

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [3.30 pm]: I move —

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 14 February 2023 at 1.00 pm.

Today, we come to the end of the second year of the forty-first Parliament. It is traditional at this time to reflect on the year just past, which of course saw a number of significant events worldwide, nationally and in the state, including the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. There were some other notable Australian passings during this year: Olivia Newton-John, Judith Durham, Archie Roach, Uncle Jack Charles, our own Yvette Mooney from Channel Seven, John Hamblin from *Play School* and, of course, Western Australia's greatest wicketkeeper Rod Marsh, who passed earlier this year along with cricketing great Shane Warne, amongst others.

This year Parliament opened on Tuesday, 15 February. Today marks our fifty-first sitting day of the year, if we include the three days of the budget period. This equates to 17 regular sitting weeks plus one week of budget estimates. During 2022, around 35 government bills were introduced into this house and around 40 bills were passed. Many significant bills were passed this year and although I will mention a few, I will not detract from the other significant achievements of ministers who passed bills through this place.

Earlier this year, we passed the Parliamentary Commissioner Amendment (Reportable Conduct) Bill 2021, which implements key recommendations of the landmark Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The ever hardworking Attorney General has gone to a very important meeting, he tells me. As he left the chamber, he said to me that if I defame him in my song today, I will not have parliamentary privilege, apparently. I beg to differ. I am no lawyer but I think that constitutionally he is wrong. I can say that because he is not here. The Attorney General delivered the Bail Amendment Bill 2022. This legislation will ensure that child victims of alleged sexual offences are at the centre of decisions around bail, and it will also strengthen parole laws for persons linked to terrorism. The Emergency Management Amendment (Temporary COVID-19 Provisions) Bill 2022 was passed to allow for the ongoing management of COVID-19 beyond a state of emergency.

Also worthy of a mention is the very hardworking and industrious Minister for Planning and the Railway (METRONET) Amendment Bill 2022. This was another milestone in the government's program of job-creating Metronet programs. I will provide some quick stats. I am moving into using my Richie Benaud voice now because that is what I am, a sports minister. I am going to talk about a few stats: "Great to see a big crowd at Optus Stadium for the cricket", even after I encourage them. I want to turn to some quick statistics: "Over to those." This year around 277 questions on notice were asked. Thank God the former member for Dawesville is not here anymore because I tell members what! More than 782 questions without notice have been asked and answered, approximately 14 matters of public interest have been debated and I understand that we have passed 40 bills as of today. We have sat for over 300 hours to deliver almost 300 ministerial statements in this chamber and table 18 committee reports and 865 papers. We also welcomed the new member for North West Central after the by-election a few months ago.

We also want to give some thanks. Madam Speaker, we acknowledge you and your tremendous stewardship of the house and the work that you and your team do. I acknowledge the member for Forrestfield, the Deputy Speaker. I also acknowledge all the Acting Speakers—the members for Hillarys, Kalgoorlie, Dawesville, Landsdale, Cockburn and Albany—and thank them for their work. I acknowledge and thank the Clerk, Kirsten Robinson, and her amazing team, including Scott Nalder, Liz Kerr, Isla Macphail, Thomas Moorhead, Rachel Wells, Denis Hippolyte, Lachlan Gregory, Lisa Bellano, Alison O'Shaughnessy, Nikolas Carbone, Darren Seet, Marie Martin, Anne Day and Molly Rogers-Thomson. Let us not forget, of course, the amazing committee staff who worked so tirelessly to produce the 18 reports that were tabled in this place over the year.

I want to very sincerely thank the member for Belmont, who is the government Whip, and who does a tremendous job. We also thank her current staff member, Jason Timms, and her former staff member Ryan Harte for their work. On this side of the house, the Whip has a very big job, given the number of members, so I want to thank the member for Belmont. I also acknowledge the member for Joondalup, who is not able to be here today, who steps in very quickly when asked if the Whip is not available. I thank the muzzled manager of opposition business, who is wearing his very stylish—he looks a bit like Hannibal Lecter. Premier, we could have lent him a Hannibal Lecter mask! There he is: "Hello, Clarice. I'm having some friends over for dinner." I thank the member for Moore. We have had a few good conversations, but it has been a very workable arrangement and I appreciate his support. To the effervescent member for Roe who is the opposition Whip, who can at least count the fingers on one hand, given the onerous task that he has, but he does it with affability, which is great—well done. It is also good to collaborate with him on the running of the house.

