



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTIETH PARLIAMENT
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 9 November 2017

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson) took the chair at 9.00 am, and read prayers.

INSURANCE PREMIUMS — PILBARA

Petition

MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara) [9.01 am]: I have a petition that has been certified as conforming with the standing orders of the Assembly. It has 15 signatures, and there are 150 signatures on a nonconforming petition. It reads as follows —

To the Honourable Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled:

We, the undersigned, say that the high (and ever-increasing) insurance premiums for home, contents and strata insurance in the Pilbara are excessive, and are putting strain on local families and businesses who are trying to make ends meet during difficult economic times.

Now we respectfully ask the Legislative Assembly to advocate, on behalf of long-suffering Pilbara residents, for a cap on insurance premiums for homes and businesses that are certified under appropriate Australian building codes to withstand cyclones and other weather-events that increase the costs of our premiums.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

[See petition 27.]

PAPERS TABLED

Papers were tabled and ordered to lie upon the table of the house.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE FORCE — EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Police

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland — Minister for Police) [9.03 am]: Every day, many of Western Australia's police officers go above and beyond to protect and serve our community. I would like to update the house on the upcoming Western Australia Police Excellence Awards, which will recognise some of those outstanding officers and police teams. The awards are a joint partnership between Channel Nine Perth and the WA Police Force and recognise police officers who demonstrate exceptional dedication in service excellence to the people of Western Australia. This year, 153 nominations were received from members of the public and members of the WA Police Force in either the individual or team categories. The awards are judged by a panel of senior police and sponsor representatives on the criteria of excellence in a policing role; the WA Police Force values of honesty, respect, fairness, empathy, accountability and openness; and raising the community's confidence in policing. In the individual category, the finalists are Sergeant Jeremy Fricker, of Laverton Police Station; Sergeant Rachel Greene, of Wembley Police Station; and Detective Sergeant Gina Horch, of Karratha Detectives. In the police team category, the finalists are the Midland CBD team, Ravensthorpe Police Station and Wyndham Police Station. The award winners will be announced on Thursday, 7 December.

Members of the WA Police Force put their lives on the line time and again in the course of their duty. I am always supportive of our police receiving the public recognition that they deserve for their commitment, and I thank Channel Nine and the other sponsors for their support of this initiative. I am sure the house will join the government in congratulating these finalists.

Members: Hear, hear!

KOKODA TRACK CAMPAIGN — SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by Minister for Veterans Issues

MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee — Minister for Veterans Issues) [9.05 am]: Seventy-five years ago today, Australian forces were in the middle of the final battle in the Kokoda Track campaign, the battle of Oivi-Gorari. This final battle of the Kokoda Track campaign took place from 11 November to 16 November, and allowed a joint offensive with the US 32nd Division to later advance on and secure the beachheads. The Kokoda campaign is an important part of the Australian story for a number of reasons. The Japanese forces had landed on the north of what was then the Australian Territory of Papua, with a plan to advance overland to Port Moresby. This was the first time Australia had been directly threatened by an invading force and it was the first time in our history that

our soldiers were effectively directly defending Australia. It was also the first time that the militia saw direct action. The Australian forces stationed in Papua were the Civilian Military Force, which was made up primarily of volunteer militiamen, with the balance being conscripts—some 26 years after Billy Hughes started the conscription debate in Australia.

Although the campaign was primarily an Australian affair, we must also point out the significance on the campaign of the Battle of Midway, in which the US Navy took out most of the nearby projection capability of the Japanese Navy. Also deserving of recognition during the Kokoda campaign were those people affectionately called the fuzzy wuzzy angels. This was the name given by the Aussie soldiers to Papuan carriers, whose two primary functions were to port supplies up to the front line and carry the wounded Australian troops back down the track during the campaign. Many Australian diggers owe their lives to the care given to them by the fuzzy wuzzy angels. Fittingly on the final sitting day before Remembrance Day, I wish to commemorate all those Australian soldiers involved in the Kokoda Track campaign 75 years ago, and especially the more than 600 men who paid the ultimate price. Lest we forget!

GERALDTON SOBERING UP CENTRE

Grievance

MR I.C. BLAYNEY (Geraldton) [9.07 am]: I wish to grieve to the Minister for Mental Health about the provision of the sobering-up shelter in Geraldton. I will start by reading a couple of bits out of the press release that was released on 26 November 2002 by Bob Kucera, who was the minister at the time, to mark the beginning of construction of the 16-bed Geraldton Sobering Up Centre. The press release states —

“Intoxicated men and women found in public places will be taken to the facility by either the police or the Yamatji patrol to sober-up overnight, shower and have a meal before leaving.”

...

“It is expected that the provision of this service will help break the negative cycle of alcohol-induced harm and reduce disorderly behaviour and domestic violence,” he said.

Mr Kucera went on to thank, and I will acknowledge here, the then member for Geraldton, Shane Hill, for the work he did towards establishing the service. The article also states —

The Geraldton Sobering Up Shelter is the 13th shelter to be built in WA as a result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody ...

So I was a bit surprised and disappointed when I received a letter the other day from the Mental Health Commission, which said —

I am writing to provide you with the outcome of the 2017/18 Budget process and the impact on the Mental Health Commission’s ... mental health, alcohol and other drug services agreements.

It goes on further to say —

An outcome of the MHC’s Budget review process identified that the service agreement between the MHC and Hope Community Services Ltd for the provision of the Geraldton Sobering Up Service will cease as of 31 December 2017. The MHC recognises that the closure of the Geraldton Sobering Up Service will affect the people who utilise the service, the staff and the stakeholders. The MHC has met with Hope Community Services to develop a communication strategy and will plan, as much as possible, to limit the impact of the closure especially on the small group of clients who regularly use the service.

Hope Community Services has a frequently asked questions section for its employees on its website, and it reads —

1 Why are these redundancies occurring?

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) has advised HOPE that it intends to cease funding of the Geraldton Sobering Up Service on 31 December 2017.

The MHC has advised that the Government requested the MHC identify budget savings from its current funded services as part of the 17/18 state budget process.

The SUC was reviewed against the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Plan 2015–2018 and it was determined by the MHC that its continued funding was not seen as a high priority. Furthermore, the cost of running the service was seen as high compared with other sobering up services across WA.

Despite the MHC’s acknowledgement that the closure of the service will negatively impact both clients and staff, it still felt it was a necessary decision in the current budgetary climate.

The other day, Hon Jim Chown, a member for the Agricultural Region, asked some questions about this issue on my behalf in the other place, and I acknowledge his assistance. We were advised that the Geraldton Sobering Up Centre had 1 415 admissions in 2016–17, which represents, on average, seven people a day, and an occupancy rate of

38 per cent. The service employs four permanent workers, three of whom are full-time and the other is part-time. There are two long-term casual workers in a further pool of five people who work shifts. In 2016–17, the Mental Health Commission provided \$512 826 to fund the Geraldton Sobering Up Centre. Funding for 2017–18 will be \$256 000, which will be paid pro rata for the period 1 July to 31 December 2017. There was a fair bit of community consternation when news got out about the centre's closure. I received an email from Deborah Green, who is also known as Yungaji, and she has given me permission to read it today. She writes —

Dear Mr Blayney,

I have recently become aware of news regarding Geraldton's Sober Up Centre. It has come to my attention that the centre will be closing down at the end of the year. Sober Up Centre is a service a number of Yamatji people use to ensure they have somewhere safe to sleep when they are intoxicated. It is an alternative to the Geraldton lockup and hospital. The service provides beds, a meal and an option to clean up, dignifying assistance that otherwise may not be available to them. I personally advocate for the sober up centre to stay open as in the past, a very close family member of mine could have lived longer or at least died with some dignity, though instead he died in a park on a slab of cement alone because he had nowhere to go to, nowhere to sleep while he was intoxicated. This is just one story of many that prove and shout out for the need of sober up centres here in Geraldton and many other regional towns. I hope you as our local member for Geraldton take this situation seriously as I believe there could be a death of a very vulnerable person who is not only Aboriginal but homeless with a chronic alcohol disease. They are the main users of this service. I believe this service has saved so many lives already.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns as a local Yamatji.

Yours faithfully

Yungaji/Deborah Green

We all know that sobering-up services help people with entrenched mental health and alcohol addiction issues. Importantly, it is a place that police can take intoxicated people to, knowing that they will receive basic medical care and monitoring rather than just being locked up in a police cell, and it is also an alternative to people presenting at hospital, where they can be disruptive to other patients. Where does this leave us? Will the Geraldton police simply go back to putting intoxicated people in cells and we will wait for a death in custody and then blame the police for it? Will they simply be left on the streets? Will they make an already busy emergency department at Geraldton Hospital even busier? It is a step backwards. I wonder about election payback, but maybe it is just the easiest service to cut because its contract is finishing. What other services will be available to fill the gap?

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Mental Health) [9.14 am]: I thank the member for Geraldton for bringing this issue to the attention of the chamber. We are all concerned about mental health and alcohol and other drug services. They are important services that impact on the most vulnerable people in our community, so it is appropriate that the member bring these issues to the attention of the chamber. Indeed, we have particularly high ambitions for the way we will improve services in the Geraldton area, and that includes the implementation of plans to establish a step-up, step-down facility in Geraldton, in addition to the election commitments we made to redevelop the emergency department at Geraldton Hospital to incorporate a mental health observation area and acute mental health beds. This is in part in response to the growing and changing nature of mental health issues in our community. As the member rightly pointed out, this service was launched by a Labor government in 2002 in part in response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. In 2002, it was an appropriate response for people needing these services. However, things change and we have to continually update the services that are available to the community to make sure that we are getting appropriate services into those communities and that we are doing so in a manner that provides the best value for money for the WA taxpayer.

The Geraldton Sobering Up Centre provides overnight accommodation for intoxicated people five nights a week. In the six months between July and December this year, \$260 900 will be provided to Hope Community Services for this service. As the member pointed out, the current contract is due to expire in December 2017. Hope Community Services reported that attending numbers at the centre have been low for over three years, with the number of admissions throughout that period failing to meet the contracted levels for which it was engaged by the Mental Health Commission. To highlight this, based on the available data, out of the 1 447 admissions in 2016, it appears that almost 50 per cent were attributed to approximately 10 people, with one person admitted 143 times. People in Geraldton with alcohol and other drug issues obviously go beyond these 10 particular people. There are better ways that we can contribute to assisting people with chronic alcohol addiction. People in Geraldton with alcohol and other drug issues will continue to be serviced by the Midwest Community Alcohol and Drug Service and the Hope Springs Community Farm, which provides a long-term residential program for people affected by alcohol and drug misuse.

The message is that we have to continue to make sure that we are providing appropriate services for this particular cohort of people in the community who have alcohol and other drug addictions. In 2002, we did not know about methamphetamine and the impact that ice would have on our community. We have to continually cross-examine

ourselves to make sure that the services we provide continue to meet the changing needs of the community that they are to serve. The state government has committed to continue to provide support services for alcohol and drug issues in our regional areas. However, this must always be balanced with prioritising funding for those organisations that demonstrate a clear community need based on evidence about the services they provide.

As I said, the Geraldton Sobering Up Centre was not meeting the KPIs we anticipated it would be able to achieve through the service. It appears that about 1 440 incidents of services were primarily going to a very small number in the community. The Mental Health Commission will continue to work with the community to make sure that we are constantly apprised of the needs of the community. We will work with other service providers in that area, and all mental health, alcohol and other drug service stakeholders, to make sure that the services we provide are continuing to meet the needs of the Geraldton community. Other services will assist in continuing to serve the Aboriginal community in Geraldton, including the service provided by Meedac, which operates a patrol service from its offices in Geraldton, and of course the Yamatji Patrol, which continues to provide a patrol service funded by the Department of Justice from its building in Larkin Street.

We will continue to monitor the situation in relation to Geraldton alcohol and other drug services. We will continue to monitor the incidence of addiction and make sure that the services that we provide in that community meet its needs. As I said, this service has been in place since 2002. The nature of addiction and drugs in our community continues to change and we must constantly make sure that we are driving value for money for the taxpayer in the services that we provide.

ST JOHN OF GOD MIDLAND PUBLIC HOSPITAL — MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SERVICES

Grievance

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills) [9.21 am]: My grievance this morning is to the Minister for Health, and I thank him for taking it. It relates to the Turnbull Liberal government's failure to provide Medicare access to magnetic resonance imaging services at St John of God Midland Public Hospital. I acknowledge the advocacy and support in this matter from Hon Matthew Swinbourn, MLC, Member for East Metropolitan Region in the other place, and also the member for Kalamunda's interest in this very important matter and his ongoing advocacy. As an east metropolitan team, we are working really hard to try to achieve better outcomes for our constituents.

St John of God Midland Public Hospital opened in November 2015. The hospital's MRI services are operated by Perth Radiological Clinic. St John of God Midland's catchment area includes the major population centres of Ellenbrook and Midland, and extends out through the hills to the Shire of Mundaring and the City of Kalamunda—my part of the world where I have lived for over a decade now. Many people travel from as far afield as the wheatbelt to access St John of God Midland. It is a key facility for both east metropolitan and regional people alike. The minister will be aware that MRI machines are operated under full or partial licences, granted by the federal government. All scans undertaken on fully licensed machines are covered by Medicare. The full licensing scheme was introduced by the Gillard Labor government, enabling affordable access to these vital MRI services for all Australians. However, on election, the Abbott–Turnbull Liberal government quickly moved to dismantle the full licensing of MRI services, introducing partial licences, and eventually phasing licences out altogether, forcing patients to pay expensive fees for a range of essential MRI services. The MRI machine at Midland Public Hospital is only partially licensed. Because of the Liberals' attack on Medicare services, my constituents must now pay anywhere between \$350 to well over \$1 000 for classes of MRI services. There are fully licensed Medicare MRI services at Royal Perth Hospital, Fremantle Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Joondalup Health Campus. Although that is great for those communities, the lack of a fully licensed MRI machine in the east metropolitan area—an area that is home to some of the most socioeconomically disadvantaged people in Western Australia—makes my constituents second-class citizens. Why does the east metropolitan area always miss out on essential services and infrastructure under successive Liberal governments, be they state or federal? They fail my community and it is simply not good enough. People in my electorate are really doing it tough—they simply cannot pay high private fees. Many people simply will not get MRIs. I am worried that serious conditions may go undiagnosed or patients may put off treatment for injuries, diabetes or cancer. My mum has had cancer three times. To access an MRI scan, she has to drive for an absolute age when she lives five minutes from Midland Public Hospital.

In the long term, the federal government's failure to act will have a negative impact on the state's health system because untreated medical conditions require higher, costlier levels of care when they are eventually discovered. My constituents are not flush. Many people often also depend on public transport to get around, and we all know how bad the public transport situation is in Ellenbrook. People cannot just hop in a car and particularly in Ellenbrook they cannot even hop on a train—yet—and drive over an hour to get to Fremantle. It is really hard for them to travel to distant hospitals.

In light of the population growth in the north east metropolitan region and the rising demand for health services at St John of God, a growing number of health service providers and specialists are moving to the area. This will compound the demand for services and, again, this demand will increase with the opening of the new Curtin University medical school campus in Midland. Local specialists are frustrated that their referrals to the local

MRI service often lead to significant out-of-pocket costs for their patients for services that are covered by Medicare elsewhere in the metropolitan region. There is often confusion about where to appropriately send patients. My constituents need and deserve access to the same MRI services as people in the rest of the metropolitan area. We should not be treated as second-class citizens.

