



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2021

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 29 April 2021

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

First Session of the Forty-first Parliament

The Legislative Council was prorogued as from 7 December 2020.

The Legislative Assembly was prorogued as from 7 December 2020 and dissolved on 29 January 2021.

The Forty-first Parliament was convened for the despatch of business on 29 April 2021, and the first session was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Kim Beazley, AC).

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Thursday, 29 April 2021

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Kate Doust) took the chair at 2.45 pm, read prayers and acknowledged country.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Statement by President

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Kate Doust) [2.45 pm]: Members, welcome back. As President of the Legislative Council, it is my pleasure to welcome you today to the Legislative Council chamber. I acknowledge and welcome Dr Richard Walley, who is in the chamber with us today. Dr Walley will perform a welcome to country after members of the Legislative Assembly are in attendance, prior to the Governor's address. This will be a historic occasion, being the first time a welcome to country has been delivered in the Legislative Council on opening day.

I thank honourable members for their understanding and forbearance as we have responded once again to the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic. This is an unusual opening of Parliament, with the dispensing of most aspects of the traditional ceremonial arrivals and the absence of invited guests in the chamber and public gallery. I particularly note the unfortunate absence of former Presiding Officers, former Premiers, former members, and the spouses and partners of members, as well as members-elect, members of the judiciary, representatives of the armed services and other public sector and community leaders. I have designated the President's gallery as part of the floor of the house, and members of the other place may use this seating during today's proceedings. I will now invite the Clerk to read the Proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments (Mr N. Pratt) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Kim Beazley, AC) summoning the first session of the forty-first Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Welcome to Country

His Excellency the Governor (Kim Beazley, AC) entered the Council chamber; and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the chamber obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to invite Dr Richard Walley to present a welcome to country.

Dr Richard Walley presented the following welcome to country —

[Words spoken in Noongar language.]

May the good spirit keep us all safe. This is a spiritual place, a place of learning, a place of sharing. We call it the Whadjuk Boodja. It is a part of the Noongar language—a part of the 14 sections of the Noongar language. We ask the good spirit to guide us through not only this official presentation today, but also the informal parts. When we are making decisions and when we are sharing conversations, sharing food and sharing drink, we are doing something all of our ancestors have been doing for many generations. Today, we are a link in that context of an unbroken 2 000-generation connection to this place.

We thank you for including a welcome; we do not take it for granted. When we do welcomes, we open up the portals to our spirituality and our ancestors to watch over us and keep us safe.

We are on the same pathway—for advancement for us as a collective, as a people. When it is completed, may the good spirit take each and every one of you safely back home to your families—karla kurliny.

I will do a song, which is called *Djinanginy Bo*. Djinanginy Bo is looking into the distance. It is a planning song, it is a strategic song, but it is a song that reminds us of where we are, who we are, where we come from and who we are responsible for.

[*Song sung in Noongar language, with didgeridoo and tapping sticks accompaniment.*]

Kaya. I will present a message stick that symbolises the fire in the camp fire, with the orange and the yellows. A lot of our decisions and meetings are made around the camp fire. We call it karlup. The message stick shows the two different types of meetings—the flowing meetings that we, as Aboriginal people, have in a circle, and the collective meetings and the confrontational and challenging meetings that you have on a daily basis. May the good spirit guide you through each and every day and keep you safe. Kayawaa.

Address to Parliament

His Excellency the Governor was pleased to deliver the following speech —

Madam President and the honourable members of the Legislative Council.

Madam Speaker and the honourable members of the Legislative Assembly.

May I begin today by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we are assembled, the Wadjuk people of the Noongar nation, and pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. I thank, particularly, Dr Richard Walley and Mr Neville Collard, who have so wonderfully welcomed us here to these ceremonial events today.

It is a pleasure and a rare privilege to have the duty this afternoon, to open and address the 41st Parliament of Western Australia.

As a result of the March 13 election, which saw the re-election of the McGowan Labor Government, we will see 36 new members take up their seats in this new Parliament.

In fact, with a record 43 women elected, the WA Parliament will have nearly equal representation, and our first woman Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

To the members who have retired or not been returned, we thank you for your service to this Parliament and your communities.

To the newly elected members, you will be thrilled to be here. Rightly so. You are all people of profound conviction. Politics is a calling as much as a profession. You and your families have sacrificed much and will sacrifice more. The public however will not perceive that.

You have taken on a job unlike any other.

Something that I can speak on with some authority, given I am the first Western Australian Governor since Sir James Mitchell, to have previously been elected to parliamentary office in their career.

With your election, you constituents have put their faith in you.

That is a solemn responsibility. As we look around the globe, we see that faith in democratic processes is declining.

This is dangerous because the only alternative to it is authoritarian Government. The first step in the process is always an attack on the integrity of the democratic system. In Australia we protect that better than anywhere else.

Now that you are here you know confidence in our democracy depends very much on what is delivered and the process by which it is. You know that those in political life are held to a very high standard of conduct, personal and professional.

Elected membership is not about achieving minimum standards. The public expects more than that.

You know they expect you to lead, to set the example,

To help the people that come through your door,

To play your role in this honourable, enduring institution of Parliament, and in whatever way necessary, enhance this great state and polity.

And always, always, appeal to what a great American President, Abraham Lincoln described as ‘the better angels of our nature’.

I have every confidence that this fine group of Western Australians who have been sworn in today to serve the people of Western Australia, know you are here to do an exemplary job. Every election pamphlet promised that. As did those who will join you in the new Council in May.

I wish you the very best in your endeavours this term, confident that those who elected you do so as well.

The Agenda

The re-elected McGowan Labor Government has advised me of its agenda for the 41st Parliament of Western Australia.

COVID-19

Understandably management of the pandemic continues to occupy much of the time and resources of the Government.

The events over the weekend are a timely reminder that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over.