Yesterday, I highlighted that next year we will be operating under the new sitting hours, as we know, and using the draconian voting system we voted for.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 1 December 2022]

p6322b-6330a

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

I want to acknowledge the Parliamentary Services team, headed by Rob Hunter and his deputy, Patricia Traegde, which includes Security and Reception Services. They have done a great job. They have kept us secure and safe. If I possibly can, I want to heritage list the bollards that used to be out the front. I am very keen to heritage list those. They are now in the car park.

The SPEAKER: They are now planters.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes, they are flowerpots—planters. I do not know whether members noticed that.

Mr S.J. Price: They were sewage pipes.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: They take the excess effluent from this place, and there is plenty of that, or so they say.

I acknowledge the Parliamentary Services team, which includes Tony Paterson from Security; Stephanie Nguyen; David Boag and all the gardeners and cleaners; our Building Services team, headed by Hugh McCaffrey; and the welcoming reception team. I also acknowledge the authorised officers, I think they are called—the police officers.

Mr P. Papalia: Auxiliary officers.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The auxiliary officers diligently keep us safe from anybody who is lurking around the corridors. Speaking of lurking, a former member was lurking in the corridors earlier. We welcome him if he is still in the building.

I also want to acknowledge the Parliamentary Education Office staff. They are marvellous. Sadly, as members know, Peter Dooley, who was here at the closing of Parliament last year, passed away earlier this year. That was felt very strongly, particularly by the staff and the Parliamentary Education Office. What a great bloke he was. So, too, are the tremendous education staff.

We thank Belinda Corey, Jordie Leavesley, Cherie Toovey, Ben Machowiak, David Cox, Tina Beale, Alison O'Shaughnessy and Sarah Knox.

To Laurie Mansell and the Hansard team, one of whom is here today, thank you for your tremendous deciphering of what we say in this place and your tremendous work.

We also thank Ben D'Lima and the IT team, who of course do all sorts of things. For those of us who still rely on carrier pigeons, I am in awe of the IT people. To Elma Ozich and the Finance team, Tina Hunter and the Human Resources team, and Judy Ballantyne and the Library team, who are still going on up there on the second floor, thank you. Dave Embry and the audiovisual team, thank you very much. You do a great job. If you could just give me a bit more hair, I would really be pleased. Enno Schijf, Mark Gabrielli and the wonderful staff in the lounges and the dining room do a great job. They are wonderful. To the waitstaff, thank you so much for putting up with our idiosyncrasies. They put up with us and they do it so well.

I want to acknowledge Amanda Low. Amanda had a little bub, her first child, a few months ago. Amanda brought her little baby in the other day. She is from the parliamentary support team. Clare Duckworth, Kate Colleran and Julie Knight, thank you all for your support. It is wonderful. It is tremendous. I just go into Parliamentary and Executive Government Services and say, "This is what's happening", even if I do not know exactly what is happening, but they make it look like I do, and that is great.

I thank the staff in the Premier's office—Josh and all the team there who assist in keeping the office going. I think it is really important at this time of the year for all of us to acknowledge our electorate staff. Like all members, our electorate staff are remarkable. I have been in Parliament for nearly 22 years. I think our electorate staff deal with issues and complexities that I did not deal with back when I first started. To all the electorate staff, thank you—the researchers and all those people who do a tremendous job in our offices. I thank you sincerely. I include my own staff—Larissa, Krystal, Matthew, Shelley and Fran. Fran has been with me since I started. She is still there. I think she is either deaf and she keeps turning up or does not really care about me much. I know she does. Fran, I am very sorry. I love you.