I am aware that a range of constituents and service providers have urged the Turnbull Liberal government to fully licence MRI services at St John of God Midland. Perth Radiological Clinic estimates that the conversion from a partial to a full licence would cost a mere \$500 000 per annum. That is such a small amount to make such a marked improvement on my constituents' health outcomes. The Turnbull Liberal government never misses an opportunity to attack Medicare or an opportunity to shirk its obligations to Western Australians. As is so often the case with both infrastructure and services, it is the people of my electorate who are suffering from their neglect. My electorate is represented at the federal level by the member for Pearce, Christian Porter, and the member for Hasluck, Ken Wyatt. They are the Ministers for Social Services and for Aged Care respectively. Both should be aware of the pressing need in our community. If they were in touch with their community, they would fight far harder for the sorts of services that we need, yet both have abjectly failed to deliver on this issue for my constituents. People in my electorate deserve a better deal. They deserve more from their federal representatives, that is for sure. They deserve equal access. We are not asking for anything special over and above what is available to other Western Australians. We are asking for equal access under Medicare to the health services that others in the metropolitan area enjoy. Could the minister please advise what steps he can take to assist my community on this matter?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr T.J. Healy): Please, all members; it is a tradition that grievances will be heard in silence.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, grievances will be heard in silence.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health) [9.28 am]: I would like to thank the member for Swan Hills for her characteristically powerful representation on behalf of the members of her community and the people of Swan Hills. This is an important issue. We are paying close attention to it because, as the member ably pointed out, the availability of MRI licences in Western Australia generally is lacking. We certainly identify a gap in full licences for MRIs in the north east metropolitan area. As the member pointed out, Perth Radiological Clinic currently provides radiological services for private and public patients at St John of God Midland Public Hospital. The magnetic resonance imaging machines can be licensed as either full or partial Medicare-eligible units for rebates, with the allocation of these licences being made by the commonwealth government. Members often talk about the need for MRI machines in their communities. Ultimately, the impact of an MRI machine comes not from the provision of the machine, but from the provision of the licence, which comes from the commonwealth government. Units with full licences are able to provide all MRI items that are listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule, with Medicare rebates available to the patient. Partially licensed units, such as the one in place at St John of God Midland Public Hospital, can provide a subset of the MRI items listed on the MBS, with Medicare rebates available to the patient. These items are: six general practitioner-requested items for patients under 16 years of age; four GP-requested items for patients 16 years and over; five specialist and consultant physician-requested cancer-staging items and breast screening services for women at risk under 50 years of age; four modifying items; four interim-listed Poly Implant Prothese breast implant items; and six existing items for Crohn's disease. Perth Radiological Clinic provides radiological services for both public and private patients. Its services include the provision of MRI scans at the Midland site.

As the member pointed out, a partial MRI licence means that many patients who could otherwise be treated at St John of God Midland Public Hospital have to travel further into the metropolitan area to reach other units either at Joondalup Health Campus or at Royal Perth Hospital, and that is simply because of federal government regulations. I understand that in Western Australia, 16 MRI units have full licences and a further 16 units have partial licences. The closest facility with a full MRI licence for patients in the Midland catchment area is either in the CBD or in Kelmescott.

In 2015, the former state government supported a request from PRC to the commonwealth government to change the licence for the MRI unit at Midland from a partial Medicare licence to a full Medicare licence. That request was not approved by the commonwealth government. The federal Liberal Minister for Health refused to increase the eligibility of the Midland MRI machine. At the time, the minister stated that there were no open processes for PRC to apply for Medicare eligibility for an MRI unit. Herein is the problem. We have an ad hoc process in which the commonwealth government does not have a framework for people to apply for these licences. It simply offers them occasionally. There is no avenue to apply for a licence based on need. The federal government essentially simply hands out the dollars based on political will. The last round of tenders occurred in 2012 for 12 licences that should have been awarded over a four-year period. However, they were all simply awarded prior to the 2013 election. I think members can see what was going on there. That is why we are in the situation we are in today. As a consequence of that ad hoc process, emerging communities such as Ellenbrook and other areas with large population growth are not getting the services that they need.

I will correct the member for Swan Hills on one point. Both sides of this chamber were committed to the Midland hospital redevelopment. It was envisaged and processes were put in place by the previous Labor government under the Reid vision. Construction was completed utilising state government and federal Labor government funds. Of course, we parted from our friends on the other side of the chamber in the privatisation of that hospital. As the member is all too aware, that came with a whole range of complications.

There is an opportunity for all members here. We can all see the storm clouds of a federal election starting to gather on the horizon. Nothing is more interesting for federal government funding opportunities than a federal election! I implore all members—I am sorry that the member for Nedlands is not in the chamber. Here is an opportunity for us all. Nothing is more interesting than a federal election and the opportunities that it provides to both sides of Parliament to get our friends in Canberra to pay more attention to the needs of Western Australian patients. Western Australia has some key marginal seats. We should all be aware of that.

Mr A. Krsticevic: The government should have put the wish list in the forward estimates.

Mr R.H. COOK: Just hung them out there with a question mark—to be filled by a future federal government!

There is an opportunity here. I implore all members to contact their local federal member, be it Hon Christian Porter in Pearce or Hon Ken Wyatt in Hasluck, to make sure that they are aware of the needs of patients in the Midland area. I know that the member for Swan Hills is aware of those needs. We should all make sure that the federal government is aware of the needs of Western Australian patients.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I remind members that grievances are heard in silence. In line with standing order 146, this is not an opportunity for debate. Please listen to grievances and the replies in silence. If I need to call people to order, I shall.

PEEL HEALTH CAMPUS

Grievance

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [9.36 am]: Before I begin, I would like to thank the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health for taking my grievance this morning, especially as he has three grievances listed under “Orders of the Day”.

Mr J.N. Carey interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Perth!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Following the member for Swan Hills, my grievance also relates to my local hospital, Peel Health Campus, and a range of issues that continue to get raised with me by members of the community. I do not have much time to cover all the matters that are often raised with me, so I will stick to the most predominant concern—that is, the capacity and size of the hospital.

Peel Health Campus was built in 1997. Since that time, only very minor expansions have been made to the hospital. The first was in 2005, when the accident and emergency department was expanded and some adult specialities were added. More recently, a 12-bed paediatric unit was added, which was predominantly funded by members of the community and the Peel Health Foundation. Since the hospital has opened, no substantial expansion has been made to Peel Health Campus. That is in contrast with the population in the Mandurah and Peel region—its population has more than doubled in size. Put simply, when Peel Health Campus first opened, the population of the region was somewhere around 60 000. The hospital had a bed capacity of about 193 public and private beds for most of that time. The population now stands at 130 000 and the hospital still has the same number of adult beds. That is obviously in contrast with the issue that the member for Swan Hills raised, which was about a \$360 million hospital that was opened by the Liberal–National government with 367 beds. In the context of the substantial population growth that has happened in the region, I think that all of us in this place would consider the lack of investment as woefully inadequate. Governments on both sides have failed to properly invest in an expansion of the hospital.

As part of the Reid review findings that have been accepted and implemented by governments past and present, we have relied on patients being transferred to the main south metropolitan hospital at Fiona Stanley to help alleviate the growing demands on Peel Health Campus. The obvious problem arises with time-critical incidents such as cardiac arrest or stroke. There is no speciality in Mandurah to treat a patient like that; instead, they are often transferred by ambulance and sent up the freeway to Fiona Stanley Hospital. As I have said a number of times, I represent the oldest per capita district in Western Australia. It is an unfortunate reality that time-critical incidents happen on regular occasions. Time and again, members of the community have raised with me concerns and stories about unfortunate experiences that they or their loved ones have had at Peel Health Campus. More often than not, the result of the story is one that all of us can identify—that the hospital is struggling to keep up with demand. Indeed, I can reveal that when researching my speech I looked at WA Health’s most recent audit data on the performance of Peel Health Campus. Some of the data that has been released by WA Health is of great concern. The statistics predominately relate to key triage patients who were seen within certain times. For the most recent reporting

month of September, the percentage of triage 1 emergency department patients who were seen within two minutes was 50 per cent; that is 50 per cent short of the 100 per cent target. The percentage of triage 2 patients who were seen within 10 minutes was only 62 per cent; the target is 80 per cent. Only 35 per cent of triage 3 patients in the emergency department were seen within 30 minutes. That falls well short of the 75 per cent target. The target continues to fall when it comes to the four-hour rule when only 63 per cent of patients were seen within that time. All of us would see from the data that has been produced that Peel Health Campus is falling well short of those targets. Indeed, a concern I have is that the situation appears to be deteriorating. It is not getting better; it is getting worse. The data reinforces those anecdotes that I continue to hear. I hear stories such as that of the parents who had to take their child to an emergency department on a Saturday night and had to share the waiting room with a violent patient who, as the parent told me, was in a suspected drug-induced psychosis because, unlike Midland Health Campus, Peel does not have a separate emergency department for children. I have written to the minister about stories like that when the patients have had to wait hours on hours to be treated and often are put into an over-census bed in an overcrowded ward.

More recently—unfortunately, this was only last week—I had a person come to me and say that they had a suspected issue with their pacemaker and a cardiac problem resulted from that. Instead of going to Peel Health Campus, they deliberately bypassed it and their family drove them to Fiona Stanley Hospital. People are putting their lives and their own health at risk because, unfortunately, now the community has such little faith in the hospital. I have not met just with patients; I have met with the operator of Peel Health Campus, Ramsay Health Care, and with nurses and clinicians. All universally agree that our hospital needs more investment. I should take this opportunity to congratulate Ramsay on turning the hospital around—I fear where the hospital may be if it was still under the previous operator—and, indeed, on the great job of the clinical and non-clinical staff at Peel Health Campus who do their very best in very trying circumstances.

I am not here today to expect that the government will turn around and say that it will grant a long-term contract to the operator allowing it to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to redevelop the hospital to meet growing demand. I know the realities of government and I do not expect the government to ride roughshod over the sustainable health review, which is looking at the overall delivery of services across the system. It would be amazing if the minister were to do that, but I can assure him that he would be widely praised among the Mandurah and Peel communities if the government were to recognise the issues of the hospital and recognise the chaos, and invest simply just to meet the demands now, let alone into the future. I do not expect that to happen today.

In the final minute of this grievance, I ask the minister to take a very real and specific interest in what is happening at Peel Health Campus. As often as I can, I record the stories of patients who approach me and I look into them and what is happening, and it is becoming very obvious to me that we have a hospital in crisis. Many already feel as though this hospital was forgotten. Certainly, when there was no new money for our hospital in WA Labor's first budget that perception was only reinforced. That could easily be countered if the government took a more active interest in the operations and situation at Peel Health Campus. To the best of my knowledge, the minister has not come to our hospital recently, but I invite him to spend an hour or two with me and tour the emergency department on a Saturday night. All of us in this place know that positive things happen when a minister takes an active interest and, indeed, the converse is true: when situations are ignored by governments, they typically deteriorate. The Peel Health Campus is crying out for more investment and in the absence of any commitment, I ask the government to, at the very least, take a more serious active interest in what is happening at Peel. Our community deserves no less.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health) [9.43 am]: I thank the member for Dawesville for bringing the Peel Health Campus issue to the chamber. The Peel hospital plays a very important role in our overall health system. I can assure the member that I show a lot of interest in the issues around the Peel hospital; in fact, some would say too much interest—to the extent that the previous operator donated \$10 000 to my opponent in the 2013 election! Clearly, for those years they thought that I was paying perhaps too much attention to it!

The Peel hospital is a great hospital. Dr Sturdy is doing a terrific job, as the member described it, in turning it around. That is absolutely the case. I commend her and the role that all of her team are playing there in continuing to provide good services to the community. I do not accept the member's contention that it is a hospital in crisis. I do not accept his assertion that people do not have confidence in the hospital. I think they do, but I recognise, as the member has identified, that it is a hospital that needs to be part of the growth of the Peel district. This is one of the specific items I asked Robyn Kruk, the head of the sustainable health review, to look into. As the member would be aware, a big expansion of population is occurring to the east of Mandurah and we must understand that the whole way we deliver health services in the Murray district as well will have an impact. For instance, is a small facility in Pinjarra really meeting the needs of the community? What do we need to do to expand the Peel hospital, as inevitably we will do so? Of course, the member is also right that the last substantial redevelopment that took place in that hospital was a \$3 million expansion undertaken by the last Labor government, leading to the expansion of the emergency department and some specialty beds.

The addition of the paediatric ward, as the member would be aware, was the subject of a public fundraising campaign. The only problem is, of course, as the member also pointed out—he is the member for one of the oldest communities in Western Australia—unfortunately, we have seen the paediatric ward being heavily underutilised. That will remain a challenge for the management.

As the member pointed out, the hospital is under contract to Ramsay Health Care at the moment. It purchased the operating contract from Health Solutions. That contract will come to its conclusion at the end of its current five-year extension in August 2023. The member is right to identify now as the time that we need to look at the reconfiguration of the services and work out how we are going to ensure that it continues to provide services into the future. The sustainable health review is that opportunity.

We recently held a public forum in Mandurah under the guise of the sustainable health review. It was well attended. I think the member for Mandurah and the member for Murray–Wellington were at that function and they were able to participate in the discussion about what services are needed at Peel Health Campus for the future, the volume of beds and the capacity required for that hospital and, indeed, how we develop the private hospital capacity in that area. The member would be aware of a proposal by St John of God Health Care to develop a 50-bed facility just up the road from Peel. That is now on ice, obviously, pending Ramsay moving into the main campus, so we need to work out what the future for private beds is, and also ensure that we configure the services there to meet the needs of the population.

Peel Health Campus is a hospital under pressure because of the growth of the population. Some of that pressure was taken off by the expansion of Rockingham and obviously the commissioning of Fiona Stanley Hospital in the past few years, but that pressure will now start to build. We need to be aware that Peel hospital into the future will need to be subject to some expansion plans and we need a review of the way we deliver services across the whole Peel and Murray–Wellington district, understanding where the population growth will be and understanding what the needs of that population will be and ensuring that we have the services in place.

In relation to elective surgery, the hospital continues to improve well, although like many hospitals it continues to struggle to meet the very high ambitions for targets that are placed on it for EDs. There continues to be fairly good results in maintaining a workforce in that area, which is the other challenge. Getting doctors, and specialists in particular, to go as far as Rockingham is hard; getting them to go to Peel is even harder. Ramsay has put some interesting things in place to ensure that those incentives are maintained and that we continue to have the workforce on hand to meet those needs.

I am surprised the member did not mention parking. Lord, I am constantly confronted by issues around parking! For the technical configuration of the building and the size of it, there should be enough parking there. I hear all kinds of rumours about people parking there and catching the bus to the Mandurah train station to commute each morning. Obviously I cannot verify that, but we need to keep an eye on that and make sure that we meet the needs of that hospital. The member is right to bring this issue to the chamber. We do have to look at the long-term needs of the hospital, and the sustainable health review will provide us with a great opportunity to work out what the long-term configurations of the health services in that area are, in the same way that the Reid review did in the early 2000s. Then we will have good line of sight and I will continue to work with the members for Murray–Wellington, Mandurah and Dawesville to make sure we are getting the right services in place to meet the needs of the growing population into the future.

PRESTON RIVER TO OCEAN REGIONAL PARK — MINIMUM-SECURITY PRISONERS

Grievance

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [9.50 pm]: I thank the Minister for Corrective Services for taking my grievance this morning. My grievance concerns the opportunity to use low-risk prisoners for important community projects in my electorate, particularly given the budgetary circumstances of the government and the opportunity to make sure community programs proceed. The one I particularly have in mind is the proposed Preston River to ocean regional park. This is 893 hectares of really good bushland with an enormous number of species—600 species of flora, 180 individual species of fauna—and it stretches from the east near Bunbury Regional Airport through to The Maidens on the ocean at the west. It provides a complete unique strip of bushland that separates Dalyellup, a community of around 9 000 people, and the greater Bunbury area, which is rapidly approaching a population of 70 000, so it is an important piece of bushland. I particularly know about The Maidens, because I joined the Minister for Environment earlier this year and climbed them. As I was climbing and the heart rate was going up, because it is quite a steep sandy climb, I thought we had finally got to the top and I turned around to look at the view and there was another 100 metres of steep climb ahead of us. So, I certainly have a lot of sympathy for investment in hospitals, because I was well on my way to my coronary as I was going up there! Of course, the Minister for Environment is as fit as a fiddle and he almost raced to the top. The view from the top is absolutely magnificent and it is a great asset not only for the people of greater Bunbury, but also the people of the south west. It is incredibly significant to the local Noongar community, because it has enormous connection with the land itself. There are significant cultural traditions about how the land was formed as well as the flora and fauna in this space.

The land was originally proposed to be set aside for permanent preservation by Dr Bernard Bischoff in early 1976, and eventually a bush corridor called “Preston River to ocean” was proposed in 1983. There have been a number of developments since then. The Lawrence Labor government provided in-principle agreement to establish this area as a regional park in 1992. There was a change of government, but there was success in having a park listed in the greater Bunbury strategic plan. In 2008, a draft plan was put up for public comment by the Labor minister, Alannah MacTiernan, and then in 2011, former Premier Hon Colin Barnett announced the Preston River to ocean regional park establishment plan, and it would have been the first regional park in the south west, but surprise, there were no funds provided for its management. In 2013, some federal funding was received for four years to manage the park. We have this prime piece of bushland that is starved of funds for effective management of the park and it is now suffering from immense weed infestation. There are arum lily creeping in, cape tulips, eastern states wattles, pampas grass, cottonbush, lots and lots of wild oats, freesias and a weed that I had not heard of before called pretty Betsy. The firm risk associated with this prime asset, which could be the equivalent of the Whiteman Park of the south west, is the lack of ability to undertake some basic work on weed control. This would seem to be a prime opportunity to use prisoners who are low risk to the community to be involved in constructive action to preserve a prime asset for the future.

