

## VALEDICTORY REMARKS

*Member for Butler*

**MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General)** [5.00 pm]: I enter this chamber to make my final speech after 24 years as a member and eight serving as the state's Attorney General. I enter the chamber in a swirl of emotion of gratitude, of sincere humility and a measure of pride. I want to start by expressing my profound gratitude to the Western Australian branch of the Australian Labor Party, its administrative committee, its executive and the members of my branch who, for the last six elections—nearly 24 years—have supported me as their candidate into this chamber. I am truly grateful for the opportunity. Without them, I would be nothing in terms of public life. I am a servant of my party and of the state of Western Australia.

I also express my profound gratitude to Professor Miles Prince of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne. After I was diagnosed in 2005 with a terminal load of T-cell lymphoma, Professor Prince admitted me into one of his experimental trials. I credit him with saving my life. Without his ministrations, I also would not be here today.

I also express my gratitude to the many members of the Labor caucus who have supported me over the years and, since 2009, after each election have unanimously supported me to the frontbench—to the ministry of the government. It has been a wonderful caucus over the years. One has to have actually been in it to experience the unity of it, but everyone has their say in the collective wisdom of the caucus.

The caucus elects us to the frontbench. Back in 2009, the thoroughly decent, likeable and wonderful man Hon Eric Ripper, who was then the Leader of the Opposition, selected me as the shadow Attorney General. Hon Mark McGowan, who succeeded him, chose me again. Then, of course, upon the election of the Labor government in 2017, not only the caucus but also the Premier of the day, Hon Mark McGowan, supported me as the Attorney General, and I am obviously very grateful. Following Hon Mark McGowan's retirement, our present Premier, Hon Roger Cook, MLA, kept me on as the Attorney General. I was ever so grateful for that, too—to have the continuing opportunity to participate in law reform for the public of Western Australia.

Beyond the gratefulness is humility. It was humbling to hear former Premier Mark McGowan speak of the work I was doing, as he did in this chamber, citing from power magazine *The Australian Financial Review*, as I recall, that had put me down as one of the five most influential lawyers in Australia, not because of me personally but because of the work I was doing within this government. It was very humbling to hear that. Then, again, when I announced that I would not be standing for re-election, it was a very humbling experience to stand next to our Premier and hear him publicly speak about me and my work, as he did in this chamber. It was amazing.

I have also been fortunate and blessed to have received a lot of feedback from the legal and business professions. Only this morning, just before I gave this speech, I received a text from a King's Counsel who has recently become a very senior Supreme Court justice congratulating me and reflecting that I was the most influential and productive AG since the introduction of the Criminal Code, which was by the late Tom Walker, MLA, also a Labor Attorney, back in 1911. To receive these sorts of accolades brings one down to earth, and I feel humble to be included in the same thought process as those sorts of giants.

I said I also feel proud. In 2017, with the election of the McGowan government, there was the birth of an epoch in Western Australia—a transition. I have been around politics and royal commissions for many years. I observed a transition from the politics of the 1960s and 1970s when the north west gas facility was developed et cetera, but from 2017 onwards, a new epoch dawned upon this state. It was marked by economic responsibility, which saw ministers, judges and everyone have their pays capped. We all took it together; we all put our shoulder to the wheel to bring the finances of this state back into good order. When I say an epoch, when one looks around this city, one cannot help but notice the massive physical change, with our freeways, rail and the lot. We know that Westport is coming and there is the development of AUKUS down at Henderson. The state has changed forever, and I am so proud to have been selected by my party to be a senior minister in this government.

When I talk about an epoch, I refer to a period that has not yet finished. This government deserves to be re-elected, I am quietly confident that it will be re-elected, and this period will endure for some time yet. But in future generations, people will look back at this period and this government, which I am proud to have been a senior member of, as the mark—the standard by which other governments should be judged. Were they as good at managing the economy as the McGowan and Cook governments? Were they as concerned about community safety as the McGowan and Cook governments? Were they as concerned about social advancement as the McGowan and Cook governments? These will be the measures of future governments. For me to reflect that I have been chosen to be a senior minister in such a government is a source of pride. This government has achieved a lot. As an Attorney General, my fiat has obviously been in law reform. Within the Attorney General's portfolio, there exists about 20 per cent of the state statute book and many, many commissions and the like.