I want to acknowledge all the ministerial staff in my office—Gary, Tarnya, Kym, Caroline, Melissa, Amy, Danielle, Megan, Demi-May and Georgia, who has just left us, but I wish her the very best. Jock has also left us; there is a bit of a pattern here. Kelly Howat, who has also left us, but thank you, Kelly. Jake has also gone. There are a few who have left. It is a bit of a worry. I have very stable staff. Of course, I thank Heloise and Greta, who have just joined us. Good luck! They love it. It is great fun. We have a lot of time. I do sport one day and ballet the next. It is all good.

I also want to acknowledge Alannah MacTiernan's retirement. We are going to try to finish early so that those who wish to listen to her final words in the other place can do that. I want to thank her, particularly on behalf of the people of Mandurah. They are forever indebted to her stoic stewardship of the railway project. It has delivered change to my electorate and to the people of my electorate.

It is important to acknowledge our families. That is critical. It is really good that there have been some changes to the sitting hours because that means that most of us can possibly spend longer with our families, if they want us

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 1 December 2022]

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

back. To my family—Donna, my sons Jack, Charlie and Samuel, and Mia—thank you for letting me do this job, because it is not easy.

I turn to the annual song. Everyone comes up to me during the year and says, “What are you going to do?”, “How about you do this?”, “What are you going to say?”, “Why don’t you do that?”, or, “I’ve got an idea.” Margaret Quirk, the member for Landsdale, sent me a great email. Sorry, Margaret, I am not using any of yours, but it was great. It was really good. The Premier loves AC/DC, and I thought about doing a bit of AC/DC. I do not know why the Premier has a fascination with AC/DC, but he does. I did consult. This week I had a group of students from Lakelands Primary School in my electorate. A young fellow named Brayden Rodriguez emailed me some suggestions. He did; he emailed me yesterday. We had an intense discussion about the complexities involved in framing and forming an appropriate piece of creative work. I have not used any of it! I want say to Brayden that given the theme, the vibe, if I used some of his stuff, it would probably go feral but then I realised it is not feral; it is viral, which is the word he would probably use.

I mentioned the Attorney. He came over to me and said that before he went down to meet some judges, he needed to remind me of what would occur if I defamed him in my song. It was a veiled threat. So thank goodness I put him in the song. I am very pleased about that. I try to talk to my mum and dad as much as possible. I want to acknowledge that my very good friend the member for Armadale is going through some difficulties with his mum. Our thoughts are with him at this difficult time.

Lots of things happened in this place, Madam Speaker, as you know. There are lots of things that members of the public do not see and lots of things that the media do not see here. That is probably good. In the end, I thought I would write a letter to my mum and dad and tell them about some of the stuff that goes on. We look back on 2022 and all the things that have gone on. Here it is, for 2022 —

Hello Mudda, Hello Fadda,
I am stuck here in the Parliament,
And this year has been straining,
And the speeches given here are often draining.

The year started somewhat sinister,
Then we got a new Prime Minister.
And remember Emma Peel,
She got elected in North Sydney as a Teal.

And if it couldn’t get any stranger,
The member for Tangney is a dolphin trainer!
And to make things really certain,
Kathryn Chaney beat the Libs in the seat of Curtin.

The Liberal Party is in disorder,
They meet in a phone box round the corner.
Now I really don’t wanna bore ya,
But they also got a pasting in Victoria.

Let me go home, oh, Madam Speaker,
Please let me go or I might get savaged by the member for Roe.

In the chamber it can be deceiving,
Sometimes it looks like, no-one is breathing.
If they’re not in the bar boozing,
Then they’ll be in here, fidgeting and snoozing.

Now there’s Amber, who likes camping,
She prefers that to Ambulance ramping.
Then there’s Rita the concreter,
Give her some land and she’ll build on every metre.

In the Chamber, Quigley’s sleeping,
And his mobile phone is beeping.
While up here, he’s quite a shopper,
He arrives to Parliament in a helicopter.

I have to be careful with this one —

The dining room is chockers,
It’s full of school kids and old ... people.
The guests can be very demanding,
As we watch our waistlines rapidly expanding.

