but rather there is a deep and daily impact on my constituents who have been so distressed to witness the loss of life and the loss of democracy.

People in Mirrabooka share a deep sense of community and a deep sense of pride in our area. It is a community that is resilient and knows the importance of standing alongside one another. Everywhere I go in Mirrabooka, there are many excellent examples of collaboration and cooperation. State and local governments, community groups, religious organisations, sporting organisations and businesses are finding ways to collaborate and bring people together. They are finding ways to build strong bonds of community and ways to improve the lives of the people who live there. Balga Senior High School collaborates with the Wadjak Northside Aboriginal Corporation to help young Aboriginal people grow into valued cultural leaders. At the Mirrabooka markets, the Mirrabooka Square collaborates with MercyCare to create a community market that helps small, mostly home-based businesses grow into retail outlets. State and local governments work with newly arrived migrants to provide them with mentoring and training that will help them find professional and skilled work. Soccer clubs and football teams are formed to bring young people together to learn about teamwork, leadership and discipline. The Naala Djookan Healing Centre, a one-stop shop for people experiencing domestic violence, is an excellent example of how collaboration and connectedness is making

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Mr Roger Cook; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Shane Love; Deputy Speaker; Ms C.M. Tonkin; Mr G. Baker; Ms M.J. Hammat; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Mr D.A.E. Scaife; Mr H.T. Jones; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton

our community resilient and achieving better lives for people in the area. These collaborations demonstrate that Mirrabooka is built on mutual respect. Although there is diversity, there is not division. There is a great appreciation among the people of Mirrabooka that the best way to improve our economic and social circumstances is by working together, building strong relationships and by standing together in solidarity with each other.

I learnt a lot about community, growing up in small country towns in the great southern region. I learnt a lot about solidarity—although we don't call it that where I come from! I come from a long line of resourceful and hardworking country people. As a young man, my maternal grandfather, Don Hill, built a shack from corrugated iron near Travellers Lake in New South Wales. He then lived in that shack and called it home while he worked to transform the saltbush scrub around it into a sheep station. When my dad's father died at age 49, my grandmother Patricia Hammat carried on running their sheep station, also in the west of New South Wales, while she had two young daughters of primary school age still at home.

This part of Australia is vast and remote, and at the time it lacked communication and services. When going to town meant several hours of slow car travel over sand dunes and opening and closing gates along the way, it made sense that neighbours looked out for one another and helped each other through the best and worst of times. My parents, Andrew and Lesley, arrived in Western Australia in 1963. They had just married and moved to this great state in search of opportunity and land. They packed up a Volkswagen Beetle with all their worldly belongings and made their way to WA. They arrived just days before Christmas and celebrated their first Christmas in WA with tinned peaches and tinned ham, eaten on wooden crates, as they had arrived here with neither furniture nor funds to do any more. My dad worked as a farmhand in Broomehill and my mum as a midwife. At the same time, my dad secured his own property on newly released land north of Jerramungup. For the first part of my childhood, he worked as a farmhand at Broomehill during the week and spent almost every weekend working the block in Jerramungup, clearing, fencing and turning the sand and scrubland into viable farmland. Through their example, my parents taught me a great deal about hard work. They also taught me the importance of looking after your neighbours and making sure that nobody gets left behind. They taught me about the importance of community and that we all have a responsibility to contribute to building something better. These values have stayed with me throughout my working life, and they will continue to guide my work in this Parliament.

I started school at the Broomehill Primary School, a small school with about 60 students and only three classrooms. I later attended Kojonup District High School and completed years 11 and 12 at Governor Stirling Senior High School in Midland. I am very proud of my public school education. Our public schools consistently deliver excellent education outcomes and transform the lives of young people. Although Broomehill Primary School was a small school, its quality of teachers, education assistants and other staff was excellent. I received an outstanding education from all the schools I attended, and so I take this opportunity to thank all those who work in our public schools and particularly those teachers who contributed to my education and my progress to this place.

Like many young people, while I was at university I supported myself financially with a number of casual jobs in hospitality and the fast-food industries. Because I could not live at home, these were jobs that I relied on to pay rent and buy food. It was these casual jobs that made me a unionist, as I discovered, like many young people experience even today, that it was all too common to be underpaid and unfairly treated. By the age of 18 I knew enough about work and the law to know that what I was experiencing was not fair and it was not legal. I was also smart enough to know that if I raised my concerns with my boss as a casual worker, it would only lead to my hours getting cut or losing my job altogether, rather than any improvement in my circumstances. Although laws that protect workers are important, it became clear to me at this time that laws on their own are not enough to give working people protection from a bad boss or equal power with their employers; it is only unions that do that. So it was, that when I started my first job after finishing university I immediately joined the union. I found in the union movement many of the same values of community, solidarity and making sure no-one gets left behind, which I had learnt while growing up. I am indebted to former leaders of the Australian Services Union who took a chance by employing me in a full-time role when I was young and inexperienced. When I can, I try to repay this debt to young people I meet who are just starting out in their careers by offering support, encouragement and opportunities.

I spent over 17 years at the ASU, including time as assistant branch secretary. I was elected as the president of UnionsWA in 2008 and then elected as secretary in 2012, when Simone McGurk left UnionsWA to campaign for the 2013 state election. I am particularly grateful to her for the straight talking and advice she gave me at that time, without which I may never have accepted the opportunity that was presented to me. I also recall that when I started at the ASU, I was the first woman to be employed to organise the mainly male union members in the energy industry. At the time, Simone McGurk was an official with the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union and was a valuable role model for me, providing me with an example of how a youngish woman in her 20s might organise workers in a male-dominated industry. I am indebted to her for a great deal of wise counsel, assistance and friendship over the years we have known each other.

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It was a great privilege to represent working people of this state and I want to thank union members of WA for giving me that honour. Overwhelmingly, union members are people who understand what it means to ensure that no-one is left behind. They understand solidarity—that is, standing side by side with one another, offering strength and support, not judging and not condescending. Union members are people who care about not just themselves, but also others in their workplaces, in their industries and in the broader community. They understand that our society and our economy are strongest when we focus on our collective wellbeing, instead of just focusing on delivering benefits for the few.

I became a Labor Party member because of the union movement. It was the union movement that made me active and politicised me. It was the union movement that taught me, particularly during the campaign against the Howard government's WorkChoices legislation, that we need governments that are prepared to fight for a fair go for everyday working people, and that, in particular, we need Labor governments.

My experiences in life have shown me that a fair go and a good job cannot be taken for granted. As secretary of UnionsWA, I have stood up for WA workplaces to be fair, equitable and safe. I have fought for a fair go for everyday working people and I intend to carry on that work. Good, well-paid jobs are an important way that we can build a society in which nobody is left behind. For most of us, a good, secure job is the cornerstone to being able to live a good life. A good job provides the income, security and peace of mind that allows us to buy a house, have a family and enjoy family time on weekends. I am proud to be a part of a government that has a comprehensive plan to create good jobs for everyday working people.

Supporting local manufacturing and having a long-term plan to make things here in WA will diversify our economy and give us access to well-paid, highly skilled jobs of the future. Making it easier and more affordable for people to go to TAFE and access vocational training will help people get skilled jobs. Investing in critical infrastructure such as Metronet will create jobs and also make public transport accessible and affordable for everyday people. Having a strong safety net of public services like schools, hospitals and other services gives everyone a fair start in life and support when they need it the most, regardless of how much they earn or where they live. We should also ensure that so-called women's work is properly recognised and paid. Many women in my electorate work in aged care, health and community services, retail and other service industries. We need to take steps so that the occupations and industries that predominantly employ women do not continue to undervalue them for their skill and for their contribution to the economy. I applaud the work of unions, the United Workers Union and the Australian Services Union, towards addressing the structural issues that are contributing to the gender pay gap.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: We live in a moment of great opportunity to create the secure, well-paid jobs that we need for WA's future, jobs that will build both a prosperous economy and a fair and inclusive society. I want to be a part of making sure that everyday people get what they need to live good lives, and I want to be part of the debate about how we share around the wealth of this great state to make sure that everybody gets a fair go. There have been a great many people who have supported and encouraged me along the way; it is impossible to mention them all by name. Many union members, delegates and union leaders have provided me with so much sensible advice, encouragement and friendship over my 25 years in the union movement. I would like to particularly thank today Carolyn Smith, Wayne Wood, Steve McCartney, Jon Phillips, Pat Byrne, Rikki Hendon, Peter O'Keefe and Mick Buchan. Some of those people are here and I want to also thank them for being able to endure yet another speech from me! They have certainly endured enough over the last eight years. To Owen Whittle, who follows me as secretary, and all the wonderful people who worked at UnionsWA during my time there, thank you for your friendship and all that you do for the working people of WA. UnionsWA is a special place to work, and you have an incredibly important role to play in the debates that will shape the future of our state. I wish you well in all that you do.

Thank you to the people who worked so hard on my campaign and kept me diligently working to the plan, especially the ever-fabulous Izzy McDonald and Amy Blitvich, who both came early and stayed to the end. I also thank Katherine, Sue, Donata, Hiba and Carly, who are an important part of the team. I extend my great thanks to the members of the Nollamara branch and the many, many other volunteers from the community, the Labor Party and the union movement who joined our campaign because they believed in what we were doing. I am particularly grateful to Ibrahim, Emmanuel, Dave and Laurice, Robert, Hassain, Lovelte, and Kayande.

As always, the final word and the greatest thanks must go to my family. I thank my husband, Matthew, my two sons, Adam and Jeremy, mum and dad, my brother, Steve, and his partner, Monica, for their love and support, without which none of this would have been possible. I know I can rely on you to keep me grounded and I know you will ensure that I never become too big for my boots.