I mentioned that this park sits between Dalyellup and greater Bunbury. It is in a very, very strategic location. The total population of the south west as a whole is around 180 000, but in this particular area, which is becoming highly urbanised, it is around 90 000, and the area suffers from a lack of good quality recreational space. In the future there is a great opportunity to use this park for cycling, walking, tourism and nature-based interpretation, as well as the preservation of important environmental values and, importantly, preservation of areas of land that are of extraordinary significance to the local Noongar people. I can see the opportunity for work parties to work with the South West Catchments Council, as a major environmental body in the region, and Dr Bernard Bischoff, who has extraordinary knowledge of the asset and its flora and fauna make-up, on a structured plan to keep the weeds under control and clean up as many of them as possible pending the completion of our planning for the regional park itself and funding in the forward estimates to undertake ongoing management of the park in an appropriate way. I would see this very much as an interim step to manage an area of land that is a prime asset for the region and Bunbury, and that would engage prisoners, from the Bunbury Regional Prison potentially, in constructive and meaningful work and engagement with a community asset.

There is always an opportunity to extol the virtues of life in Bunbury and Dalyellup. They are prime areas to live in. They have a growing population and when the Department of Regional Development undertook surveys on living in the regions, people in the metropolitan area overwhelmingly gave the south west and the Bunbury area a tick of support in terms of opportunities to live there. It is beholden on all governments to make sure we make prime use of that asset, enhance the qualities of the area and ensure that those unique recreational values are preserved into the future. I ask the minister to undertake whatever work can be done to encourage the department to enable prisoners to work in a constructive manner and preserve the values of this very important park and engage with the South West Catchments Council and Dr Bernard Bischoff in an appropriate response to the area. I am sure this would be an absolutely fantastic outcome for the local community. The ability to use prisoners on some sort of work-release program would achieve enormous respect and it would enable the community, the prison and the prisoners themselves to get a clear benefit.

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Corrective Services) [9.56 am]: I thank the member for Bunbury for bringing this matter to my attention. I first of all congratulate the member for Bunbury for once again showing that he really is the prince of the south west. He really, really knows his stuff.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: It is not surprising that the member for Bunbury got a majority of over 21 per cent in this election. It is not surprising, because he knows his stuff and he knows what is needed.

Several members interjected.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Mr Acting Speaker, are you going to bring these people to call?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Put that lightbulb back in your mouth!

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Point of order, Mr Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr T.J. Healy): Minister, I ask you to withdraw that remark.

Mr F.M. Logan: No, not that one. That is not a comment I would withdraw. It is just a comment.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister, I will ask you to —

Mr F.M. Logan: Tone it down.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I ask you to withdraw.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, grievances are heard in silence. Member for Dawesville, you were heard in silence, please return the respect.

Grievance Resumed

Mr F.M. LOGAN: The member for Bunbury —

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: You did ask the minister to withdraw, Mr Acting Speaker, and he has not withdrawn. I want you to make the member withdraw that statement.

The ACTING SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. The matter has been resolved.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I find that remark offensive. I find it degrading and I find it racist, and I want the minister to withdraw that remark. Stop being a racist, stop making that remark. That is a racist remark. I find it very racist and inappropriate in this Parliament to refer to another member like that. I find that racist.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, please. Thank you very much. The comment has been withdrawn.

Mr A. Krsticevic: No, it has not.

The ACTING SPEAKER: The comment has been dealt with as well, member. I ask that the minister please stick to the comments raised in the grievance and members please do not interrupt. Grievances will be heard in silence.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Point of order, Mr Acting Speaker. You asked the member to withdraw the remark. He has not withdrawn that remark. I find it racist. I find it offensive.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, please sit down. Please sit down or I will call you to order.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I find it very offensive and racist.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr A. Krsticevic: Ask him to withdraw.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I am on my feet. I asked you to please sit down. I called you to order for the first time. The comment has been dealt with. It is not appropriate for this place. Minister, please respond, and keep to the grievance, thank you.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Point of order, Mr Acting Speaker. Can you please explain to me how the comment has been dealt with?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member!

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: You asked him to withdraw. Please explain.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, are you querying my decision?

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I am just asking how it was dealt with.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, members. The comment has been dealt with.

Mr A. Krsticevic: How?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I have called you to order for the first time. We need to move on from this. The comment has been dealt with. Thank you. Minister.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Point of order, Mr Acting Speaker. I find that comment offensive. I want the member to withdraw that comment. I find it racist and offensive when he refers to me like that. Please explain why you do that?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I am on my feet. The matter has been dealt with. I have already called you to order for the first time for this. We are going to move on. What I will ask is that this be dealt with by the Speaker in a moment, but otherwise, minister, please continue.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Point of order, Mr Acting Speaker. I clearly remember you standing on your feet asking the member to withdraw. You were standing on your feet waiting for him to withdraw, and he has not withdrawn the comment.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, it is not a point of order. I have dealt with the comment. What I ask is that we will, in a moment —

Mr A. Krsticevic: Has he withdrawn it?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member! In a moment, we can sit down outside and resolve this ourselves. The grievance needs to continue. It has been dealt with; I have made that ruling. If you continue to call points of order on this, I will continue to call you to order.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Point of order, Mr Acting Speaker. You were on your feet, Mr Acting Speaker. You asked the member to withdraw. He did nothing. I just want to know why he is able to ignore your request; why he is able to make racist remarks about me here in the Parliament. Treating another member in that way is very offensive.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I call you to order for the second time. The matter has been dealt with, again.

Mr A. Krsticevic: Can you explain to me how?

The ACTING SPEAKER: If you continue, you will continue to be called to order. I am also conscious that there will be a change of Chair at this time as well. Minister.

[Ms J.M. Freeman took the chair.]

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I think the indication from the previous speaker, Madam Acting Speaker, was that grievances should be heard in silence.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Madam Acting Speaker, I just wanted to get clarification on the request for the racist member for Cockburn to withdraw the remark he made, and why he has not withdrawn that remark. I find it very offensive, what he said.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): Member for Carine, take a seat for a second. Calling someone a racist is unparliamentary.

Mr A. Krsticevic: Well, what did he call me?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I am on my feet. Calling someone a racist has in other jurisdictions—New South Wales and Victoria—been found to be unparliamentary. Saying someone has done something that has racism involved in it is one thing, but calling someone a racist is unparliamentary. I just caution you on that. I am not going to do anything further than that. I was not in the chair, but as I understand —

Mr A. Krsticevic: He was asked to withdraw.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Yes, yes; I am on my feet; okay?

Mr A. Krsticevic: Sorry.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I understand that you are very passionate about this. What may then occur is that I understand what you are saying —

Mr A. Krsticevic: It is not the first time he has done this, either.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I am not going to throw you out on this. I am not going to give you the capacity to go out and say that you were thrown out of the Parliament.

Mr A. Krsticevic: I do not want to be thrown out; I want him to withdraw.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Yes, I understand that, member.

Mr A. Krsticevic: I just want him to withdraw; nothing else.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Okay; I am going to give the chair to the Speaker, because that is the appropriate thing at this point in time. I understand that the member may have withdrawn it already.

Mr A. Krsticevic: He hasn't withdrawn it.

The ACTING SPEAKER: You do not keep speaking to the Acting Speaker.

Mr A. Krsticevic: Sorry.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I understand your concern. Just take into account that your language is probably very unparliamentary, if it is based on what has been before the Parliaments of Victoria and New South Wales.

[The Speaker took the chair.]

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Mr Speaker, point of order. I found the remarks very offensive.

The SPEAKER: Member, can you just sit down for a moment, please. When the Acting Speaker is on her feet, you do not talk. It is a point of order. She could have quite easily thrown you out. I understand that you are upset, but we have the protocols of Parliament that we have to stand by, and you know that very well. Your point of order, member?

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: My point of order is that the member for Cockburn made a very offensive remark, and I took serious offence to that. It is not the first time he has done it; he has done it on many occasions. He should be ashamed of himself.

Mr F.M. Logan: Get over it.

The SPEAKER: I call you to order for the first time, minister. You hear a point of order in silence. You can do your point of order.

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Acting Speaker stood up and asked him to withdraw. He ignored the request of the Acting Speaker. He was asked to withdraw. That would have been the end of the matter had he withdrawn. He refused to withdraw. He knew I was seriously offended by what he said. It is not that hard to withdraw.

The SPEAKER: It is not a speech, member. I take your point of order.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: On the point of order, Mr Speaker, I indicated to that member over there—he is right; I have said it to him before. I have talked about him in relation to Uncle Fester from *The Addams Family*. There is nothing racist about that.

Mr A. Krsticevic: Yes it is.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: No, it is not. There is nothing racist about that. If the member cannot take a bit of ribbing —

The SPEAKER: You are putting a point of order. It is not a speech. What is your point of order?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Mr Speaker, I take offence at being called a racist when I am referring—the language being used by the member —

The SPEAKER: Member, when you do a point of order, it is not a speech. I have got your point, but I want you to withdraw your comment.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I will withdraw that comment, Mr Speaker, and I will ask —

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, apparently you called the member a racist; is that correct?

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I said that he made racist remarks that I found offensive.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, just have a look up the top there. We have young schoolchildren here today in the public gallery, watching the way you are behaving. Member, if you made that remark, will you withdraw it, please?

Mr A. KRSTICEVIC: I withdraw that.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Mr Speaker, when the member for Mirrabooka was Acting Speaker—I am referring to standing order 92—she made an imputation that the member was trying to get called three times and thrown out on this issue to make it as if it were —

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: It was an imputation on the member's motives.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Where are we? What is happening?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: We are dealing with a grievance from the member for Bunbury.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Grievance Resumed

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As indicated by previous speakers, grievances are meant to be heard in silence, so I will continue from where I was about the member for Bunbury. The member for Bunbury knows his electorate very well. It is a reflection of his election and his standing in the community that he is able to come into this house with great foresight to call for the establishment of the Preston River to ocean regional park as one of his key objectives for the area of greater Bunbury. He outlined that objective very well. He identified the need for the park for the people of Bunbury and the greater south west, and the history of calls for the creation of the park. He identified that the park would have not only significant environmental benefits, but also tourism benefits. That is a great reflection of the member's approach to his work for the people of Bunbury, and I congratulate him for that. Section 95 prisoners are identified as very low risk, low security prisoners. Section 95 of the Prisons Act 1981 provides that superintendents of various prisons and work camps, with the support of the head office of the Department of Justice, may allow prisoners who meet strict security criteria the opportunity to work in the community. Most section 95 prisoners come out of work camps across the prison estate. We have five camps in Western Australia: Dowerin work camp, Roebourne work camp, Walpole work camp, Warburton work camp and

Wyndham work camp. When I took over as the Minister for Corrective Services, I found that Warburton work camp, which was built at a cost of \$14 million, was closed; it had no prisoners whatsoever. When I went to Wyndham work camp, I found five lonely prisoners in a work camp that has a capacity for 40 prisoners. The prisoners were longing to talk to somebody else. I think they were sick to death of talking to each other and looking for more prisoners to be put into that work camp. Similarly, very few people were placed into Roebourne work camp, even though it is right outside the front door of Roebourne Regional Prison. I immediately changed that because we cannot have state government assets sitting there empty, particularly when we have crowded prisons. I asked that those work camps be filled as quickly as possible. The member for Pilbara knows that. He went to Roebourne work camp with me recently. I am pleased to see that, as of today, the utilisation of work camps is 100 per cent at Dowerin; 76 per cent at Roebourne; 91.7 per cent at Walpole; 37.5 per cent at Warburton because of the nature of the work camp, but we will continue to fill that up; and 60 per cent at Wyndham, which was nearly full over the last few years. We are changing the nature of the prison estate and maximising its utilisation.

Section 95 prisoners mainly come from those work camp facilities. I have been to all those work camps, except for Dowerin, and seen the type of work that prisoners do. Section 95 prisoners are also released from places like Broome Regional Prison, the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison and Bunbury Regional Prison. I inform the member for Bunbury that after it was indicated to me that this grievance would be made, I raised the issue about the use of section 95 prisons from Bunbury on the Preston River to ocean regional park proposal, particularly the use of prisoners for weed clearance. They were enthusiastic about it. Ms Kerry Bishop, the superintendent of Bunbury—I know the member for Bunbury knows her very well—is a very innovative and progressive superintendent in our prison system, someone whom I look up to greatly. She is doing a fantastic job in Bunbury. I know that she will support a project like this. If the member writes to me, I assure him that the department will look at this with great favour and work through the proposal with Ms Kerry Bishop from Bunbury prison to ensure that we have section 95 prisoners in that park removing weeds and making it a great asset for the south west.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Fifth Report — “Legal Profession (Law Library Fees) Rules 2017” — Tabling

MS E. HAMILTON (Joondalup) [10.14 am]: I present for tabling the fifth report of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation titled “Legal Profession (Law Library Fees) Rules 2017”.

[See paper 947.]

Ms E. HAMILTON: The report that I have just tabled advises the house of the outcome of the committee’s consideration of the Legal Profession (Law Library Fees) Rules 2017. This instrument imposes 11 categories of fees for certain services offered at the new law library situated at the David Malcolm Justice Centre. The services include photocopying, printing, document delivery and interlibrary loans. The committee was provided with the rationale, including cost recovery information, for only five of the 11 fee categories. This is despite the requirements of Premier’s Circular 2014/01, titled “Subsidiary Legislation—Explanatory Memoranda”, and two formal requests for the information. Time constraints prevented the committee from pursuing further information about the remaining six fee categories. These six fees, for which the committee has no rationale, all relate to the law library’s document delivery service. Without vital information for these six fees, the committee was unable to determine whether the fees are authorised by the empowering provisions.

The committee found that, because of the government’s provision of inadequate information, it was unable to perform its scrutiny function on behalf of the Parliament in relation to rules 6(1)(a) and (b), 6(2), 6(3), 6(4) and 6(5) of the instrument. Accordingly, the committee was also unable to make any recommendations with respect to the disallowance of the relevant rules of the instrument.

I commend the report to the house.

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2010–11 TO 2015–16) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2017 APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2010–11 TO 2015–16) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2017

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from 8 November.

MR B. URBAN (Darling Range) [10.16 am]: I rise to conclude in 17 minutes my speech that I started yesterday. To reiterate, I was describing Darling Range because a lot of people have not been to that wonderful place just south of the metropolitan region.

Mr K.M. O’Donnell interjected.

Mr B. URBAN: Exactly. The member for Cottesloe knows exactly where it is and he loves it because he explained that to me on numerous occasions when I was a councillor. I will go into that later. He loves Araluen too.

The highest point of the Darling Range is Mount Cooke, which is an absolutely wonderful place. I take groups along the lovely trails through the Darling Range, which comes out of the Heritage Society near the old post office in Jarrahdale. One of the trail guides takes walkers through all the trails around Jarrahdale and the Darling Scarp.

It is one of the many walks that we do around the area. It is a beautiful place. The trails are maintained by section 95 prisoners from Karnet Prison Farm. A great committee and a great team look after the trails around the area. I want to talk about a couple of other trails, which come out of the Heritage Society, which is Di Henniker's group, as well as all the ladies. My mother-in-law is a member of the executive. They do absolutely wonderful work. We maintain all the walking trails down there. A beautiful walk from Jarrahdale takes people all the way through Kitty's Gorge from Jarrahdale town site to Serpentine Falls. It is about 14 kilometres long. At this time of year, the water is flowing quite well. There is an absolutely unbelievably spectacular view of the rock formations that the gorge created over millions of years.

We go on the Blue Rock trail about late September. We call it the fungi walk because of the amount of fungus around that area. It is sort of a wetlands area. With the blue granite that sticks out of the ground, it is quite a spectacular photographic place. The walkers love that. It is not necessarily a great walk; it probably takes about 40 minutes. It is not that strenuous but it is a really long walk when we take photographers. I have taken many photographers down there from a photographic club, of which I am a member. All the other photographic clubs come down there and they take photographs of just about everything. It is an amazing site.

We also have the Italian prisoner of war camp, which was built in the Second World War for the Italians in Australia. They thought that they were going to be a risk to Australian sovereignty so they were put in a camp at the back of Jarrahdale just off Balmoral Road. The remnants of it are all there. A walk along the old railway track of about 17 kilometres goes all the way back to Jarrahdale. It is not that hard; it is relatively flat. Along the walk we can see all the loading bays where the escarpment has been cut into rock where the jarrah trees were rolled, initially to a box and burden and then the horses and subsequently they went to trains. It is an amazing place where the history can be seen. As an aside to that, about mid-December, all the horses and all the beasts were taken back into Jarrahdale for their Christmas break. Apparently, all these animals going into Jarrahdale was a spectacular sight—a sight for sore eyes.