Western Australia's world leading performance across the duration of the pandemic is a result of keeping WA COVID-free, and the confidence of the public that the Government will follow the health advice and do what it required to keep it that way.

The three-day lockdown and current transitional restrictions, while disruptive, are designed to quash the virus as quickly, safely and painlessly as possible, so that life can promptly return to COVID-normal, and our economy to its world leading performance.

While the pandemic continues to fuel uncertainty around the globe – the Government is committed to keeping the State of Western Australia safe, fair and strong.

As was canvassed last year, one of the first priorities will be to extend again the state of emergency powers to ensure that the legislative tools required to respond to the pandemic and keep the virus at bay can continue.

Seroja & Wooroloo

The beginning of 2021 has also been marked by the twin natural disasters of the Wooroloo Bushfires and Tropical Cyclone Seroja. While we are incredibly fortunate there was no loss of life in either event, there was still great devastation to livelihoods, communities and property.

Recovery of the affected communities is an immediate priority of the McGowan Government, to ensure those affected can get back on their feet.

Jobs

In this time of uncertainty and global volatility, the Government remains committed to ensuring the State economy remains in gear, creating new Western Australian jobs.

The prosperity and stability of this state has always been anchored by the creation and availability of quality, stable employment.

The Government took a new WA Jobs Plan to the election, based around reducing interstate FIFO, more training through TAFEs and schools, and diversifying the State's economy.

The re-elected Government has identified several sectors that represent burgeoning opportunities for the state, namely; hydrogen, tourism, battery industries, Aboriginal employment, agriculture and aquaculture, renewable energy, a new film industry and of course local manufacturing.

With regards to manufacturing, the Government intends to pursue opportunities to allow for the local manufacture and fabrication of iron ore railcar components, as well as renewable energy technologies.

This builds on early successes in local manufacturing such as the Matagarup bridge and railcar manufacturing, with the local facility for the construction of the new METRONET and Australind railcars at Bellevue to be handed over to the successful tenderer shortly

I am advised that the Government also intends to establish the WA Jobs Taskforce.

Chaired by the Premier, it will oversee the implementation of the WA Jobs Plan, identify new local job creation opportunities in new and existing industries, as well as identify the skills gaps that fuel the use of an interstate FIFO workforce.

The Government also intends to build on the success of its drive for more local content through public sector procurement

The WA Jobs Act, the WA Industry Participation Strategy and the Buy Local 2020 policy have together driven higher levels of local content, and local capacity, right across this great state, with a key focus on the regions.

In this new term, the Government has committed to ensuring several new manufacturing endeavours are declared a "strategic project" under the WA Jobs Act, mandating stricter levels of local participation and content.

The Government has also committed and budgeted to keep the already reduced TAFE fees in Western Australia frozen for another four years.

Keeping training affordable is essential to ensure that Western Australia has the skilled workforce it needs, and that opportunity is offered to every Western Australian to share in our prosperity.

The Government has also committed to improving and reforming the rights of Western Australians at work. The Government will reintroduce the Industrial Relations Amendment Bill to enhance the powers of industrial inspectors and workers' representatives, and bring many of the existing provisions into the modern era, in addition to finalising the regulations for last year's Work Health and Safety Act reforms.

There are seismic shifts across the world at present, with the rapid developments in both technology and price of renewable energy sources.

With the ever increasing challenge of climate change, as well as the economic opportunities on offer, the Government intends to build on its achievements, and take the next important steps.

The Government has committed to delivering its "Green Jobs of the Future" policies as part of the WA Jobs Plan, as well as the Climate policy announced last year, to seize new job creating opportunities for the public, as well as driving towards achieving net zero emissions for Western Australia by 2050.

There are numerous opportunities available, from new industries in hydrogen and future batteries, recycling, green steel and carbon farming, and the Government is progressing the necessary changes and investments to make them happen.

This complements the appointment of the state's first ever Ministers for Climate Action and Hydrogen Industry.

Metronet

The Government will also continue to deliver its record-breaking infrastructure program. The McGowan Government has committed more than \$7 billion for the WA Recovery and Jobs Plan and made a record investment of \$28.9 billion in infrastructure to support our economic recovery, create jobs and benefit Western Australians over the long term.

Over the next four years, METRONET will change the way we travel around Perth and the outer suburbs. This is the biggest ever investment in Western Australian public transport and the centrepiece of the Government's infrastructure program.

Nine METRONET projects are currently under construction, creating thousands of local jobs, with another three projects in procurement.

Commuters will soon be able to catch the train to Yanchep, the Airport, Byford and Ellenbrook, and for the first time, travel east to west without going through the city centre with the new Cockburn-Thornlie link, and take advantage of fares that will be capped at two zones.

Westport

Government also continues to pursue the once-in-a-century WESTPORT project.

Now that a location for the new container port has been selected at Kwinana, detailed design work continues, along with assessing and mitigating environmental impacts, protecting port and corridor land, and developing the Infrastructure Australia business case.

Finances

Crucially, despite the extensive Asset Investment Program and WA Recovery Plan, the Government is committed to ensuring that the state finances are managed responsibly. With the state continuing to receive highly volatile revenue sources, and facing a highly uncertain global economic landscape as a trading state, the Government believes it is responsible to budget prudently.

Western Australia is currently the only Australian jurisdiction forecasting operating surpluses, with a flatter debt profile than the rest of the nation. Indeed, Standard and Poor's has identified Western Australia as possibly the best performing sub-national jurisdiction in the world. Prudent budget management today through responsible spending and conservative estimates ensures Western Australia retains the fiscal capacity to respond into the future, come what may.

Red Tape

The Government has also pledged to continue to remove unnecessary red tape from our economy and public sector. The Government will embark upon the next generation of liquor reform for Western Australia, undertaking consultation with the sector with a view to removing burdensome restrictions and allowing for better experiences for customers.

