

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [4.29 pm] — without notice: I move —

That the house at its rising adjourn until a date and time fixed by the Speaker.

Season's greetings, Mr Speaker —

The SPEAKER: And to you.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: — in the spirit of the member for Kalgoorlie, who has left us today with gifts, including beautiful Italian chocolates. I think the member for Kalgoorlie epitomises the spirit of Christmas, and I acknowledge him. I mean that sincerely.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes—and also the member for Girrawheen. The member for Girrawheen is always very generous.

In moving this motion today, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the year we have had. Today marks the last day of the 2017 sitting year for the Legislative Assembly. It has been a momentous year, marked by tremendous change on both sides of the house, and as a result it has been a period of significant adjustment for members and staff alike. The house welcomed 24 new members as a result of the retirement of four long-serving members of the chamber and the defeat of 20 sitting members. I would like to acknowledge the contribution to the last Parliament of those members who were not returned to this chamber. I also acknowledge and congratulate again the new members of this Parliament for the contribution they have made to debates throughout the year. I am sure this is a record number of new members elected to this place, all requiring board and lodging, and other things, not to mention training in the mysteries of the Parliament, under the stewardship of the Clerk, Kirsten Robinson, and her team, who have risen to the challenge in welcoming the new members and those returning to this place and addressing their needs with professionalism and courtesy.

I turn now to sitting statistics. The official opening day of the fortieth Parliament was Thursday, 11 May 2017. Today marks the forty-ninth sitting day, including opening day and the three days of budget estimates hearings. This translates to fifteen sitting weeks, plus one week of budget estimates. Forty-two bills have been introduced in the house, and I understand that after the passing of the last two bills, 31 bills have been passed. The Attorney General, who is on his way to Sydney for ministerial responsibilities, has been particularly prolific in his contribution. Fourteen of those bills have been his bills. That is one in three—an impressive strike rate for the Attorney General.

The first bill that was introduced in this house—excluding the Privilege Bill—was the Misuse of Drugs Amendment (Methylamphetamine Offences) Bill 2017. As a result of the passage of that bill, drug dealers apprehended with 28 grams or more of methylamphetamine may now, when convicted, be subject to a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Other significant bills introduced and passed by this place include the Sentence Administration Bill 2017, more commonly known as the no body, no parole bill; the Western Australian Jobs Bill 2017; the Domestic Violence Orders (National Recognition) Bill 2017; the Dangerous Sexual Offenders Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, which increases protections afforded to the Western Australian community by, among other matters, providing that a court cannot make a community supervision order unless it is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that an offender will comply with conditions imposed under the order, and placing the onus on the offender to prove that he or she will comply; and the landmark Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017. Twelve bills have received royal assent. Three bills are awaiting royal assent, and I expect there will be more bills when the Legislative Council rises next week.

As of 11.00 am today, around 2 455 questions on notice have been asked—many of them from the member for Dawesville—and around 2 271 responses have been provided. I note that 96 questions were asked yesterday alone, all by one member. By way of comparison, during the 2016 sitting year, which comprised 20 sitting weeks, 1 124 questions on notice were asked. That was a far more efficient opposition, some might say. By the end of question time today, around 777 questions without notice had been asked and answered.

I turn now to matters of public interest and non-procedural suspensions of standing orders. There have been around 13 matters of public interest and five suspensions of standing orders that were not of a procedural nature. I turn now to committee statistics. The five standing committees of the Legislative Assembly and the two joint standing committees hosted by the Legislative Assembly have between them tabled 23 committee reports.

I would now like to give a number of thankyou's. To you, Mr Speaker, and to your Deputy Speaker and Acting Speakers, and to the Executive Assistant to the Speaker, Jaclyn Berry, and the Speaker's Attendant, Anna Murphy, we acknowledge the important role that you and your Deputy Speaker and Acting Speakers play,

Mr David Templeman; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Mark McGowan; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Speaker

along with your assistants. To the government Whip, the member for Balcatta, sincere thanks for his tremendous stewardship, ably assisted by Nathan Batskos.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: To the member for Churchlands, the manager of opposition business, and the member for Vasse, the opposition Whip, thank you for your contribution to the proceedings of this place.