Let me say in conclusion that it is a great honour to be here as the member for Mirrabooka. However, the point is not just to be here to enjoy the fine debate in this chamber. What matters is that we build something better during the time that we have here. Like my grandfather who built a sheep station from a corrugated iron shack in the far west

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of New South Wales or the migrants and refugees who settle in Mirrabooka to make a better life for themselves and their families, we all bear a responsibility to build something better for the generations of Western Australians who will come after us. It is an opportunity to build a better life for individuals, a more prosperous economy and a fairer and more inclusive society. I will work hard to achieve these things for the people of Mirrabooka. During my time in this place, I will hold in my heart and in my head the story of the original Mirrabooka who so loved his tribe, he was raised up to care for and protect them. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [4.52 pm]: Madam Acting Speaker, I add my congratulations to the Speaker on her election as the first female Speaker of this house and, indeed, it is part of what I want to touch on today in my contribution. As many of my brand new colleagues have highlighted, it has been 100 years since Edith Cowan was elected to this Parliament. It intrigued me when I heard that my friend the member for Hillarys was the 100th woman to be elected to the Western Australian Parliament, so I had the staff in our fabulous Parliamentary Library send me a copy of all the women elected to our Parliament in both this place and the other place. In fact, 106 of us have been elected, with 65 of them in this chamber. I think that is a fabulous number.

I am celebrating an important birthday this year and one of the things struck me when I was looking at the election dates of these women was that only four of them were elected before I was born. I found it quite striking that in 100 years, only four women were elected before 1981, so it made me look back at a number of different reasons why we might be elected. I was inspired by my 11-year-old daughter who absolutely adores Ruth Bader Ginsburg and officially went into mourning at her passing last year and wore her Ruth Bader Ginsburg T-shirt for a week until I said, “That needs to go in the wash.” Ruth Bader Ginsburg was often asked how many women would be enough to sit on the Supreme Court in the United States and her response was nine. There are nine judges who sit on the Supreme Court in the United States and her response was nine. People were often taken aback by this because they thought that was a strange response. Her response to that was, “It has had nine men for a number of years, why should it not have nine women?” I am not suggesting by any stretch of the imagination that we should do away with our male counterparts in this place. I think a lot of them make some very valuable contributions, but it is a great source of pride to stand in this place knowing that, as we do so, 47 per cent are women representing the people of Western Australia. We have always aimed, particularly on the Labor benches, which continue all the way across there now, to get to equality and we are just about there. Of 59 seats here, 28 are represented by women and 26 of 53 in the Labor caucus are represented here by women and my esteemed colleague the Minister for Police has informed me that 52 per cent of the Labor caucus are women. We are taking some great strides towards equality and true representation. It has been also great to see that of the 19 new members of this place, 13 are women.

I would like to echo what Ruth Bader Ginsburg said —

Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception.

This was particularly brought home to me again by my fierce and independent feminist 11-year-old when I took her a copy of a 2019 article that was showing that the Matildas were now going to be paid the same amount as the male players. I was very excited by this. I said, “This is fantastic.” I was so impressed. She was completely dumbfounded and confused by my excitement. She said to me, “But, mamma, do they play the same game? I said, “Yes.” She said, “So they do the same job.”

Ms A. Sanderson: And they do it better!

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: They do do it better. She said, “So why haven't they always been getting paid the same?” That brought it home to me that our future is safe. We have some very strong women coming up through the ranks, whether they choose to join us in Parliament or not. In society we have some very strong, very opinionated, very independent women coming up, if they are anything like my 11-year-old daughter, Nadija. I am sure a lot of the mums here could agree with me that they look at their daughters and think, “Wow, I could never have done that when I was your age.”

I would like to thank all the fabulous members who are joining us here. I know that they will make wonderful contributions to not only their electorates, which have instilled that humbling authority in members to represent them, but also the Labor Party, which was built on the shoulders of giants that we now stand on, and this Parliament as we represent diversity, compassion and strength. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [4.58 pm]: I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, and pay my respects to their elders past and present. This land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

I say at the outset how pleased I am to begin my speech with those words. Madam Speaker, I congratulate you on your historic election to the role of Speaker. It caps an accomplished career as a Labor member and minister. It is

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also fitting, if overdue, that a woman sits as Speaker on the centenary of Edith Cowan’s election and a few years shy of the centenary of the election of May Holman, the first Labor woman elected to this place and, indeed, to any Parliament in Australia. I look forward to the day when there will be no novelty in members using the phrase “Madam Speaker” in this chamber.

It is the privilege of my life to have been elected to represent my local community as the Labor member for Cockburn. I am indebted to the Labor Party and the voters of Cockburn for giving me the opportunity to serve in this place. I acknowledge particularly the big shoes I have to fill in succeeding Hon Fran Logan as the member for Cockburn. Fran led many community campaigns, such as cleaning up Cockburn Cement. He was a reformist minister, who most recently brought many of our corrections facilities back into public hands. I wish Fran and Vivienne the very best in their well-deserved retirement.

Madam Speaker, I was born into a Labor family. My dad, Roy, was a child of the Depression who believed passionately in the objective of the Labor Party in bringing better conditions to all people without hope of personal gain. My mum, Catherine, is a Nannup girl, whose quiet hardworking nature typifies the backbone of the Labor Party.

I was raised on a steady diet of politics. Labor Party meetings and fundraising dinners were the norm, so much so that I feel uncomfortable at an event if there is no raffle. I remember watching a clip from question time when I was a kid and asking my dad who was the bad guy. He explained solemnly that John Howard was the bad guy and Paul Keating was the good guy. I thereafter enthusiastically shouted, “Put him in the green wheelie bin!” every time John Howard appeared on TV.

Few things were more important in our family than the Labor Party, but chief amongst those was education. I was fortunate to receive a first-class public education at Australind Primary School and Australind Senior High School. I owe much of my trajectory in life to the brilliant teachers and other staff who invested in me in my early years. I give particular thanks to Greg Slavin, who was the principal of Australind Senior High School while I was there. Greg pushed me to do better and opened doors for me, and I know he did that for all students. He represents the very best of the public education system. I was pleased to later return to my high school as a board member at Greg’s invitation.

Because of the education I received at Australind, I was able to secure a Fogarty Foundation regional scholarship to study arts and law at the University of Western Australia. I found it difficult to fit in at UWA. I discovered quickly that my path was not the typical path taken by most of my peers at UWA Law School. I had gone to public schools, I was a country boy, and my parents were not lawyers or judges. Indeed, no-one in my family had attended university until my older sister did two years before me. Fortunately, I eventually found my people. I made fast friends with people who shared my values for fairness, equality and inclusion—people like Mike Workman and Tim Goyder, who, like me, viewed the law as a political tool and not as a merely academic or commercial exercise. I was also invited at that time by Hon Dr Sally Talbot to drinks with what she described as a “group of like-minded people”. I met Hon Stephen Dawson, Hon Alanna Clohesy and Senator Louise Pratt, and many others who would go on to be employers, friends and mentors to me. I found the metalworkers and found my political family.

I am a strong believer in lifelong learning. In 2019, I finally uprooted myself from Perth and moved to the United Kingdom to study a Master of Laws at University College London. Again, I was fortunate to benefit from great teachers, taught and supervised by some Europe’s best labour lawyers. That was until I called my wife, Ellie, in early 2020. Ellie had remained in Australia. I told Ellie that this COVID-19 situation seemed pretty serious and that it might be a good idea for me to come home. Thankfully, I did just that. I ended up writing my thesis remotely on the experiences of Qantas workers, many of whom have been stood down without pay for months on end while the pandemic rages.

When I look back at my life and education, the common thread is how much I owe my achievements to education, and particularly public education, and to the work of other people. I was raised by a family who loved and supported me. I was encouraged at school and university by teachers who saw more in me than I did. I was mentored by colleagues in the Labor Party and the law who recognised a kindred spirit. To that extent, my story reflects the objective of the Labor Party, which is, surely, to build a society that allows a kid from Australind to attend world-class universities and crack into the exclusive club of the legal profession. My story may be the story of yet another lawyer who stumbled into this place, but it is also fundamentally a story about fairness, equality and inclusion.

But it is not really my story that drove me to serve in this place. Instead, it is the stories of the many vulnerable and exploited workers whom I have represented as a lawyer with both Slater and Gordon and Eureka Lawyers—women who were sacked for being pregnant, cleaners and disability support workers who were badly underpaid, and migrant workers who were threatened with deportation. If it were not for the union movement and the Labor Party, the stories of those workers would often go unheard. I hope to do my part by being a voice and a warrior for those workers in this place.

Today, I want to start that work by telling you about one of those workers, one of my former clients, Lovanitas Veeraragoo. I am grateful to Lovanita for giving me permission to use her name and story in this

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place. I met Lovanita in February 2018, when she was referred to me for pro bono assistance. In February 2015, Lovanita had started working as a cook on a 457 visa for a chain of restaurants known as The Local Shack. In mid-October 2017, Lovanita had finished her shift but then stayed back when another employee failed to turn up for the next shift. However, after 45 minutes, she could stay no longer because she had to pick up her child from day care. At about 10.00 that night, Lovanita spoke by phone with the general manager of The Local Shack, Bradley David Wright. Mr Wright asked Lovanita why she was not still at work. When she explained that her shift had finished, he went on a tirade and abused her. The Federal Court of Australia ultimately found that he said to her things like, “Why the fuck am I paying you if you are not there?”, and, “You should still fucking be there.” After the call ended, Lovanita began crying. Her husband, Koomaren, called Mr Wright back and asked why he had made Lovanita cry. The Federal Court again found that Mr Wright responded, “Why the fuck do I have to talk to you? I sponsored you guys. I can cancel your visa any time I like.”

The next day, Lovanita took personal leave and submitted a medical certificate. In response, she was told by The Local Shack that she had abandoned her employment and breached the Fair Work Act. Lovanita later received a letter terminating her employment, partly because she had failed to turn up to work and had instead provided a medical certificate. The Local Shack also did not pay Lovanita her salary for her final two weeks of work, her accrued annual leave or her notice period. Over the following months, she faced the risk of deportation, a deterioration in her marriage, and suicidal thoughts.