People kept asking me if they could have a look at the speech and I kept on promising to do one. They gave me a list of legislation. They said, "You've got to refer to your legislation!" I do not want to read it or go through it;

that would sound like a vanity project. There are about 92 pieces of legislation on this spreadsheet—I will put that aside. I did bring a picture to Parliament, actually. That is easier to do than a speech and I will refer to that later. Many people ask me, “What’s your favourite piece of legislation of those 92 bits? Can you name a favourite bit?” I was borne here—not physically born here, but borne here on the wings of a searing sense of justice. I wanted to get here to try to make things, from what I have seen in a quarter of a century in the legal profession, more just for all the people and give them better access to justice. I had a look at some of the 92 and my favourite ones were all of those pieces of legislation that made it more just for my fellow citizens in Western Australia—that made it more just, that made it more fair and made it safer. We lifted the statute of limitations for all the victims of child sexual abuse. We introduced the custody notification service for Indigenous people being arrested and taken into custody. We lifted imprisonment for fines enforcement, which was just seeing mainly poor people being imprisoned and rich people paying their fine. We introduced the unexplained wealth jurisdiction to the Corruption and Crime Commission and appointed a Deputy Commissioner for the CCC to concentrate on unexplained wealth to try to undercut the business model of organised crime—and it is working. We introduced unlawful insignia legislation so that the police could harass and harry the bikies of this town—and they have. We know what bikies think about these laws because they put that T-shirt out: “Mr Squigley, eff your laws”. If I was standing again, that would be one of my third party endorsements! It would be one side of the sheet of paper and the other side of the sheet of paper would be Mr Palmer’s advertisement saying, “John Quigley is the biggest embarrassment in Australia”. I would take that as a third party endorsement as well. We changed the dangerous sex offenders legislation to broaden that to high-risk dangerous offenders and reverse the onus of proof so that the prisoner had to prove on the balance of probabilities that he—it is usually he—would abide by the primary conditions. There is a whole lot, but it sounds too vain to read it all; it has already been reported.

There was fun legislation, too, which was serious. That was the Iron Ore Processing (Mineralogy Pty. Ltd.) Agreement Amendment Act. I have to say, it was serious in that we had to protect all Western Australians from the unconscionable and avaricious lunge for our money by Mr Palmer and do it in a positive way so that no-one would hear about it, including my cabinet colleagues. I can always remember, when the plan was well advanced and after I had given instructions to draw the bill, going along to Premier McGowan’s office, and as Premier Cook probably knows, letting myself in. He said, “What do you want now?” I sat him down pretty quick and said, “There’s about a \$30 billion claim against us, Mark! What are we going to do about it?” and I unravelled. “Don’t tell a soul”, he said. We did not, and we developed the bill. In developing the bill, I am indebted to the staff of the State Solicitor’s Office and the former State Solicitor, the Honourable Nick Egan and his staff, working very quietly. I am indebted to the Solicitor-General of the day, the wonderful Mr Joshua Thomson, for his constitutional advice. Of course, we brought the bill in here at short notice with the support of the opposition and passed it. In the meantime, we passed it sort of overnight, but it had to go to the Legislative Council, so Mr Palmer rushed into the Brisbane court and registered the arbitration award. My heart sank then. I thought, “He’s got behind us”. Then we had to brief counsel to go to the court in Queensland to have that ex parte order set aside before Mr Justice Martin in September 2020. I will always recall Mr Justice Martin because, as members will remember, we included an indemnity in that bill that if Mr Palmer ever took action under the free trade agreement and got a judgement, or if Mineralogy did that, it said that Mr Palmer will statutorily indemnify the state for the damages. Therefore, they are claiming \$300 billion and we have a right of claim back against him for \$300 billion. Just in case there was any slippage there, we included a Henry VIII clause, which the judge described as the mother of all Henry VIII clauses. He said this clause empowers the minister to proclaim any other measure to defeat Mr Palmer. He went on to describe the bill itself as a juggernaut that destroyed everything in its path—and it did. I was satisfied and pleased with that bill.

I was called in from time to time as a bit of a pinch-hitter on other matters, like the Bell Group settlement, which had bogged down. I dealt directly with Mr Louis Reijtenbagh’s bankers, who flew down from Singapore, with the chairman of the Insurance Commission of Western Australia to try to approach this from a different way and we were able to settle that for \$650 million. I was called in as a pinch-hitter when there were complications with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. I remembered when I was reading that what the judge that I practiced before, the wonderful jurist, the late Sir Frances Burt—a Governor of this state—often said when I appeared before him. He said KISS it—keep it simple, stupid. We were able to do some modest amendments to the act, which delivered everything that the Aboriginal people and people wanted. It was always nice and interesting to be called in as a pinch-hitter on some problems.