Extract from Hansard

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

The sewerage bollards are now planters,
But they don't protect us from the ranters.
Up here there are no faxes,
And we still get harassed by all the antivaxers.

The Premier's known from ground to sky,
His popularity is very high.
Support comes from dads and mums,
Some have tattoos of the Premier on their bums.

Question Time here is very boring,
I cannot hear above the snoring,
And another speech is starting,
While the member for Carine has started farting.

Mudda, Fadda, its now December,
Marshie and Warnie we fondly remember.
Well the Queen died, and we'll missa,
And we lost our elephant that we called Tricia.

We bid farewell to our Alannah,
A big THANK YOU reads the banner,
But nothing causes a kerfuffle,
Than rumours of a Cabinet Reshuffle.

So Merry Christmas Madam Speaka,
We all wish you Christmas cheea.
I'm sure that after the palava,
We'll all be back again here next year!

Merry Christmas everybody.

[Applause.]

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.53 pm]: I think every comedy act needs a straight man to follow, and that is me. It is a hard act to follow every year. Once again the member for Mandurah has been very entertaining, although a little bit partisan, I think, on this occasion. He was a bit hard on the poor old Liberal Party. I also thank him for his guidance of the house and the way that we have been able to negotiate and discuss matters. He gets a little bit grumpy if there are motions directly attacking him, but apart from that he is generally fairly easy to work around.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for your guidance and work in trying to keep some semblance of order in this place, which does get difficult at times, as we all know. I also thank the Deputy Speaker in that regard. I note that in the last special adjournment, I spoke of the Deputy Speaker's stumbling performance when reading the *Lord's Prayer*. I have seen an improvement. Now you seem to be able to get the words out without completely falling apart in the chair. I think that is a sign of great improvement.

I would also like to thank the Acting Speakers for giving up their time. We know they could be back in their offices picking up correspondence and the rest, but instead they sit in the chair and give up their time without getting any real reward other than participating in the business of the house. Thanks very much to all those Acting Speakers.

Thank you to our Clerk, Kirsten Robinson; her deputy, Scott Nalder; and the Clerk Assistant (Procedure), Liz Kerr. Thank you to all the chamber staff, Lachlan Gregory, Rachel Wells, Denis Hippolyte, Alison O'Shaughnessy, Nik Carbone, Marie Martin, Ms Bellano and Darren Seet. My apologies if I have missed anyone. They have done so well in dealing with all the changes we have seen. I ended the year wearing a mask. We all started the year in a mask and different arrangements had to be put in place. It has fallen back on the staff members to enable that to happen. I would like to welcome our new Sergeant-at-Arms, Thomas Moorhead. I nearly fell over when he first came in and announced to honourable members that the Speaker was approaching because it sounded like a bomb went off in the chamber! For so long we have had females in that role and we listened to a female voice when coming in. I acknowledge the former Sergeant-at-Arms Dr Isla Macphail, who has been appointed to the role of Clerk Assistant (Committees).

With that, I also thank all the committee staff who provide support for those members who do valuable work on the committees. Most of us know that some of the chairs do a lot. A lot of the other committee members are made to look really good because of the work the research officers and principal research officers do—thanks to them. The committees enable members who are not part of the executive to contribute to a lot of knowledge and bring forward some really important matters. One example is the *Enough is enough: 2022 progress report* that the member for Vasse, as Chair of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, all the other committee

members and their research staff took part in and brought down in June. It is a landmark report and a very important piece of work indeed.