Further, the Government is working to reduce application wait times for key environmental, mining and heritage approvals, while also establishing Environment Online and progressing the bilateral approvals agreement with the Commonwealth Government.

However, where current regulation is proven to be inadequate, the Government is committed to providing a more robust regime. This term, the Government will seek to pass the anticipated Security of Payments laws to provide an effective and fair process for securing payments under construction contracts in the building and construction industry, including for sub-contractors.

Health

In the second term of the McGowan Labor Government, the health of the public continues to be a key focus. The global pandemic does not replace the ordinary challenges to the health of Western Australians, but it does burden our health system with additional requirements, policies and obligations.

500 additional beds are being added to our health system right across our state, including 95 beds being brought online at metropolitan emergency departments, one of the biggest expansions of Emergency Department capacity in our State's history.

While outside the city, there are upgrades in hospitals across every region in the state. Not to mention progressing the new fully funded Women's and Babies Hospital at the QEII precinct.

100 additional mental health beds are coming online to help Western Australians presenting to EDs with increasingly complex mental health challenges.

This complements the Government's commitment to significantly expand community mental health services, peer support, preventative services, as well as youth and Aboriginal mental health services and support.

Western Australia is investing more than ever before when it comes to mental health, as we learn more about how best to care and treat those suffering from those challenges in our community.

The government has also committed to increase support to \$100 per night for the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme, as well as expanding eligibility for people accompanying vulnerable patients, to help keep healthcare affordable and accessible for regional Western Australians.

With regards to legislative reform, the Government will reintroduce the Health Services Amendment Bill, which was not passed by the previous Parliament, to improve our public health regime.

The Government will also seek to address injustices with regard to asbestos-related diseases. It has committed to removing "once for all" damages and introduce provisional damages for asbestos-related diseases.

The Government will also reintroduce the Wittenoom Closure Bill to end the sorry chapter that was the town of Wittenoom.

Also, the Government will legislate for Safe Access Zones to ensure that women accessing abortion services can do so safely and with dignity, free of harassment.

Education

As always Education remains a core priority of the Western Australian Government. From building the new schools our growing suburbs need to creating a better learning environment for Western Australian children.

The Government took to the election a \$355 million plan to upgrade schools' facilities and deliver better Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics opportunities in schools, a plan that's expected to create 1,620 local jobs.

It builds on the Government's record in the portfolio, including the \$492 million Major School Upgrade package included in the WA Recovery Plan, the \$200 million Maintenance Blitz program of 2019, as well as delivering new science laboratories in 200 public schools, and reintroduced Education Assistants, Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers and Level 3 classroom teachers back into the classroom.

This is in addition to 32 new primary and secondary schools opened or announced since 2018, including the new Bob Hawke College.

This term the McGowan Labor Government will seek to enhance the role of vocational education and training in secondary schools to ensure every student has a pathway to quality employment, including new programs for year eight and nine students, industry placements for TAFE lecturers and teachers, and financial support for vulnerable students susceptible to not completing their school-based training.

The Government will also seek to improve student wellbeing and support. The Government will recruit more than 100 additional school psychologists, provide funding for every WA public school that wishes to engage a school chaplain to do so and expand the McGowan Government's successful Alternative Learning Settings and Respectful Relationships programs following successful trials.

This will help ensure that we tackle violence in our schools, ensure that classrooms are conducive to learning and our vulnerable or at-risk students receive the support they need.

Environment

Western Australians are the proud inheritors of a wonderful, unique and precious natural environment. The McGowan Government is driven to ensure that future generations can enjoy our natural plenty without sacrificing the prosperity of the present.

Work continues on the Plan for Parks, the record increase to Western Australia's conservation estate. The Government will introduce the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill to allow for the joint vesting of marine parks with traditional owners.

In addition, the Government will reintroduce, with its mandate, the Beeliiar Wetlands Bill, to remove Roe 8 from the MRS, to ensure the sensitive wetland is protected into the future.

The Government has also committed to take the next practical steps with regard to waste, with a new plan to address ocean plastics, as well as E-Waste, following successful initiatives with Containers for Change and actions on single use plastics.

Community Safety and Justice

The McGowan Labor Government has a strong agenda for the coming term with regards to community safety and justice.

As flagged previously, the Government intends to proceed with anti-consulting laws in order to take the fight to organised crime by disrupting communication and networking between convicted offenders.

The Government will also reform our firearms laws, to ensure that guns are not only kept safely when they are in the community, but out of the hands of criminals.

Yesterday marked twenty-five years since the Port Arthur Tragedy. Australia has benefited greatly from strict gun control laws passed in its wake.

It is essential that Governments continue to ensure that we do not lose the ground we have gained.

Also on the agenda for this term is reform to the Bail Act and conditions, for adults charged with sexual offences against a child following the tragic death of Annaliese Ugle.

The Government will also deliver its commitment to allow for extended hours at Gosnells, Rockingham and Warwick police stations, in addition to new police stations at Baldivis, Fremantle and Forrestfield.

Work is continuing recruiting the 800 additional police funded at the last budget, building on the over 300 officers already recruited.

The Government will also seek to reintroduce the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Amendment Bill to restore the power and jurisdiction of the CCC, in relation to misconduct by MPs. In addition, the Government is determined to end the impasse that saw the Corruption and Crime Commission without a permanent commissioner for an extended period of time.

In order to help protect some of the most vulnerable in our community, the Children and Community Services Amendment Bill will be reintroduced, which, amongst other reforms, includes the expansion of mandatory reporting to all five categories of individuals recommended by the Royal Commission, including ministers of religion.

The Government has an expansive and wide ranging agenda for the forty-first Parliament. The Parliament will be tasked with considering issues of reform for Western Australia, from the long awaited Aboriginal Heritage Act reforms, Police Compensation reform, family and domestic violence reforms, banning gay conversion therapy, elder abuse, GTE and financial management reform and puppy farming.