Through this whole process, I think that I have done my best to try to contribute to the development of our community. It is an awesome responsibility to be given this job. I understand that the Attorney General in a Labor Party carries the social aspirations of our great movement. There are other very important ministerial positions and departments, but in terms of social reform, that responsibility largely rests with the Attorney General. In that regard, I have tried. We have tried to protect victims. I brought in several tranches of amendments to family and domestic violence laws and we will continue to do so, with further announcements to come. We tried to do what we can to protect victims—and I have tried. I have tried to have an effect on this Parliament and upon the community. I must say that in the process of 24 years, it has had an effect on me. I will reflect back on my maiden speech in what is now

my valedictory: it has had an effect on me. I think dealing with these people like Mallard and Jody Gore, whom I released from a life sentence, has helped me grow, perhaps to become a better man and a bigger person.

It was back in September 1983 that a very young 16-year-old John Pat died in police custody after a fight with police outside the Victoria Hotel in Roebourne. I was briefed to go up on the same day of his death to look after the police officers up there. The town was going off. There were riots. I then appeared at the Coroner's Court where the coroner committed my five clients to a manslaughter trial in the Supreme Court where I subsequently appeared with some colleagues and secured the acquittal of the five officers. Suffice to say, I was not well regarded by the Indigenous population of Roebourne at the time.

I was very moved last year, and this year, when the community up there held a peace concert to memorialise the life of John Pat—it being forty years since his passing—and to celebrate what Roebourne had become. The Yindjibarndi people from their settlement with Fortescue Metals Group bought the old Victoria Hotel. That was a river of alcohol and trouble. It is now called the Ganalili Centre and it is owned by the Yindjibarndi people. I was invited back to Roebourne by John Pat's family, who said they were inviting me back in recognition of the efforts I had made to bring justice. This picture is pretty precious to me. It was taken at a concert with John Pat's younger brother Glen and his nephew Brandon Cook. To sit at this celebratory concert amongst John's family sort of closed a bit of a circle in my life.

It is not all about legislation. There is another important function that I had to perform when I came here and when we came to government. That was restoring the proper relationship between the executive branch of government and the judiciary, which had fallen into disrepair, and to recognise the judiciary as the third and independent branch of government. It behoves the Attorney General to protect the independence of the judiciary and speak up for it. It puts you in an awkward situation sometimes with your colleagues who might not at all times sharply appreciate that it is an independent branch of government.

The courts make laws by recognising rights that have hitherto not been recognised. Think Mabo. It was the courts, not the Parliament, that conferred land rights on First Nations peoples because they recognised a right. The independent courts stand as a bulwark between the excesses of the executive and at times the legislature. They have the power to, and do from time to time, strike down legislation as being unconstitutional. We experienced that ourselves in the cases of *McGinty v Marquet* and the repeal of a constitutional section about embedding an absolute vote when amending the Electoral Act. It is very important for all of our citizens to have an independent judiciary that will be unaffected by the colour of the executive or legislative government of the day and for it to be something that citizens can turn to, independent of the lawmakers, for protection. Think James Price Point and the compulsory acquisition that was to take place for the hub. Some of us would regret the decision and say, "Well, there could've been a common user hub there." It does not matter; an independent court looked at the process and held that the process of the government was defective and set aside the claim and the acquisition.

Finally—well, not finally—I have to acknowledge the support I have had from the Solicitors-General, who have been marvellous. Hon Peter Quinlan, SC, is now the Chief Justice. When he was the Solicitor-General in all those early builds of "No body, no parole" and different things we were doing, we had to make them constitutional and sound. We have seen what has happened in Canberra with the bracelet laws. Theirs got struck down; ours have not because we had the best constitutional advice. Mr Joshua Thomson, SC, is one of the great forensic legal minds of our city and of our time. He represented us in the Palmer litigation and when Palmer tried to challenge our closed border. When he was joined by the Morrison government, they were not planning on meeting Joshua Thomson at the bar table. Before the case was over, the Morrison government had slipped out the side door of the court and left Mr Palmer to his own. Thank you very much, Joshua.