I want to talk about the Tony Henniker long walk. Tony, who has passed away, was one of the great trail leaders for many years. He passed away doing what he loved best, which was volunteering for the community. On his way back from Pinjarra, where he was on the Hotham Valley committee, he pulled over, had a heart attack and, sadly, passed away. We created a walk around Jarrahdale, which Tony used to love. I was going to swear there, so I apologise. We used to take the micky out of him, because he loved this walk so much, every year—we were doing this for the community—that we would add a little more onto it and a little more. We called it the Tony Henniker long walk. Unfortunately, since his passing, we have not added any more to it, because I think 11 kilometres is quite enough for a long walk around the town site of Jarrahdale.

I want to talk now briefly about the Scrivener Road reserve, which is a gravel pit up in the hill in Serpentine. It is a pit that has been used for many years, but has been sort of abandoned. This gravel pit, which has been used by and is in the control of the shire, should be placed under the state's control for conservation so that it can do what it does already. The black cockatoo nests there, and it is very important for the birds' nesting. The trees are there but I cannot understand why on earth we would want to extract further gravel from the pit when the black cockatoos are there and it will cost millions of dollars to upgrade the road to get to it because the gradient is considerable. I will not say much more about that because it is being reviewed at the moment. The Scrivener Road gravel pit is an amazing place just down from the Buddhist monastery and temple. It is a lovely walk and a great conservation place for Western Australia.

I want to talk now about members who have been down there. I will talk about the member for Mandurah when I talk about theatres; do not stress about that. I know he loves Roleystone Theatre. I have mentioned former Premier Hon Colin Barnett, who knows where Darling Range is. I have complimented him on many occasions for coming down there. Whether in cavalcade or whatever, he was always there to open community events, particularly for Araluen. That is no different from what the current Premier does. I was a bit worried during the election campaign because the current Premier spent more time in Darling Range than he spent, I think, anywhere else. I was a bit worried that he was after my seat, but I am glad he remained in Rockingham and is now the Premier. Hon Donna Faragher went out to Darling Range early this year to make a \$2 million commitment for a community centre in the Glades area of Byford. What frustrated me about that commitment was that there was no community consultation about that community centre. Two others nearby are under-utilised. It frustrated me when I saw the press release about the community centre that the Liberal Party was going to build just because it could. There was no community consultation, so it would be just another under-used building. We therefore started a campaign around that new hub that is in the Glades near The Strand Byford Lakeside coffee shop. We want to get a better outcome for that and get a few community groups into that space, which is quite a large area. We are looking at a church group that needs to relocate, and that would be a better outcome. We are doing the work up-front rather than saying we will do it and hoping someone will come in. We are going to try to do that in the latter part of this year and early into next year.

I applaud the member for Nedlands for many reasons. He knew where Darling Range was. He has been out there quite a few times. I met him when I was a councillor.

Dr A.D. Buti: The member for Nedlands has been to every electorate; I can assure you.

Mr B. URBAN: I am sure he has, member for Armadale. The amazing thing about the member for Nedlands is that he also always made time to speak to me as a councillor.

Dr A.D. Buti: He's a very nice man.

Mr B. URBAN: He is a very nice man. He is a very good and a very honourable man. It is on record now, member for Nedlands. The member for Nedlands, in company with the former member for Darling Range, Tony Simpson, made a \$20 000 commitment to build a bus shelter at the Roleystone Community College. We have delivered on that also because we saw that the commitment was needed. Mark Brookes from the Roleystone Community College spoke to me about it and said that it was much needed because the kids were getting smashed with rain. In the summer they had no shelter from the sun and it was right out in the middle of nowhere. We have honoured that commitment. That bus shelter has been built now, which the ex-member for Darling Range, Tony Simpson, started and we have honoured it. Tony Simpson has talked about the Abernethy Road upgrade, which was already happening. When I was a councillor, we lobbied for the Abernethy Road upgrade for a very long time. Eventually, we got some federal funding for it. It is about a \$12 million project and the power has been put underground and this month, about now, the earthworks for the road itself will start. It is a much-needed upgrade, particularly outside the high school, KFC and the petrol station. That intersection near Coles, which is a great development, will be an absolute nightmare given the number of kids crossing that road. It will sort out that mess, which has been created due to an expansion through Byford particularly.

I want to talk about the extension of the railway line from Armadale down to Byford. The member for Scarborough did not get it quite right when she referred to the last time I spoke about this. She said that I think all women should be held in the house and behind the sink. That is not what I said. I said this, minister, "When I was campaigning, I spoke to a number of women, particularly those trapped in Byford because there was no way for them to leave their home to get to the town centre, which was not very good at the time, and get out of Byford." I said that they were trapped in the Byford area because there is no public transport. I am saying that when we bring this rail line down to Byford and, hopefully, further south in the coming years, people will be able to travel out of Byford and get themselves into the city, to Fremantle or to Mandurah where the beaches are.

Mr D.A. Templeman: We welcome anyone in Mandurah.

Mr B. URBAN: He would welcome the money they will spend there.

Mr J.E. McGrath interjected.

Mr B. URBAN: Yes; we have to get South Perth in.

The amazing thing about the train line down into Byford, particularly, was that everyone talked about it—everyone. Just before the state election this year, on 9 March, former member Tony Simpson said that it was needed. I said in a press release, "Darling Range has been neglected for too long by the Barnett government." The former government ignored us for eight and a half years.

A government member: Longer.

Mr B. URBAN: Longer—yes. We have been ignored. Federal member for Canning, Andrew Hastie, was interviewed by the *Armadale Examiner*, the local newspaper, on 6 October 2016, which is about a year ago. He said that the train line extension is much needed. What frustrated me when I read this article was that everyone was talking about it, but nobody delivered on it. Everybody says, "Hey, we need this", and I am saying that this government is delivering what we need.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr B. URBAN: The article quotes Andrew Hastie as saying —

"(Last month) I had a conversation with the State Treasurer Mike Nahan, and I said to him, 'you've got to look after the forgotten people of Byford and the way you can start doing that is to get a train station in Byford and to build it quickly ..."

Again, that was forgotten about. This government is delivering on that. The fastest growing local government in Western Australia is the Shire of Serpentine–Jarrahdale at 6.8 per cent. About 500 houses a year are being built in that shire. Mundijong has already started and it will have about 50 000 people. We keep planning these things and we allow developers to build these developments and people to buy the blocks so that they have affordable housing, but we do not put anything there to make it affordable living. I have said many times in this place that all these people spend money outside our area, and we need to do something about that. We need jobs within the shire. One of the key transport issues in Byford is the preparation of the train station in Byford. The Minister for Transport is working on that.

I am going to talk about the member for Mandurah's passion. It is a passion, member.

Mr D.A. Templeman: What's that?

Mr B. URBAN: Roleystone Theatre—the theatre and the arts.

Mr D.A. Templeman: A fine institution.

Mr B. URBAN: It is a fine institution and it has done many wonderful things, and I continue to support it. I supported it before I came to this place and I will continue to support it after I leave this place.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Do you have a role in their pantomime this year?

Mr B. URBAN: I might be the back end of the donkey!

Mr D.A. Templeman: I might be the front end!

Mr B. URBAN: I have not quite worked it out yet but I am sure that Mark will tell me.

Mr D.A. Templeman: I hope I will not eat anything inappropriate. It could be a very unsavoury part to play.

Mr B. URBAN: I could be a pirate, could I not? Roleystone Theatre has done many good plays this year. It has done *Oklahoma*, which was great. Paul Presbury was a police officer with me in *Armada*; I did not even know he was a thespian and he was on the boards, and I sat there and I thought, "That's Paul Presbury" and he threw something at me, so it must have been him because that is what he used to do when he was a policeman. *Macbeth* was an absolutely wonderful play.

Mr D.A. Templeman: The Scottish play.

Mr B. URBAN: It is a Scottish play by Shakespeare.

Mr D.A. Templeman: No, it is "the" Scottish play.

Mr B. URBAN: It is "the" Scottish play, but it was written by Shakespeare, who was from Warwick in England.

Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski: You're going to play *Macbeth* behind the curtain.

Mr B. URBAN: I have not seen *Macbeth* behind the curtain; I am in full view.

Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski: The Scottish play.

Mr B. URBAN: It is the Scottish play. Now Roleystone Theatre is doing a play called *Mort*, which is a bit macabre. I hope that the member for Mandurah will spend some time to see *Mort*. It is on at the moment and tickets are on sale. If he wants a ticket, I am quite happy to get it for him.

With my remaining 11 minutes, I will talk about one subject—mixed martial arts. I have mentioned in this place many times that I am a mixed martial arts lover. I am a contender. I have been a contender in judo since the age of five. I do Shotokan and now I have the old boys roll around on the mats.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Is this still part of the Roleystone Theatre?

Mr B. URBAN: No; we have moved on from that.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Sorry; you have moved on. I was wondering what production you were talking about.

Mr B. URBAN: If the Leader of the House wants to talk about rolling around on mats, I made a grievance statement last week and a 90-second statement about the Roleystone Gymnastics Club, which is still going strong. I will be there throwing bowls at the Roleystone Bowls Club this weekend as a fundraiser for the kids, because it is an absolutely awesome group and it does some wonderful things. I have mentioned that in this place and I am glad I got it in again. I thank the minister for raising that with me.

Two years ago in Melbourne, the first Ultimate Fighting Championship event came to the shores of Australia. It was an absolutely awesome event—56 124 people went to Melbourne to watch that one fight in the evening. Ronda Rousey was the headliner. That event raised \$102 million for Victoria. I am a very strong advocate for the sport of mixed martial arts. I take the member for South Perth, who is a fine gentleman who likes the horses—the sport of kings. I do not like it; I have no interest in watching a horse run around a track. It does not upset me, but it is not my sport. This is what has been forgotten about in this state. UFC is not the sport for absolutely everybody. I know the member for Cottesloe has raised in this place over many years that he does not like UFC. He does not like how aggressive it is.

I want to dispel a few myths about UFC in the short time available to me. I enjoy watching martial arts in various forms, whether it is a traditional karate kata competition or freestyle. I absolutely love watching judo in any form, which can only be the purest form anyway. I love to watch boxing. It is good to see two people who should be quite similar competing in the same style and being pitted against each other. It is not simply a case of beating each other or elbowing each other in the head. It is about pitting the wits of two equal people. What is quite interesting in the Octagon is that the competitors use different styles of martial arts. It pits a judo or jujitsu

technician against a karate practitioner or a boxer or a wrestler. Competitors have to start mixing the different styles. Someone will be beaten if they fight someone in the same style or fight someone who does judo when they are not a judo practitioner, or they are a boxer; it is just a nightmare. Competitors have to pick out bits from the different styles of martial arts. We are in Dana White's great company in the UFC because mixed martial arts uses different styles of martial arts together.

I will talk about UFC 217 in a second, which is the event that will be held in Perth; I hope it will go further than that. UFC supported 894 jobs in that one day in Melbourne, which was about \$40.8 million in wages. The event generated \$170 million across the world in the media. That is not chicken feed. People here in Australia like watching that sport. Unfortunately, Ronda Rousey was beaten by Holly Holm. There were 29 million tweets about the fight in the minute after the defeat. It was a bit of a shock because Ronda Rousey is a great arm bar technician, but she could not take her to the ground. Holly had obviously done her homework.

Several members interjected.

Mr B. URBAN: Who was laughing at me? This is my martial arts side!

After this fight, Danny Green said that he wants to see the sport back in Melbourne. Danny is a very good Western Australian. He is an awesome boxer and advocate for raising awareness about one punch, or the coward's punch—whatever we want to call it. I know that Danny has tickets to the UFC event in Perth so I am hoping that we can catch up and talk about UFC coming back to Western Australia after UFC 217.

The Victorian Minister for Sport, Mr John Eren, lifted a ban on cage fighting in that state in March last year. I hate the term "cage fighting" because it is not a cage—it is an octagon. Anyone who knows about fighting or martial arts—it is not fighting, but more controlled fighting—would know that when someone hits or punches their opponent or uses a kick to the head, their opponent can move out of the way easily or take the kick or the punch and go with it. If the cage is not there, or the mesh is not around the Octagon, and rope is around it, trust me, they will fall through the rope. I am amazed at the number of injuries that were sustained in the old K1 kickboxing fights in a ring. Those injuries were a result not necessarily of the fight itself, but of people going through the ropes.

I want to more or less finish soon on UFC 217, which is to be held here in Perth in February next year. I am looking forward to that immensely. I am waiting online and I have early tickets already set up so that when they get released, I will get my tickets first.

Dr A.D. Buti: No need to worry about getting a ticket for me!

Mr B. URBAN: I know the member for Armadale's thoughts about Octagon fighting and fighting in general. I know his passion is running—long distance, mad running.

Dr A.D. Buti: Not in a cage—I don't want to be in a cage.

Mr B. URBAN: The member can run around it as many times as he wants. I will say that this sport is not for everyone; but it is for many people. We have to accommodate everyone in our community. The good thing about UFC 217 is that Robert Whittaker—a lad from Sydney and the current Australian champion—has a chance of actually becoming UFC world champion. Under Premier McGowan, we have opened up UFC, or Octagon fighting, and that is why we have UFC here. It was all spinning on the fight in Madison Square Garden on Sunday morning—Saturday night in America—between Georges St-Pierre, GSP, and Michael Bisping. It was a strange fight between GSP, who has been out for a number of years but was making a comeback, and Michael Bisping, who has been the champion for a while. Georges is a pure martial artist and Michael is too, but Georges managed to beat him. It is interesting to see that Georges will be coming to Perth. That has not been announced yet, but I have a funny feeling that an announcement will be made soon that Georges will be coming to Perth. It will be absolutely unbelievable to see such an iconic fighter of his calibre in Perth.

Mr J.E. McGrath: You should bring him here for question time.

Mr B. URBAN: I will bring him here for lunch, but he will probably not eat the food.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

Mr B. URBAN: He will need the energy. I have less than a minute left, and I want to the finish on the "Annual Report 2015/16: For the Safety and Organisation of Combat Sports".

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands — Deputy Speaker) [10.44 am]: I would like to speak about a number of topics today in the cognate second reading debate of the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017. I will start by reminding members that last week this house heard an amazing speech by the Premier that committed us to having a bill brought into the house by the Attorney General to remove historic homosexual convictions. I wanted to note that at the beginning of my speech. I was due to make this speech last week, but, as often happens in this place, things were moved and I was one of the things that had to move, so members are getting it this week.

On 18 May 2016, in my contribution to the Address-in-Reply, I put on the record that this was the first time this issue had been raised in the Western Australian Parliament. I spoke for my whole half-hour about the need to fix these grievous miscarriages of justice from an historical perspective. After my speech, which I suggest was very well received by the house, the Premier of the day, Colin Barnett, and the former Deputy Premier and now Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Liza Harvey, thanked me and said that they would fully support overturning the legislation. It was with great pleasure that the Liberal Party has held good to its commitment of 12 months ago, and it was with even more joy that I learnt the National Party also has agreed to support the Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement Bill 2017 in this house. I thank the house. It is one of the few occasions in my 10 years in this place that something has been brought into the Parliament and within 12 months we are seeing a result. It is a rare occurrence in my view. I am very pleased that I can report to the community at large and to my friends in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex community that, through their lobbying and through any small thing that I have been able to do to help bring this issue forward to the Parliament, there is now a bill in the house that will fix this injustice.

I want to move on to another, I hope, good news story—it will be a good news story. It is a commitment we took to the election. I acknowledge my colleague the Minister for Local Government, sitting in the front row, who has supported us through the early stages of the implementation of the WA Labor McGowan government's stop puppy farming policy. I am very, very proud that probably six or seven years of lobbying has resulted in action now being taken. I want to talk in particular about the very first meeting of the implementation group for stopping puppy farming in this state. The minister and I will be doing something formally next week, but the first meeting of this group —

Mr J.E. McGrath: You've let the cat out of the bag!

Ms L.L. BAKER: No; it is fine.

The ACTING SPEAKER: It was a joke.

Ms L.L. BAKER: I get it—let the cat out of the bag! Thank you, member for South Perth. That is very humorous.

The very first meeting will take place next week, and I am very, very pleased to say that the terms of reference for the working group will help to implement this quite straightforward policy. In fact, there are four key elements to it, which I will mention quickly. The first element is to create a centralised database so that every puppy born in Western Australia has an identification and is able to be traced back to a breeder. That will do a significant amount to police and regulate more effectively this industry—and it is an industry. This centralised database will be modelled on something Queensland has—a couple of other states have similar models—and that will be one of the key strategies that our group will start work on. The other thing that is probably a little bit more controversial and will require a little more input from the stakeholders we will be talking to is the issue of mandatory sterilisation. I do not think anybody disagrees that it is a good thing to do that, but there would need to be exemptions.

Mr D.A. Templeman: The member for South Perth is a very strong supporter of mandatory sterilisation.

Ms L.L. BAKER: I just point out that am talking about dogs here.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Oh!

Ms L.L. BAKER: I am sorry, minister. I want to be specific. This is about the mandatory sterilisation of dogs. We want to make sure that the requirement for exemptions can be discussed and workshopped in our group and that we get feedback from stakeholders about that. There are practical reasons why we need to be concerned about getting this decision about sterilisation right. Various veterinary and research advice says that, on the one hand, large dogs should be sterilised later in life, around six months plus, and other schools of thought say that shelter veterinarians will be quite happy to sterilise puppies earlier than that. There are debates to be had. I am not a veterinarian, so I am relying on the expert input from many people who will be in our group from places such as DogsWest, Shenton Park Dogs' Refuge Home, Oscar's Law and many others.

Mr B. Urban: Is the West Coast Rottweiler Club in there?

Ms L.L. BAKER: The Rottweiler group? No. Perhaps the member for Darling Range would like to talk to me about that later.

The next policy commitment in our suite around puppy farming is to introduce standards and guidelines—basically, codes of practice for the breeding of dogs. At the moment, if somebody is looking for a dog online on Gumtree, or in the paper or wherever, they might see a code attached to the advert. It might read, "Rottweiler puppies for sale: property number 68425". A lot of people will mistakenly think that that is a bona fide breeder registration number or that it is, in any other shape, promising that that dog has been bred by the right people in the right place with the right parents. That is not the case. That is often just a kennel licence number issued by a local government authority that carries no weight whatsoever in assuring the new family of a puppy that those animals have been bred soundly from a good breed line and are healthy and well socialised. We need to address that. The Department of Agriculture and Food was looking at companion animals. The Stop Puppy Farming working group will also be taking a role in looking at this issue.

The very practical policy point that we will bring in is to stop the sale of dogs and puppies from pet shops, unless it is through an official and formal relationship that is built and forged with a registered or recognised adoption centre. We have to work out what that all means in plain English for a buyer. We need to work out exactly which ones will be adoption centres, what they will have to do to stay a recognised and accredited adoption centre or rescue group, and how often we need to keep checking that they are doing the right thing.

Point of Order

Dr A.D. BUTI: I am sitting next to the member for Maylands and I am battling to hear her. Maybe members could show some respect.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): Thank you. Member for Maylands.

Mr J.E. McGrath interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for South Perth, I was trying to get you to shoosh.

Debate Resumed

Ms L.L. BAKER: The issue of changing or transitioning pet shops into adoption centres will require some thought and some good planning, but members must understand that this is a genuine way of futureproofing these businesses into the future. It is very clear to anybody who has the slightest bit of interest in this issue that the social ethics around breeding dogs and cats, and animals in general, has fundamentally changed in the last 10 to 15 years. The community no longer accepts that people do not know what is happening to animals, particularly puppies in this case. People demand more information and they are far more rigorous about their demands of welfare standards when purchasing a puppy.

Mr J.E. McGrath: It is very important now because of security. I find so many people purchase a dog as a guard dog or to be in the home to give them some protection. There is a market out there for people who want a good dog that has been well bred and properly registered.

Ms L.L. BAKER: And well socialised?

Mr J.E. McGrath: Yes.

Ms L.L. BAKER: I quite agree—dogs as family members and as part of security in homes. Police will tell people that they are the best security a person can have.

Mr B. Urban: Not my Rottweilers.

Ms L.L. BAKER: Yes; apart from the member for Darling Range, who has some singularly unwatchdog-like guard dogs!

Mr B. Urban: My Rottweilers are the most useless guard dogs in the world.

Ms L.L. BAKER: Thank you. We do not want to frighten them. We do not want to startle the member for Darling Range's dogs.

In talking about pet shops and adoption centres, we currently have very good examples of why this is absolutely essential. I refer to a media story that ran a couple of weeks ago. I just assure the house that as far as I am aware, this issue has been closed off, so there is no sub judice attached to this. I will speak about a pet shop in my electorate. Someone was quite proud to stand in front of Channel Nine cameras a couple of weeks ago and say that their pet shop had bought thousands of puppies. These puppies had been flown over. I am thinking that the records will show they were flown over at under eight weeks of age. I cannot prove that, because I have not seen the records, but that is the hearsay. It is of course illegal to fly dogs at under eight weeks of age and it is certainly illegal to fly or sell un-microchipped dogs. The Dog Act was very clear about that. I am aware of a family who purchased two puppies they thought were cocker spaniels. They were assured by this particular pet shop that these dogs were cocker spaniels. I understand that the two dogs were bought two weeks apart. When the second one was brought home, it tried to savage and kill the first one. That is quite an unusual trait in a wee puppy, and one to be extremely concerned about. The family who owned these two dogs, with small children, wanted these dogs to be family members. They took this pet shop to their local Magistrates Court—it used to be called the Small Claims Tribunal—through consumer law provisions. They were finally awarded damages because the DNA testing on these puppies showed six different breeds, none of which was cocker spaniel. This is about the fourth or fifth case that I know of that has been attempted to be taken against shops that retail puppy-farmed puppies, but this is the first one I remember that has been successful. I am very pleased that it was successful.

I will talk about consumer law in a minute. One of the catches in consumer law is that it recognises animals as things or goods. A person cannot say that things or goods—the animal—are being mistreated or poorly treated. Complaining about a thing, a good or a service is the only way that a person can be brought to court—that is, saying that a puppy, a small sentient eight to 12-week-old creature—this thing—is not fit for purpose. I find that deeply offensive on a number of levels, but that would be no surprise to this house. It is clear that if a faulty good

is the only option open to a purchaser of a dog—not fit for purpose or not what it says it is—the only redress is to take it to a small claims tribunal through consumer law. In this case, costs were awarded to the people who had purchased these two puppies. The complexities of dealing with this issue, when we are dealing with sentient creatures, is that they brought two new family members into their home and their children were bonding with the puppies. When the family sought redress, they were told to return the puppies. They knew very well that to return the puppies would see them euthanased, and they would not do that. There was no reason that these small creatures should be killed for the sake of the bad treatment they had had to date. They certainly were not going to return them. The pet shop concerned was within its legal rights to say, “You didn’t actually return the dogs to us. That is part of law, so bad luck.” The catch is that when dealing with a live creature, returning it means killing it, and families will often not do that. In the end, the family that paid—wait for it—\$2 600 for each puppy managed to get \$600 back through the court. That is an extraordinary situation. Both puppies are still alive and being fostered. One is still in the home, I believe, and the other one has been fostered out. They seem to be all right, but they are certainly not cocker spaniels.

I put that on record because this is the issue when people buy puppies of unknown heritage. People are being assured that puppies are what they want—a cocker spaniel in this case—and then they are finding out that that is not the case. People cannot just make that statement; they have to go through a court process to prove it. It is unconscionable and we need to be far better at legally enforcing these issues.

One of the other two parts of this policy is education. It is no good changing laws unless we tell people about the changes. What happens when a family is walking through a shopping centre, sees a pet shop and all of a sudden it does not see lots of little cute puppies in the window? How much is that puppy in the window et cetera? What do people do? Where will they buy dogs from? That is exactly what we want to stop. We want to stop people impulse buying any animal—particularly puppies and kittens, but any animal. To make it more of a process that a family needs to go through is, in my view, a very good thing. People need to find out, first of all, what kind of dog will suit their family. They need to find out which breeders are registered for that type of dog.

[Member’s time extended.]

Ms L.L. BAKER: In fact, they may even need to wait for the mother to give birth to the puppies before they can bring a puppy into the family. That is all normal practice and it should be the way that we go about purchasing new companion animals to share our homes. An education campaign will be part of this work.

Finally, another part of this policy is how to better enforce the Animal Welfare Act and the Dog Act, and how to give general inspectors the right powers to investigate this kind of issue. After 10 years, when I start these talks, I sometimes scratch my head and wonder whether I will be able to fill 30 minutes. The short answer is that it has never been a problem. When talking about things that are so well researched and so well evidenced, I can go on for a very long time. Maybe I should move to the upper house and keep talking for a year and half about this.

A change in laws is required and we will do that. I wish to thank the membership of this committee. Aside from the government departments involved such as the Consumer Protection Division, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the like, it will include ranger associations, the Australian Veterinary Association, the Dogs’ Refuge Home, DogsWest, Local Government Professionals of Australia, the Western Australian Local Government Association, Oscar’s Law, the minister’s office, the Pet Industry Association of Australia and the RSPCA. Other groups may come to this session as well. We have invited the Australian Federation for Livestock Working Dogs. My argument is that once one group has been invited, we need to include the other seven categories of dog groups that exist in the state. I shall be putting that on the table as part of our first discussions.

I mentioned sentience. I wanted to talk a little bit about animal law and I figured that while I was on the subject of animals, I might as well just keep going because I do not have very much fear of being interrupted in this chamber on that one. Animal law is the field of law that governs interactions between human and non-human animals. I will significantly rely on the work of Voiceless, the Animal Protection Institute of Australia, as a reference for some of what I will talk about. As our understanding of animal behavioural intelligence has increased, so has the acceptance in the scientific community that animals are sentient and should be free from suffering and abuse. Unfortunately, we are in an era in which more animals are suffering than ever before. The law has an important role to play in protecting these animals. Under anti-cruelty statutes that many states, including Western Australia, have, companion animals receive the most protection, while animals that are used in food or are classified as pests are afforded the least. That is largely because they are excluded from a number of protections that exist under the laws currently governing animal welfare. For example, in Western Australia the statutes expressly exclude fish in the definition of animal, meaning that these animals are entirely unprotected from cruelty. That is a discussion that I have not yet had with the Minister for Fisheries. I am sure that he can hardly wait for me to raise it with him! It is an issue that we have debated in this house before when discussing sharks and the like. Farm animals are exempt from some of the basic protections. In New South Wales, for instance, it is legal to castrate cows, sheep, goats and pigs without anaesthetic. However, it would be unlawful to do that to a dog or a cat. In this way, the law operates under a double standard by affording unequal protection to certain kinds of animals, based not on their capacity to

suffer, but on economic imperatives. That is the basis of the issue of sentience and why we need to recognise sentience under law. State and territory anti-cruelty statutes are significantly undermined in many cases by model codes of practice for the welfare of animals. Something which exists and which our Minister for Agriculture and Food in the upper house is trying to update is the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, particularly those about livestock. That minister is trying very hard to bring in a far better set of standards than we currently have in place. Even those industry guidelines outline only minimum recommendations for the proper care and management of animals. They exist for a variety of animal-use industries and largely operate in favour of protecting the interests of the producer. This is partly due to the fact that industry guidelines are developed not by Parliament, but by government department subcommittees that are often heavily represented or influenced and funded by animal industry groups such as the cosmetic industry. Members will be familiar with the long history of problems with that industry. Under most anti-cruelty statutes, compliance with an industry guideline operates as a defence to or an exemption from a cruelty prosecution. Members may not remember, but I will never forget a case that was heard in the courts over here over the last few years about a station owner in the northwest and some extremely heinous actions that were undertaken with the dehorning of a scrub bull that was brought in. I will not go into that in detail because, quite frankly, no-one deserves to see or hear how that animal was treated. The station owner was originally prosecuted and convicted, but it was overturned by the magistrate because national standards were not adopted. That is something to remember, I think.

Mr R.S. Love: Are you disputing the result of the court case?

Ms L.L. BAKER: No. I stated the result, which is a bit different. It is not sub judice. It is a case that was heard long ago. I have already said that he was let off those charges and why. I have put that on the record before, so I am sure that the member for Moore will be fine with that.

Both anti-cruelty statutes and industry guidelines permit pain and suffering to be inflicted on animals provided it is deemed to be reasonable, necessary or justifiable. These words are subjective and there is wide scope for courts to determine their meaning in any given situation. For example, courts may be required to consider whether it is justifiable to castrate a pig without anaesthetic for meat production, reasonable to repeatedly whip a racehorse for entertainment purposes, or justifiable to kill bobby calves by means of blunt force trauma as part of milk production.

Although the police have power to enforce anti-cruelty statutes, a considerable portion of animal law in Australia is carried out by the RSPCA, which is a charity. With the \$500 000 or whatever it is that the state government gives the RSPCA—it has been adjusted upwards somewhat—it has to enforce the Animal Welfare Act provisions with the support of the police when it can get it. Of course, police are pretty busy doing other things. Quite often, these cases do not get through the system, so not that many successful cases are prosecuted. Another key body responsible for enforcing animal cruelty statutes—generally those for farm and wild animals—is the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. That department operates with a clear conflict of interest, as was pointed out in 2015 by the Productivity Commission of Australia. The regulatory capture that occurs when we ask the department whose mission it is to strengthen agribusiness or to grow primary industry—I have no problem with those strategies because that is exactly what the mission of that department should be—is completely incompatible with the promotion and protection of animal welfare. That is the regulatory capture that the Productivity Commission spent a great deal of time and effort in 2015 committing to a report.

A solution to this problem of enforcing the statutes is to make it the responsibility of an independent statutory body, such as independent offices of animal welfare at a state and federal level. Another option would be for police to establish a special animal cruelty task force, which we have had in the past, that would investigate animal cruelty matters. It is difficult to commence criminal prosecutions as animal cruelty often occurs on private property. This is particularly the case with factory farms, for instance, but also in other animal use industries. It is a very big problem. One of the issues at the heart of that is that in order to bring a case of animal cruelty, one must have something that the legal system refers to as “standing”. In the context of animal law, standing refers to the ability of an individual or group to commence legal proceedings on behalf of an animal. There is a long history of various bodies trying to get standing.

Animals’ Angels is a German-based group that has been operating in Western Australia for a long time and also operates in the eastern states. In the New South Wales case *Animals’ Angels v the Secretary, Department of Agriculture*, the group Animals’ Angels sought a judicial review of two decisions regarding a live export voyage in 2008 from Australia to Malaysia. The Federal Court held that it did not have standing because it was a registered German charity. On appeal the court held that the matters relied on by the primary judge did not adequately convey the duration and quality of the involvement of Animals’ Angels in the Australian live export trade and he awarded them standing. That is a revolutionary moment for Australian animal law and one of which I am very proud. In my view, Animals’ Angels is very sensible and has always been able to provide me with well thought-out and unemotional advice. This is an area in which that is needed. We do not need to be confronting the likes of the Moola Bulla Station case graphically every time we talk about animal welfare.

I want to finish in my last two minutes by mentioning the book *National Geographic Inside Animal Minds*, which I think was released last month. I will read a little from that about animal sentience. Anthropomorphism, or

attributing humanlike characteristics to animals, was taboo for much of the twentieth century, but that resistance would be challenged by a few path-clearing thinkers and spur scientists to devise new, more rigorous ways of testing and measuring animal minds. We understand even more about them now than before. Anthropomorphism is now considered a tool for making sense of animals. They are not merely furred, feathered, or scaled versions of ourselves, but we share a common biological heritage, and that includes the brain. Much of what is important in our lives—memory, emotion, relationship, daily experience, making plans, problem solving and even spirituality—is not confined just to the brainy creatures we know like whales, chimpanzees, dolphins or crows, but even in songbirds, fish and insects. Our experience of the world is far richer for knowing this. The possibility that we can actually do significantly more work scientifically to investigate the issue of sentience is something that excites me a lot because I think it hinges on not just how we treat animals now, but the future of animal welfare in this country. To not approve of and to not recognise animal sentience is a grave injustice and one that I will certainly seek to overturn when we review the Animal Welfare Act next year.

MS J.M. FREEMAN (Mirrabooka) [11.13 am]: I thank the member for Maylands for such an impassioned speech. I concur with her that we are now in an age in which we need to recognise the importance of animal welfare and sentient beings and that holds very true to many of the beliefs that I practise.