Every year, members of the National Party give a token to all the hardworking people in the Parliament as a thankyou. This year it was the member for Moore's turn to provide the said token. I nearly fell over backwards when I was told I had to provide gifts for 200 people, because that is how many people work in the Parliament altogether. They keep our lights on and the gardens in the great order they are in. They provide us with security and provide education and library services, they run the dining room and, of course, produce *Hansard*. I will run through exactly where these people work: 35 people work in *Hansard*; 34 work in the Council and on its committees—these figures were on the list I was provided, so I hope it is right—33 work in catering; 31 work in the Legislative Assembly and on the Assembly committees; 11 work in the Library; 11 work for Building Services, including the grounds staff; 10 work in security and on reception; 10 work in IT; eight work in Finance; six work in the Parliamentary Education Office; five work in HR; and four work in the Parliamentary Services Department executive offices. In addition, as the member for Mandurah pointed out, we have auxiliary officers who patrol the grounds and keep us safe from people who want to get into the Parliament at nine o'clock at night or whatever. For all those people, on behalf of the opposition, I would like to extend our thanks. Without you, we would not be able to do the job that we do. Also, the media team here play a very important role in keeping the public abreast of the events here.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition; Leader of the National Party for the great amount of work that she puts in. I do not think people realise just how many hours the Leader of the National Party does every day and every week. She hardly ever has a day off. It is a very demanding role, especially with the very small number of people on this side of the chamber. That means we have a lot fewer support staff.

I would also like to thank my alliance colleagues, the members of the Liberal Party. I also want to thank the staff who work for us in this place, and the staff of the Leader of the Opposition. I also thank the executive officer to the state Parliamentary National Party, Michelle Rossouw, and the staff in my electorate office, Alison Cooke, Shelly O'Connor and Kylie Davis.

To all the members in this place who share this little pressure cooker of a chamber, I hope that as we head towards Christmas, you will be able to relax a bit more. I know that as soon as we finish in this place, members will be heading off to school concerts and other end-of-year events. I have 42 schools in the electorate of Moore, and I do not think I will be able to get to all the school concerts, because often four or five concerts are held on the same night. It will be a different time, and everybody will be on the road. I hope that everyone will keep safe. We do not want to have to hold any more by-elections in the short term due to unforeseen circumstances, so please keep safe.

To all the members of cabinet, I hope you get a rest. No doubt there will be a lot of consideration of the fabulous reshuffle that the Premier has spoken about with the retirement of Alannah MacTiernan. Alannah MacTiernan has served in pretty well every sphere of government in this country, and regardless of whether people agree with whatever she has done, there can be no doubt about the level of service that she has provided to Western Australia.

With that, I wish members all the very best. Merry Christmas, everybody. I hope to see you all again next year.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [4.01 pm]: I also wish everyone the best for the Christmas break and Christmas holiday. It is hard to believe this is the end of another sitting year. I think this is my twenty-sixth sitting year. I am not sure that I have made 26 Christmas speeches, but I have made a few.

It is a fact that this year, the Legislative Assembly sat for 328 hours, there were nearly 300 brief ministerial statements, and we passed at least 41 bills. However, those are not the things that defined this parliamentary year. The main thing was our transition out of the COVID pandemic. I think that is what will be remembered in the future about 2022. Members might recall the controversy in the first couple of months of the year about the delay to the border opening. That was quite a big deal for a lot of people. The reason for that delay was the massive COVID outbreak that was occurring in the eastern states, and the fact that this state had relatively low vaccination rates, and the delay gave us extra time to get more people vaccinated. I suspect that that one-month delay saved the lives of a great many people in Western Australia, and I am confident we made the right decision. We have now transitioned out of the state of emergency. We no longer have any formal laws in place to deal with COVID, but we obviously have the capacity to reinstate those laws should that be required. I know that there was also a lot of controversy around that, but it all amounted to nothing. We wanted to ensure that we had laws in place in case they were necessary, and at this point in time our advisers do not regard that as necessary.

It was a historic moment for the state and the commonwealth when the Queen passed away earlier this year. Members might recall that that was very confusing for the Parliament. We came to Parliament for a few minutes to pass a motion to acknowledge the former Queen, and then a motion to acknowledge the new King. The Queen reigned for over 70 years, which is longer than most people's lifetime and certainly longer than most people's memory. That event was a historic occasion for this Parliament.

Some refurbishments were undertaken to the Parliament that you were responsible for, Madam Speaker. The Labor Party now has a bigger caucus room. It is quite something to have a larger room. Some changes were also made to the air conditioning in the building. Up until this year, the air conditioning in my office, and the office of every Premier going back 60 years, was controlled by whoever occupied the office of the member for Maylands. I always found that in winter I was too cold, and in summer I was too hot, because however the member for Maylands was feeling was how the air conditioning in my office would operate. It was a great achievement, Madam Speaker, to have that fixed so that future Premiers will be able to enjoy the control of their own air conditioning.