Now with Mr Thomson moving on, we have a very sound and wonderful Solicitor-General in Craig Bydder. I also acknowledge the presence in the Parliament today of our wonderful State Solicitor, Dr Graham Hill, who was formerly the director of Legal Aid WA. He refurbished Legal Aid and brought in all these new programs to make justice more accessible for the vulnerable. I particularly thank Chief Justice Quinlan, Chief Judge Wager of the District Court, my friend President Quail of the Children's Court and Chief Magistrate Steven Heath for the assistance and guidance they have given me in helping make appointments that reflect our community.

I have made 130 appointments to judicial office. I was asked the other day about the representation of women. There are 142 judicial officers in Western Australia; 71 of them are women now at the end of our second term in government. We also have on the bench for the first time an Indigenous Yamatji man in Hon Justice Michael Lundberg in the Supreme Court. There is Hon David MacLean in the District Court and his brother Magistrate Gavin MacLean—another two Indigenous people in the courts. We have got Asian women in the District Court. We have now changed the face of the court—not I. I am but one of 17.

As I said at the outset, none of this would have been possible had it not been for the support that I have received from my party, the caucus and from Premiers McGowan and Cook, to whom I am eternally grateful for this opportunity—the most special part of my life. Thank you.

[Applause.]

*Member for Mandurah*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House)** [5.31 pm]: Thank you, Speaker.

On 10 February 2025, just like the Attorney General, I will mark having served in this place for 24 years. When you have spent such a long time in this job, as I have, you sometimes reflect on what could have been. Before I came to this place, I was a teacher for nearly 10 years and then an entertainer. In the mid-1990s, my best mate, Geri Jones, who is here tonight, and I established a comedy act called the Halls Head Hippies. We named it the Halls Head Hippies because we both lived in Halls Head, Mandurah. We dressed up as hippies and put on wigs and then we basically murdered the lyrics to 60s, 70s and 80s songs! We then travelled the length and breadth of the state and performed to any group that would hire us. We even had an agent.

Now, there is a saying that you can tell a lot about a person by the shoes they wear. Have a look at these beauties. Here they are, Madam Speaker; look at those! Those shoes there, for those who cannot see, belong to “Blind Melon” Templeman. After a show that Jonesy and I had done early in the Halls Head Hippies era, an old lady came up to me and said, “David, I want you to have these. My husband’s just carked it; he would want you to have them.” So that was to be how our act began to look up and up. My friend the former Premier Mark McGowan came to a number of our early gigs at the Rockingham Hotel. We performed at mine sites, countless hotels and function rooms. We went to the famous Exchange Hotel in Kalgoorlie and to Rottneest Island and we flew over east. We did lots of stuff.

I was also Deputy Mayor of Mandurah at the time, but I had to do that surreptitiously. I would be deputy mayor during the day, and then at night and on the weekends, I was “Blind Melon” Templeman. Our songs were politically incorrect. In fact, some described them as appallingly crude or risqué and, in this modern era, we would have been cancelled. We would have been Me Too-ed, You Too-ed and Them Too-ed out of here! If I had been a candidate back then, I would not have made the cut. They would have delved into the hippy era and they would have examined the content of our lyrics and they would have said, “Nah, he’s got too much baggage.” With lyrics like those in our famous Sonny and Cher number “I’ve got pubes, babe” and a Feargal Sharkey number that was titled “A good hump these days is hard to find”, we were not going to fly. But we had a great advantage, because these mobile phones did not exist. No-one could film us. No-one could record us. No selfies. No Instagram. There was no evidence, and the Libs knew it.

Jonesy and I would talk regularly while we were putting on our flares and wigs about taking the act to the eastern states. We said that the eastern states needed to see this act. They needed to experience it. We thought there would be bigger audiences there and we would stun them. But, as in the Robert Frost poem *The Road Not Taken*, circumstances did not see us opt for an eastern states invasion by the Halls Head Hippies, and so I took the road less travelled by, and I stood for the 2001 election. Which brings us back to shoes. These are my shoes that I wore for the first election campaign, and I have kept them ever since—the wear and tear. I almost doorknocked Mandurah twice in 2001. I always put them on at every subsequent election. On the Friday afternoon before polling day, I would put them on and I would go to the same street, Harper Court, with these dirty old shoes on and I would bang on the doors and say, “Look, if I win tomorrow, I’m coming back”, and I always did. I have always had a few superstitions. And so the journey to this place began. I do not regret anything at all. I have no regrets, except for one, and this was because I delved in and dug out something—this exhibit here. This is the only one in existence. It is the David Templeman campaign poster of 2001. The only regret I have is that I have let myself go. Yes, I have let myself go. The parliamentary dining room, you have won! You have had a win! Look at what you have done to me now!