In addition, the Government intends to address reform of the Western Australian electoral system, to ensure that Western Australian elections are conducted fairly, the results reflect the intent of the public, and are protected from outside and overseas influence.

This is before the extensive work of Government that will occur outside this chamber, delivering initiatives on housing and homelessness, capping the cost of transport whether on our public transport or for regional airfares, the essential moral work of closing the gap, or keeping the pandemic and the consequences of the pandemic at bay.

Conclusion

Both the Government and the 41st Parliament have a lot of work ahead of them.

There are many initiatives that have been canvassed publicly that are not included here for the sake of time.

But this comprehensive agenda, to confront the challenges that face this state, is what the people of Western Australia rightly expect.

The challenges of 2021 are quite different from those of 2017—but the duty before you all today is the same: To serve the public of Western Australia, to make your electorates proud, and take this great state forward.

Madam President, Madam Speaker, and the members of the Western Australian Parliament, it is my great honour to now declare the 41st Parliament of Western Australia open.

[Applause.]

[His Excellency and the members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the chamber, and the President resumed the chair.]

BILLS

Assent

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following bills —

1. Appropriation (Recurrent 2020–21) Bill 2020.
2. Appropriation (Capital 2020–21) Bill 2020.
3. Mutual Recognition (Western Australia) Bill 2020.
4. Swan Valley Planning Bill 2020.
5. Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (Change of Name) Bill 2020.
6. Criminal Law Amendment (Uncertain Dates) Bill 2020.
7. National Disability Insurance Scheme (Worker Screening) Bill 2020.

McGOWAN MINISTRY — RECONSTITUTION

Statement by Leader of the House

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [3.29 pm]: Madam President, I wish to inform the Council that as a result of the general election held on Saturday, 13 March 2021, His Excellency the Governor has, since 19 March 2021, appointed the following persons as ministers and members of the Executive Council —

Hon Mark McGowan, MLA, Premier; Treasurer, Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal–State Relations.

Hon Roger Hugh Cook, MLA, Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Medical Research; State Development, Jobs and Trade; Science.

Hon Suzanne Mary Ellery, MLC, Minister for Education and Training.

Hon Stephen Noel Dawson, MLC, Minister for Mental Health; Aboriginal Affairs; Industrial Relations.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan, MLC, Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Hydrogen Industry.

Hon David Alan Templeman, MLA, Minister for Tourism; Culture and the Arts; Heritage.

Hon John Robert Quigley, MLA, Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs.

Hon Paul Papalia, MLA, Minister for Police; Road Safety; Defence Industry; Veterans Issues.

Hon William Joseph Johnston, MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services.

Hon Rita Saffioti, MLA, Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports.

Hon Dr Antonio De Paulo Buti, MLA, Minister for Finance; Lands; Sport and Recreation; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Hon Simone Frances McGurk, MLA, Minister for Child Protection; Women’s Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services.

Hon David Joseph Kelly, MLA, Minister for Water; Forestry, Youth.

Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson, MLA, Minister for Environment; Climate Action; Commerce.

Hon John Newton Carey, MLA, Minister for Housing; Local Government.

Hon Donald Thomas Punch, MLA, Minister for Disability Services; Fisheries; Innovation and ICT; Seniors and Ageing.

Hon Reece Raymond Whitby, MLA, Minister for Emergency Services; Racing and Gaming; Small Business; Volunteering.

It is also notified that the Governor in Executive Council has, since 19 March 2021, appointed the following persons as parliamentary secretaries —

David Michael, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal–State Relations; Cabinet Secretary.

Hon Samantha Helen Rowe, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Child Protection; Women’s Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services.

Hon Darren Legh West, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Hydrogen Industry.

Terence James Healy, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Training.

Simon Alexander Millman, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Medical Research; State Development, Jobs and Trade; Science.

Shahyaz Yezdi Mubarakai, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance; Lands; Sport and Recreation; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Jessica Jane Shaw, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism; Culture and the Arts; Heritage.

Jessica Mary Christine Stojkovski, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports.

Sabine Elisabeth Winton, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal–State Relations.

Hon Kyle Owen McGinn, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Disability Services; Fisheries; Innovation and ICT; Seniors and Ageing.

Hon Matthew Dean Swinbourn, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs.

I also wish to announce the appointment of Hon Stephen Dawson as Deputy Leader of the House and Hon Pierre Yang as Labor Party Whip.

PAPERS TABLED

Papers were tabled and ordered to lie upon the table of the house.

EMERGENCY SERVICES — NATURAL DISASTERS

Notice of Motion

Hon Sue Ellery (Leader of the House) gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That this house acknowledges the devastating impact that cyclone Seroja and the recent bushfires have had on Western Australian communities and commends our emergency services for putting themselves in danger to protect Western Australians and to ensure the recovery of those communities.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Message to Legislative Assembly — Notice of Motion

Hon Sue Ellery (Leader of the House) gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That the Legislative Assembly be invited to agree to the rules and orders of the Legislative Council contained in the schedule for the constitution, powers and procedure of a Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation.

A copy of clause 10 of schedule 1 of the standing orders was attached.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AUDIT

Message to Legislative Assembly — Notice of Motion

Hon Sue Ellery (Leader of the House) gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That the Legislative Assembly be invited to agree to the rules and orders of the Legislative Council contained in the schedule for the constitution, powers and procedure of a Joint Standing Committee on Audit.

A copy of clause 7 of schedule 1 of the standing orders was attached.

SELECT COMMITTEE INTO THE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF GOVERNMENT

Establishment — Notice of Motion

Hon Nick Goiran gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move that —

- (1) A select committee into the transparency and accountability of government is established.