I will not go through all the achievements of the government and the Parliament throughout the year. It would be fair to say, because it is true, that Western Australia is the strongest and most successful state in the commonwealth and one of the strongest and most successful states in the entire world. We can all be very proud of that. Economically and financially, Western Australia leads the nation and is doing the best of any country in the world. All the indicators point to this state doing incredibly well in employment and financial management to ensure that we are well prepared to withstand whatever the world will throw at us. However, a government needs to do more than that. We have done many good, solid and progressive things to make this state a fairer place. I note that the Attorney General, who earlier was grievously defamed by the Leader of the House's poetry, has today introduced reforms to the mental health system. We expect to pass those reforms, which have been talked about forever, next year to benefit and help people suffering from mental illnesses. We also announced today our intention to ban conversion therapy in Western Australia. These are very important initiatives that will help people in the community.

That builds on our announcement earlier this year about reforms to our gun laws to protect people in this state, and our announcement of reforms to bring our abortion laws into alignment with the position in other states and enhance the capacity of women to deal with their own bodies. That also builds on our budget announcements to extend the support for children in care from the current age of 18 to the age of 21, and to provide \$350 million for remote Aboriginal communities. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act was proclaimed, I think, earlier this year. That builds on the earlier achievements of the Parliament during the term of this government for safe access zones, and to provide the capacity for child victims of sexual assault to sue for the remainder of their lives. We have also achieved the domestic violence reforms, and the historic voluntary assisted dying reforms, which were passed in 2019 and came into effect in the middle of 2020.

On top of that, we have made some amazing changes to conservation in this state, with the biggest expansion of the conservation estate in the history of Western Australia, the reforms and rules around the use of plastics in Western Australia and our announcement about phasing out the use of coal-fired power generation in Western Australia by the end of this decade.

Not only do we have strong and successful economic and financial policies, but also, at the same time, we are doing amazing, progressive things and making life better for many people across the state.

In terms of thankyou's, I would like to thank you, Madam Speaker, for your role in the chamber over the course of the last year. I would also like to thank the Clerk and all the chamber staff, and the Parliament House staff throughout the building and in the grounds—security, reception, cleaners, kitchen staff and gardeners, and everyone else who makes this place run effectively and well. I sincerely thank all those people.

I also thank the Leader of the House, Minister Templeman, for his efforts throughout the year in negotiating the legislation through this chamber. Well done. To the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Minister Ellery, to all the ministers and members of Parliament, to all the members of the upper house, and of course to the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Liberal Party, the government Whip and the government Deputy Whip, and to the members of the opposition, both here and in the other house, I acknowledge and thank you for your role.

I also acknowledge my personal staff who assist me in Parliament, in particular Josh Jerga and Ben Coates, and my staff in the West Perth and Rockingham offices, who have done a tremendous job over 2022. I also thank the executive services team from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet who keep the house moving. It used to be Amanda and Clare. It is now Kate and Julie. To all the staff in my agencies, in particular the Public Sector Commission, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and the Department of Treasury, you are all terrific public servants and I thank you for your support and assistance and the extraordinary work that you do.

I also acknowledge my own electorate staff; obviously, we have had a few issues over the course of the last few years. I thank the police unit that is my protection detail for their support, particularly over the last couple of years, with some of the issues out there.

Penultimately, I thank Hon Alannah MacTiernan, who I understand is about to deliver her valedictory speech in the other place. Going back to the 1980s, she has served at the City of Perth—with you, Madam Speaker—then at the Legislative Council, the Legislative Assembly, the Town of Vincent, the House of Representatives and, finally, at the Legislative Council again. She is the longest serving female minister in the history of Western Australia, having

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served for 13 years as a minister. As I said in question time, she is a doer and an achiever. If people want someone who is an achiever in their political life, they need only look to her. I would like to thank her for her service over all those years. The only place she has not been elected to is the Senate, and I would not wish that on her! I am so grateful for her service, and I am sure members of the government agree with me, as would many members of the public of Western Australia.

