

**PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

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**FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

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**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OF THE**

**JOINT SITTING**

**OF THE**

**HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT OF THE STATE OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 24 MARCH 2022**

**TO**

**CHOOSE A PERSON TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CAUSED BY THE RESIGNATION OF  
THE HONOURABLE DONALD THOMAS HARWIN**

HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 22D OF THE  
CONSTITUTION ACT 1902

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Ordered to be printed, 24 March 2022

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**PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

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**JOINT SITTING OF THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT OF THE STATE OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES TO CHOOSE A PERSON TO FILL THE VACANCY  
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THE HONOURABLE DONALD THOMAS HARWIN**

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**THURSDAY 24 MARCH 2022**

The members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly met in the Legislative Council Chamber at 10.30 am.

**1. MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR**

The President directed the Clerk of the Parliaments to read the following message from Her Excellency the Governor convening the joint sitting. The message read as follows:

MARGARET BEAZLEY AO QC  
Governor

MESSAGE

I, the Honourable MARGARET BEAZLEY AO QC, in pursuance of the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the State of New South Wales, do hereby convene a joint sitting of the Members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of the election of a person to fill the seat in the Legislative Council vacated by the Honourable Don Harwin, and I do hereby announce and declare that such Members shall assemble for such purpose on Thursday the 24th day of March 2022 at 10.30 am in the building known as the Legislative Council Chamber situated in Macquarie Street in the City of Sydney; and the Members of the Legislative Council and the Members of the Legislative Assembly are hereby required to give their attendance at the said time and place accordingly.

In order that the Members of both Houses of Parliament may be duly informed of the convening of the joint sitting, I have this day addressed a like message to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Office of the Governor  
Sydney, 23 March 2022

The Honourable the  
President of the  
Legislative Council

**2. PERSON PROPOSED TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CAUSED BY THE RESIGNATION OF THE HONOURABLE DONALD THOMAS HARWIN**

The President announced that he was now prepared to receive proposals with regard to an eligible person to fill the vacant seat in the Legislative Council caused by the resignation of the Honourable Donald Thomas Harwin.

Mr Christopher Dennis Rath was proposed by the Honourable Stuart Ayres MP. Mr Ayres moved: That Mr Christopher Dennis Rath be elected as a member of the Legislative Council to fill the seat in the Legislative Council previously vacated by the Honourable Donald Thomas Harwin. Mr Ayres stated that if Mr Christopher Dennis Rath were a member of the Legislative Council he would not be disqualified from sitting or voting as such a member, and that he is a member of the same party, The Liberal Party of Australia, New South Wales Division, as the Honourable Donald Thomas Harwin was publicly recognised by as being an endorsed candidate of that party and who publicly represented himself to be such a candidate at the time of his election at the eleventh periodic council election held on 28 March 2015. Mr Ayres further indicated that the person being proposed would be willing to hold the vacant place if chosen.

The Honourable Damien Tudehope MLC, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council seconded the motion.

The President inquired if any member desired to propose any other eligible person to fill the vacancy.

No other person being proposed, the President declared Mr Christopher Dennis Rath to be elected as a member of the Legislative Council to fill the seat previously vacated by the Honourable Donald Thomas Harwin.

The President, at 10.39 am, declared the joint sitting closed.



David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments