



Premier of Western Australia

MESSAGE FROM HON COLIN BARNETT MLA PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

It is with pleasure that I extend my best wishes to Muslim Western Australians on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha celebrations.

This is a significant celebration for the Muslim community, which marks the end of the Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca) and commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son as an act of total submission to God.

Western Australia is home to people from more than 190 countries, speaking approximately 270 languages and dialects. Western Australians follow more than 130 religious faiths.

Our State prides itself on providing an opportunity for all people to make a peaceful and productive future for themselves and their families, regardless of cultural, linguistic or religious background. Yet recent events overseas and elsewhere in Australia lead us to reflect on this belief.

Muslim Western Australians are productive and valued citizens in our community and have a long and successful history of settlement and contribution to Australia.

Muslim Western Australians are an integral part of our society. They raise families, are active in the workforce, attend schools and universities, pay taxes and lead typically Australian lives.

The vast majority of Western Australian Muslims are exemplary members of the community and an asset to this State.

It is important to distinguish between the peaceful beliefs of the majority of Muslims and the malicious interpretations of a minority. A minority of individuals with dangerous and discredited beliefs do not define the religious teachings of a whole community.

Criminals who commit atrocities in the name of Islam are overwhelmingly condemned by the wider Muslim community as an abomination against Islamic teachings.

As Premier, I wholeheartedly support this condemnation and reiterate that this unwarranted fear has been created by a disproportionate and unrepresentative minority.

We cannot afford to let hatred develop in our society and the State Government has zero tolerance for racial vilification and the inciting of hatred.

The State Government is committed to the safety and security of all, and advocating to the wider community that WA's Muslim community continues to be a welcome and productive part of our society.

I would like to reassure Muslims living in Western Australia that Western Australia respects your faith, your culture and your customs.

I wish all Muslim Western Australians—and indeed Muslims in Australia and across the globe—a happy Eid and convey my very best wishes for the festivities.

Eid Mubarak!

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

Colin Barnett MLA
PREMIER