Like the member for Maylands, I missed an opportunity to speak on a bill only a few days ago that dealt with occupational health and safety changes, so I will take the opportunity in this debate on the Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 to raise a few matters with regard to that. I make special note of WorkSafe inspector Jenny Testar who died suddenly at the beginning of October this year at the age of 60. She left many heartbroken by her untimely death at such a young age. Jenny was an absolute warrior for workers. The death notice in the newspaper from her WorkSafe colleagues and friends talks about Jenny having the strength of a bear. I knew her to be a person who brought resilience, mischief—lots of mischief—and strength in her work to ensure a better, fairer and safer workplace. I knew Jenny Testar as the security officers' organiser at what was then the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union, or the missos, which is now United Voice. It was a role she took on with gusto, despite the bullying of employers. One of the things about the security industry is that because it does not necessarily have the legal firepower in terms of carrying arms, it must be able to have a legitimacy of control over situations. Often security officers have a presence and a sense of their own capacity that, when they go through the ranks into leadership, can be very challenging when we are defending workers, to the extent that they can be extraordinarily aggressive. When Jenny and I dealt with one particular security company that had the contract at the airport, the employer was quite a bully. Jenny was of small stature, but she could stand up to someone who was even an ex-military head of a security company!

Ms S.F. McGurk: That's because she started at the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union!

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: She actually started at the printers' union. I will get to that.

She had a power of presence of commitment and a passion for those people she represented. Jenny's legacy included being the first Mother of Chapel in the Perth Printing Industry Employees' Union. The delegates in the printing industry are called the Father of Chapel. As Mother of Chapel, Jenny fought tirelessly for the removal of hazardous printing chemicals and greater ventilation. In her later working career she was an inspector at WorkSafe, which I have mentioned. This was a long-term ambition that was fuelled by her personal experience of lung cancer, which she vehemently believed was caused by her work at State Print and the chemicals she was exposed to. Her work at WorkSafe was also fuelled by her passion for social justice and the health of the working community and the greater community. I extend my deepest sympathy to her husband, Owen Hintz, and to Harley, Jaxson and Sam and other family members, friends and colleagues who were out in force to celebrate her life at her funeral. They all remembered her fondly. They recounted her outrageous turns of phrase and her exuberant enthusiasm for enjoying life. Rest in peace, Jenny Testar.

Members: Hear, hear.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Given that I have had the opportunity to talk about a champion in the space of occupational health and safety, members know that in the past day we passed in this house the Occupational Safety and Health Amendment Bill 2017. That will increase penalties in response to the lack of action by the previous government that saw paltry fines that offered little deterrent value to the deaths in workplaces, such as \$7 500 for the death of a worker who had fallen through a skylight. In 2015–16, there were 23 deaths in Western Australian workplaces. Since that time, workplace deaths have continued. In 2016–17, 11 deaths occurred in the workplace, including the tragic fall of 17-year-old Wesley Ballantine, whose death is under investigation by WorkSafe. The changes that we put through increased the fines under sections 3A, 20A and 54A of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984. Fines under sections 20A and 54A were increased fourfold, and those under section 3A were increased tenfold.

According to WorkSafe's report "State of the Work Environment: Work-related traumatic injury fatalities, Western Australia 2006–2007 to 2015–2016", released in September 2016, over the last financial year, a worker has been killed in the workplace every 19 days; many of them were between 25 and 44 years of age. The changes that we introduced increased penalties for workplace injuries and deaths, and were a response to the harmonisation

of occupational health and safety laws in Australia. In 2009 there was an agreement between all states to increase the penalties. Preliminary Western Australian key occupational health and safety statistics for 2015–16 detail that two employees are injured seriously enough to take time off work every two days, and almost 5 000 workers are hurt to the extent that they require two months or more off work. That is an average of around three-quarters of a year lost time to industry. Despite this, there has been only one successful prosecution of significant breaches of the Occupational Safety and Health Act every month for the past two years. The WA Labor government is actively pursuing a framework that will see an improvement in legislation beyond increasing penalties that will deliver safer workplaces, and I welcome this.

However, in this context, it is important to recognise the passing of the industrial manslaughter legislation in Queensland on 12 October 2017, in response to the deaths at the Dreamworld theme park and the Eagle Farm racecourse in 2016. The changes in Queensland created the criminal offence of industrial manslaughter for negligence of an employer, a person conducting a business—a corporation as such—and a senior officer, when a worker dies, either at a workplace or later on, in the course of carrying out work. The Queensland Work Health and Safety Act now includes a maximum penalty of 20 years' imprisonment for an individual, and a fine of up to \$10 million for a corporation. The provisions do not yet cover the mining sector, but they cover many other sectors, including electrical safety. I took the opportunity to read the Queensland Parliamentary report on the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, which introduced the offence of industrial manslaughter. The bill introduced quite a lot of changes to the health and safety legislation, including provision for an independent prosecutor. The report was a very comprehensive summary of the debate for and against the introduction of the industrial manslaughter offence, and members were unable to reach consensus on their recommendations to the Parliament. There is no doubt that this is a contentious area. The government members supported the strengthening of the legislation through introduction of the industrial manslaughter offence, maintaining it would make significant inroads into the attitudes of senior executives of corporations to make safety a priority.

We have to remind ourselves that, in Queensland, the 2009 harmonisation agreement had already been put into place. We in this Parliament have only done that through the changes that the present government has introduced with the increasing penalties. Those penalties, in Queensland, were clearly insufficient and workers continued to die in the workplace and be killed at worksites. The Queensland opposition belittled the legislation and the introduction of the offence of industrial manslaughter as a sledgehammer to crack a walnut. Under the Queensland legislation a person will be found to be negligent when their conduct so far departs from the standard of care expected to avoid danger to life, health and safety, and the conduct substantially contributed to the death. They are quite high hurdles, but the intent is to make it clear that deaths in workplaces should no longer occur. The reason for the offence of industrial manslaughter is to catch a corporation that the criminal code cannot, enabling the conduct of employees, agents and officers to be attributed to the organisation. I will quote from page 12 of the Parliamentary report —

A key difference between defences for industrial manslaughter and manslaughter under the Criminal Code ... is that where an offence of manslaughter under the Criminal Code is based on criminal negligence, the section 23 defence relating to an accident is not available ... the duties owed are of such weight and importance that they cannot be negated by reliance on accident.

The report continues —

Under the Police Powers ... a person is entitled to remain silent when questioned by police ...

In contrast, under the WHS Act, persons who refuse to provide answers to inspectors when asked ... commit an offence, unless they can provide a reasonable excuse for their refusal.

These are major changes, and those opposing the changes stated, at page 7 of the report —

... the industrial manslaughter provisions are unnecessary and duplicative, create additional red tape, and shift the focus from improving health, safety and the primary duty of care to punitive action.

The Australian Capital Territory is the only other Australian jurisdiction with the industrial manslaughter offence, but has seen no prosecutions under the provisions since 2004. I did not have an opportunity to look at the statistics for deaths in workplaces in the ACT, but many times in this place we have put in place legislation whose major value was said to be its deterrence; for example, mandatory sentencing for injuring a police officer. I recall that the then Attorney General, Christian Porter—I do not have a quote—said that its major contribution in policy and legislation was its deterrence value. I do believe there is a proper debate for the industrial manslaughter charge as a deterrent. Similar legislation in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia has been proposed and put to the Parliament, but has not been successful. It is certainly something that needs to be discussed in the review of the model work health and safety laws for Australia in 2018. In the event that legislation for the offence of industrial manslaughter does not come to pass—I understand that our Parliament, having changed these important penalties, will want to see what occurs then and whether they act as a powerful deterrent—it is important that we start to work closely with the police to ensure quicker outcomes for families in the event of workplace deaths. Police in the community suggest bringing in the police earlier to achieve quicker outcomes for families. It is very important that we make sure that this occurs.

I want to speak briefly about occupational health and safety for culturally and linguistically diverse workers. As we know, each worker brings unique experience, assets and challenges to the workplace, and newly arrived Australians often take up employment in industries in which they did not work previously. They are often unfamiliar with machines, chemicals and materials, which presents new hazards. I have an example I want to share. I was talking to a South Sudanese Bor community member the other day. He was a bricklayer in South Sudan, in the Jonglei state. He came over here and had to do his apprenticeship again. He has since gone back and trained others, although the civil war made it difficult for him and he returned to Perth. He said the great thing about learning bricklaying skills here is learning the safety skills. He said that doing bricklaying in South Sudan involves no equipment or machinery. A bricklayer may have 20 or 30 assistants. There is no machine to mix the cement; it is done by the assistants. No-one takes any notice when someone injures themselves, because life is relatively cheap. Coming here and working as a bricklayer has given him an appreciation of not only using machinery, the tools and the technology, but also his safety and that of the people he worked with, his assistant. He said that when he went back that was one of the important messages he took back to his community—that all life is precious, and that should be taken into account in all workplaces.

I also came across language difficulties in contract cleaning. The supervisor was the person who could speak English and became the translator for the workers, particularly Macedonian workers in those days. In my view, they were not given very good information on the chemicals that they were using, but it was difficult for me to outline that to them because of the language difficulties. It is very important that we take into account these issues in the area of occupational safety and health. One thing in particular that we need to consider is the cultural preferences and leanings that communities bring to the workplace.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: It is often the case that newly arrived migrants want to make the best of it. They want to be able to achieve and excel, so often they will go above and beyond for their employer to show that they are committed and really want to take on the job. That attitude can be exploited to have workers do unsafe activities or work beyond normal working hours. How they use protective equipment can also be exploited. The other thing that is really interesting to note is that the modelling for personal protective equipment and clothing is based on army personnel. People come in different shapes and sizes, and sometimes that protective clothing and equipment is not suitable, but we are seeing a shift in this area. The employer is required to make that shift so that when people are required to wear protective clothing in the workplace, that clothing is suitable given their body types and cultural beliefs and religions.

I now want to move on to the unregulated scrap metal industry.

Mr D.T. Punch: Every ounce counts.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: Every ounce counts. The member for Gosnells might be able to tell members about a theft recently on 4 October 2017. A *Perth Now* report stated —

POLICE are investigating the attempted theft of copper cabling which caused significant disruption to internet services in Perth's south.

The offenders cut through cables at the exchange in Gosnells last week, cutting services to about 4000 Telstra customers in surrounding suburbs.

Earlier this year on 27 February 2017, thieves stole copper from a Western Power substation in Treendale on a Monday night. What was really unfortunate was that the stolen wiring was almost worthless. An estimate of the damage suggested that the thieves made off with between \$1 and \$2 worth of copper, but they caused quite a lot of damage to the transformers and risk to people in the community.

In 2014, a man was charged with the alleged theft of copper valued at \$15 000 from a Belmont business. At the risk of harping on, I want to share with people that on 2 April 2012 in an article titled “‘Poor man's gold’ — copper thieves will target almost anything”, Ken, who was at the Gladesville Anglican church, was reported to have said about his wife —

“At one stage she was complaining about the fact it —

That is the church organ —

wasn't sounding very good ... would you believe that quite a number of the organ pipes had been stolen?” he recalls.

The unregulated scrap-metal industry is a problem. It was a difficulty in Koondoola about a month ago. Some people turned up to vacated properties that were about to be rented in high-vis tradie sort of clothing. They went into the house, scoured the plaster out of the walls and took copper piping from the house. My questions to the police were: “How can that happen? How can you not pursue that?” It is because these people get cash for the copper and the industry is unregulated. They are not covered by the Pawnbroker and Second-hand Dealers Act 1994. The impact of that on crime, I would suspect, is quite great because those people are exempted from licensing requirements

under the Western Australian Pawnbroker and Second-hand Dealers Act, provided they do not deal in certain metals, and that would be gold. New South Wales and Victoria have put a stop to this by changing their laws. The Victorian Law Reform Commission outlined that the scrap-metal industry is highly susceptible to organised crime and the government introduced legislation as part of its Community Safety Statement, which was released by the Premier and the Minister for Police in conjunction with the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police earlier this year. The Victorian legislation passed on 20 September 2017 and banned cash payments for scrap metal to stop the stolen-car trade.

At this point in time, we know that the Australian Taxation Office—do we not love the ATO, it believes in taxing sex workers in our community despite the fact that they are illegal, and that is the same for the scrap metal industry—has developed a code of compliance for scrap-metal dealers. Legitimate scrap-metal dealers follow the code, record a range of details for each scrap-metal transaction and include the details of sellers and purchasers. We are not talking about legitimate scrap dealers; we are talking about those who give cash for scrap metal and, in some cases, cash for cars. I want to talk about cash for stolen cars as part of this, because that was a big issue for the Victorian legislation.

Mr M.J. Folkard: It is a big issue for us

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: It is an issue for us as well. I was not aware of that. I just know that in the community I represent, someone will break into a house to steal copper that is worth about \$5 a kilogram at the moment. I understand that it is a roaring trade.

Mr M.J. Folkard: They even lease houses so that they can get access to the copper.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: The member for Burns Beach tells me that people will even lease houses to get access to copper. A principal of a school told me a story about how, when she was building a new house, thieves took the water meter away for scrap. She bought a new water meter, and they took that away as well. The police could do nothing in terms of tracking it down and the building insurance did not cover it. She was out of pocket for two water meters and not covered by insurance.

Mr M.J. Folkard: It costs about \$1 500 for the brass alone.

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: It costs \$1 500 for the brass, for one kilogram?

Mr M.J. Folkard: They will do a street. They will take all the meters in a street. They do not stop at one place, they just go—bang, bang, bang!

Ms J.M. FREEMAN: That tells me, member for Burns Beach, that we are talking about organised crime, not petty theft. It certainly is an issue that we need to address, given the response by Victoria and New South Wales.

Recycling metal has financial and environmental benefits. In fact, Henry Ford, who pioneered the mass production of motor cars, also pioneered their recycling. In terms of cars and steel, steel is the world's most recyclable material and can be recycled again and again without reducing the quality of the end product. I thank the Victorian Parliament for its contributions on this issue, which I am probably plagiarising a bit in this house, so I hope members do not mind. I understand that recycled steel uses only 25 per cent of the energy needed to make steel from raw materials. The history in Australia of recycling industrial scrap steel started with BHP Pty Ltd from 1915. I am told by the member for Burns Beach, who is better advised on these issues than I am, that the big issue in Victoria is rebirthing motor vehicles, which occurs also in Western Australia. Rebirthing motor vehicles involves stolen or written-off cars being given a new life by criminals falsifying documentation, changing vehicle identification numbers and often exporting them to other countries or other states for illegal sale. My understanding is that they buy a car that is written off by an insurer to get a vehicle identification number and a few parts. They then put that together with stolen cars and rebirth them. They can do that because they have legitimately bought the vehicle that has been written off by the insurers, and illegitimately gained a car paid for in cash to organised crime.

Other jurisdictions have changed their legislation to address this. In 2012, the United Kingdom banned the cash-for-scrap market, a move aimed at stopping the theft of metal from railways in their jurisdiction. The result was a 30 per cent drop in metal theft. As I said, the Victorian government passed laws on 20 September 2017 banning cash payments for scrap metal to stop the stolen car trade. In New South Wales, Hon Rick Colless, on introducing the Scrap Metal Industry Bill 2016 into the New South Wales upper house, said —

Up until now this trade has been largely unregulated and undocumented making it extremely attractive to criminals as a way to make some quick cash.

It is clearly an issue that we need to think about addressing in Parliament. I have sent off a hasty email to the minister's office to find out whether our act covers it. I am reliably told by the member for Burns Beach and certainly the police in the area I represent that at this point they cannot go into scrap-metal businesses and charge them under the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act with taking stolen goods because it is excluded from the act.

It seems to me that other jurisdictions have set the bar for us and we need to ensure that we respond accordingly and ensure that this trade no longer continues. As I outlined at the beginning, it is a bit pervasive in our community.

In Victoria, people were breaking into people's houses at night to take their keys and steal luxury vehicles as part of the trade. In a couple of instances, people were confronted in their cars with people holding weapons, who stole their cars. I have not yet heard of anything so serious happening here in Western Australia. Anything like that makes the community feel unsafe and it is something that we could legislate for to ensure that scrap-metal dealers do not profit from second-hand goods.

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Parliamentary Secretary) [11.43 am]: I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and the Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 before the house. We are here today proceeding with this legislation through the chamber because it approves appropriations of spending in previous budgets of a recurrent and capital nature. The amount in the recurrent appropriation bill, going back to 2011, is \$ 1.965 billion over the past six years, so it is not an inconsequential amount. The reason for a government introducing these bills is often reasonable; it is because an appropriation sometimes does not meet the expected expense bill. This can occur for a number of reasons. Life is challenging, I guess, at the best of times and it is very difficult for a Treasurer to know exactly what appropriation is required. In other situations, there might be totally unforeseen expenses; I can think of a major tragedy or bushfire, when significant infrastructure is lost and the government of the day is required to ensure the great expense to replace that infrastructure is available as soon as possible. We cannot always know what expenses life will throw at us. In the family situation, we do not often know when the car engine will blow up or an unexpected medical crisis will confront the family. We know that in Parliament, when expenses exceed what we expected or an unexpected bill comes before us, we simply get together, come up with an appropriation bill, pass it through the chamber and everything is okay. The ledger is balanced and the required appropriations are approved.