I have to say—at least I am honest—I was gazing at the photographs of all the members in the little foyer at the entrance to the dining room. Madam Speaker and member for Landsdale, I do not want to be awful, but I think there has been a little bit of airbrushing that has gone on there! Not me! But yours look pretty terribly like, as I say, there has been a bit of airbrushing!

I have done lots of stuff in this place. I have been fortunate. For 24 years, I have served in most positions. I have chaired committees. I have been Acting Speaker. I have been government and opposition Whip, shadow minister, minister and Leader of the House. I am not going to go through all my achievements because there are not very many, but I have had some fun. When I was opposition Whip—some members who are here might remember—I created the greatest ever tactical strategy called “Red Fox”. “Red Fox” was a strategy. We did not have texting then, so I used to have to rush around and tell everybody.

A government member interjected.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Yes, later we did. It became sophisticated later. I would text everyone and say, “Red Fox coming up.” “Red Fox” meant do not come in; when the bells ring, do not come in. I would then come in and I would stand up there where the member for Scarborough is and say, “Speaker, I draw your attention to the appalling state of the house. There is no quorum.” The bells would start ringing and none of us would come in. It failed dismally, but, look, it was a great strategy. I had my great comeuppance, though—my great achievement—on the last sitting

day of 2015. I was sitting over there, where the member for Scarborough is, and I looked around. Peter Watson, the member for Albany, was sitting opposite, where the member for Cottesloe currently sits, dribbling on about some committee report. It was Thursday morning on the last sitting day. He was going on and I looking across the chamber to see that there were no government members on the bench—none, not a soul! No minister was on duty. I got up and went over to Peter Watson and said, “Peter, sit down.” Uncommonly, he actually did what he was told and sat down. I returned to my seat and stood up and said, “Speaker, I move that the house do now adjourn.” The then Deputy Speaker, the former member for Kalgoorlie, was in the chair. She looked around and had to put the motion. Of course, Margaret Quirk, the member for Girrawheen then, was so excited and called out “Aye, aye, aye” before the question was even put! We closed the house down. I then left to go to a funeral in Mandurah. Chaos reigned. I am travelling down the freeway and there was chaos everywhere. They tried to ring me but I could not answer because I was driving. All the way down there was chaos, and I knew I had caused it. I still believe today that that actually was the beginning of the end for the Barnett government.

Margaret Quirk in her valedictory speech yesterday talked about the trials of a Whip. We have a great Whip and I will talk about her tomorrow, but when you are a Whip, people try things on you. A former member for Perth once rang me and said, “I need a pair. I need the whole week.” I asked why and he said, “I’m going to a reunion of Geelong Grammar.” I said that sounded exciting but asked why he needed the whole week. He said that a raft of activities had been planned. I said, “Okay” and then rang Geelong Grammar. I pretended to be a student and asked, “What’s happening over there? We’ve got the reunion. Can you send me a program?” They faxed me a program.

**Ms C.M. Rowe:** Faxed!

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** That is because they had faxes then. The fax came through and told us what was happening and I said, “Gee, there’s nothing on until Thursday night”, so I gave him only a Thursday pair. He was outraged, and when I told him what I had done, he was even more outraged. I was outraged because he had been inappropriate with his pair requests.

I want to thank some people. Premier, I want to thank you. I want to thank Alan Carpenter and Mark McGowan, your predecessors. My friend Mark McGowan and I have had a friendship for 30-plus years—a long time. We have had many laughs, but I really did not appreciate that at Labor gatherings, community functions, events, important business meetings, he would regularly introduce me as the drunkest man at his wedding. I was quite offended. I mean, I was the drunkest man, and I do not remember much of it, and I almost did a “Jimi Hendrix” on the front lawn of my house. But to Mark, thank you for your support and thank you for not saying no when I asked you for the arts portfolio at the 2017 election.