In February 2018, I commenced proceedings in the Federal Court on behalf of Lovanita, alleging that Goldbreak Holdings Pty Ltd and Bradley Wright had engaged in seven contraventions of the Fair Work Act, including by sacking Lovanita because she took personal leave, misleading Lovanita by claiming she had abandoned her employment in breach of the Fair Work Act, and failing to pay Lovanita her salary, accrued annual leave or notice period. A few weeks after the proceedings were served on Goldbreak Holdings, it was placed into voluntary administration. That had the effect that we could not continue the proceedings against it, even though The Local Shack’s restaurants mysteriously continued to trade. Undeterred, Lovanita and I maintained the proceedings against Mr Wright, who we claimed was personally liable as an accessory. Over the following months, Mr Wright evaded service of the proceedings, until the Federal Court granted substituted service. Mr Wright then continued to ignore the proceedings. He would send me emails raising irrelevant matters, but refused to file a defence. In the end, the Federal Court entered default judgement against Mr Wright.

In his judgements, Justice Colvin declared that Mr Wright had committed the seven contraventions of the Fair Work Act alleged. His Honour’s findings against Mr Wright were damning. He described Mr Wright’s conduct in sacking Lovanita for taking personal leave and refusing to pay her entitlements as “considered and deliberate”. His Honour noted that Lovanita was in a vulnerable position and at an economic disadvantage. Justice Colvin also found that Mr Wright had used foul language and that he had used Lovanita’s need for a visa in a threatening way. Justice Colvin ordered Mr Wright to personally pay Lovanita \$28 000 in compensation and civil penalties for his contraventions but, of course, he did not pay. In April 2019, I lodged a creditor’s petition in the Federal Circuit Court requesting that Mr Wright be declared bankrupt. After a further application for substituted service, Mr Wright was finally declared bankrupt in June 2019 and a trustee was appointed to administer his estate. However, after conducting its investigation, the trustee informed Lovanita that the house Mr Wright lived in was in his mother’s name, that the shares in the company that ran The Local Shack were in his partner’s name and that he had no assets in his name other than \$1 000 in his bank account. To date, Lovanita has not been paid a cent of what she is owed by Bradley Wright. Despite that, the Local Shack continues to operate four restaurants in Perth and Mr Wright continues to identify himself as The Local Shack’s operations manager on LinkedIn. The appalling behaviour of Mr Wright and The Local Shack was covered in a series of articles published on WAtoday in late 2019. The articles give countless examples of workers who were bullied, underpaid and mistreated by that business. I commend journalists Hamish Hastie and Hannah Barry for their reporting.

There are few people whom I hold in greater contempt than employers and managers who use their power to bully and exploit the vulnerable. Mr Wright is a lawbreaker, a bankrupt and an unfit person to operate a business. I therefore call on him to accept responsibility for his actions and to pay Lovanita what she is owed. I hope that hearing Lovanita’s story will cause every member of this place to reflect on the need for stronger workplace laws. I am pleased to be part of a government that has modernised our workplace health and safety laws and is legislating tougher penalties for wage theft. I pay tribute to the former Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon Bill Johnston, for his work in those areas.

I also hope that hearing Lovanita’s story will tell you a little about me. I am an idealist, but I am also a fighter. I am unforgiving when it comes to bullies, those who abuse their power and those who pick on the vulnerable and powerless. I am relentless in my pursuit of fairness and justice. I intend to bring all those qualities to this place in pursuit of this government’s agenda. This government took a platform to the election that was broad and forward-thinking. It has a strong mandate to deliver on that platform, but I know that it will do so responsibly.

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One of the pillars of this government's agenda, local manufacturing, is a key priority for me. For too long, governments around Australia have neglected our manufacturing industry, but this government has taken tangible action from the outset. In that respect, I acknowledge the excellent work of Hon Rita Saffioti in overseeing the construction of the railcar assembly facility in Bellevue.

The Australian Marine Complex, which is adjacent to my electorate, was established by the last Labor government and is one of the great success stories of WA industry policy. The AMC is the only facility of its type in Australia, built as a common-user facility to drive investment and collaboration in our defence and marine industries. I commend this government for the \$87 million in infrastructure projects that it is rolling out at the AMC, including the vessel transfer path, which is currently under construction. These investments will increase the AMC's capacity to take on more high-value projects and generate thousands of local jobs. I now look forward to working with the government on the next stage of development at the AMC. There are many opportunities. A heavy and wide-load transfer path would allow the AMC to attract work fabricating and assembling larger offshore structures. A second floating dock would enable the transfer of heavier vessels, such as the Hunter-class frigates. Local manufacturing is at the heart of good jobs, which in turn are at the heart of social inclusion; I am very proud to be part of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union and a government that understands that.

There is a final part of my story that I feel compelled to share today, and that is my passion for improving mental health services. For me, that passion is deeply personal. Not long after I had left home at age 17, I developed what I figured was an ordinary case of homesickness but it quickly turned into something more sinister. I withdrew into myself. I would eat meals alone in my room. I stopped attending classes and I turned up late and dishevelled to work. I would sob almost inconsolably when I returned to Perth from a weekend away at home. I felt overwhelmed by everything in my life. I lost interest in most of the things I had previously enjoyed. I endlessly criticised myself and my work. I was diagnosed early on with major depression, but I accepted only patchy treatment. Eventually, at about 20 years of age, I waded into the Swan River with the intention of drowning myself. Fortunately, I did not get very far. After a course of antidepressants, my mood improved. I declared myself cured and discontinued my medication. I fared all right on my own for another couple of years, until my dad was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. Even then, I soldiered on, reasoning that a low mood was normal in the circumstances. However, a couple of years after dad died, I realised that many of my old habits had crept back—persistent sadness, lateness to work and a sense that I was overwhelmed. By then, I had the maturity to recognise that something was wrong and I sought help. I have been on antidepressants for several years now. I seek treatment from my psychologist as and when it is needed, and I am not ashamed to say it. During the election campaign, the former Leader of the Opposition made some startling admissions about his mental health. I congratulate him on doing so. It is beyond time that we break down the stigma around mental illness.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: However, there was something missing from the conversation spurred by the former leader's comments. He seemed compelled to explain that his darkest times were behind him, that he was cured and that there was nothing to worry about. I felt that those comments missed the point, because it should not be necessary to be cured in order to disclose struggles with your mental health. My message today is simple—it is okay to not be okay. Often mental illness is not something to be got over or to be cured; it is something to be treated and managed. My depression is well-managed and it has been for several years, but it is something that requires constant vigilance and work. I expect to be on antidepressants for the rest of my life. There is no shame in that. I know that this government is prioritising mental health. It is establishing additional mental health beds in our hospitals and fast-tracking the Young People's Priorities for Action program. There are also exciting projects happening in my electorate, including the new private mental health facility that is being built by Bethesda Health Care at Cockburn Central. I look forward to being part of that work going forward.

I turn now to the campaign and the many thankyou's that I owe. The first of those must be to our Premier, Hon Mark McGowan. We have heard many tributes to the Premier over the last two days, but mine has a slightly different character. I would like to tell you about an experience that I had while doorknocking in Atwell in the closing weeks of the campaign.

On a sunny afternoon, I approached a house at which a car had just pulled into the driveway. Out jumped four kids and two adults. I thought, "A captive audience—a candidate's dream!" As I chatted with the parents, the kids played around me. They must have spied the slogan on the back of my shirt that identified that I was on Mark McGowan's team. My conversation was interrupted by a singsong voice asking, "Do you know Mark McGowan?" I turned to the kids, knowing I at least had this one covered. "Yes, I know Mark McGowan", I said. "I am running to be on his team", I continued like a well-rehearsed candidate. Question answered, I turned back to the parents, only to be interrupted almost immediately by another question: "Are you his best friend?" A cold sweat descended upon me. The jig was up. "No", I replied. "I wouldn't say I'm his best friend." There were frowns of disappointment all around. But the questions continued: "Do you have his mobile number?" Back on solid ground, I assured them that I had

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the Premier's number. Of course, that was a mistake. "Can you call him for us?", the question came back. I delivered the disappointing news that it was not appropriate for me to call the Premier at that moment, quickly ended the conversation and got out of there before even trickier questions followed! I have never been involved in a campaign in which so many voters, let alone children, recognise our leader. They respect him in a way that is unprecedented. It is a testament to the Premier's hard work in guiding our state through the pandemic. People have looked to the Premier to put their best interests first and he has done so. I thank the Premier for that service on behalf of my constituents.

There are so many other people to thank that I will no doubt miss someone, but I will do my best. I thank Melissa Parke for inspiring me to take up a career in law. To the member for Mount Lawley, Chris Pras and Alex Illich, thank you for your mentoring in the law and for your friendship. To Tim Picton and the whole team at WA Labor and CHQ, thank you for the brilliant campaign that you ran. None of us would be sitting here today without you. To my campaign directors, Owen Whittle and Hon Kate Doust, thank you for your patience and strategic thinking. To the branch members and volunteers who helped on my campaign, I give a heartfelt thankyou. I cannot name all of you, but I am particularly thankful to Glenn Anderson, Vassil Balakrishnan, Doreen Blyth, Dylan Davis, Tarun Dewan, Stephen Goodlet, Cassie Harrison, Karthik Pasumarthy and Brendah Toms, Jilly Regan, Daniella Simatos, and Robbie and Jean Bruce. Thank you to my many friends for your camaraderie over the years—Alex Cassie, Claire, Craig and Mima Comrie, Rebecca Doyle, Tim Goyder, Pearl Lim, Tom Palmer and Mike Workman. Thank you particularly to my oldest friend Ashley Buck.

To Peter O'Keeffe, Ben Harris, and the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association of WA, thank you for your support of a cross-factional ally. I wish to congratulate the SDA and Dustin Rafferty on their recent victory in the Industrial Appeal Court. The court declared earlier this week that state employees in the retail pharmacy industry are covered by the state shop and warehouse award, closing a loophole that some employers had used to pay low wages. I also congratulate the former Minister for Industrial Relations, who intervened on that matter.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Only on the advice of the department!

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Thank you to Mick Buchan, Steve Catania and the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union for your support over many years and during the campaign. I give particular thanks to my two unions—the Australian Services Union and the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union. To Wayne Wood and Jill Hugo, thank you for letting me cut my teeth as an ASU delegate and placing such great trust in me as your advocate in recent years. The ASU has achieved marvellous outcomes for its members under your leadership. To Steve McCartney, Glenn McLaren and the whole AMWU caucus, there is no possibility that I can ever repay your solidarity. The AMWU is a leader in this state of driving industrial, political and social reforms. I am proud to be part of that work.