- (2) The select committee is to —
- (a) inquire into the partial noncompliance by Hon Sue Ellery with an order of the Council made on 4 November 2020;
 - (b) identify and inquire into other instances of noncompliance during the fortieth Parliament by ministers with laws and conventions pertaining to transparency and accountability, including but not limited to compliance with section 82 of the Financial Management Act 2006;
 - (c) monitor compliance with such laws and conventions for the duration of the forty-first Parliament and inquire into any instances of noncompliance;
 - (d) identify new proposals, initiatives and reforms that may enhance transparency and accountability of ministers and the departments and agencies for which they are responsible; and
 - (e) consider any other relevant matter.
- (3) The select committee shall consist of five members and comprise a majority of non-government members, which is to include at least three members of the official opposition.
- (4) The chair of the select committee shall be a member of the official opposition.
- (5) The select committee shall report from time to time on its progress and table its final report by no later than 28 November 2024.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS —
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Notice of Motion

Hon Simon O'Brien gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move —

That with reference to recommendation 5 of the final report of the Select Committee into Local Government, the terms of reference of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs be amended as follows —

- (1) To insert after term of reference 2.3(a) —
 - (b) matters relating to local government;
- (2) To renumber the paragraphs that follow accordingly.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — THURSDAY, 29 APRIL 2021

Standing Orders Suspension — Motion

On motion without notice by **Hon Sue Ellery (Leader of the House)**, resolved with an absolute majority —

That so much of standing orders be suspended so that —

- (1) questions without notice shall be taken at a time today to be ordered by the Council; and
- (2) the proceedings of the Council shall not be suspended at this day's sitting between 4.15 pm and 4.30 pm.

STATUTES (REPEALS AND MINOR AMENDMENTS) BILL 2021

Leave to Introduce

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [3.44 pm] — without notice: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this house to initiate legislation, I move —

That leave be given to introduce the Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Bill 2021.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Hon Sue Ellery (Leader of the House)**, and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Kate Doust) [3.45 pm]: For the sake of accuracy, I have obtained copies of His Excellency's speech, which will now be distributed to members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY*Motion***HON PIERRE YANG (South Metropolitan)** [3.46 pm]: I move —

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Honourable Kim Beazley, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the state of Western Australia and its dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia —

May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our most gracious sovereign and thank Your Excellency for the speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

I wish to begin by saying that it is an honour and a privilege to serve as a member of the Western Australian Parliament and to represent the good people of Western Australia.

I acknowledge His Excellency for his enormous contribution to public life in Australia over many decades and his continued contribution and service as the Governor of Western Australia. I have known His Excellency for many years. Our first encounter was way back in 2001 when I wrote an email to his office asking how to join the Australian Labor Party. As I stated in my first speech, I joined the Labor Party because I identified with its core values. I wanted to live in a society that is fair and compassionate and where a fair day's work returns a fair day's pay and the most vulnerable in our community are supported and protected. The Labor Party believes in giving voice to the voiceless, creating jobs for the jobless and giving people a fair go. I had seen His Excellency on TV as the federal Labor leader at the time and I figured that there was no better person to ask how to join the Labor Party than Kim Beazley, so I sent his office an email. Shortly after, I received a reply with advice on joining the Labor Party. His Excellency played a very important role in guiding me 20-odd years ago and that has directly contributed to my involvement in the Labor Party in the time since.

Parliamentary democracy is a fundamental pillar of our liberal society, and from the recent state election we can see that the people of Western Australia carried out their democratic duties with a very strong sense of responsibility. Western Australians looked at how the McGowan Labor government handled the COVID-19 pandemic and the economy and decided on 13 March to vote for Mark McGowan and the Labor team. I would like to thank the people of Western Australia for their trust and support. I would also like to thank all retiring members of this place for their service as members of Parliament. It has been a pleasure working with all members over the past four years. I would like to thank Hon Laurie Graham in particular for his assistance as my deputy Whip. When I was away on urgent parliamentary business, it was always reassuring to know that Laurie was in charge and all would be fine.

I would also like to acknowledge the people who were affected, and are still affected, by the Wooroloo bushfire and tropical cyclone Seroja. I thank His Excellency for his words in his address. Before Kalbarri was devastated by tropical cyclone Seroja, my family was to spend the weekend in Kalbarri. It was devastating. It was very sad to see people's livelihoods destroyed. I look forward to visiting Kalbarri and supporting the local businesses in due course.

I would like to congratulate Premier Mark McGowan and WA Labor for the state election result. Under the leadership of Premier Mark McGowan, WA Labor received 59.9 per cent of the primary vote and recorded 69.7 per cent of the statewide two-party preferred vote. Not only did the election deliver the largest majority in the Legislative Assembly, 53 seats out of 59, and in the Legislative Council, 22 seats out of 36, it also delivered the most culturally diverse Parliament—a Parliament that is more reflective of the community in which we live. I would like to make a special mention of two of my colleagues, member-elect for North Metropolitan Region, Ms Ayor Makur Chuot, and the member for Riverton, Dr Jagadish Krishnan. Having worked closely with Ayor and Dr Jags over the past year, I know that they are hardworking Australians who want to make a contribution to our liberal, democratic and multicultural society. I look forward to working with them in the coming four years and beyond.

The McGowan Labor government achieved many great things in its first four years. To me, first and foremost was the passage of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill. Before the debate, I remember the heartbreaking stories people told us about themselves or their relatives. I remember Belinda Teh who walked from Melbourne to Perth to raise awareness and support for voluntary assisted dying. I remember the days when the bill was debated in the Legislative Assembly and the day it arrived in the Legislative Council. I remember the sincerity and passion of all members who contributed to the debate. I remember the long hours and late nights we spent together here in this chamber. I remember the day the legislation was ultimately passed and became law for all vulnerable Western Australians who need it. It was a victory for humanity and it was a victory for all Western Australians.