To the Legislative Assembly team, comprising Kirsten Robinson, Clerk; Scott Nalder, Deputy Clerk; Liz Kerr, Clerk Assistant (Procedure); Mat Bates, Clerk Assistant (Committees); Isla Macphail, Sergeant-at-Arms —

The SPEAKER: Isla.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: As I said.

The SPEAKER: She carries a mace!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: — and Rachel Wells, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms, who very abruptly woke us all up not long ago with her announcement, Mr Speaker, that you were entering the chamber. I had to comb my eyebrows, I was so startled by her loud and commanding voice. To Daniel Govus, Denis Hippolyte, Alison O'Shaughnessy, Maddison Barnsby, Nikolas Carbone, Glen Whitting and Anne Day, the Clerk's Executive Assistant, on the Legislative Assembly team, thank you very much for your tremendous stewardship and assistance to all of us in this place over this parliamentary year.

To the Parliamentary Services team, comprising Mr Rob Hunter, Executive Manager; Security, led by Tony Paterson; the gardening team, headed by Dave Boag; Building Services, led by Hugh McCaffrey; Reception Services, made up of the lovely Stephanie Nguyen, Michelle Heah and Rebecca Sofield; Information Technology, led by John Buchanan; Finance, headed by Elma Ozich; and Joe Lubout in the gym—a place that I have yet to venture into in the nearly 17 years that I have been here. But as members can see, my body is a tool, and it is sculptured naturally due to my impeccable genetics.

To Reporting Services, comprising Laurie Mansell and the enduring Hansard family, a magnificent team; to Judy Ballantyne and the Parliamentary Library team; to Dave Embry in audio/visual services, thank you very much, audio/visual services people, we salute you; to Catering Services, who contribute to the waistlines of many members over a period of time, and to Enno Schijf, Mark Gabrielli and the wonderful staff in the lounges and dining room of the Parliament of Western Australia; we sincerely thank you for your tremendous service and friendly manner.

To the Parliamentary Fellows, Harry Phillips and David Black, who should be, as Minister for Heritage, heritage-listed themselves, for their contribution to the parliamentary history and heritage of this place. They play an important role.

Can I particularly highlight the magnificent Parliamentary Education Office.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: They are indeed an asset to this place. I acknowledge in particular all the staff, Peter Dooley, Sarah Smith, Michael Loney, Cherie Toovey, Tina Beale and Ben Machowiak.

I thank the staff of the Premier's office who of course operate here in Parliament during sittings, Nick Hagley and the wonderful Rebecca Neilson for her tremendous stewardship for me as Leader of the House.

A government member interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: She is looking very glamorous.

I thank the wonderful ministerial staff and my own Mandurah electorate staff who keep the Mandurah office fires burning while I am up here in Perth. I am sure that is shared by all our members who acknowledge the tremendous work of their electorate staff; I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will thank his staff. We thank them sincerely. To my own ministerial staff, I sincerely thank Gary and the team in my office for their work. To the media, who are of course here in abundance —

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: They are certainly listening through all sorts of technological devices. We thank them even though sometimes we do not like the way they write or broadcast their stories. We acknowledge their tremendous work. On behalf of the house and all its members, I also thank our partners and our loved ones and family members, and all members' partners and families, for the tremendous support that they give us all during our time here when Parliament is sitting and in our day-to-day professional lives as members of Parliament. It is always important to acknowledge our families, our loved ones, for their tremendous support.

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 30 November 2017]

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Mr David Templeman; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Mark McGowan; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Speaker

I wish the member for Dawesville all the very best for his wedding to his fiancée, Michelle, in February next year. I wish he and Michelle the very best for their very special moment.

