



Speech by

Hon. RAY HOLLIS

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Hansard 28 July 1998

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, it is indeed a great honour to be elected by my fellow parliamentarians to the office of Speaker. I thank this Parliament for electing me to this high office and I take this opportunity to thank those members who proposed and seconded me for this position and for the kind words expressed by members in relation to my selection as Speaker, particularly those by the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Leader of the Opposition.

You can be sure that I have big shoes to fill. Neil Turner as the Speaker in this place is a hard act to follow. I hope that I emulate what he did during the time that he was in this chair by showing the same fairness to all sides of Parliament and being as impartial as he was.

When first elected as a member of the Forty-sixth Parliament in 1989, I spent much of my time in this chair as a Temporary Chairman. It was a great learning experience and it gave me excellent preparation for the task ahead of me in this the Forty-ninth Parliament. During the years that I have been a member of this Assembly, I have escorted many groups from my electorate through the hallowed hallways of this place. It has been with immense pride that I have extolled its time-honoured traditions to my constituents and expressed the honour of being a member of this fine establishment.

As Speaker, I ask that all members be fully aware of the high-profile role of a member of Parliament. The eyes of Australia will be focused on this Parliament, and if we are to restore public faith in the parliamentary process it is important that we strive to maintain a standard of dignity and statesmanship. Your cooperation in these matters will be of the utmost importance.

To the 25 new members of this Parliament, welcome. You can always be assured that the Speaker's door will be open to you at any time. Thank you again for the honour and the privilege conferred upon me today.