Premier Cook and I would have lonely drives. I would drive him to Kwinana after late nights in opposition. I would take him home and drop him off and we would chat about things. I would drink my Diet Coke and he would have his mineral water on the way there. I want to thank him for giving me the dream portfolios that I have had over the last years since McGowan and you.

To Rita Saffioti, the Deputy Premier. For over 15 years I have sat next to Rita Saffioti. We both sat over there in the most fertile seats in the chamber. We have seven children between us. In 2008, when we lost the election, I got the job of opposition Whip and I got a beautiful office to myself just across there behind the Speaker’s gallery. I thought, “This is great. I’m by myself. It’s lovely.” Rita came in and sort of asked me—well, she told me, really, that she was going to share my room. She said, “I’ll only take up a little bit of space. I won’t take up much space—not much.” I was reduced to a using small little desk area inside the door. She moved in furniture. In the next minute came children’s apparel, clothes, play equipment, nappies, boxes of stuff, piles of policy documents, slideshows and budget papers. She had every bloody thing everywhere! There was no room for me! In fact, no-one could find me in that office. I was hidden behind a Saffioti corflute and the debt monster costume. But I want to say to you, Rita, you have been magnificent. I have had a great time with you. You are a great friend and I have been proud to serve.

To John Quigley, a brilliant man. He really is. He called me Tony for the first seven years that we were here. I would wander down the corridors and he would said, “Hello Tony. How are you, Tony? Am I speaking next, Tony? What time am I speaking, Tony? Tony, Tony, Tony—am I paired, Tony?” I would say, “No, no it’s David!” After seven years, I gave up. In 2014, we were in opposition and John attempted in private members’ business, which is very rare, to introduce a bill related to dangerous sex offenders. Although he was in opposition, he got to sit at the committee table and go through the clauses. I was his adviser. I had no legal experience, but I was his adviser and all I did was to every now and then pass a little sticky note and on it would be written, “Would you like a drink? Can I get you a glass?” That failed but I do remember something about John that goes to his spirit and tremendous character. He went out on the front steps to announce a very important reform around the statute of the limitations and there was this old fellow there who was a victim and very agitated, so John, the Attorney General, grabbed him by the hand and led him to his place and it was beautiful and fantastic.

I want to thank a couple of others. I am a bit of a thanker, they say. To my friends, Tony Buti and David Michael, my counterpart Hon Sue Ellery, all the ministers who I have served with and all those who have been part of the McGowan and the Cook government. We have bloody worked hard, but it is because of the Western Australian people. You have worked hard and you deserve to be re-elected at the next election.

I want to thank my parliamentary secretaries. I am so pleased they are both here: Hon Samantha Rowe, a magnificent person, and Jessica Shaw, a magnificent person. Jessica, you are going to be brilliant. Whatever you do, you are going to be magnificent, and I love ya! Although, not in the way that you might think. Samantha, I want you to do the very best and you are going to be brilliant as you go into the next Parliament. Thank you for everything you have both done as parliamentary secretaries.

Government drivers—I will tell you about them tomorrow. They have been magnificent, particularly because I go home to the regional city of Mandurah. On the way, I do sleep. After leaving here, I have been known to fall asleep at Mt Henry Bridge. They listen to my snorting and snoring all the way home and they say nothing about it, so to the boys and girls at the government garage, thank you so much.

To the ministerial staff in the three Labor governments that I have served, my former chief of staff in the Carpenter government who is now a minister in the other place, Hon Stephen Dawson, and to all those who worked for me in the Carpenter years as a minister, thank you.

To my Mandurah branch. It is an amazing branch made up of volunteers and supporters. Some of them sadly have passed over the last 24 years. I have probably got the shoes here of one of them. I want to remember Margaret Duff. She would be so proud. Margaret Duff was the salt of the earth. She would be so proud.

I want to thank Hon Dr Sally Talbot for the support that she gave me in the early years of arriving here. To Mandurah's richest pensioner Hon John Cowdell and the former Speaker Fred Riebeling. Thank you for your tremendous support and your wise counsel. Both of them are members of the old superannuation scheme. It is a sore point with me. They have asked me to join their exclusive Mandurah club called the Mandurah lunch club. I told them I would go but I am leaving my wallet at home and you bloody schemers can pay! But, members, there is still time. I have in my back pocket an amendment to the superannuation scheme, and I would be very happy to move it and sit late tonight to pass it! We still have time, members.