Members, this chamber is adversarial by nature, but we are all human beings. We have families, we have loved ones and none of us is perfect. I sincerely wish all members, staff and their families a very Merry Christmas, a very safe and happy festive season, and good health for 2018. I am going to sing a little song. I was inspired by the opera singer on Tuesday evening. I am going to sing a little song, which is from Monty Python, with your forbearance, Mr Speaker. To me, it reminds us all that we are very much—all of us—a tiny speck in this amazing universe. Normally, I would wear my fake teeth, but I will not pull them out today. I will start by simply —

The SPEAKER: Can you start and get it over and done with quickly!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes, I will.

Just remember that you're standing on a planet that's evolving
And revolving at 900 miles an hour.
It's orbiting at 19 miles a second, so it's reckoned,
The sun that is the source of all our power.
Now the sun, and you and me, and all the stars that we can see,
Are moving at a million miles a day,
In the outer spiral arm, at 40,000 miles an hour,
Of a galaxy we call the Milky Way.

Our galaxy itself contains a hundred billion stars;
It's a hundred thousand light-years side to side;
It bulges in the middle sixteen thousand light-years thick,
But out by us it's just three thousand light-years wide.

The SPEAKER: Face the Chair!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Continuing —

We're thirty thousand light-years from Galactic Central Point,
We go 'round every two hundred million years;
And our galaxy itself is one of millions of billions
In this amazing and expanding universe.

Our universe itself keeps on expanding and expanding,
In all of the directions it can whiz —

The SPEAKER: Come on, member!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: In a minute!

The SPEAKER: The crayfish are waiting!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes —

As fast as it can go, at the speed of light, you know,
Twelve million miles a minute and that's the fastest speed there is.
So remember, when you're feeling very small and insecure,
How amazingly unlikely is your birth;
And pray that there's intelligent life somewhere out in space,
'Cause there's bugger all down here on Earth!

Merry Christmas, everyone!

[Applause.]

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Leader of the Opposition) [4.44 pm]: I honestly cannot follow that well. On behalf of the opposition, I support the motion and commend the song. There is no doubt that it has been a challenging year, perhaps more for our side, but I think members opposite have had their fair share of challenges. Of course, the year commenced with an election campaign and, as we know, a change of government. We have had robust debate across the chamber, none more so than today, but that is the nature of the chamber. We do share a common goal. We are at one being here to represent the people we were elected to represent and to make our state a better place.

On that note, I again congratulate the Premier and his colleagues, and I wish them a happy and safe Christmas, and that they return next year refreshed. I also take this opportunity to wish your staff well. I know ministers are reliant on their staff and they have been on a steep learning curve—many of them are new to the position—during a period of significant change. I know they are also here for the right reasons.

Mr David Templeman; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Mark McGowan; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Speaker

I thank you, Mr Speaker, for the courtesies—there have been many—that you have extended to the opposition during the year. I note, however, that you have been no more challenged than the former Speaker, particularly by a member of the former opposition who sat over there last year.

Mr I.C. Blayney: Who wouldn't shut up.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: He would not shut up. Of course when, you, Mr Speaker, were sitting over there in opposition, it would have given you a thorough understanding of the standing orders. I thank the Deputy Speaker, the member for Maylands, and the Acting Speakers for the work they have done. I particularly thank the staff of Parliament, truthfully; the Sergeant-at-Arms, the clerks, all the chamber staff, the staff throughout the house, the caterers, the gardeners, security and the cleaners. They do an absolutely magnificent job. They have had a big year preparing the place for a new Parliament and too many new members. The chamber staff have also been of great assistance to this side of the house, providing advice on standing orders, procedural matters, and all sorts of advice that we need to have. The staff throughout Parliament are welcoming, helpful and great ambassadors to the place. I must say that, as we know, one of the most pleasant things is when school groups from our electorates come in and the schoolkids parade around and are shown throughout Parliament. The history they are given is probably the best history lesson they get at school. It is a remarkable service. I thank all the staff and I am sure they will welcome and appreciate the break when the house returns in 75 days.