Thank you to the current and former members of Parliament who have supported me over the last 15 years, including Hon Jon Ford; Hon Alanna Clohesy; Hon Stephen Dawson; Senator Louise Pratt; Josh Wilson, MP; the member for Murray–Wellington; and the member for Kingsley. I am going to continue to rely on each of you.

Thank you to my field organiser and de facto campaign manager, Darcy Gunning. The campaign he ran was so good that I had to take him aside and tell him that we were at risk of being told off for doing too good a job in a non-target seat. Mate, you are a complete legend.

Now, there is a group of people to whom I must give a very special thankyou. There is the person who has been essential in shaping my political and moral compass. She has been my friend and mentor for many years. I owe a debt of not merely gratitude but of great love to Hon Dr Sally Talbot. Sally, thank you for seeing the potential in me all those years ago, for being generous with your time and advice and for your love for my family.

My family has always been important to me. I would not be here without my family's support. To my parents in law, Anthony and Shelley, and to the whole Whiteaker family, thank you for letting me be part of your clan. To my sister and brother-in-law, Elizabeth and Jonathon, and to my beautiful niece, Lana, thank you for your love and support. To my mum and dad, Catherine and Roy, thank you for raising me and instilling in me Labor values and a love for public service. Mum, while dad is not with us anymore, I know that he would be so proud of all of us.

And, finally, to the most important person in my life, my wife, Ellie, I have two things to say. First, I am sorry that I forgot to mention you in my election night speech. As the member for Kalgoorlie said to me, that is dog house stuff! Please consider this a grovelling apology etched into *Hansard*; I am sure it is not the first. Second, thank you for loving me unconditionally, forgiving my mistakes and seeing my better side when I often do not. In our almost 10 years together, we have achieved so much. Thank you for being my partner in life and my partner in political crime. I love you very much.

Honourable members, you will often see me wearing a lapel pin, as I am today, with a depiction of Ben Chifley's "Light on the Hill"—the objective of the Labor Party in bringing better conditions for all people without hope of

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personal gain. The pin is a tribute to my beloved dad, who wore the same pin and who strove always to give a helping hand. The light on the hill is the great work of the Labor Party in this place. That work is never done and our eyes should never be distracted from it. I am excited by the prospect of what this Parliament can achieve and I look forward to working with each and every one of you to deliver a stronger, fairer and more equal Western Australia.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: As a word of guidance for members, you may have thought that the member for Cockburn used some unparliamentary language there, and those words used in another context could be considered unparliamentary. They were not considered that way by me today because they were direct quotes from court proceedings; it is not a precedent for people to assume that you can normally use that language in this house.

I will just wait for those who want to clear the public gallery to do so and those who want to arrive in the public gallery to also do so. Members, we have witnessed some truly extraordinary inaugural speeches in this house in the last couple of days. I congratulate all the people who have spoken so far and I am certainly looking forward to those speeches that remain. There are some people clearing out of the public gallery to celebrate with the member who has just spoken, I expect, and there are some others who are hopeful of making their way in.

MR H.T. JONES (Darling Range) [5.27 pm]: Good evening, Madam Speaker. I join all of my colleagues in this place, and, indeed, the people of Western Australia and further afar in congratulating you on your elevation to the role of Speaker. I acknowledge the example you have set for the many women and girls in Western Australia who may until recently have wavered in considering a career of service in this place. Your indulgence in batting away the odd “Mr Speaker” reminds me of the progress of women in the Navy over the last 30 years where the subordinates were conditioned through practice to reference their captain as “Sir” and had to learn to say “Captain Ma’am” when seeking attention from the women up the chain of command, probably with a less forgiving response if they got it wrong than you are providing.

I joined the Navy at the time of the first intake of a male-dominated category, the boatswains’ mates. When females were first recruited to that branch, they were known as quartermaster gunners. I was lucky enough to serve with the first female warrant officer bosun, the highest rank in that category, in my last posting in the Navy. Her name is Sherylee Folkes, and she was an outstanding professional and caring senior sailor. I wish I had had the opportunity to serve at sea with her.

I rise for the first time as the newly elected member for Darling Range. I wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and the land on which the electorate of Darling Range is situated, the Whadjuk and Gnaala Karla Booja peoples of the Noongar nation, and their elders past, present and emerging. I would also like to acknowledge the previous member for Darling Range, the honourable Alyssa Hayden, and thank her for her advocacy for the community. I wish Alyssa and her husband, Terry, all the best in their future endeavours.

I was very honoured and privileged to have been chosen to represent the people of such a diverse and expansive electorate, with immense natural beauty and one that is probably undergoing the most significant investment in infrastructure and housing development it has ever experienced. I am certain, as are many others—it was said after the election results so it must be true—that I was primarily elected as an endorsement of Mark McGowan’s leadership and the outstanding performance of the government over the last four years, and I agree. However, I will work very hard to repay the faith in me and the McGowan government and earn the trust of the people to represent Darling Range in my own right.

Many people will talk about their humble beginnings but I and my two sisters, Sarah and Jackie, were very fortunate to have wanted for nothing when we were growing up in north Wales, except perhaps warm weather! My sisters had horses and I had a motorbike, and we had the love of our parents. Our ancestors are Welsh coal and slate miners, farmhands and domestic servants. However, our parents worked hard to improve their economic outlook through education and training opportunities. My mum, Peggy, was the daughter of an ironmonger and a domestic servant. Her father passed away when she was only 10 years old. Mum went on to complete nursing training at Liverpool Royal Infirmary. It was in Liverpool where she met my father, Trevor, who was studying dentistry at the University of Liverpool. Dad was the son of a taxidriver and a World War I veteran and hotel proprietor. Like mum, dad lost his own father when he was only seven years old, and that was to the lingering effects of mustard gas. Dad had a brother, who died at age four before my dad was born, and a sister, who died at age five. The personal story of loss of life at a young age through war and disease impacting families in the early twentieth century is common. But it is still worth reflecting upon when considering our own situation and the risks posed to our own families should we fail to manage the various strains of coronavirus that threaten us, despite our advances in medical science.

Our family chose to migrate to Western Australia, arriving in Perth on Australia Day 1978. I recall that it was a very hot day. According to the records, it reached a maximum of 35 degrees. At the age of 11, I vividly remember

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the taxi ride from the airport to the city, along Riverside Drive, and marvelling at the palm trees that are still there today. They reminded me of exotic locations, usually American, and possibly in Florida, that I had seen on TV as a child. We stayed in a motel just down from this place on St Georges Terrace. My father bought our first car from a car yard just around the corner on Milligan Street. It was a huge HQ Holden with a bench seat in the front. We very soon learnt of the hazards associated with vinyl seats and seatbelt buckles against naked legs in the summer heat! Again, the big car reminded me of America and the promise of prosperity and a better future.

My own schooling was relatively uneventful but I do remember initially being teased about my accent. It no doubt had an effect. My worst embarrassment at school was being forced to participate in a debate to which I contributed only one sentence, such was my fear of public speaking. But I am better now! Our own integration into Western Australia was easy in comparison with others, who perhaps had the wrong skin shade or cultural and religious differences. My friend and now colleague Hon Tony Buti, Minister for Finance, who is unable to be here this evening, recounted in his inaugural address that his father and, indeed, himself had suffered discrimination based upon their Italian heritage. It has since disappeared. I personally like Italians. They make beautiful motorcycles and outstanding finance, transport and police ministers!

It is my observation that the migrations of various groups to Australia, such as Italian, Greek, Vietnamese and Indian, were initially met with resistance, mistrust and associated discrimination, but there seems to be a period of probation, perhaps a generation, until they are accepted and their contribution is recognised. They want the same things as those already here—peace and prosperity and a great place to raise their children. For some reason, the cycle of acceptance has not been applied to the First Nations people of this great country. They have accepted or have had no choice other than to accept all those who came after but in many quarters, they are not themselves accepted. Our First Nations people continue to be locked up at atrocious rates, suffering increased rates of violence, an increased burden of disease and reduced participation in schooling and the workforce. I will do what I can to assist this government to continue its work towards closing the gap. We all have a role to play, calling out racism whenever we see and hear it, and giving people a hand up.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the First Nations Homelessness Project in which I and my sister Sarah volunteered for a few brief months, and its champions, Jennifer Kaeshagen, her husband, Gerry Georgatos, and their daughter, Connie Georgatos, who do vital work keeping First Nations families housed and supported, recognising that homelessness for children has devastating and irreversible effects.

After I left school, I was employed in a variety of jobs, from work as a laboratory assistant at the Murdoch University vet school and the then State Electricity Commission, where I mapped out and catalogued every part of Kwinana power station down to valve, model and serial number.

I also worked for a time as a motorcycle courier, with employment conditions similar to those now experienced in the gig economy where there are no mandated breaks for meals or respite, no requirement for safety equipment, except for a helmet, and that is only because it is the law, and the implicit encouragement to travel fast, take risks, split lanes and work tired in all weather in order to earn anything near a living wage. I understand that some food delivery drivers are clearing as little as \$10 an hour. I became rather skilful on the bike but I took far too many risks, having at least two falls, but luckily without any serious injury. I applaud and will support the efforts of the Transport Workers' Union of Australia to represent drivers and riders towards achieving a safer and fairer workplace. I will also do what I can to advocate for motorcycle safety, cognisant that there are cultural and behavioural factors that prevent a purely objective solution.

In October 1990, just prior to the commencement of the first Gulf War, I decided that I needed a change in direction in my life and some self-discipline, so I enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy, one of the many fortunate decisions I have made in my life. I signed on the dotted line for four years, which at the time seemed like rather a large commitment, rather like a term in Parliament. However, I remained in the Navy for 30 years and thoroughly enjoyed every minute. The Navy teaches people what anyone would expect—discipline, teamwork and technical skills. The technical skills I initially learnt were to touch-type at 35 words a minute, which has paid off handsomely, but I also spent months learning Morse code at ever-increasing speeds. The utility of that skill has been completely lost, except at the odd quiz night! The real skill I learnt during my time in the Navy, particularly at sea, was how to get along with people. You learn the art of empathy, either in its generally accepted definition or as a consequence of your actions or inaction. If you treat someone poorly, take credit for something that you did not do yourself or blame someone for something that you did, it comes back to bite you quickly. News travels fast on a ship, reputations can be destroyed in a moment, and you cannot always go home at the end of the day.