The recent three-day lockdown has been a reminder that we are living through a pandemic in which thousands upon thousands of people around the world are being infected and dying every day because of COVID-19. Here in Western Australia, our lives are almost back to normal, pre-COVID conditions and our economy is booming. Thanks to Premier Mark McGowan's Labor government, Western Australia is a uniquely safe place in the world. When there are signs of early community transmission of COVID-19, the Premier acts swiftly in the interests of keeping Western Australians safe. I commend the Premier for his decisive actions in protecting

Western Australia. As we heard from the Governor, managing the COVID-19 pandemic will be an important task for the re-elected McGowan Labor government in the coming years. By keeping Western Australians safe, we can ensure that the Western Australian economy stays strong. As His Excellency said, WA is the only state with a forecast operating surplus.

Globalisation has provided many benefits for Western Australia and Western Australians. At the beginning of the pandemic, international supply chains were severely disrupted. All of us know that we need more manufacturing in Western Australia and more manufacturing jobs for Western Australians. I am pleased to hear the McGowan Labor government has a new WA jobs plan, which aims to reduce interstate FIFO to create more jobs and training opportunities for young West Aussies and diversify our economy. I congratulate the government for making the creation of quality and stable jobs for Western Australians one of its highest priorities in the coming four years.

The Governor also stated in his address that we have 43 female members of Parliament, which means we nearly have equal representation. This is an important milestone for Western Australia. When I was preparing my speech, for inspiration I read the Address-in-Reply that was delivered by my good friend Hon Dr Sally Talbot on 11 May 2017. I always look up to Hon Dr Sally Talbot as an experienced member of this place and a senior colleague of mine. In her speech, Hon Dr Sally Talbot discussed the important progress Western Australia has achieved in gender equality and female political leadership. I want to echo her celebratory remarks. Western Australia's first female Governor was Hon Kerry Sanderson, AC, CVO; Hon Sue Ellery is the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council; and Hon Kate Doust was the first female President of the Legislative Council. Today, we have our first female Speaker in Hon Michelle Roberts. In her Address-in-Reply speech, Hon Dr Sally Talbot remarked that if one is born a girl, throughout their life they are statistically more likely as an adult to be poor; to experience violence; to be repeatedly exposed to the feeling of being invisible; less likely to serve on a board or as the chief executive officer of a major company; statistically less likely to hold high office in the public sector; and less likely to be a highly paid sportsperson. Unfortunately, what was said four years ago still rings true today.

In relation to violence against women, far too many Australian women have been assaulted or killed in incidents of domestic violence. We need to do better than this. Over the past 12 months, we have seen the Me Too movement against sexual harassment and assault, and we have seen courageous young women such as Brittany Higgins and Grace Tame speaking up in the fight against sexism, gender inequality and violence against women. More than ever, we need to address these issues as a community.

When we talk about sexism, we have to talk about the similar yet different experiences of women of non-Anglo-Saxon backgrounds. American lawyer, philosopher and civil rights advocate Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the concept “intersectionality”, which posits that people's different social identities can overlap. Jane Coaston stated, and I quote —

The lived experiences—and experiences of discrimination—of a black woman will be different from those of a white woman, or a black man, for example.

Professor Crenshaw said that all inequality is not created equal; therefore, the experiences of an Asian Australian woman will be different from those of an Aboriginal woman or an Australian woman of Anglo-Saxon background. My good friend Pearl Lim wrote a fabulous article on International Women's Day this year about the experiences and struggles faced by women of black and Indigenous backgrounds, women of colour, transwomen, queer women and women with disabilities. I must give her a massive shout-out for standing up for fairness and equality and raising awareness of the different yet similar difficulties women of different backgrounds face, because, as Pearl said, compounded disadvantage and inequality are not often explored in our public discourse.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have seen a rise in anti-Asian racism, and the people who have been attacked are predominantly women of Asian heritage. Since early last year, a number of women of Chinese cultural heritage were racially attacked in Melbourne; a man of Korean heritage was physically assaulted in Albany and told not to go out and spread coronavirus; the house and the car of a family of Chinese cultural heritage in Perth's northern suburbs were graffitied and vandalised with words such as “virus keep out”; during the transitional period after the lockdown in February when adults were required to wear masks and children were not, a mother of Chinese cultural heritage took her two young children to a shop in Perth's south and was yelled at because her children did not wear masks; and recently we saw a third generation Korean Australian told to “go back to China” whilst waiting in a medical clinic in Canning Vale.

The Lowy Institute, in its recent report, found that one in five Australians of Chinese cultural heritage were physically assaulted or threatened with violence in the past 12 months. It was further found that one in three said that they had been called offensive names because they were of Chinese cultural heritage, and more than one-third said that they had been treated differently or less favourably because of their background.

Although it is concerning to learn of these racial attacks and the findings of the Lowy Institute report, I am encouraged by the strong stance against racism taken by Premier Mark McGowan, Minister Paul Papalia and the Labor government of Western Australia. I vividly remember Premier McGowan in a number of his press conferences and Minister Paul Papalia as the then Minister for Multicultural Interests in a parliamentary speech last year strongly

condemning incidents of racial attacks in WA. I thank them for their leadership and strong stance for social justice and fairness. I will continue to work closely with the McGowan Labor government in the fight against sexism, racism and other forms of discrimination.

Last but not least, I was pleased to hear about electoral reform in His Excellency the Governor's address. In my inaugural speech, I discussed our electoral system and the need for electoral fairness. I look forward to being involved in that process as a member of the Legislative Council.

I would like to say that I am honoured and privileged to be a Labor member of the Legislative Council. I am also honoured and privileged to deliver this Address-in-Reply. I thank my leader, Hon Sue Ellery, for the opportunity. On behalf of honourable members, I thank His Excellency for his address, and with a great sense of enthusiasm and optimism, I look forward to the next four years of Labor in government delivering for the people of Western Australia.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Hon Colin de Grussa**.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

CORONAVIRUS — SMALL BUSINESS COMPENSATION

1. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's recent comments about the COVID-19 lockdown, and I quote —

A scheme by which every business submits what they lost and so forth would be very complex ... difficult to administer and probably expensive, and we would have to tax people to pay for it ...