To my colleagues, adjusting from government to opposition is not fun or easy. Some members opposite went through the same experience in the distant past. I thank Liza, my deputy, for her support, as I do all my colleagues. I am grateful to all my colleagues for their support, counsel, advice and friendship that they have given me. I wish all my colleagues and everyone in the place, and their loved ones and staff, a happy, merry and safe Christmas. Our loved ones are great supports not only in our daily life, but also in our parliamentary life when we sit here over long hours. As we leave here on Friday or otherwise to go back to our electorates, they often do as much work as we do, which is not often acknowledged. I would like to acknowledge them on behalf of the Liberal Party. Likewise, our electorate staff do great work doing the heavy lifting while we are doing the heavy lifting here. Once again, I wish everyone associated with the Parliament—members and non-members—a very happy, healthy and safe Christmas and a magnificent 2018.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [4.48 pm]: I would also like to extend my best wishes to everyone—all members of this house and even the other house. I wish them all the very best for Christmas. Christmas is a great time to recover and recharge our batteries, deal with Christmas shopping, and get ourselves back in touch with families and friends after a long parliamentary year and a lot of work for all members of Parliament.

I begin my remarks by acknowledging the Leader of the House. I was going to do it at the end, but in light of his magnificent speech a moment ago, I thought it was worth acknowledging his efforts. It reminds me of my first term here and the valedictory speech of the then member for Kimberley, Ernie Bridge, who was sitting over probably where the member for Kalamunda is. He stood up at the end of the year 2000, delivered his valedictory speech with a guitar, and he sang some of his greatest hits from his many albums, one of which involved—it was a ringer-something; something about a ringer —

Mr J.E. McGrath: *Helicopter Ringer.*

Mr M. McGOWAN: *Helicopter Ringer!* He sang *Helicopter Ringer* up there, and it followed on from an earlier late night parliamentary sitting—we used to have late night parliamentary sittings then—when at about three in the morning he cried effusively, telling us about how his dog had recently died. He was an interesting character, and I can see the Leader of the House is rapidly heading in that direction!

Mr D.A. Templeman: But mine wasn't a valedictory speech, but it was still magnificent!

Mr M. McGOWAN: It was magnificent!

As I said, I pass on my goodwill to all members of Parliament. I particularly acknowledge all the new MPs in the house, of whom there are many. I hope the parliamentary experience has been rewarding and I hope you have found your feet. It is an interesting experience, coming from the outside and never being here before and learning the way it works; indeed, I think it takes some time to learn how it works because it is a very unstructured—I will put it that way—process that we go through in here that you cannot possibly understand unless you actually do it. I hope you are all enjoying it, I hope it has been a good experience, and I have been very impressed by lots of the contributions of the new MPs in this house.

To the former MPs who are not here to hear it, I would like to thank them for their service. Last year I was sitting over there, and when I made my Christmas remarks I said words to the effect, “Oh well, you know, thanks everyone for your contribution. We are about to go into an election. There's people who are here today who will

not be here in March next year through no fault of their own”, and the then member for Belmont was sitting there and she said, “Why are you looking at me?” Well, she had a point!

In this context, I also wish the very best to MPs who have had some personal difficulties. The member for Hillarys is not here; he has had some medical difficulties. The member for Vasse has had some family difficulties, and the member for Central Wheatbelt has had some family issues as well. I wish each and every one of those all the best for Christmas. No doubt this will be a more difficult Christmas for those members than other Christmases have been.

Can I particularly—I do not want to single out members because you get in trouble when you do that—mention the story told today by the Minister for Community Services about the member for Murray–Wellington. It was the most generous act of kindness and decency I have ever heard. To win a trip to Paris and give it away to someone you do not know who has been through a traumatic experience of breast cancer is just simply magnificent.

[Applause.]

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am sure we would all do exactly the same! But she is the one who did it, and so congratulations to you, member for Murray–Wellington. It is a lovely story.

