



Speech by

Hon. RAY HOLLIS

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, it is the highest privilege amongst parliamentarians to be the Speaker. It is, indeed, a great honour to be elected by my colleagues to continue in this high office. I commence by thanking the parliament, especially those who proposed and seconded me to the House, the Premier and the Deputy Premier, and also the Leader of the Opposition for his kind words.

It is a great thrill to be the Speaker of the 50th parliament, an historic parliament in many ways. Honourable members, we are all charged with the great honour of being members of the 50th parliament, which commences in the year 2001 when Australia also celebrates the centenary of Federation. From this chair, one learns a lot about members, about this great state, and one learns a lot about the great history and beauty of this building and its surrounds.

In my previous term as Speaker, I initiated many activities to improve and promote the parliamentary precinct and its buildings. Every gate to the parliament is now open, giving that welcoming appearance to citizens and to visitors. I have endeavoured to improve the look of the parliament and its historic significance by the hanging of portraits and artworks and the display of artefacts relevant to the history of this place. I hope that members will continue to support me in continuing this agenda, and I consequently encourage all members to learn more about the history of this institution and the privilege of being a member of this parliament. Beyond these precincts I further commit to continue improving and promoting the ability of members to serve their electorates and the community at large via the provision of functional electorate offices and the support of the excellent staff of this parliament.

In 1998 the Premier and others called for a better standard of behaviour in this place. I believe that great improvements were achieved during the last parliament. However, we should all be aware that this is a public forum and that people in the galleries, particularly students, leave with a lasting impression of what they observe on their visit. This view often remains with them for the rest of their lives. If members ever fail to check themselves, I will remind them all sternly to uphold the best parliamentary standards. From time to time Speakers will do things that even majorities, no matter how large, do not like. So be it. Members are warned that that is my role.

To the 31 new members of this parliament, may I bid you welcome. You can always be assured that the Speaker's door will be open to you at any time. I again thank you all for the honour and privilege conferred upon me today.