Another important life lesson that I learnt in the Navy was to look after your troops. There are the obvious requirements of food and shelter, but it is really about identifying their skills and getting the best out of them. It is about recognising people who are doing a great job. They might not be perfect all the time, but take or make the time to highlight the good. The present Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, AO, was my boss back in 1997.

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He still was my boss at the end, I suppose—technically. He encouraged me to commission from the ranks and I am eternally indebted to him. Quite frankly, I remain loyal to him to this day.

I see parallels to this as a member of Parliament. It is so very important to recognise the achievements of people in the electorate and wider WA, be they volunteers, involved in business, or state or local government employees. It is very important to encourage them in their endeavours, to resist the urge to bask in their reflected glory and to call them out when things are not always perfect.

I then met my lovely wife, Cam. Where else would a sailor meet a lady to marry but at a pub? In this instance, it was the Moon and Sixpence, which is no longer there. This encounter changed our lives forever and later created two more lives. I was previously a fairly self-centred individual, more interested at being at sea with 100 or so close mates and spending my money on motorcycles, but my outlook changed.

We soon settled down, got married—tomorrow is our twenty-first wedding anniversary—and started our own little family. My beautiful daughter, Grace, came along to instantly erase any idea of being self-centred, and sparked a nurturing attitude that I did not know I had. Grace was, and still is, very bright and compassionate. She is presently completing an honours degree at Curtin University, and continues to make us proud. Grace was also a great help during my campaign, getting me up to speed with social media. Grace’s boyfriend, Zac, is an electrical apprentice and a fine young man; Cam and I approve.

Our son, Gryff, was born a little while later. He wasn’t progressing as well as Grace had, although she had met the milestones more quickly than average. A friend of ours Phillip Crossley had experience working in group accommodation for people with special needs, in particular those with autism. Although a very difficult subject to raise, Phil did suggest to us that we have Gryff assessed as he thought Gryff was displaying some traits. We were just about to relocate to Canberra, so we waited until we were there to progress what we were hesitant to do. A district nurse told Cam that Gryff was just progressing a little more slowly and that there was nothing to worry about. In any event, we had Gryff assessed and he was on the spectrum. Although we had already talked ourselves into the likelihood of a diagnosis, it was nonetheless traumatic, and I have been in a state of grief ever since.

We returned to WA two years later and were lucky enough to enrol Gryff at Kenwick School for early intervention. This went quite well, but we were told that his IQ was too high for him to remain at Kenwick School, so he had to go to a mainstream school, which meant Kelmscott Primary School, where his sister, Grace, was attending. This did not go very well, as Gryff lacked the ability to comprehend written and verbal instructions and to adequately express himself. After some battling with red tape, we were able to successfully argue for Gryff to return to Kenwick School, which equipped him with the skills that we would expect.

I also fought for Gryff to become eligible for the disability support pension. I recall leaving the post office in tears as I could not provide a photo ID. As a relatively competent person, I felt so helpless at the time. I can relate to the frustration of people with disabilities, and their advocates, when they navigate their way through the bureaucracy.

Gryff has been fortunate to have received great support from the principal of Kenwick School, Mr Mark Watson, and his staff. He was made job-ready and gained employment in a supported workplace. The wages that people receive in these places are very low. Gryff earns just \$3.57 an hour; however, this gives him purpose and a safe place to work, and his income is supplemented by the disability support pension. A consequence of such a low wage is that although he has worked full-time for 16 months, his superannuation balance is just \$226. Gryff will be okay because he has me and Cam to look after him, but other people do not necessarily have families to look after them and are not in a good way.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr H.T. JONES: My wife, Cam, has, of course, had the same experiences, and more, as she was juggling the care of our children with the pursuit of her own career whilst I was away at sea. Cam was born in Vietnam and entered Australia under a refugee program in the early 1980s after being held in detention in Malaysia. Her family would have endured the same racism and discrimination that was directed towards other boat people back then. However, her family have gone on to become citizens and great contributors to Western Australia. Cam completed her primary school teaching degree with Curtin University, studying full-time at night classes held at the Armadale TAFE whilst looking after two children and working during the day as an education assistant—often when I was away at sea. I do not know how she managed, but she did and did it well.

My arrival in politics was neither anticipated nor a longstanding goal. Anyone who witnessed my debating effort in school would have rightly suggested that I would be the last person in the room to get into politics, but with the encouragement of people like Vice Admiral Noonan, I came out of my shell.

Another such person and good friend to many is Dr Tony Buti, the member for Armadale, who has now been elevated justifiably to the ministry. I would not be standing here today were it not for Tony. Tony is one of those people whom I aspire to be—someone who seeks to elevate others and bring people along without an expectation of anything in return. I first met Tony when he was doorknocking, despite there being no Liberal candidate for the

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 5 May 2021]

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Mr Roger Cook; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Shane Love; Deputy Speaker; Ms C.M. Tonkin; Mr G. Baker; Ms M.J. Hammat; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Mr D.A.E. Scaife; Mr H.T. Jones; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton

2010 election for the seat of Armadale. Tony impressed me as a kind and compassionate man, and after quite some time and several interactions he suggested that I join the Labor Party. Throughout his terms in Parliament, the member for Armadale has continued to take an interest in our family and made us feel special. I want to thank Tony in particular for encouraging me, a sometimes shy participant in life, to run for Darling Range.

I have so many other people to thank for my arrival in this place.

Of course, I must first thank my wonderfully supportive wife, Cam, and our children, Grace and Gryff, who gave me permission to run, probably not realising just how much time a campaign consumes and certainly not aware of the commitment that we have all now undertaken. It will be fun—I promise! I can never thank Cam enough for all that she has done for me.

My mother, Peggy, and father, Trevor, similarly encouraged me, as they have done all my life, as did my sisters, Jackie and Sarah, who are both nurses. Sarah has now retired, but Jackie works in a regional hospital emergency department, as she has done for a very long time. I am truly in awe of the work that they have both done, fronting up day after day despite the trauma, pain and suffering that they saw the shift before. All emergency services personnel have earned and deserve our respect. I commend the McGowan government, and you, Madam Speaker, in your former role as police minister, for the introduction of a new compensation scheme for medically retired Western Australian police officers and Aboriginal police liaison officers.

I also thank the member for Riverton, Dr Jags, and his former colleagues Mr Raj Selvendra and Dr Paddy Ramanathan for their support throughout the campaign—three kinder and more generously supportive gentlemen you will not find.

I am very thankful for the support provided by the union movement, including the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association of WA and the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union. Unions are filled with highly principled, tireless and compassionate people who work to ensure that workers' rights are maintained and enhanced. They ensure that workers receive a fair day's pay for a fair day's work and that employers provide a workplace that is safe so that workers arrive back home healthy at the end of a shift or a swing. You only have to stroll across to Solidarity Park and view the memorials for the many people, most of whom had their whole lives ahead of them, to see the consequences of workplaces without adequate safety standards and supervision. They are terrible and avoidable losses of life. I especially want to thank Mr Mick Buchan and Mr Steve Catania of the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union WA, who provided me with material support throughout the campaign, and Mr Simon Stokes whose cheery disposition and skills in acting and video production made the long days at pre-poll centres and doorknocking enjoyable, and the video recordings less daunting. Thank you very much to the CFMEU and its members. I would also like to mention Peter O'Keeffe and Ben Harris of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association of WA who provided me with great support. They, too, give their all for their membership.

I enjoyed great support from Young Labor members, who endured long, hot days of doorknocking and phone banking without reward other than a cup of coffee or a piece of pizza. At the risk of missing some people, I would especially like to thank Adam, James, Kiara, Luke, Connor, Harrison, Christopher, Will, Hayley, Dan, John, Fatima and Denise, who were willing to give up their time for the cause. To the many people, union and party members, and those who are not, who supported me throughout the pre-poll period and on polling day, you have my sincere thanks for giving up your precious spare time. To the team at party headquarters—Tim, Ellie, Hugo and the countless others who provided support, and on the odd occasion strong encouragement to lift my game—I thank you. You ran a great campaign.

My own campaign team was also magnificent. It was directed at different times by Hon Matthew Swinbourn, member for East Metro, Hon Dr Tony Buti and Mr Steve Catania, who not only gave up their valuable time, but also, in doing so, impinged on the time they could enjoy with their own families. Thank you, gentlemen, and thank you to your families. My campaign manager, Jess Cunnold, although a very young man, showed great skill in putting the campaign together. He was pulled from pillar to post by competing priorities from the “good ideas club”, but he kept me motivated and on task. Thank you, Jess. I also want to acknowledge Tina, Judith, Jill, Veronica, Bodhi, Joel and Rod, who were all integral to the campaign. A special mention to Mitchell Goff, my wingman, who kept me motivated and working hard for the home stretch. Thank you all. My field organisers were simply amazing. Despite Emily and Tom Meagher being the parents of a very young child, Dorothy, and juggling study and employment, they were always out there, often at the same time, driving me and the other volunteers to knock on just one more door or to make one more phone call. Their commitment and that of the other Young Labor volunteers gives me confidence that this generation is no different from those of yesteryear; they will work hard for what they believe in. I often received feedback about the conduct of my field and booth teams, and it was always positive. My volunteers all conducted themselves with maturity, respect and dignity. Thank you for being the public face of Hugh Jones and WA Labor in Darling Range. You did yourselves proud.