I also acknowledge all the people who have played a role here, particularly the staff of the building. I cannot mention all the names, but all the staff of Parliament, my staff, the public sector workers in this place—the gardeners, the cleaners and the kitchen staff and the people who make the whole place work and often do not get acknowledgment. I particularly acknowledge those people. I acknowledge one former staff member. I went to the funeral of Vince La Galia. Those of us who have been here a while all knew and loved Vince. I went to his funeral this year; can I pass on my regards in this context to his family.

To the Leader of the Opposition, his staff and members of the opposition, I pass on my regards and best wishes for Christmas. I also pass on my regards to the Speaker of the house and the Deputy and Acting Speakers. Thank you for the service you provide. I pass on my Christmas regards to the families of MPs. Before their partners were pre-selected, they had someone who came home at night; now they have a husband, wife or partner who does not come home at night, is often out at weekends and drags the children off to fetes, sporting events or the like. They go through a lot, and it is an adjustment process to have a family member who is suddenly not there anymore because parliamentary and political business drags them away all the time. I particularly acknowledge those family members. Thank you to all family members for their support and forbearance to their partners and spouses undertaking this role.

I acknowledge the press. The press drinks are shortly about to go on. The Leader of the House and I were discussing it earlier, but we look forward to the press drinks. I hope some of the press are out there currently. If they are, we are going up to their offices to take photos of empty chairs and publish those to demonstrate that they are not doing their jobs—they are out there drinking. While the important work of the house is going on, it is not being reported, Mr Speaker. At least the Leader of the House is going to do that!

I thank the people of Western Australia for electing the government. I thank them for the important trust and responsibility they have placed in me, the ministers and the government members of Parliament. I thank the broader Labor Party and Labor movement for their support. The first 70 days of this year were a very trying, traumatic, difficult and demanding time in my life, and indeed the few months after that were very demanding as well, getting used to this role. It is an important responsibility, and I never underestimate it and never take it for granted. So to the people of Western Australia, I thank you for your support. I wish everyone across Western Australia all the best for a happy and safe Christmas.

[Applause.]

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the National Party) [4.56 pm]: I rise very briefly because I am conscious that drinks are taking place in the courtyard. I wish to add on behalf of the National Party our thanks to everyone in this house for the work that they do to keep it running. To you, Mr Speaker, and your Deputy and Acting Speakers, it has been an interesting year—thank you for not throwing me out!

The SPEAKER: I still have time! I still have time!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: We will work hard to make sure that we do not give you cause to call us as many times next year! It has been a learning curve for us all, and we appreciate the work you and your deputies do.

To the Clerk—Kirsten and your team—we really appreciate the support that we get in this chamber, and of course to Hansard who make us sound far more sensible than sometimes we are in this place. It is wonderful to have the support of the very conscientious team working away while we are here. Thanks to the Parliamentary Services Department corporate management team, to security, to the dining room staff, to everyone who makes this place a really wonderful and special place to work. I know we are here every day, but when you have visitors who come into this place, you are reminded just how special it is. It is special because of the people who work here and make

it that way, and we are always made to feel welcome by the staff. They work just as long hours, if not longer than us, in this place at times.

To my colleagues in the National Party, thank you for your support throughout this year in the role as Leader of the National Party both here and to my colleagues in the Legislative Council, of which I was previously a member. To the Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition and your team, well done; it has been a learning curve this year for everyone in this place. I look forward to continuing to work alongside you and your team as we do our job in this place, as we have been put here to do.

To the Premier, his cabinet and the new members of this place, well done. It is an enormous task, and I have absolutely no doubt that everyone is looking forward to spending some time with their friends and family. I would suggest that that is exactly the right thing to do. My advice to everyone in this place is that family is the most important thing, and do not forget that. As new members it is very beguiling and very easy to spend time doing things that you will never think about again after you walk out of this place. That is my advice as someone who has been here for a short time compared with others, but it is very important to take the time, particularly after a year like we have had this year, to spend with family and friends.

To my office staff who have worked incredibly hard and to all our electorate office staff out in the regions of Western Australia, we could not do our roles without you. As someone mentioned previously, our electorate office staff are essentially us when we are not in the house and they deal with an enormous amount. As members of Parliament, we could not function without them.