Unfortunately, it is not so simple in the real world when families can incur unexpected expenses. They cannot pass a family appropriation bill to pay for unexpected school fees or to repair the car. It is really important that people in this chamber recognise that we are the custodians of taxpayers' money and that we should always behave as carefully as we can with those dollars. I get accused of a lot of things. Some of those names are fired around without merit and sometimes there is some merit to them. One of the accusations levelled at me from time to time—in a way I am prepared to accept it and maybe even wear it as a badge of honour—is that I am somewhat careful with my finances and maybe even a bit of a tightwad at times. I guess that comes from my background. I grew up in a housing commission house in Balga, where mum and dad did not have any money, so I know the importance of getting money, holding on to it and making sure it goes as far as possible. I think it goes right back to my parents. Dad left Kent Street Senior High School at 15 and knocked around helping milkmen and doing various odd jobs before he finally got into the Navy and eventually established his own small business. Family folklore is that when mum and dad got married in a church in Victoria Park, one of the first things dad did was hit up mum for some money to pay for a room for the night at the hotel. So mum was under no illusion about who she had married and whether he had any money. From very early times, they knew they had to work together and work hard, and that has been instilled in me. I am very mindful of my family's finances, and particularly of government finances. One of the jobs we have to do in here is ensure that at all times, taxpayers get absolute value for money and we spend taxpayer money as though it is our own

It is a particularly important approach to take when representing an electorate such as Baldivis, which has its own unique story about the mining production boom we have just seen come to a conclusion. Many of the people who live in Baldivis now are young families with young children. They started their adult lives and their working lives when things were booming in Western Australia. Many of these young families had not known a downturn until recently. Many people got their first jobs in the mining boom, whether it was in the north as a fly in, fly out worker or in related industries on the Kwinana strip. Since the beginning of the century until recently, the norm has been low interest rates, static house prices and low inflation. When that was coupled with well-paid jobs, young people were encouraged to buy their first home and a new car, and many of them bought other trinkets. This is a good thing; investing in a home is one of the best things we can do. But when things started to turn south, it became more difficult for many of the people in my electorate. The weight of their mortgages started to have an impact. Many of these families had young children at school and this was the first economic shock that they had faced in their lifetime. It is still having a big impact on the community of Baldivis.

Outwardly, the Baldivis community looks quite successful and affluent. There are many new attractive homes with neat gardens and late model cars in the driveways. Often, it can be very deceptive because, behind the facade of a seemingly affluent and successful community, families are doing it very tough. This is the result of one or more breadwinners losing their jobs or losing hours in the resource industry up north or locally in the manufacturing industry on the Kwinana strip. Of course, those job losses have a rolling impact. Restaurants in the Stockland Baldivis Shopping Centre have closed because people are not spending the same amount of money that they used to. The impact is being felt locally among small business people. There is a large community of small business operators, self-employed contractors and even home-based businesses in Baldivis. The community's population is thriving, so there is a very large market, but all these people are feeling the pain right now with the downturn. It can make for some pretty sad stories.

One story that I will relate to members today involves a family losing its main breadwinner. On this occasion, it was not because of the downturn, but because of a family tragedy in which the main breadwinner lost his life. However, it tells a familiar story of when a family loses its main source of income. In Baldivis there are a number of quite active and successful middle-fee independent and Catholic schools, as well as a budding and growing community of government schools. One of the independent schools in Baldivis reports that it is doing it exceedingly tough; the number of enrolments is falling and it has to cut staff as a result. One school, Tranby College, has introduced a generous scholarship scheme with \$100 000 for up to a dozen scholarships. It is trying to be as proactive as it can, but it is not always easy and the number of enrolments is falling.

When this family lost its major breadwinner, the mother and three children were left behind. From memory, there were two boys and a young girl, a preschooler. At first, the school did not notice that anything was amiss. The young boys going to this private school—it was not Tranby but another school—were well-groomed. They had their uniforms on and they appeared to be well looked after. Mum would drive up and drop them off in the morning. She had always had a little toddler in the car who was not going to school yet. She would drive off and then at pick-up time in the afternoon, mum would be there again and the young boys would get into the car. It took some time, but the school eventually worked out that the family was not travelling too well and that the only breadwinner of the family, the husband, had lost his life and, as a result, the family had lost its home. This mum was looking after her boys and her young daughter in the family car. She was going to local toilets and other facilities to try to sort them out in the morning. They would get changed and have breakfast in the car. If they could get to a shower, they might have a shower now and again. She did the best she could do to ensure that those children were at school every day. In the hours in between, she would drive around to local parks and try to entertain and occupy her very young daughter and try to get her to sleep in the car.

We can imagine the anguish of the mum as she tried to keep up appearances and manage that situation. The school eventually found out that mum was living in the car and it approached her to try to help her. This often happens in a community such as Baldivis where families have never sought help and never received substantial welfare of any kind; the mum was very ashamed and reluctant to accept any help. The school set up a meeting with a welfare organisation that would help find accommodation, help with groceries and give some sort of financial counselling and other assistance. A time was set but mum did not show up. This happened on a number of occasions. The school immediately froze the school fees for the kids and allowed the children to continue attending the school for free. But the mother was deeply embarrassed about her situation. She was very reluctant to seek any support whatsoever. Eventually, the school reached out and assisted this mother. I believe that things have been slowly worked out, but it is still a very difficult situation and it is one that is being played out across Baldivis and, no doubt, across many parts of the community.

It is amazing how the community can respond when situations like this occur. I want to talk about one group in the Rockingham–Baldivis area that goes to extraordinary lengths to try to help people. Its experience in helping people can also help to illustrate the extent of the problem. I speak about the group called the C.R.E.W., which is based just off Dixon Road in the industrial part of Rockingham. It goes to the local community and local businesses and gets a very good response in donated goods, dry foods, fresh fruit and vegetables and bread and baked goods from local supermarkets, and second-hand clothes and toys. It has a donated factory warehouse where all this material is gathered and then disseminated to needy people. When the C.R.E.W. does not get enough food and fresh fruit and vegetables donated, members of this organisation reach into their own pockets and make up the difference. That is how dedicated its members are. While I am speaking about the group, I should give it its full title. The C.R.E.W. stands for Christians Ready Equipped and Willing. This remarkable group of people was formed in 2015. A story about the group was published in the *Sound–Southern Telegraph* newspaper on Tuesday this week. I will paraphrase some information from it. It refers to the C.R.E.W. having 60 volunteers and one of the co-founders being Julie-Anne Moyle, who used to concentrate her charity efforts on helping people overseas.

However, after the death of a homeless man in Kwinana, she realised that there was also a need at home and that led to the formation of the C.R.E.W.

I went there the other week, and this is something that has to be witnessed. Every Friday the C.R.E.W. opens its doors at 11 o'clock and 30 or more families will be lined up. At 11 o'clock tomorrow, no doubt, it will be the same as always. There will be a group of people in a queue that is snaking out the door and onto the street towards Dixon Road, in a fairly bland industrial area. They will be a mixture of people. They will be homeless. They will be families, no doubt like yours or mine, who very recently have been affected by some major issue, tragedy, downturn or loss of job, which has resulted in them having to reach out. They line up, and slowly and surely the line moves forward. They enter an office area and a warehouse out the back and they take whatever food they need. They may take a hamper of dry food and tins, fruit and vegetables, and baked goods. They may look at donated clothing and try to find clothes for themselves and their kids. Their kids meanwhile are let loose to play with toys, and when it comes time to go, the kids are allowed to keep hold of those toys and take them home.

The C.R.E.W. deserves recognition and it is also in need of assistance. Although the owner of the property its facility operates out of has been very kind and decent by allowing it to use this facility, the time has come that the owners want the property returned because it is for sale.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr R.R. WHITBY: This group has a fine record of assistance to the community, but it is in need of help. My office is working to help find it alternative accommodation, but local council issues mean that it is limited in where it can and cannot establish operations. That is being worked through. We hope that the C.R.E.W. can continue to do its good work in Rockingham and Baldivis. It also provides other assistance, whether it is a shower or the use of a washing machine. Importantly, it gives budgeting advice and counselling, even helping people write resumes to try to help them to get back on their feet. It is an incredibly important service for the people of the Baldivis and Rockingham area.

Again I point out that this is why governments need to be committed to living within their means so that they can ensure adequate support is available for people in our community, like those who need the assistance of the C.R.E.W. We also need to do everything we can, of course, to create and secure jobs, and the best way of doing that is by ensuring that a very rigorous and efficient private sector can provide more employment. That is the best way, I believe, that we build the economy and ensure prosperity. We also need to ensure safety nets are there for people who need help when things happen in the private sector, such as what we have seen in this state in the last couple of years.

I would like to conclude by mentioning that Christmas time is approaching and it is a time that can be particularly painful for people who are going through financial difficulties. Every year the local members for Baldivis, Warnbro, Rockingham and Kwinana get together to work with the Salvation Army and their electorates become receipt points for donated tinned goods and toys. I am sure this happens elsewhere, but every year, I and my colleagues in the adjoining electorates, including the Premier, Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism, gather up that material and take it to the Rockingham Salvation Army. It inevitably involves us wearing a Santa cap.

[Quorum formed.]

Mr R.R. WHITBY: I was getting close to finishing my comments, but I reiterate that it is Christmas time and it is a time at which people who are without can feel the most pain, especially if they have children. I urge everyone in the community to support local charities. I was mentioning how I and members from the electorates surrounding Baldivis do that. This year we look forward to collecting a sizeable contribution of donated goods from our electorates to give to the Salvation Army. I thank the member for Dawesville for calling the quorum because the member for Bunbury has an even greater audience.

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [12.06 pm]: I rise to speak in the cognate second reading debate of the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017. I thank the member for Baldivis for his contribution because he brought home the very important point that decisions we make and discussions we have in this place have a profound impact on people in our electorates. In particular, he drew attention to the rapidly approaching festive season and the impact that has on many disadvantaged families in our communities.

It would be interesting to fast-forward 50 years to see how history treats the period that is covered by these bills—the considerable external factors that had such a significant impact on the state’s revenue streams, the decisions of the previous government on the expense ledger, and the structural arrangements within government that led to the divergence of major expense decisions between the two parties in government. I am sure there will be a lot of head-scratching about how the fiscal policy agenda unfolded during this period, and about the success or otherwise of the various projects that have been constructed. There will be a lot of research and opinion because, without doubt, it has been an extraordinary period in the history of the state.

However, I want to acknowledge that there has been a solid success story in the south west—that is, the rise of the creative industries as a new industry sector that has been generating jobs and, importantly, providing new opportunities for young people, training, and ideas generation and innovation. This sector largely goes under the radar in a lot of contemporary thinking about what constitutes an industry, but its overall contribution to the national product is certainly rising rapidly. It is an industry in the south west that has developed in a very deliberate and strategic manner, and is based on some quite unique principles around collaboration, networking and passion. While it has a healthy dose of competition as a principle in the market, the way this industry sector is developing is based very much on the notion of collaborative work across individual businesses and scaling up for particular projects as needed, and it is essentially driving a new form of industry development itself. Because it is a relatively new sector, there is still some debate about what it includes. One view that is agreed upon by everyone is that a key characteristic is that creative industries use creativity for commercial purposes, and its economic value lies in intellectual property.

The creative sector makes a very personalised contribution based on the creativity of individual players themselves. Creative output is the primary source of value, as opposed to a physical product, and the notion of intellectual property sits behind that. The Australian Cultural Ministers Council 2008 report, “Building a Creative Innovation Economy”, identified the creative sector as including film, TV and radio; architecture, design and the visual arts; advertising and marketing; software development and interactive content; writing and publishing; and music and the performing arts. That analysis is from 2008. In the intervening nine years, considerable progress has

been made in the growth of the industry around animation, gaming, digital content itself, graphic design based on digital content and an increasing number of applications in the software industry covering virtually all aspects of modern day living. It is an exponential growth curve associated with the creative industries and provides enormous opportunities both at the individual operator level—individual operators collaborating with other individual operators to build a network structure—and companies forming with major statements of intent.

It is a difficult industry sector to get to grips with, but in 2010, SGS Economics and Planning distinguished between those people employed in the creative industries as creative specialists and those employed in creative occupations in non-creative industries as embedded creative workers. That analysis gives rise to the notion that the creative industries, though it might be defined as a sector in itself, actually spans across an enormous number of other industries from mining through to tourism and small business development. In fact, it is probably as built into the industry environment as tourism is across various sectors. To consider it as a discrete entity of itself would be a mistake; it travels right across many industry sectors. The notion of an embedded worker is the difference between someone producing digital media content in, for example, something like a brand agency that is entirely creative, and a digital media specialist in a manufacturing plant providing some potentially different insights into the manufacturing process itself.

In 2010, the South West Development Commission commissioned a study into the creative industries and it found that back in those days within the south west alone, an estimated 1 000 people were employed across all aspects of the creative sector. Its gross contribution to the region's economy was estimated at around \$360 million and, of that, around \$75 million was in export value. That is a significant contribution. When I looked into export value, a lot of it was made up of smaller businesses engaging in overseas collaboration in areas as diverse as music, publishing, gaming, animation and digital content and, interestingly, photography, particularly digital photography, whereby photographs might be taken elsewhere in the world and sent to operators in Margaret River who do advanced photoshop work on those photographs. That report provided the industry with an economic identity in the south west, and for the first time it drew out the notion that as an industry sector, it deserved attention. Prior to that report, people used to have a sense of the creative industries that was really about the notion of the visual arts and performing arts performing locally for local audiences, and it was not really thought of in the context of a national industry or an industry that earned export income.

Developing the creative industries requires more than simply documenting its contribution. It needed to build strategies in order to position itself effectively as an industry that could grow and continue to make a very prosperous contribution to the south west and to the state, particularly in the potential export market. The SGS report identified that it had been growing at around three per cent to 3.5 per cent annually and had every potential to continue that growth into the future. It would be very interesting to go back and update those economic indicators and see how this sector is performing within both the south west but, potentially more importantly, at a state level.

I want to come back to this notion of strategy in developing an industry. Again, when I look across the research, it is quite hard to find a documented detailed strategy that defines how an industry starts from a relatively small base and grows. The first step that the south west creative sector took was to develop an industry body that could provide a platform for identification and promotion of training and professional development, especially tapping into the potential for on-the-job training for people who might be moving through the TAFE or university system, to adopt almost an apprenticeship model with creative industry providers within the south west itself. The body also provided a platform for networking and collaboration, including opportunities to cluster together and go after and build capability in the pursuit of larger-scale contracts.

Instrumental in developing the industry body, which became known as the Creative Corner, was Mat Lewis, Noah Shilkin and Niomi Ohara. Although many other people played a role, special mention needs to be made of those people in this place, because they have embodied the notion of taking the creative industries forward as a significant and major player within the south west industry spectrum. The next step was to deliver a Margaret River-based event capable of attracting leading industry players. It was quite a clever event because it was not termed a conference, with all the notions of long lists of speakers that that involved, but a festival. It was designed to build an immersion of people from the creative industries mixing, networking and hearing from leading players in areas such as advertising, gaming, digital content and also immersing them in the Margaret River experience, particularly the tourism experience of wine, food and surfing. The festival became both a mix of serious analysis and interaction, and also serious networking based around fun side events. The event is called Emergence Creative. It is an annual festival and it has now attracted both national and international attention in the fields of digital content, design, marketing, publishing and the related field of music and visual mediums. Emergence Creative has become an event on the creative industry calendar nationally, as it also provides a forum for one-on-one speed dating-type networking contacts so that like-minded people can build up the industry capability and gain an understanding of what is happening on the national and the international market scene for the creative sector. It has become an ideal event for business collaboration.

For those members who may be interested in having a look at what happens at Emergence, it is on again next year from 21 to 24 March in Margaret River. Keynote speakers include Ben Akers, a well-known leading Australian marketing and advertising specialist, and Kim Allom, who is a well-known leader in gaming technology and design

out of Brisbane. A host of other speakers will be present at the event, but it provides a fantastic and unique opportunity for people to mix with the leading thinking that is happening in the creative space, particularly in the digital content space.