It would go on for years trying to work it out.

- (1) Did the government have to tax people to pay for the government's compensation payments under its \$5.5 billion COVID response, including its apparent \$942.8 million for small business, \$456 million for housing construction and a \$556 million reduction, or freeze, on household fees and charges?
- (2) If yes to (1), please identify the specific taxes applied.
- (3) Why would a small business compensation package for the current lockdown differ in cost and administrative burden from the government's previous packages?
- (4) How is the Premier's reported statement consistent with the rights to apply for compensation enshrined in statute, including at section 204 of the Public Health Act 2016?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) The state government's strong financial management prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic ensured that Western Australia was better placed than any other state to respond to the economic impacts of the pandemic. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state government has provided more than \$7 billion in recovery initiatives, including direct and indirect support to business. However, the best support the government can provide to businesses is to get them back operating at 100 per cent as quickly as possible, which is what the government is committed to doing. We will look at what supports we can put in place to support small business, just as we have done before, noting that it is complex.

GST DISTRIBUTION — IRON ORE PRICE IRON ORE ROYALTY REVENUE

2. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the minister representing the Treasurer:

Rolled-gold accountability.

I refer to the 2018–19 to 2020–21 mini boom in iron ore royalties, and to questions without notice 13 and 1196, asked in February 2019 and February 2020.

- (1) What is the current spot price of iron ore, as measured by the government?
- (2) What amount of iron ore royalty income has the government received for the 2020–21 financial year to date?
- (3) Given that the last Treasurer described having a long-term iron ore price of over \$US90 a tonne as “highly unrealistic”, what has been the average iron ore price since he made that comment on 12 February 2019?
- (4) Given that iron ore royalty income was \$1.722 billion above budget predictions in 2018–19 and \$2.199 billion above budget predictions in 2019–20, how much is the iron ore royalty revenue over the current budget prediction for 2020–21?
- (5) Is the total of the 2.83 financial years listed in (4) now greater than the government's \$5.5 billion COVID-19 response package; and, if so, by how much?

The PRESIDENT: It is good to start the year off with a lengthy question; it sets the tone.

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I answer on behalf of Hon Stephen Dawson.

- (1) The current spot price is \$US192.8 per tonne.
- (2) Royalty income totalled \$5.129 billion to 31 December 2020, as shown in the latest December quarterly report. The actual for 2020–21 will be published in the *Annual report on state finances* in September 2021.
- (3) Annual average prices are shown in the *Annual report on state finances*, published each financial year. Iron ore prices are highly volatile. The McGowan Labor government's budgets are based on prudent iron ore methodology, given this inherent volatility.
- (4) Refer to (2).
- (5) The state government's COVID-19 response and recovery measures exceed \$7 billion. This has been possible due to the strong financial management of the McGowan Labor government.

CORONAVIRUS — PACIFIC ISLANDER SEASONAL WORKERS

3. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the Premier's quoted comments in relation to the state government's COVID quarantine program in an ABC online article published on 20 April, 2021, which states —

Premier Mark McGowan said the government would not be employing a two-tiered system for low and high-risk arrivals as flagged by Ms MacTiernan.

- (1) Does the government classify Pacific Islander seasonal workers as falling within the COVID quarantine program?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), why is the government proposing to quarantine Pacific Islander seasonal workers at either the Four Points by Sheridan Perth, Mercure Perth or Novatel Perth Langley hotels, given that these hotels do not meet ventilation standards?
- (4) On what basis was this decision made; and will the minister please table any advice?
- (5) What options is the government investigating for quarantining important Pacific Islander seasonal workers other than inner-city hotels such as the Four Points, Mercure or Novatel Langley hotels?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question and congratulate him on his appointment as the shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food. I look forward to years of useful engagement with him in this place.

- (1)–(5) I know the member strongly supports the work that we have been doing to bring out Pacific Islander workers to help with workforce shortages in the agricultural and horticultural sector. I am very pleased that 786 workers have arrived in WA since December. That has been a massive boost, particularly for horticulture.

Let me make it clear that all international arrivals are managed by the Department of Health through the quarantine process, but within that process there is an assessment of different risk factors. There is no doubt that the risk from people coming in from the South Pacific—from Tonga and Vanuatu, where there is virtually zero community transmission of the virus—is very different from those coming in from places like India, Germany and the United States of America, where there is a very high degree of risk. Whilst all of this is being managed by the Department of Health under a unified program, there is always an assessment of risk differential, and when making a determination that hotels may not be suitable for people coming in from very high-risk areas, they nevertheless remain perfectly safe for people coming from virtually zero-risk areas. To date, about 3 500 Pacific Islander workers have been brought in under this scheme across Australia and not one of them has tested positive in hotel quarantine.