Finally, I thank my own family, my wife and children, for their support. Thanks, everyone.

Members: Hear, hear!

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition) [4.11 pm]: I also rise to say a few brief words as we close out the 2022 parliamentary year. I will start by thanking you, Madam Speaker, and the team who keeps everything moving in this chamber and behind the scenes; you are very much appreciated. To the Premier and his cabinet ministers and the staff who provide briefings and answers to questions from our electorate officers, thank you very much. It is very much appreciated.

To members in this chamber, it does get a little willing in here sometimes, but when we get to the end of the year, it is nice that we can walk out the door and enjoy some good cheer; hopefully, that will occur this afternoon. I wish you all a very safe and merry Christmas with your families.

I endorse, and agree with, the list that was put forward by the manager of government business, the Premier and the opposition's manager of business of all the wonderful people we get to work alongside in this Parliament, who keep it going. It is a unique place in which to work, and we are reminded of that every time someone comes to visit and their awe at going into the dining room or the chamber, or listening to the Parliamentary Education Office, or speaking with the staff. We are truly privileged to be in this chamber, supported by some incredibly intelligent, committed and dedicated staff. I say to everyone who is part of that ecosystem, thank you very much. On behalf of the opposition, we really appreciate it.

To my alliance partners, our colleagues in the Liberal Party, thank you very much. We are a small team, and it has been a pleasure to work alongside you over the course of the last 12 months. I thank my own team in the Nationals WA: the member for Moore, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who has stepped in on countless pieces of legislation and worn many hats, as we all do as opposition shadow ministers; the Whip, who very diligently does his job and has done exactly the same in stepping into a number of portfolios across the course of the year; and the member for North West Central, who I welcome and who is settling in very nicely to her role and is taking every opportunity to stand up on behalf of her constituents; we look forward to another two years of that.

I want to also add to the comments by the Premier and the member for Mandurah on Hon Alannah MacTiernan. Every opposition has to have someone they love to hate, and Alannah is that honourable minister! There is absolutely no doubt that she is a hard worker. I have great respect for someone who, no matter what the position of the room, will turn up and prosecute their argument, whether it is a room full of angry farmers in my electorate or anywhere else in the state. You have to have admiration for someone who has made such a long contribution to public service at such a high level. I genuinely offer her my congratulations on her service to Western Australia, even though from time to time our positions have been at opposite ends of the political continuum. I am very hopeful that she will have a long and enjoyable retirement.

To my staff and our electorate officers who are out there on the front line, as has already been mentioned, we could not do the job we do without you. We are also very, very appreciative of the very committed team in the Leader of the Opposition's office.

On that note, having gone through the year of 2022 with a federal election, a by-election and the passing of the head of state, I am looking forward to a break, and I hope you all are, too. I wish you all a very safe and merry Christmas.

Members: Hear, hear!

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [4.15 pm]: I will start at the top by thanking all the parliamentary staff who do such a fantastic job and really make us look better than we might otherwise look. I include in that all the teams at work; I will not go through them all, because that has already been done extensively by previous speakers. It is not just service you provide, but also good company. Sometimes Parliament can be a lonely place, yet all the staff have such good cheer and provide such good company, and that is something I greatly appreciate.

I thank you, Madam Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Acting Speakers. I say to you personally, Madam Speaker: I am especially grateful for your good counsel and wise guidance. It is marvellous to see that the position is above partisan politics, and I greatly appreciate and respect that.

It has been said by members opposite many times in this chamber that the last election was not so good for us. It was obviously an outcome that we did not intend; nevertheless, that is the reality of life and something we have had to

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cope with as an opposition. I am really proud of the job that the opposition has done in this Parliament, and especially in this chamber, given the smaller numbers we have.

I thank all my own parliamentary colleagues, who have worked so hard. A small number of members means lots of work. I especially want to acknowledge my deputy, the member for Vasse, Libby Mettam, who has done such a fantastic job during this time. We could not do our job if we did not have cooperation and good help from our Nationals WA colleagues, so I want to especially note that relationship. I thank the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mia Davies, for the good guidance she provides the team; the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Moore; our Whip, the member for Roe; and the member for North West Central, who I welcome to this place.

