

## **A Christmas message to the House – 22 November 2007**

**Mr PEDERICK** (Hammond) (17:14): I wish everyone in this place a Merry Christmas. I acknowledge the deputy leader's kind words.

Working with the Opposition Whip has been another year of learning. Even though we differ on barley marketing and several other things, we seem to be professional enough to be able to work together.

I also acknowledge the Government Whip and deputy whip on the other side. We worked together very well last year in my learning year, and I always appreciate the assistance I get from the other side. With the Minister for Transport, when I have had to chat to him about what the hell is going on because I cannot find a whip for whatever reason, we have managed to sort something out. It is certainly good to have a dialogue.

We all do not want to be here any longer than we need to be.

An honourable member: Are you going to retire?

Mr PEDERICK: No; I am not retiring. It would shock my wife far too much if I made a statement like that tonight. It is good to see that, although we do have a go at each other across the chamber, we can work together to get the business done. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and let's get on with it next year.