HOUSING — REGIONS — AVAILABILITY

4. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) With rental housing vacancies at record lows around the state, especially across the South West Region, and with state-owned homes sitting vacant, what is the government doing to increase the supply of housing in the regions?
- (2) Does the government think it is acceptable for those in priority situations to be forced to wait an average of 51 weeks for help from the government; and, if not, what is the government doing about reducing this wait time?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The state government has introduced a range of measures to improve housing supply across the state, including in regional Western Australia. The \$20 000 building bonus grant is incentivising new home construction, with recently released Australian Bureau of Statistics data showing the highest year-on-year increase in building approvals in 31 years. In the 12 months to February this year there were more than 21 500 new home building approvals across Western Australia. The state government also increased the borrowing limit for Keystart by \$243 million and eased the eligibility criteria, ensuring lower income Western Australians will have greater access to affordable home ownership. Through the \$116 million Regional Land Booster program, the state government is also providing cheaper residential land across regional Western Australia, which includes lots in a range of regional towns.
- (2) On coming to government in March 2017, the average waitlist times for public housing in the South West Region for the priority waiting list was 30 weeks and the wait-turn waiting list was 160 weeks. As at March 2021, the average wait time for the priority waiting list in the South West Region has reduced to 21 weeks, and for the wait-turn waiting list it is 96 weeks. Additionally, the McGowan state government is delivering a number of investment packages and other initiatives to increase public housing stock and, consequently, to reduce wait times. These include investing \$541 million into new public housing stock, refurbishment of existing stock and homeless support services through the social housing economic recovery package and the housing and homelessness investment package; suspending the sale of stock to retain as public housing stock; reviewing all current policies and procedures regarding vacant social housing stock to best minimise the number of vacancies; and reviewing public housing stock due to be decommissioned, or not in use due to being at the end of its working life or in poor condition, for possible refurbishment.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE BILL 2020 — DRAFT

5. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

I refer to the consultation draft of the former Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2020 and the 157 submissions, 62 per cent of which did not support the bill in its former form and only 10 of which supported the bill in its former form.

- (1) Will the minister review and consider the submissions to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2020 before reintroducing Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation into the forty-first Parliament?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Will the minister re-engage with all stakeholders prior to reintroducing Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation into the forty-first Parliament?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) If yes to (1) and/or (3), over what time frame will this occur?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I answer on behalf of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

- (1) Analysis of the submissions provided during the consultation period in 2020 is ongoing and advice on the feedback is being provided to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs for consideration.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) As the minister meets with key stakeholders, he is seeking their views on the consultation draft.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) These meetings are regular and ongoing.

WATER — FITZROY VALLEY

6. Hon ROBIN SCOTT to the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the Fitzroy River in the Kimberley and data that shows that since 21 December 2020 more than 15 000 gegalitres of water has flowed over the Fitzroy River Barrage. That amount of water is the equivalent of more than 28 Sydney Harbours. A fraction of that water could be used to develop industry operations in the Fitzroy Valley.

- (1) What steps is the government taking to identify how much surface water could sustainably be taken from the Fitzroy River each year?
- (2) What is the government's response to wide allegations that its policy is holding back the people of the Fitzroy Valley?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for his question. I hope that when the member is talking about the people of the Fitzroy Valley, he is actually encompassing that whole community, because, as members will be aware, a very significant population of Aboriginal people have strong and profound ties to that land, and very firm aspirations for that area.

- (1)–(2) Over the last four years, the government has, in fact, been doing a huge amount of work to determine a safe level of surface flow that could be taken from the Fitzroy River, bearing in mind all the different aspirations. This is a valley not just for billionaires; it is a valley for a whole heap of people. Complex environmental considerations need to be taken into account together with economic development opportunities, which we do not deny are there. As we speak, the ministerial council has put out for community consultation a water plan that suggests a take of around 300 gigalitres per year. We are consulting on that. However, the extreme wet weather this season has meant that we have not been able to get out to many of those communities over the past four months, so that consultation will probably now go until the end of August. We will then come back and review it and make a decision on the way forward. We absolutely understand there is an economic opportunity, but we want to make sure that that economic opportunity is shared by all within the valley.

WATER — FITZROY VALLEY*Statement*

HON ROBIN SCOTT (Mining and Pastoral) [4.19 pm]: I would like to comment on the answer I got from Hon Alannah MacTiernan. I understand that the Labor government is doing as much as it can to start using some of the water from the Fitzroy Valley. The minister must be talking to different people than I am, because many of the Aboriginal people up there, in the communities, want jobs. There are hundreds of kids running around Fitzroy Crossing at the moment stealing cars, smashing into buildings, breaking into supermarkets and creating absolute chaos because there are no jobs for them. There is no future for them. There is nothing for them to do. They do not even have sport activities there on a regular basis. All I am asking is that during the next term, the Labor government takes into consideration and talks to the real Aboriginal elders there, the ones I have been talking to, who are screaming out for a future for their children. These children are desperate for jobs. They attend school, they leave school and there is nothing for them to do. It is absolutely disgusting. It is not just in the Fitzroy Valley; it is throughout the whole Kimberley. Halls Creek is in a similar situation. If only the Fitzroy Valley could solve its problem with juvenile delinquents and vandalism. It is so easy to fix this problem. Just allocate some water to the pastoralists and the agricultural industry.

I never mentioned anything about billionaires. I do not care about the billionaires. It seems that tall poppy syndrome is so relevant here in Western Australia. People stick their heads up and others want to chop them off. Nobody seems to comment on the number of overseas companies that own some of the biggest mines in WA, including for iron ore and gold. The pastoralists and the agricultural industries pale into insignificance when compared with the mining industry.

Statement

HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN (North Metropolitan — Minister for Regional Development) [4.22 pm]: Very quickly, I want to absolutely confirm that we are, as are the Aboriginal people of the Fitzroy Valley, absolutely focused on ensuring that there are economic opportunities. It is so important that if we are to achieve this, we need to bring communities with us, and that is precisely what we are doing with this consultation process that we have there now. We have put up a water plan and we are working with the communities to see whether we can bring people along the journey with us for a shared vision. We think it is absolutely imperative that we do that.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT*Statement by President*

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Kate Doust) [4.22 pm]: Before I move to adjourn, I want to thank every member in this chamber for their cooperation today in what was a very interesting and pared back formal opening of the Parliament. It is hopefully one that we will never see again, but we all appreciate that it was due to the COVID-19 experience we went through recently.

I would like to put on record my thanks to Mr Neville Collard for the smoking ceremony at the commencement of the opening and to Dr Richard Walley for the welcome to country performed in the Legislative Council today.

House adjourned at 4.23 pm