I want to thank all the staff who work in our offices. It is a big workload for all of them, and because our parliamentary workload is so high, our office staff carry a particular load, and I am really grateful for that. I acknowledge our chiefs of staff, Sam Harma for the Nationals WA and Michael Huston for the Liberal Party. Again, they have to carry an extra load because of the work we are doing here.

I thank all our families. We all know that families play second fiddle to our unusual schedules and the time that we have to put in here. I am especially grateful for that, and I thank all the families. Political life is unusual in that regard, and there are so many other commitments outside this place.

To all members in this chamber, thank you. We have our moments, and sometimes debate in the chamber can get a bit willing, but I respect the fact that every person in this place is here because they want to make Western Australia a better place, so thank you for that contribution. I wish everyone in this chamber a very happy Christmas, and I hope you have a safe and happy new year. Thank you.

Members: Hear, hear!

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [4.18 pm]: I thank everyone who has contributed to this final motion, particularly our Leader of the House; the Deputy Leader of the Opposition; the Leader of the Opposition; the Premier; and the Leader of the Liberal Party. I thank each of you for your generous words of support for me, for the staff of Parliament House and, more specifically, of our chamber staff here. I particularly want to thank our excellent Deputy Speaker, the member for Forrestfield; and our outstanding Acting Speakers, the members for Albany, Cockburn, Dawesville, Hillarys, Kalgoorlie and Landsdale. You have all done an excellent job.

I also want to thank, in particular, our Clerk, Kirsten Robinson; our Deputy Clerk, Scott Nalder; our Clerk Assistants, Liz Kerr and Isla Macphail, and formerly Mat Bates, who now has palatial offices in the Northern Territory Parliament; and all our chamber, research and committee staff. More particularly, I would like to thank Anne Day, Molly Rogers-Thomson and Anna Murphy, who do such a great job of looking after us.

To Rob Hunter, Patricia Traegde, Elma Ozich and the Parliamentary Services Department team, you all do a sensational job. To Belinda Corey, the Director of Parliamentary Information and Education, Judy Ballantyne and the team in the Parliamentary Library, our Building Services team headed by Hugh McCaffrey, our gardening team headed by David Boag, our Security team headed by Tony Paterson, and our Reception Services team, I could not be prouder of all of you. Enno Schijf, our Catering Services Manager, and Mark Gabrielli, our Dining Room Manager, you, too, do an excellent job. I thank you and all your staff who look after us so well, as do our Hansard and Reporting Services team, including the broadcast team, headed by Laurie Mansell, and our Information Technology team headed by Ben D'Lima. I make special mention of our staff at the gym, who do a great job, but I make special mention in particular of Sammy Prost, who has had a significant health issue. I wish Sammy all the best for a full and speedy recovery.

My attention turns to the member for Mandurah. Leader of the House, each year you set a higher standard, and you have once again excelled. You have added a really fun dimension to our final proceedings of the year. In response can I say —

Leader of the House
Your performance was grouse
For your end of year song
We wait all year long

But to follow that
Is a very hard act

And here's the thing
I can't sing

With song I know I cannot compete
I will not sing
I will not dance
But with this poem

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I'll take my chance

You made us laugh

You made us cry

Your talent at this

I really can't deny

Some have said that you are witty

Others have said that you are shy

I don't know why

Of some you were harsh

Of some you were fair

But as Speaker of the House

I really didn't care

To my fellow MPs

And staff members too

This message is also directed at you

Make merry, have some fun

School graduations have just begun

Keep safe on the roads

Keep safe in your car

As you go to places both near and far

Don't drive tired

Don't over imbibe

And make sure that you

Enjoy time with your tribe

And so to all of you gathered here

I offer you some Christmas cheer

Enjoy your Christmas

Enjoy New Year

With family and friends

And all who are dear

And so adieu—until next year.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: With that, I put the question.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.23 pm