To the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union and Steven McCartney, I thank you, Steve, and all the union members. Unions are an important part of Australian culture. They always have been and they will continue to be. I want to pay tribute to those in the wider union movement for the benefits you have brought and continue to bring to the people of Western Australia and our nation. They are important reforms. Most of the wonderful things that people enjoy now in industrial relations are because of the great work of the union movement of Australia.

To my wonderful McGowan government and Cook government ministerial staff, they are up there in the gallery. I am going to mention them tomorrow, because I am running out of time. No, I will do it quickly. Tarnya Widdicombe, Kym Coolhaas, Danielle McKenzie, Rebecca Neilson, Megan MacLean, Amy Owen, Caroline O'Neill, Melissa Kelly, Greta Yapp, Heloise Bayao, Demi-May Renfree and Matthew Jankowski, thank you. You have been brilliant, but I want to talk about you tomorrow. Gary Hamley, my former chief of staff, and Kelly McManus are brilliant. Kelly Howat, Marty Cunningham, Jock Baines, Leesa Markussen, Ian Johnson, Julian Hilton, Jake Wittey—I went through them, didn't I—Thamis Kint, Georgia McGovern, Bronte Frances, Jayde Baker, Chloe Gliddon, Angela Sturt, Julie Harding and Jane Gallier, thank you.

To all the agencies that I have served and my portfolios—I am the minister for fun; I have had a great time—I thank you again. Thank you, Premier. I have, as members know, as enduring love of the arts and the sector. I value what a vibrant arts sector brings to the lives of Western Australians. I have the strongest appreciation of the importance of our international education sector and the tremendous significance of our built heritage, along with the enduring story of our First Nations people—our most enduring story.

To the sport and recreation sector, thank you for supporting and embracing me as the most unqualified sports minister in the history of the state, as I set out to do sporty things!

I was Minister for Tourism for a little while until that was taken off me! Then again, I was, of course, the minister during COVID. As members are well aware, the stats were poor. No international trips for me! No international visitors to the state either and the worst ever interstate numbers we have ever seen in history. The only thing I could cling to was that some Western Australians wandered out yonder, and some of them never came back!

Now, I have a confession to make. Premier, I am sorry about this. For the last 24 years I have been masquerading as "Dave from Mandurah". Quite often over the years I would call up Graham Maybury's late-night show as Dave from Mandurah. It was usually when I was driving home late at night. I would ring up and say, "Graham, it's Dave from Mandurah." I put on a bit of a voice, but I think he knew who I was. Dave from Mandurah called in on 720ABC's afternoon segments on cars. I called in once and said that the best car ever was the Datsun 120Y, which

I had. The most crappy car was the Datsun 200B, which was the model that followed it. Only a couple of months ago I rang Sabrina Hahn's *Roots and Shoots* on a Saturday morning as Dave from Mandurah. I was complaining about the problems I was having with my plums. Sabrina caught on, because she knew it was me. Of course, she talked about why my plums were wilting, why they were not fertile anymore and why they were not producing fruit. No sooner had I finished than my phone went off. It was Mark McGowan, with the simple word, "Jesus". I innocently texted back and said, "What?" He responded with, "Plums". You never know who is listening.

In the short time I have, I say to the people of Mandurah, thank you. The people of Mandurah have been magnificent to me. For 24 years they have re-elected me despite the obvious flaws, and I am so grateful to them. I am particularly proud that over the last six consecutive elections, I have been able to get the primary vote over 50 per cent. Most of the average is 55 per cent, which I am very pleased about, since I was dux of maths year 4 at Northam Senior High School!

I want to thank my electorate staff. I will start with Fran Harmen. I said to Fran, "Will you work for me?" She used to work for Hon Wendy Fatin. She said no. This was in the beginning. She said, "I'll help you set up your office, but no." She is still there after 24 years. Fran Harmen, wherever you are, thank you so much. I have this great thing. I hired the same family members. I hired Fran, then Fran's daughter, Kelly McManus, who is brilliant, and then Fran's granddaughter, Larissa Wigmore, who is also brilliant. To those who were with me along the way, Beverley Weir, Rose Carres, Donna Doust, Tarnya Widdicombe, Di Meekins, Jock Baines, Krystal Phillips, Matt Jankowski, and the amazing Shelley Goode, good on ya. Thank you. You have made me. You have supported me. You have been so loyal and I thank you sincerely.

