



## Premier of Western Australia

### MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA HON COLIN BARNETT MLA

Once again, Lyn and I are honoured to be able to contribute to the Foundation Day service at the Savoy Chapel, albeit from a considerable distance.

While there is much to report on since I proffered my last message, it would be 'un-West Australian' to not begin with an update on local sporting achievements - namely the rise and rise of the Fremantle Dockers. I don't wish to detract from our other football ambassadors, The Eagles; however, it is a sporting milestone in our great State when a side that has laboured for so long now finds itself in second position on the AFL ladder (even though it is technically equal first with Geelong).

Despite Australian Rules being one of our leading sporting preoccupations – our other local sporting achievements should not go unnoticed. Namely, the Perth Wildcats becoming the National Basketball League Series Champions for 2010. As the steelwork for Perth Arena's moving roof sits in its final position, I can only hope that we see the team play regularly (and win many more championships) at this world-class venue.

For the expatriots at today's service, I am certain that you would be astounded by the rapidity of change to our city's skyline. Not only is construction of the new Arena capturing people's attention, but we are almost ready to open the doors of one of the most eco-friendly designed buildings in Australia, on the same site where the iconic Boans Department Store used to be.

While the city is growing and adapting to the demands of an ever-increasing population, the North West part of the State is continuing to benefit from funding allocations aimed at revitalising local communities. The North West and Mid West undoubtedly remain focal points for current and future State development, despite challenges arising from sustained fallout in global financial markets and the recent plan to impose special taxes on the country's mining operators.

On the economic front, I am proud to announce the achievement of a budget surplus in the current and upcoming financial years. This means greater certainty with regard to future economic growth and, most importantly, gives us the ability to improve systems and services so as to ensure we meet the varying needs and expectations of all in our community. The latter might be considered a 'tall order', given the hardship faced (in recent times) by families, seniors and people trying to develop and maintain small business operations – but I firmly believe that by having a strong focus on building capacity in our public and community sectors, we can fulfil this important goal.

Although life in office presents its fair share of setbacks as well as triumphs, it is at times such as this - when I am able to think about those first few officials who were charged with the task of creating laws for the peace, order and good government of Western Australia – that I realise how far we have come and how much we have to be proud of. In fact, I am especially looking forward to showcasing our wonderful city and State, when we host leaders from all of the Commonwealth nations at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, to be held in October of next year.

I hope this year's religious service affords each and every one of you the opportunity to reflect on what Foundation Day means to you – from the historic (initial) meeting of cultures, to the transformation of our cultural, social and economic heritage, as we know it today. Both Lyn and I share these reflections with you, and wish you all a wonderful year ahead.

God bless.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Barnett', written in a cursive style.

Colin Barnett MLA  
**PREMIER**

- 4 JUN 2010