My parting comment is that I am sure many members will be heading to regional Western Australia for holidays at some point over the festive season. I wish you all the very best. Enjoy our beautiful state. Drive safely on our roads, make sure you come home to your family and friends, and we look forward to seeing you next year.

MRS K. L'ESTRANGE (Churchlands) [5.00 pm]: It is my pleasure to wrap up. The Leader of the House opened with these Christmas best wishes and I, as the manager of opposition business, get to close. There will not be a song, Leader of the Opposition or Premier; I apologise! I try to perform on occasions in this place and hopefully members get to enjoy that at times.

One of the things that we as a team in opposition have had to adjust to very quickly—many of us have never been in opposition before; this is a first—is being elevated into positions of opposition responsibility. When some people on our side of politics talk to us outside, they say, “We’re noticing that you guys are moving up the ladder very quickly in your organisation in politics.” The collective answer more often than not is, “There are not many people left on that ladder!” For us, it has been very much a learning curve this year. We have all worked very well as a team.

As the manager of opposition business, I thank the Premier and the Deputy Premier. I pay particular thanks to the Leader of the House, who, with the government Whip, the member for Balcatta, our Whip and I often get together in the corridors to try to work through how the day will play out. Sometimes the Leader of the House will keep his cards close to his chest and sometimes I will be forced to keep my cards close to my chest by the leadership team on this side. On the whole, more often than not we have managed to get things done pretty effectively and smoothly with regard to the operation of the house. I thank you for your cooperation and support there.

As has been mentioned by many others here, I would also like to thank the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the National Party for all the work they do, particularly on this side of the chamber. Of course, to government members and non-government members of Parliament, particularly all the new members, no doubt it has been a big year for you all. The Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Acting Speakers, the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and all of the parliamentary staff deserve our gratitude for the effort that they go to to try to help this place work as smoothly and effectively as it can on behalf of the people of Western Australia. I think we all remember that Parliament does have a very important role to play in our state’s democracy. It is an important place to keep running smoothly.

I, too, would like to reiterate a thankyou on behalf of all of us to our electorate officers and research officers. Many of our electorate office staff pretty quickly took on the role of being a shadow ministerial adviser, some with up to five portfolios. When they were a government research officer or an electorate officer, they could just focus on local electorate issues. Suddenly in opposition they are not only doing that, but are also covering off as a principal policy adviser for shadow ministers on any number of things. An enormous amount of work goes into that. I am sure we all thank them very much for the efforts that they go to.

I thank the fourth estate for their efforts in trying to massage the public agenda on occasions with regard to what is important to the people of WA. They, too, have a relationship with all of us in this place. We all work collectively towards getting good outcomes for the state.

Again to the new members: the speeches and the interjections we have heard in this place throughout the year have been interesting. Some new members of Parliament are noisier than others; some are less irritating than others. On the whole, it has been fun to hear their contributions throughout the year on the many different topics that we have

Mr David Templeman; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Mark McGowan; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Speaker

had. One of the things that I have observed throughout the year is that some of these new members are propelling themselves forward. They are very keen to advance themselves, and others are very quietly keeping their powder dry; they are not jumping out in a hurry. We will wait and see how they go next year. Certainly, from our side, it is always interesting to see government members interacting with the government ministers because we were there once. I wish you all the very best with your endeavours.

Likewise with everyone else, a big thankyou to our families and friends for supporting us throughout the year. There is no doubt that they need that type of thanks. I reiterate the point of everybody so far—that is, taking some time out. Probably the only time of the year that politicians get downtime is Christmas–New Year. That is when members of the public do not want to talk politics! We get a natural break between Christmas and New Year. No doubt all of you will take the time to spend some quality time with family and friends over that period to recharge the batteries, to set yourselves some goals and New Year's resolutions, and come back fighting fit and ready for another parliamentary year. One down; three to go—they do go very quickly. I often think of parliamentary terms like dog years. I wish everybody the very best for the Christmas festive break and look forward to seeing you all back next year.

THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson): Thank you, members. They save the best till last, and here I go! Being a member for 17 years now, especially a country member, coming to this Parliament is like visiting your family. You are away a lot of the time. These people in the background, not necessarily in the chamber, do a tremendous job. I am going to mention most of them now. I do not want this to sound as though I am being crass; I will do it for the first of my four speeches.

Mr J.E. McGrath: Will you send them all a letter?

The SPEAKER: No, I will not send them all a letter.

I think these people are part of our community of Parliament. When we come through the front door, anything you want done, they will do. It is a family. I am going to mention the backroom family. First of all, I would like to thank the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Kirsten Robinson—the pocket rocket. Kirsten always has my back—she probably has the back of my knee! She is a very loyal person and her knowledge of the Parliament is fantastic. I also thank Scott Nalder, the Deputy Clerk. I will run through the rest of the list: Liz Kerr; Mathew Bates; Isla Macphail, the Sergeant-at-Arms, whom it is always good to have in front of me; executive assistant to the Clerk, Anne Day; my executive assistant, Jaclyn Berry; my steward, Anna Murphy; Rachel Wells; Daniel Govus; Denis Hippolyte; Alison O'Shaughnessy; Maddison Barnsby; and Nik Carbone.

I thank from the committee office: Patricia Woodcock, Pamela Clarke, Glen Whitting, Franchesca Walker, Dr Amy Lampard, Dr David Worth, Lachlan Gregory, Dr Sarah Palmer, Jovita Hogan, Jeannine Purdy, Marion Huntly, Michele Chiasson, Renee Gould, Alison Sharpe, Vanessa Beckingham, Timothy Hughes, Dr Kyle Heritage, Michael Burton, and our two Parliamentary Fellows whom we are all very proud of in Parliament, Professor David Black and Dr Harry Phillips.

The Parliamentary Services Department does a tremendous amount of work keeping the Parliament and its buildings going. I thank Rob Hunter and his team of Patricia Traegde, Belinda Corey, Katherine Galvin and Melanie Hackett.

Building Services keeps this building operating. It is run by Hugh McCaffrey, Vicki Patterson, David-Lee Canham, Rick Lees, Joe Fenech, Joe Lubout, David Boag, Ashley Buddee, Graeme Cuttriss, Paul Tupanceski and Luisa Silva.

I thank Catering Services: Enno Schijf; dining room manager, Mark Gabrielli; Roger Mouttet; the President's steward, Deb Kapoor, who always gives me grief; and waitpersons David Griffiths, Aggie Lipari, Paddy Loney, Simon Doyle, Stephen Shepherd, Jacqueline Brownhill, Julia Cukrov, Megan Baker, Roslyn Haynes, Caterina Zoccoli, Madeleine Lewis, Maria Ogden, Jill Yim, Lee Humphrey, Anthony James, Mark Winstanley, Brett Barrett, Mark Bore, Preston Anderson—shame about his footy team!—Andrew Arnold, Amy Dombroski, Keith Barker, Dalia Bonfanti, Michael O'Sullivan, Aaron Ross, Carlos Goncalves, Meghan Walker, Jo Stankovic, Mitchell Peirce, Thomas Hastings, Jennifer Stewart, Eden Ellis, Greg Craib, Colleen See and Christine Gellatly.

In Finance, I thank the chief finance officer, Elma Ozich, who keeps the money ticking over for us and does a tremendous job. I thank Cathy Yang, Donna Crossan-Peacock, Sandra Petrie, Jasmine Terzic, Tony Baltovich, Roxanne Griffiths, Julie McKenna and Louise Summers. In Human Resources, I thank the manager Tina Hunter and her team Sally Morgillo and Greg Jackson, the payroll officer. In Information Technology, I thank the manager John Buchanan, Stefan Urlus, Rai Janardan, Bryan VanderVinne, senior desk officer Brayden Arnold, Darren Woulfe, David Graham and Ryan Hardie. In Library and Information Services, I thank Judy Ballantyne and her team Andrew Lewis, Kyley Felix, Russell Hamilton, Marko Kanban, Simona Milea, Venessa Irwin, Jennifer Weiland, Julie Bertola, Tina Beale, Janet Hocken in the reference section, and Niamh Corbett in library, media and education services. The Parliamentary Education team do a tremendous job with the young children who come through here. I thank Peter Dooley, Sarah Smith, Michael Loney, Cherie Toovey, Tina Beale and

Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 30 November 2017]

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Mr David Templeman; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Mark McGowan; Ms Mia Davies; Mr Sean L'Estrange; Speaker

Ben Machowiak. Reception Services is the front line. I thank Stephanie Nguyen, Michelle Heah and Rebecca Sofield.

Hansard are the ones who make us look good. They have been making me look good for 17 years—not that they needed to! I thank the manager Laurie Mansell and the team of Belinda Andrews, Penny Walkaden, Zoe Cunningham, Darby Evans, Giles Johnson, Heather Willan, Alison Colgan, Bryce Moore, Olivier Breton, Jacqui Allan, Sandra Stockman, Geraldine O'Loughlin, Barbara Pickett, Caroline Van Beelen, Denise van de Velde, Melissa Pilkington, Kylie Wild, Judith Baverstock, Elaine Johnson, Wendy Wells, Amanda Simpson, Liam Coffey, Kelly Gregory, Emily Hewitt, Stina Thomas, Zoe Chambers, and Simon Evans. I thank broadcast operators Christopher Hetherington, Fred Akamatis, James Barker, David Embry, Geoff Miethe, Graeme Orr and Leslie Beck.

I thank our security guys. We come here every day and they are always here to look after us. I thank Tony Paterson, Andrew Harland, Basil Georgiou, Charles Vitnell, Constantine Garaba, Douglas Murcott, John Browne, Lance Rosich and Peter Boyd.

These are the people behind the scenes. They are part of our parliamentary family. I will not mention them every year because I will run out of breath and I will be a year older. We come to Parliament and everything is ready and we just slot into our jobs. For country members, they are members of the family. Some of these people have been here for as long as me.

Mr J.E. McGrath: And the city members.

The SPEAKER: And the city members—but especially for country members. The city members go home at night but we go home to an empty place. Have a little bit of sympathy for us country guys. It has been a tremendous year. The only bad thing is that we lost our good mate Vince La Galia. People who have been here for any period of time know he was a wonderful man. He whistled down the passageway, talked to everyone, knew everything, and knew every lady in the Parliament. He was a very Italian ladies' man. He will be sadly missed.

I will say what everyone else has said here today. It has been a tremendous year for the Parliament. Obviously, it is very hard to come into opposition. Some members on this side of the house have found it very hard to be in government. Sometimes when I sit up here I think: that is the opposition and that is the government. It is a real transition. I thank my Deputy Speaker Lisa Baker and my Acting Speakers, who do a great job. To everyone here, just remember, as the member for Churchlands said, this is the time to be with your family. Family is very important. Members have lost family members through the year. Make the most of it because this is a job that can take over your life. You have to spend the time you can with your family because this is not the be-all and end-all. You have to work, but always put your family and your health first. My best wishes go to the member for Hillarys, who is not in the best of health. My thoughts also go out to the Leader of the National Party for what she is going through at the moment.

Members, it has been a great year. Congratulations to everyone. Congratulations to the members who did not get re-elected. Sometimes you can work your heart out and still not get re-elected. Some very good people left the chamber but it is great to see all the new young people and maybe middle-aged people who have come in now.

Mr J.E. McGrath: Make him stop—no more!

The SPEAKER: No more? There was always a chatterbox in this corner when I was in opposition. The member for South Perth has taken that over with a vengeance, but his voice is not loud enough to carry. Unfortunately, mine did. That is enough. Have a happy Christmas and a very safe new year, everyone. God bless!

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.15 pm
