



Speech by

**Hon. RAY HOLLIS**

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Hansard 16 March 2004

#### **ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am honoured to be chosen as the member to fill the high and honourable office of the Speaker of the Queensland parliament. It is the highest privilege amongst parliamentarians to be the Speaker. It is 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.

In my previous term as Speaker, I initiated many activities to improve the parliamentary precinct and these buildings. Major changes have taken place on level 5 of the Annexe, with the conference room and the media room now completely refurbished. I was pleased to launch the Wall of Reconciliation on level 5 and accept the first beautiful artwork *Celestial Gathering* on behalf of the parliament. The front entrance of the Annexe has been refurbished. This will improve the safety and security of the precinct for members and its staff. The outward appearance of the old House has been refreshed as stone work continues into this year.

Outside of the precinct I was pleased to be Speaker of the first regional parliament and look forward to leading the Parliamentary Service and members to the second regional parliament in this new term. There are many other initiatives which have already been implemented in the 51st parliament. I am pleased to present all members with a laptop computer for the first time and facilitate the use of laptops in this chamber. This ensures that parliament is keeping up with the technology so that members are well equipped to do their jobs.

The Queensland parliament will also be the host of the first Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Youth Parliament held outside of the United Kingdom. This will take place in 2005, and I am very proud that we can facilitate such a prestigious event.

I remind all members that this is a public forum and we should all be aware that our behaviour will leave a lasting impression on those who view the parliament from the gallery or on the Internet. If members ever fail to check themselves, I will remind them to uphold the best parliamentary standards. All Speakers will do things that even majorities do not like, but that is my role. To the 13 new members of this parliament, can I offer you my welcome as well. You can be assured that my door is open to you at any time. Again, I thank you all for the honour and the privilege conferred on me today.