Mr Roger Cook; Mr Simon Millman; Mr Shane Love; Deputy Speaker; Ms C.M. Tonkin; Mr G. Baker; Ms M.J. Hammat; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Mr D.A.E. Scaife; Mr H.T. Jones; Mrs Robyn Clarke; Ms Sabine Winton

To the many members of Parliament who supported me—I will not go through them all, but you know who you are—I thank you. I am in your debt. And, of course, there is the Premier, the leader, who along with his cabinet and the Labor members of the fortieth Parliament demonstrated to the electorate that WA Labor had earned re-election and is to be trusted to take this great state forward. I first met the Premier in 1992, while we were both in the Navy. We were selected to go to Newcastle to play squash—it's a tough job! I met the Premier again when he doorknocked my house in Safety Bay before the 2001 election. For the record, the Premier was a slightly better squash player than I was! Thank you, Premier, for endorsing my preselection and allowing me to assist you in governing this great state of Western Australia.

As I mentioned, the Darling Range electorate is expansive, at almost 1 400 square kilometres, and includes urban, peri-urban and rural populations, with the Serpentine–Jarrahdale local government area rated as the fastest growing in WA and perhaps the third fastest in Australia. The housing boom, assisted by building stimulus measures, is resulting in rapid population growth, in the main by young families seeking affordable housing and needing quality education, health facilities and transport corridors. To support families in gaining access to this boom, I am pleased the McGowan government has a new WA Jobs Plan based on reducing interstate FIFO, more training through TAFE in schools, and diversifying the state's economy. The freezing of TAFE fees, local infrastructure investments, improved public transport and capping fares to two zones will assist the residents of Darling Range achieve their education and employment goals.

The Shire of Serpentine–Jarrahdale is finding it difficult to keep pace with development, especially notable is the ageing rural road network. I am pleased that the state government will contribute \$18 million to assist in the upgrade of local roads to improve safety. The shire's strong advocacy during the fortieth Parliament has realised significant commitments from the McGowan government, and I will help to foster a strong working relationship in the forty-first Parliament. The McGowan government has made significant investment commitments for transport infrastructure, including the Byford rail extension, as well as contributions to, and the delivery of, the Tonkin Highway extension and improvements to Thomas Road. I want to again recognise the Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti, who is overseeing an enormous program of infrastructure investment. The minister is skilfully bringing together industry and federal, state and local governments. She has shown great vision, especially for Darling Range, to meet our needs now and into the future. Thank you.

I am also pleased that the McGowan government will deliver a \$30.6 million health hub in the heart of Byford, a new career fire station and will invest in schools throughout Darling Range. It is an exciting time to be the member for Darling Range and it will have its challenges. I undertake to work in cooperation with federal, state and local governments to ensure that there is wideranging consultation throughout the planning stages of these developments and to achieve the best results that I can for the people of Darling Range. I again thank the people of Darling Range for placing their trust in me and, assisted by my new staff members, Bella Fitzpatrick and Glenda Bourne, I will do my very best to give them the representation that they all deserve.

The legendary Australian combat cameraman Neil Davis used to write the following two lines from a poem by Thomas Mordaunt on the flyleaf of every work diary he kept while in the conflict zones of South-East Asia —

One crowded hour of glorious life
Is worth an age without a name.

Members, let us be glorious and take this great state forward. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [5.57 pm]: Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, and pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. I would also like to congratulate Hon Michelle Roberts, member for Midland, on her appointment as our first female Speaker. Interestingly, Madam Speaker was the thirtieth woman elected to our Parliament on 19 March 1994. She has held ministerial positions, been a mentor to new member of Parliaments, such as me when I was elected in 2017, and has a wealth of knowledge on the workings of our Parliament.

Looking back on the history of women in our Parliament, I found some very interesting facts that I would like to share with members. We are all aware that 2021 marks 100 years since the first woman was elected to this place. Edith Cowan was elected on 12 March 1921, representing the seat of West Perth as a Nationalist. Sadly, she was subjected to heckling and ridicule, but she led the way for what we have now achieved, with 106 women elected to Parliament as at the 2021 election. Our first Labor woman elected to Parliament was May Holman. She was elected through a by-election on 3 April 1925 in the Forrest Division. She has a special place in my electorate of Murray–Wellington, as she was from Dwellingup. Tragically, she died in a car accident on 20 March 1939, after she had been re-elected for her fifth term. May Holman was also the first woman in the entire British empire to hold her seat for more than 10 years. It then took 69 years for our first female Premier to be elected, with Dr Carmen Lawrence becoming the first female Premier

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to be elected in not just WA, but also Australia. So many great women from all parties have led the way to what we now have—the largest number of female members of Parliament in our Parliament. I am proud that I was the first woman to be elected to the seat of Murray–Wellington on 11 March 2017, and that I am now, officially, the longest-serving WA Labor member in the seat after being re-elected for my second term on 13 March 2021.

Let us get back to Edith Cowan and the fact that it has been 100 years since she was the first woman to be elected here. We needed seven more women to be elected in 2021 to hit the magic number of 100 women elected to this place, and we not only did that at the recent state election, but also exceeded it to now have 106 women elected to the WA Parliament since 1890. I was the eighty-fifth female to be elected to this place. I was curious to see who made up the seven, in order of being elected, to get to 100. The ninety-fourth elected member was Rebecca Stephens, member for Albany; the ninety-fifth was Kim Giddens, member for Bateman; the ninety-sixth was Christine Tonkin, member for Churchlands; the ninety-seventh was Jodie Hanns, member for Collie–Preston; the ninety-eighth was the Acting Speaker, Lisa Munday, member for Dawesville; and the ninety-ninth was Lara Dalton, member for Geraldton. Congratulations to Caitlin Collins, the member for Hillarys, on being the 100th woman to be elected to our Parliament! We do not finish there: the 101st woman elected was Ali Kent, member for Kalgoorlie; the 102nd was Divina D’Anna, member for Kimberley; the 103rd was Meredith Hammat, member for Mirrabooka; the 104th was Dr Katrina Stratton, member for Nedlands; the 105th was Hannah Beazley, member for Victoria Park; and the 106th was Jane Kelsbie, member for Warren–Blackwood. These are seats that I never thought I would talk about in this place! What a fantastic time to be a woman in Parliament, with so many other women side by side and showing that times are changing. What traditionally has been a male dominated place has now forged to a near balance between men and women.

I would now like to share some of the achievements that have occurred over the last term of government in my seat of Murray–Wellington, which I am so proud to represent and to be a strong voice for our community in the McGowan government. We are delivering on our jobs plan, with \$18 million provided for the Bushfire Centre of Excellence that has been built and opened in the Shire of Murray at Nambelup. We have invested \$852 million in the Bunbury Outer Ring Road, which was fast-tracked due to COVID-19, creating approximately 4 500 jobs. We delivered the \$116 million Regional Land Booster package, which includes discounted land at the Pinjarra industrial estate; \$8.7 million for improvement and safety works on Pinjarra–Williams Road; and \$4.95 million to help implement the Dwellingup adventure trails project. I found out today that Dwellingup won the tourism award for small tourist town at last night’s awards. Congratulations to the Shire of Murray and everyone concerned. Local Peel-based company Wormall Civil was awarded contracts worth \$7.3 million for Transform Peel works at the Peel Business Park at Nambelup. The McGowan government has supported amendments to the Peel region scheme to rezone 378 hectares of land within the Shire of Murray from rural to industrial use, providing for future production, business and employment opportunities. A second scheme amendment to rezone a further 201 hectares of land has also been approved, which will expand the existing Peel Business Park in Nambelup to a total of 870 hectares. We opened the McLarty state explosives facility in Myalup. This site has 36 explosives storage and manufacturing sites. We also put \$1.28 million towards upgrades to the North Dandalup and Cookernup train stations; \$7 million to upgrade level crossings on the south west line in Cookernup, Coolup, Waroona and North Dandalup; \$15 million through the regional road safety program to upgrade 240 kilometres of south west roads with shoulder sealing and the installation of audible lines, creating around 60 jobs; \$10 million to establish rail access to Kemerton industrial park; and a \$10.5 million investment in the Kemerton and Shotts industrial parks to create more opportunities for businesses.

We are investing in our schools and rebuilding our TAFE sector. In my inaugural speech in 2017, I promised to work on delivering a performing arts centre and sports hall at Pinjarra Senior High School, and I am proud to say that a \$10.4 million project is currently being designed. Construction will commence later this year, with anticipated completion in 2022. We have invested \$15 million in Australind Senior High School for a new classroom block to enable the school to manage growth in student enrolment. This will include specialist classrooms. Funding of \$2.5 million will go to Kingston Primary School for a new student classroom block that will enhance facilities and replace transportable classrooms; \$1.2 million to Harvey Senior High School for upgrades to the cafeteria and specialist classrooms; \$9.17 million to South Metropolitan TAFE, Mandurah campus, for a new hospitality and tourism training centre to deliver training for a range of courses, including commercial cookery, tourism and events management; \$25 million for free TAFE short courses to upskill thousands of Western Australians, with a variety of free courses available at South Metropolitan TAFE’s Mandurah campus; \$32 million to expand the Lower Fees, Local Skills program and significantly reduce TAFE fees across 39 high-priority courses; and \$4.8 million for the apprenticeship and traineeship re-engagement incentive, which provides employers with a one-off payment of \$6 000 for hiring an apprentice and \$3 000 for hiring a trainee whose training contract was terminated on or after 1 March 2020 due to the economic downturn.

We have done a major maintenance blitz across schools in Murray–Wellington worth approximately \$2.1 million in builds, including \$32 123 to Brunswick Junction Primary School; \$26 000 to Carcoola Primary School; \$74 293 to Dwellingup Primary School; \$192 242 to Harvey Primary School; \$309 630 to Harvey Senior High School; \$63 019 to

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Kingston Primary School; \$31 904 to North Dandalup Primary School; \$183 854 to Parkfield Primary School; \$72 544 to Pinjarra Primary School; \$478 923 to Pinjarra Senior High School; \$31 200 to Treendale Primary School; \$288 225 to Waroona District High School; \$249 382 to WA College of Agriculture in Harvey; and \$36 114 to Yarloop Primary School. I recently met with all the principals at all these schools. They cannot thank the McGowan government enough for what we have achieved over this time with the maintenance blitz that was desperately needed.