Over there in that gallery is my dad, John. John is 83. He was there right at the beginning in 1993 when I stood for Mandurah. I got beaten but I said I would never lose another one. Dad was there. I want to thank you. You are a brilliant man. My mum cannot be here tonight—she is not well—but thank you. She has been brilliant. My sister Karen is here, and her husband, Kim. Zoe and Hayden are not here, but they have joined me along the journey and I thank them. My brother John is here. He flew in from Melbourne last night. He came to the election that I described as our greatest victory of all. I am borrowing that from another famous Labor person, of course—Keating. John also brought his family with him at that election—Jenny Hughes, his partner, and his kids, Lachlan, Zeldia and Aiden. Jen also brought her late mum, Pat, and her dad, Ken. They all helped us and we won a bloody great victory. It was a headache that morning! I am so very pleased that they are here. To Donna's family, my wife, including her wonderful mum, Leonie, who is here, I want to thank you and your family, Leonie. You have been magnificent. To my best mate Jonesy, who is here, and Lisa, thanks for being here, Jonesy. We are going to set up a podcast when I leave this place, so I want you all to subscribe and be part of it.

Of course, my wife, Donna. Gee, she has put up with a lot! But I love you dearly and I thank you sincerely. You have been remarkable. You are tremendous and I thank you. You have delivered to us four beautiful kids in Jack, Charlie, Mia and Samuel, who do not look like me, and that is probably a great thing! But I love them dearly and one of the reasons why I am not staying in this place is because I want to be with them. They are the important ones.

I want to thank you for allowing me to carry out a job I have relished. I have relished this job. I loved it. I have always wanted to bring to this place just some life and a bit of fun. We need to laugh more. We need to realise that we not only live in a beautiful part of the world and we are so gifted and blessed, but also the world needs more compassion. The world needs more people to embrace each other and just celebrate what it is to live and be loved. And so, to my friend from Dawesville Lisa Munday, who cannot be here tonight, and Robyn Clarke, from Murray—my team members—you are remarkable women. I know you can win. I will it, and you will. To all the members who are retiring, thank you for your contributions. You are bloody magnificent! Anyone who serves in this place and puts themselves forward deserves to be appreciated and thanked. I want to wish all those members who are retiring the very best. Also, I want to say to those members who are continuing, particularly those on my side, go to it. You have a great story, you have a great Premier and a great leadership team. You are going to do it.

Harry Chapin is the person who inspired me the most. He used to say when in doubt, do something. That is what epitomises for me the Labor Party. Whenever something needs to be done, we do it, and we do it boldly. That is why I joined the party, that is why I am a member of the party and that is why I will always support the party.

I want to finish with this, because it is a reminder. I hope I can do it. It is a reminder that the most important people in your life—in my case, they are over there—are the ones you have to put first. I think I will be right. I have got three minutes —

My child arrived just the other day  
He came to the world in the usual way  
But there were planes to catch, and bills to pay  
He learned to walk while I was away  
But before I knew it, and as he grew  
He'd say "I'm gonna be like you, dad"

You know I'm gonna be like you"

My son turned 10 just the other day  
He said, "Thanks for the ball, dad, come on let's play  
Can you teach me to throw?" I said, "Not today"  
He said, "That's all right, that's okay"  
And he walked away, but his smile never dimmed  
It said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah  
You know I'm gonna be like him"

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon  
Little boy blue with the man in the moon  
"When you coming home, dad?" "I don't know when  
But we'll get together then, son  
You know we'll have a good time then"

My son came from college just the other day  
So much like a man I just had to say  
"Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for a while?"  
He shook his head, and he said with a smile  
"What I'd really like, dad, is to borrow the car keys  
See you later, can I have them, please?"

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon  
Little boy blue with the man in the moon  
"When you coming home, son?" "I don't know when  
But we'll get together then, dad  
You know we'll have a good time then"

Well, I've long since retired, my son's moved away  
I called him up just the other day  
I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind"  
He said, "I'd love to, dad, if I could find the time  
You see, the new job's a hassle, and the kids have the flu  
But it's sure nice talking to you, dad  
It's been sure nice talking to you"  
And as I hung up the phone, it occurred to me  
He'd grown up just like me  
My boy was just like me

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon  
Little boy blue with the man in the moon  
"When you coming home, dad?" "I know when  
We'll get together then, dad  
You know we'll have a good time then"

I am coming home.

Thank you.

[Applause.]