



**UNORTHODOX:** Legislative Council president Ron Roberts in front of his portrait which was unveiled yesterday. Picture: MARK BRAKE

## A political spark

**GREG KELTON**  
STATE POLITICAL REPORTER

**LEGISLATIVE** Council President Ron Roberts is proud of his heritage as an electrician.

He even has a pair of pliers in his official presidential portrait unveiled yesterday.

Each presiding officer of the Upper House – all 16 – has a usually very formal portrait hung in the corridors of Parliament House.

Mr Roberts' was painted by Daryl Austin from Greenaway Gallery. "Every one of the 16 presidents has had their portraits painted and I thought it was a bit pretentious," Mr Roberts said.

As the only one of the 16 who was "a tradesman" he decided to keep the pliers in the painting because "I still regard myself as an electrician involved in politics".

Mr Roberts faces an uphill battle for a winnable spot on Labor's Upper House ticket next March.