We are also supporting the local community, with \$275 000 going to the Preston Beach Community Centre, which we opened in 2019; \$10.5 million to establish and manage Preston River to Ocean Regional Park, and Leschenault Regional Park; and \$75 000 to help construct dedicated female facilities at the Harvey Brunswick Leschenault Football Club. I will be working in the next four years to ensure that all my clubs in the electorate get female facilities. We provided \$800 000 of additional funding for the Yarloop bushfire clean-up; \$1.75 million towards the new Yarloop Community Resource Centre that we opened in 2019; \$2 million to the Bedingfeld Park aged-care accommodation for a dedicated dementia unit in Pinjarra; \$1.5 million to Brunswick River Cottages over 55s low-income housing; and \$1.8 million for Waroona housing options for aged-care accommodation.

We have achieved and delivered so much more in the electorate of Murray–Wellington during my first term of Parliament. This is just a small snapshot of what a government that is competent, caring and a sensible economic manager can do in just four years. One accomplishment was the reinstating of the postcode of 6219 to Cookernup, after Premier Mark McGowan intervened and helped this historic moment happen. This is the very first postcode in Australia to be reinstated. Cookernup also wanted recognition with a town sign erected on South Western Highway, and after many years of asking, this was also achieved with the help of Minister Rita Saffioti. This great community has a weekly “Watch Out Wednesday” community morning tea run by Jac Taylor and the Cookernup Community Association. This is always a great event for people to keep connected with the community, and I look forward to many more WOWs in Cookernup. Meeting and getting involved in the community is the strength of a region. For example, I am involved with the Lions Club of Australind, the Lions Club of Pinjarra, the Lions Club of Waroona, the Rotary Club of Harvey, the Waroona Action Group, Pinjarra Connect, the Yarloop Country Women’s Association, and the community gardens that are popping up in Binningup and Preston Beach as well as the well-established gardens in Myalup and Pinjarra.

Then there are the great Men’s Sheds in Leschenault, Brunswick, Pinjarra and Waroona, which provide great social and mental wellbeing places for not only the men but also the women who are involved. As a regional member, it is important to connect with community and to get to know each town and its community’s needs. That is what I have worked hard to achieve over the past four years. I will continue to listen and advocate on issues for each and every community to ensure that they have a voice in this place. I look forward to delivering on the many election commitments throughout the electorate in the Shires of Murray, Waroona and Harvey and being that strong voice for all my constituents.

I want to thank some very special people who have assisted me to be back here in this place. Firstly, my great staff in my electorate office, Jayde Rowlands, Lindsay Stacpoole and Sarah Robertson. I refer to them as “Team Awesome” for being my voice in the office when I am out in either the electorate or Parliament. It is a privilege and an honour to be part of the “Peel Dream Team” with the guidance, friendship and mentoring of Hon David Templeman, member for Mandurah. Also on the team is the phenomenal Lisa Munday, the newly elected member for Dawesville. I cannot forget my south west comrades, newly elected Jodie Hanns, member for Collie–Preston, and Hon Don Punch, member for Bunbury. I am very fortunate to be surrounded by some awesome members of Parliament.

I also acknowledge and congratulate David Scaife, the newly elected member for Cockburn. I thank him for being my campaign manager back in 2017. He ran for the seat of Murray–Wellington back in 2013. It is great to see you in this place, where you belong. You have been a staunch WA Labor activist for most of your young life and I know your father, Roy, is looking down on you with such pride and sending you guidance. Your mum, Cathie, is your biggest fan and I know how proud she must be.

To all our amazing volunteers who spent hours doorknocking, calling, letterboxing and, finally, enjoying the fruits of their labour on election night by being rewarded with my re-election, I could not have done this without you. I would like to personally thank the staff and members of the Australian Manufacturing Workers’ Union, the Australian Services Union, the Finance Sector Union and the Electrical Trades Union for believing in me and supporting me. I give a special thanks to Steve McCartney, Alex Cassie, Wayne Wood and Jill Hugo for your leadership. Your knowledge and passion for workers’ rights and safety are immeasurable. Thank you for all your assistance you gave during my campaign.

New members, please do not let this place and your electorate consume you. Remember that the most important people in your life are your family. I know I have missed events such as birthdays and family get-togethers because I also treat my electorate like an extended family and feel that they need me just as much as my actual family. Can I please say to our wonderful children that they have grown into amazing adults and are quite different in their own special way. I say a huge thankyou for understanding when we say, “Sorry, we cannot make it” and for standing

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with me during both elections. To Steve, Christina, Cassandra, Luke, Ashley, Jess and Dave, you make us proud knowing what capable and wonderful kind people you are. To our gorgeous grandkids, Sophia, Josie, William, Isla, Lucus and Alex, what can we say as we watch you all grow into confident young adults? I cannot believe three of you are now in high school. To the extended family of Jason, Glenys, Georgia, Grace, Blossom, Joel, Zack, Alison, Dimi and Samuel, thank you for believing in me and being there when I needed help during both election campaigns.

I would especially like to mention Steve, my firstborn. He is my political encyclopaedia and my greatest critic. He tells me how it is even if I do not really want to hear it. I recently attended a function where he works and the majority of the attendees were not aware I was his mother; all I heard throughout the evening was how amazing he is at his job and how he is the life of the office. It is those moments when I have those proud mamma moments. In saying that, I am not taking credit for his abilities, as he has made his path and life with determination and passion for what he is doing. Thanks, Steve, you are everything and more to me.

[Member's time extended.]

Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE: Last but not least is the one person who has been my rock, my confidant, my campaign field organiser, chauffeur, bag holder, photographer, security, companion and my best friend, my husband, Charlie Clarke. I want to say a huge thankyou for sacrificing so much to support me to represent the great community of Murray–Wellington. As people say when they meet us, they get two for the price of one. We both have the same vision, passion and compassion for our community. I look forward in the very near future to you hanging up your overalls for good at Alcoa after 32 years of service there and prior to that, 12 years at the Midland railway workshops. You have also held the position of the AMWU convenor for the past 20 years, ensuring work conditions and the safety of workers were always first and foremost. Thank you, Charlie, you are my world, my life, my love.

I want to thank WA Labor, in particular Tim Picton and Ellie Whiteaker, and the entire team for believing in me. Thank you to the remarkable Premier Mark McGowan, his ministers and staff. He is being a strong, capable caring leader of a great government. Given what we have been through and continue to deal with during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is keeping WA safe and strong.

But last, I say thank you to the constituents of Murray–Wellington. We are in this together.

[Applause.]

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Parliamentary Secretary) [6.16 pm]: Before I begin, Madam Acting Speaker (Mrs L.A. Munday), I remember the other day when you bravely put your hand up to take on the position of Acting Speaker. I said I would tell you a story about my first experience of being an Acting Speaker and I thought I might quickly share it now to calm my nerves and, hopefully, to calm yours as well, because I know exactly how you are feeling up there!

I was watching you as you came to the chair this evening. The very first time I got to be Acting Speaker was when a general debate was on. I cannot remember what legislation we were debating at the time. It was in the evening. A member of the opposition was on their feet. As is usual, a member of the opposition gets up and speaks for about 30 minutes. As you are in that chair, all you are worried about is what is going to come out of your mouth and who is going to pop up next and whether you will be able to say “the member for so-and-so”. As you will experience, we have wonderful Clerks who are fantastically supportive. On the occasion that I was in the chair, I think the member for Carine—who was a Liberal back then but of course is now a Labor member—was on his feet and reaching the conclusion of his 30 minutes, I was getting nervous about who was going to pop up next, and the Clerk turned around and gently said, “I think it’s going to be the member for Hillarys”, and I felt really great. Sure enough, the member for Carine sat down and the member for Hillarys got up and I knew to say “The member for Hillarys.” Then I relaxed into it again because the member for Hillarys was to be on his feet for 30 minutes, but towards the end of it, I started getting nervous again thinking, “Oh my gosh, who am I going to have to call next?”

On cue, the Clerk turned around and said, “I think it’s going to be the member for Kalgoorlie.” I thought: rightio, great, fantastic. As the member for Hillarys sat down, two members of the Liberal Party stood up at the same time, which was unusual, but not unexpected given what we saw during the four years of the previous government; they did not quite always have their ducks in a row or communicate with each other. So I had the member for Kalgoorlie, I think it was, and the member for Cottesloe stand at the same time. At that point, of course, as the Acting Speaker I had to make a decision, and because I had firmly planted in my mind from the Clerk that member for Kalgoorlie was going to stand up, even though the member for Cottesloe stood up slightly earlier, I gave the call to the member for Kalgoorlie.

The member for Cottesloe sat down, looking grumpy, huffing, and looking at me. You will experience that, Madam Acting Speaker—it is your call. What was interesting about it was that the member for Cottesloe was, of course, as many of you would know, Hon Colin Barnett, the previous Premier. The significance of it was that was the very first time after the election loss in 2017 that he had actually got to his feet, so the media and everybody else was very interested to hear what he had to say for himself, but I had actually sat him down. He was very grumpy and left the chamber, and I thought, “Oh my gosh; what have I done?”, and I finished my hour in the chair and went out, legs shaking. A variety

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of colleagues came up to me, “Well done, Sabine; keep him down as long as possible”, and I said, “Yes, no problems at all.” I got a bit of a reputation as the Acting Speaker then, so I look forward to your contributions in this place, and good on you for putting your hand up to give it a go. There is nothing like being an Acting Speaker in this place for new members in particular to learn the ropes, although I have to say the experience for all Acting Speakers this time around will be a little bit more subdued given that the opposition comprises only six members.

I would like to also begin, as many others did, by congratulating the Speaker, Hon Michelle Roberts, on her election to this post. As we know, she is the thirty-first Speaker and the very first woman to hold this most important role in our state Parliament. She has the longest continuous service in this place. In fact, I took a bit of time to research her to find out a little more about her. As many of you know, she started her parliamentary career back in 1994 as the member for Glendalough and then moved to serve as the member for Midland from 1996 until the present time. She has held numerous ministerial roles and numerous shadow ministerial roles, as well as having served on numerous parliamentary committees. Rightfully so, the current Minister for Police acknowledged her service as “our finest Minister for Police to date”, and he certainly did acknowledge that he has big shoes to fill in that regard.

But what I also discovered in researching Hon Michelle Roberts was that she was a teacher before entering Parliament, like so many other members. She also has three daughters, like I do. In reflecting on that, as a mother of three older daughters, and the challenges that I faced with being a member of Parliament in the last four years, I find her career of over 27 years extraordinary. She inspires those women in this place for whom motherhood may be in the future, and those MPs now who are mothers of young children. Women can, and should, aspire to fulfilling careers whilst being mothers, and women can, and should, aspire to public life while being mothers. It is without question that she should be the Speaker of this chamber, the Legislative Assembly. She is the most qualified and the most experienced member of Parliament in this chamber, and she happens to be a woman.

I would like to make a couple of comments to acknowledge the contribution and the speech made by His Excellency Hon Kim Beazley to mark the opening of the forty-first Parliament last Thursday. I acknowledge His Excellency for his enormous contribution to public life in Australia over many decades and his contribution and service as the Governor of Western Australia. His speech very much resonated with me. I want to take up the opportunity, if I get the time, to respond to a number of things that he raised. I would also like to acknowledge the member for Victoria Park. It has been inspiring to listen to all new members’ inaugural speeches, and particularly last night’s special moment when His Excellency was here in the public gallery as a dad.

Many of us who have made a contribution to the Address-in-Reply have talked about women in Parliament, and rightly we should. We have more women in Parliament now than ever before. In fact, 43 women will take their place in this Parliament, both Labor and Liberal, and crossbenchers. In the previous Parliament, I served with 14 Labor women in the Legislative Assembly, and we had seven Labor members of Parliament in the Legislative Council. We had a total of 22. That was a pretty significant change at the time. But we have been shown up since then in the forty-first Parliament. The fortieth Parliament saw the very first female Leader of the House in the Legislative Council, we saw the very first female President of the Legislative Council and we saw the very first Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. This forty-first Parliament sees us go so much further—as I said, a record 43 women have been elected to this Parliament. That is 43 out of a total of 90. We are nearly there. Of course, 39 of those women are part of the McGowan Labor government—39 women. That is pretty significant. Prior to this Parliament, as the Speaker remarked on the opening day, there had only ever been 93 women elected to this Parliament, starting, of course, with the election of Edith Cowan as the very first female member of Parliament in 1921.

I liked Hon Michelle Roberts’ comments in trying to provide context to the significance of how far we have come in this forty-first Parliament, when she mentioned that she was only the thirtieth woman in 1994—that is not so long ago—and Hon Alannah MacTiernan was only the twenty-sixth woman. With the 13 new women who have been sworn into the Assembly, as has been mentioned by others, that number will rise to 106, and when our new members in the Legislative Council are sworn in, that number will rise to 114.

I want to take a couple of minutes to acknowledge all those members who have retired or were not returned. We must thank them for their service. Politics is a brutal and thankless profession. But of course with their exit comes a Labor majority of 53 in this chamber. I say that again: with their exit comes a Labor majority of 53 in this chamber. There are so many Labor people in front of me, there are so many Labor people behind me, there are so many Labor people to the left of me, and there are so many Labor people to the right of me. In talking to some of my friends and supporters who want to know how Parliament is going, I have told them, “You really need to come and see the physicality to actually appreciate the size of our majority in this chamber, but also to come and meet some of the wonderful new additions to the chamber that we have achieved at the 2021 election.”

It is going to be a different chamber. It is going to be a different experience when we get to our feet. For the Acting Speakers, it is going to be gentle. I have to say that the inaugural speeches—I would say all members would agree with me—have been nothing short of stunning. It has been quite frustrating, I think for all of us, to have our masks on and not be able to fully express how in awe we are of the inaugural speeches that have been made and

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the contributions that have been made in this place. One of my favourite speeches to date, on a personal level, was the one made by the member for Darling Range. I am sure that those members who were with me in the fortieth Parliament will agree. We are going to have a sort of quiet cheer every time the member for Darling Range gets to his feet from now on. The member for Darling Range will bring humility, authenticity and soul from Darling Range to this place, and we will all be the better for it.

The Labor Party is strong, and we have been preselecting candidates who are connected, authentic and have a strong work ethic.

I will take a moment to thank the most important people, the voters of Wanneroo. They are the reason that I am here for a second term in Parliament. I am honoured and humbled to continue to be the member for Wanneroo. Two former members for Wanneroo, Dianne Guise and Jackie Watkins-McKiernan, are dear friends and great mentors. They have repeatedly said to me over the last few years, “Sabine, the second time feels better.” For those members who have just been elected for the first time, it will feel better if they get the privilege and opportunity to serve for a second time. The second time is better because it is a validation of the four years’ work that you have done. This might be hard to explain to the new members, but the second time around you put yourself forward to your community and ask them to judge you on your performance. There is no greater feeling than feeling that the voters in your electorate endorse you for a second time. I am honoured and I thank the voters of Wanneroo. I assure them that I will be the same member for Wanneroo in my second term that I was in the first four years. I cannot wait to keep working with all the residents in Wanneroo and continue to take up not only their individual issues, but issues that are important to my community as a whole. I am also honoured to have been appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier. I very much look forward to supporting our Premier, cabinet and enormous caucus as we make sure that we deliver the agenda that we took to the people of Western Australia in March this year.

People often ask me what it is like to be a member of Parliament and what is the most important thing I do. I hope new members will feel the same way about this as they start their lives as members of Parliament, set up their electorate offices, work for their communities and become more entrenched in their communities. The most important and rewarding work that I do is advocacy and supporting residents. It is not always about building a new playground for a school. It is not always about delivering on infrastructure. It is very often and most importantly looking after Mrs Jones when she comes into the electorate office because she has a problem that she needs assistance with. That is the most important work that we do. If all of us continue to focus on that as the reason that we are here, as well as being in Parliament to debate and pass important legislation, it will serve us well in the next four years.

I particularly want to mention Jahanna Frederickson and Justin Pereira, who are extraordinary humans. Their support of me and my work, and their work for the residents of Wanneroo, is simply extraordinary, and it is the heart of my success at the last election. I also acknowledge Roman Booth, Haeden Miles and Ryan Harte, who joined me at various times in my electorate office over the last four years. I wish them well in their new endeavours. It is nice to see that Ryan Harte is the Whip’s assistant. I can still see him and enjoy his progress throughout his career.

Elections allow us to get a real sense and honest feedback of our performance over the previous four years. Without doubt, it is always in the detail; it is in the one percenters that we do. Without question, the electorate, the people of Western Australia, supported the McGowan government for its management of COVID and keeping us safe and strong. There is no question in my mind or anyone’s mind that that played a huge part in Labor’s success. But it was much, much more than that. I particularly enjoyed the period during the pre-poll and the last bit of the election when I received great feedback from individuals about specific things that I or my electorate staff had done for them or their families. There is no better feeling than to get that type of feedback about the work that you have done over four years.

[Member’s time extended.]

Ms S.E. WINTON: We were successful at the state election. We managed a 69.7 per cent two-party preferred vote. We had a statewide swing of 14.1 per cent, which is on top of the 12.8 per cent swing in 2017. Of course, the swing that we achieved in Wanneroo was slightly higher, and that is in no small part due to my electorate office and the volunteers and supporters who helped me over the last four years. As I said before, there was a COVID story and recognition that the Mark McGowan Labor government had kept Western Australia safe and strong, but we did a lot of work in those four years. It is sometimes very hard to sell that message and get people to acknowledge it. I want to spend a few minutes in my reply to put on the record some of the things that the state government achieved. Members who were at the Labor launch when ACDC’s *Thunderstruck* was played would know this. The moment the PowerPoint came on gave me goosebumps as we reminded ourselves of the things that we had achieved as a government.

I will be indulgent and call out some of those things because I would like them on the record forever. We tore up the skilled migration list. We created more than 76 000 jobs and passed the Western Australian Jobs Act. We brought railcar manufacturing back to WA. We built the Matagarup Bridge here with local manufacturers. We stopped Roe 8. We delivered the \$600 household electricity credit. We froze WA household fees and charges in response to COVID-19. We finally got a fair share of the GST for WA. We delivered a \$5.5 billion recovery plan to help WA

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Wednesday, 5 May 2021]

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recover from COVID-19. We got the economy back on track. We invested a record \$28.8 billion in infrastructure, creating thousands of local jobs. We put hundreds of education assistants back into classrooms. We converted 200 primary school classrooms into science labs. We invested an extra \$200 million across every Western Australian public school. We froze and slashed TAFE fees. We fixed the issues with Perth Children's Hospital and opened it. We had the historic voluntary assisted dying legislation passed. We established the GP urgent care clinic network. We made a record investment in mental health services. We recruited an extra 1 100 police officers. We cracked down on dangerous methamphetamine use and trafficking. We enacted life sentences for meth traffickers. We expunged historical LGBTIQ offences. We established the first Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. We removed the statute of limitations for historical child sex abuse. We delivered WA's first-ever 10-year homelessness strategy. We introduced Metronet. We built roads and busted congestion throughout Perth. We achieved a record number of major road projects around regional WA. We banned single-use plastics. We brought in the container deposit scheme. We created five million hectares of new national and marine parks. We invested in and expanded the Aboriginal ranger program. We passed industrial manslaughter laws. We doubled compensation payments for the families of people killed on Western Australian worksites. We brought jobs back into public hands at the Water Corporation, Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison, Melaleuca Women's Prison, Fiona Stanley Hospital and Perth Health Campus. We are the only party in government that can guarantee the future of royalties for regions. We stopped the privatisation of Western Power. I am sorry that more members of the opposition are not here tonight because they really need to hear about our achievements between 2017 and 2021. Yes, the McGowan Labor government has done and will continue to do an extraordinary job in keeping Western Australia safe and delivering a strong economy, but we have a much bigger story to tell, and that is why we had the historic success that we had at the election in March.

We have a fantastic agenda with a magnificent majority. I look forward to the next four years and I hope that the opposition starts thinking about why it is in opposition, otherwise next time around we might welcome even more members on the Labor side.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms E.L. Hamilton**.

House adjourned at 6.39 pm