The next step was the support of co-working creative spaces in the south west. Mixtape Creative is a co-working space in Margaret River providing space for photography, design, music publishing and digital content with individual operators collaborating on national and international projects. I am pretty sure there is a similar space operating in the member for Geraldton's area that has also been very active in this area. I note that there is also one happening in Albany. In Bunbury, Maker & Co has emerged as a co-working space focused on start-up, creativity and innovation and is providing a helping hand to young entrepreneurs driving innovation across a range of sectors from food production, fashion, visual arts through to technology and manufacturing. Maker & Co recently teamed up with Edith Cowan University to provide an outreach venue in the CBD, not only for ECU's programs locally, but also for the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts to start running outreach programs for young people in the south west who are keen on a local performing arts career. I recently attended a Maker & Co training event. It was particularly interesting because it taught young entrepreneurs who were emerging with innovative ideas the skill of pitching in a shark tank environment. There is the notion nowadays that people might have five or six minutes to make a pitch to win support for the project they are investing in. That event brought home to me what an important skill that is, particularly for younger people these days who are thinking about going directly into business. They are in a busy sea of other people trying to make headway and be noticed. Being able to succinctly state what a project is, what they think the opportunities are, where the gaps are and what the opportunities for investment are is a very important skill. Maker & Co pursued that with a group of young people who were lining up to take on the Telstra Innovation Challenge. It was not only about local development of local people, but also linked them into a major national event for innovation in the future. Many members in this place have spoken about the importance of innovation to the future of Australia and Western Australia's economies. It should be lauded for that.

In parallel to the development of those spaces, I would like to comment on the emergence of CinéfestOZ as a major national film festival in the south west. It has grown from very humble beginnings as a French film festival into something that is attracting national and international attention. It is an interesting festival because it started out focusing on Busselton, but now stretches from Bunbury in the north, right through to Pemberton in the south, and down to Margaret River. It embraces the whole of the south west in a range of activities associated with the film industry. It incorporates Australia's largest film prize, which is funded by royalties for regions, that draws in major film productions and premieres and promotes regional WA producers as a film-friendly destination. In the past 10 years, starting with the film *Drift*, which was a major surf movie that focused on the Margaret River area and told the story of the emergence of the surf industry, and then *Red Dog*, a film that many members might be familiar with that tells the story of the relationship of a dog to his family up in the Pilbara, there have been a series of film productions. Those film productions have not only catapulted Western Australia into the film industry sector, but have also had a profound effect on local economies and, importantly, how people view themselves and the communities they live in. The most recent example I can think of was the filming of *Jasper Jones*. I had the pleasure of seeing that movie on a plane trip to the eastern states, so Pemberton was catapulted into the skies of eastern states travel.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr D.T. PUNCH: That film production came into Pemberton and, in a sense, took over the town. The townspeople rallied behind it, became film extras and participated in it. It was an absolutely fantastic experience for the community. *Drift* resulted in a direct regional expenditure in the area of around \$1 million, but, importantly, it also generated significant promotional value for the south west as a consequence of the film's promotion and exhibition. I cannot recall the exact figure, but it was in the order of \$6 million to \$7 million worth of equivalent advertising expenditure; it was significant. I am aware that significant tourism opportunities have flowed from people coming from overseas wanting to see the locations where that movie was filmed. The photography was absolutely brilliant and showed off the south west landscapes to perfection.

CinéfestOZ has also built links with Chinese film production markets and has been active in attracting Chinese producers to WA for film production. It has branched into affiliate activities to support young filmmakers and through events such as Cinesnaps it has directly supported youth and disadvantaged youth and encouraged them to express themselves through the medium of film. It recently started IndigifestOZ as a film festival supporting emerging Aboriginal filmmakers. CinéfestOZ is more than a festival that premieres films; it is driving the film industry within the south west as a destination for film and is also encouraging young people who have a wish to pursue a career in the arts, particularly the creative arts, by providing an avenue for them to express themselves.

The south west has developed a vibrant and proactive creative sector that operates at the national level. This has been achieved through difficult financial times over the past eight years. I know that members of the National Party think that I have been overly critical of royalties for regions, but I want to acknowledge the role that royalties for regions has played in supporting many aspects of this development. Unfortunately, the member for

Warren–Blackwood is not here; at the beginning, he may have had doubts about the value of the sector, but I want to acknowledge in this place his enthusiastic support over recent years to help the sector expand. I have never had an argument with royalties for regions; my argument has been with some aspects of the administration of royalties for regions and the way in which it has been administered as a whole. I want to acknowledge the member for Warren–Blackwood. He has been a great supporter of the creative industries, and it has been great to see the industry develop.

Industry development is a tricky issue for government and requires the highest level of scrutiny to ensure that public funds are used to drive public interest outcomes. The development of the creative industry has been based on a series of funding for events from a range of funding sources that often present a serious challenge for the not-for-profit volunteer sector that has largely been the driver of this industry development. I believe that we need to simplify funding arrangements clearly based on agreed outcomes that take into account the situation of organisations such as CinéfestOZ that currently have to apply to multiple sources of funding to achieve an outcome. Those sources might include Eventscorp, which has specific tourism outcome requirements that do not always line up with the industry development outcomes that we are after. CinéfestOZ has to incur the multiple costs associated the multiple applications and acquittals. I am very hopeful that the machinery-of-government changes will result in a simpler process in the future. As the member for Kalgoorlie has said in the past—he has just joined us—we should acknowledge good outcomes in this place when we see them. This has been a great outcome in the south west and I thank the member for Warren–Blackwood for his previous support.

At a national level, in 2014, the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported that the creative industries were worth an estimated \$86 billion to the national economy, accounting for around 6.9 per cent of national product. It is a significant industry and it reflects the growth of entertainment, especially in the service economy. In 2015, Deloitte Australia published 2013 data that suggested that film and television alone contributed \$5.8 billion to the national economy and employed an estimated 46 600 full-time equivalents. The creative industry sector makes a significant contribution.

I have started work with the Minister for Culture and the Arts on how we might further progress the development of this industry as a job generator, not only in the south west, but also throughout WA. We recently met with committee members from CinéfestOZ. They reiterated that the central issue was their having to apply for a cocktail of funds to enable CinéfestOZ and its related industry development activities to continue. That cocktail of funds included Eventscorp, Screenwest, the South West Development Commission, and royalties for regions amongst others. The problem is that each fund has a specific application process, specific acquittal requirements, differing outcome requirements and different time line requirements. Having a variety of funds that are specific to other industry sectors, such as tourism, makes it difficult for the creative sector to match its unique needs to those of established funding providers, such as Tourism WA. I hope that as we build a greater awareness of the link between creative industries and Culture and the Arts generally, we can begin to see this portfolio in a broader context and develop specific industry assistance programs for the sector. This can include support with leading-edge innovation, training and professional development; supporting collaborative workspaces, events development and management; and direct support to critical sectors that are emerging such as the film sector. The challenge ahead is for us to look for opportunities to grow this state's prosperity and increase revenue flows for government to deal with our fiscal difficulties. Building industry and jobs in all their forms has to be a key plank. I look forward to further work with the Ministers for Culture and the Arts; and State Development, Jobs and Trade to see the role this significant industry can play in relation to jobs, trading and prosperity.

Another south west success story is the development of Bunbury's sister-city relationship with the city of Jiaxing in south-east China. It is very opportune to mention that, given that the Premier is overseas at the moment in China helping to support business opportunities in tourism and education. It has been a very strong sister-city relationship; it is now approaching something like 15 years. Parallel to that there have been sister-chamber relationships between the Jiaxing Chamber of Commerce and the Bunbury Geographe Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The focus of the relationship has been more than civic engagement; it has been looking at establishing civic engagement, cultural awareness, shared understanding and friendship as a basis for supporting and stimulating business development.

We have had some pretty good examples of business outcomes associated with that. Bunbury City Glass is a medium-sized enterprise in Bunbury that specialises in toughened glass. It went across to China as part of a chamber-supported business delegation, teamed up with hardened and toughened glass providers out of the Jiaxing area and started to import toughened glass and build it into its local products, manufacturing an added-value product within the Bunbury area. It has been a major strategic advantage to Bunbury City Glass and has helped to establish it as a major supplier in that market area.

On the other side of coin, the Edith Cowan University South West Campus, based at Bunbury, has developed significant ties in supporting education in Jiaxing through the ECU nursing program. It regularly sends delegations of lecturers and nursing professionals from ECU in Bunbury across to Jiaxing to support its nursing education program. That has been reciprocated by visits from Jiaxing to ECU. The strength of those relationships helped build a foundation for international student exchange. I am very hopeful that that will provide a very promising series of outcomes for our region.

A few years ago we hosted 10 Guangzhou outbound travel operators. Guangzhou is a major provincial city centre for the Jiaxing area. They came across and provided a pretty frank appraisal of tourism familiarisation through the south west. We took them through the south west and they experienced our tourism product and gave us a perspective from the Chinese market point of view, particularly the market sectors that they dealt with. As part of that, the travel operators sponsored a major advertising campaign for the south west in the local papers in the Jiaxing area, which equated to about \$15 000 worth of direct marketing sponsorship of tourism product from the south west. The sort of feedback they gave us was that the market that we compete against is of course the packaged holiday Gold Coast–Sydney market, with very established icons that people could say they visited. But they did see the potential for us to add in a market component on the back of that packaging, whereby people could fly into Busselton, experience the south west and then exit back to China through Perth. The sort of products they were talking about were experience based; for example, people might come across and do a fishing course and then a cooking course associated with that experience and cook the fish caught on the day, photograph that and receive a certificate at the end for completing the course with the chef. That has enormous significance when people return to China from their holidays and can say that these are the activities they engaged in and these are the things they achieved. The operators told us that adventure-based products would be really interesting, such as products involving golfing and golfing experiences; fishing, as I have mentioned; and cycling, interestingly. The ability to do adventure cycling and four-wheel driving was particularly popular. They are all the sorts of things that people from China, who traditionally work incredibly hard and have little leisure time, can really get into and have some exciting breakout stuff in the south west. The feedback was really interesting because we tended to think that it would be a standard food-and-wine tourism package, but the operators were telling us that this really needed to be an interactive package in that people felt that they had left having made significant contacts with leading people in those fields and received a certificate signed off by those people.

To finish, I make special mention of the director of the Jiaxing Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, Ms Zhuang Yue. She has been a stalwart supporter of the south west in all aspects of agricultural opportunity, wine opportunity, food, tourism and manufacturing, and continues to this day to speak very strongly about the opportunities for Chinese people to engage with south west businesses and look at the opportunities for prosperity that flow from that. China has a very aspirational middle class that is emerging as a high wealth sector that pursues opportunities for a quality, prestige product, and the south west has plenty of that to offer.

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.36 pm]: I, too, rise to speak on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and the Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017, which we are examining cognately. These bill deals with the supplementary expenditure from 2010 to 2016, and this gives us the opportunity to discuss a range of budgetary issues and have a general broad-ranging debate.

We find ourselves in a very difficult time, with very challenging economic circumstances. I earlier listened to the member for Baldvis describe the circumstances of a family he has been supporting in Baldvis. It was really heartbreaking. As a mother, when your family experiences traumatic events, whether it is divorce or death, it is really your job to keep the show on the road and everyone moving and everything as consistent as you possibly can for your children. That is really all you want. The lengths to which parents will go to do that for their kids is extraordinary, and I am glad that family is receiving the support it is. It is a great credit to the school that it has those relationships and can identify when families are struggling and put supports around them, whether they are independent schools or public schools. I am always blown away by schools in my electorate and their P&C associations. Sometimes one or two people are really active and sometimes it is 10 to 15 people. Geographically it does not matter where the school is. The school next door in one suburb will have 15 active members, and the other will have one or two, but the commitment and time that they give to the schools makes a huge difference to the school community and is incredibly invaluable, particularly the pastoral care and extra supports that they provide.

Touching on the subject of pastoral care and supporting struggling families, I want to acknowledge Nollamara in my electorate of Morley. It is a suburb of quite significant disadvantage. Next to Mirrabooka it has the second highest unemployment rate—nearly 12 per cent—and a whole range of challenges and social issues come along with that. It has experienced very significant subdivision over the last 10 years, and not the best kind of subdivision, I have to say. I am a supporter of higher density and affordable housing, but I am also a supporter of liveable environments and the appropriate amenities being provided for that density. Nollamara has simply had an explosion of units, with no increase in amenity to support that community. It has actually divided the community quite significantly between those who have been there for many years and live on a 1 000 square metre block and have brought up their children there, and the block next door, which now has four families living on it with two cars for each unit. It makes for a really different kind of community. They do not have the access to improved transport infrastructure that they should have at that kind of density. It is a credit to the previous state government—it was late, but it happened—that it changed the planning code, so that unchecked density increase could not continue. I think the horse has bolted in Nollamara, unfortunately, but we can hopefully save other suburbs from the same fate, while supporting affordable housing without ruining the suburb.

The Uniting Church in Nollamara provides support for families and individuals who are really doing it tough. It is running on very little. I recently attended its annual general meeting with the member for Mirrabooka, Janine Freeman. It runs on a Lotterywest grant of \$135 000 a year, with some supplementary fundraising from the Uniting Church, and a small \$20 000 grant from the Department of Communities. It is a really small amount of money for the number of families the church supports, and the volunteers do an incredible job. I am looking forward to going down there tomorrow to catch up with them again. They provide a range of services and link people in with other services. The church provides emergency food packages, Christmas packages and clothing packages, and can provide some casework and link in with the Department of Communities to support people with mental health and domestic violence issues. It is an incredibly valuable and much-needed resource in Nollamara.

Of the local schools in Nollamara, Dianella Primary College, formerly known as Mirrabooka Primary School, and Nollamara Primary School are relatively small but deal with very complex cohorts. Nollamara is also an English language school, providing support for newly arrived families with children who have never spoken English. When I go into their classrooms, years 1 and 2 in particular, it is mind-blowing to see how the teachers manage to teach these skills so quickly. I recently held a sustainability competition in the schools, and students needed to come back with a project that they had put in place in their households to save the environment and to help improve sustainability. The Nollamara Primary School opted for its English cohort stream to take part. The language skills they developed through that school and their understanding of sustainability was a real credit to that school. Similarly, Dianella Primary College has recently received 2.5 full-time equivalent Aboriginal and Islander education officers through the government's increase of 300 education assistants across the state. The school really needs those AIEOs. It has a significant Aboriginal population, and it had lost its AIEOs over the past few years. They are now back in the early years, starting with one FTE this year and building up to 2.5 over the next two years. I am really pleased for that school. The work it does in engaging the whole community to support families is quite astounding.

The other group I have met with recently, and I have met with previously as the upper house member, is the Salvation Army in Morley. It is based just outside my electorate, but it services my electorate significantly. It runs a range of programs, including food packages. It used to run financial counselling but unfortunately, with the removal of that funding by the last government, it no longer does so. It has an outstanding youth service that, again, it runs on a relatively low budget, considering what it does. The service runs on \$135 000 a year, employing a full-time caseworker and a 0.5 FTE youth worker. It runs the breakfast club at John Forrest Senior High School—my old school—which services 125 kids a week, which is a huge number. It also works out of Hampton Park Primary School and Kiara. I will not touch on Kiara, because that is in the electorate of the member for Bassendean. Hampton Senior High School is also in Bassendean, but a very significant part of its cohort lives in my electorate. Hampton has had some significant challenges this year, and I mention these to highlight the importance of these programs. Many members may have heard of the young 14-year-old boy who committed suicide earlier this year in Morley Park. He was a year 9 student at Hampton Senior High school, and a member of the Perth-Bayswater Rugby Club, which is in Morley, just behind my office. That was an utterly devastating event for the family and the community. There was also a serious assault at the school, involving two students, that, disappointingly, made the news. I am always disappointed when the news reports issues like that at schools, because it is not good for the school, and I do not think it is necessarily in anyone's interest—the parents are always made aware of anything serious at schools—but it does put a cloud over a particular school, and unfairly so, I think. Hampton has had a few challenges this year and the Salvos were some of the first to arrive on the scene at the school when the news broke, talking to the other kids, playing soccer with them and trying to get them to open up a bit about what had happened. They have been working consistently with those kids in that school.

The non-government organisations have faced a range of uncertainty over the past few years. The previous government put in place a review of non-government funding, so they had an extension of 12 months. The change of government also created further uncertainty for a lot of them, so they have been given another extension of 12 months. I know that Labor went to the election with a policy of providing longer term financial certainty for those NGOs providing really important support in our community. Given the increase, under the previous government in the number of NGOs providing support, it is even more important. Twelve-month, or two or three-year contracts make it really hard for organisations to continue to operate, because, not only is it difficult for the organisation to plan long-term projects, it is also very difficult for staff, who never know whether they will have a job after 12 months. Therefore the organisations lose really good staff. In an area like youth development, where relationships are key, it is about people on the ground and the relationships they have with the kids. Losing those people means that they have to start from scratch again when they have to employ someone else. They are still part of the broader NGO review, but I am very pleased that we will hopefully be able to provide them with some longer term funding.

I place on the record my concern at the lack of youth services in the Morley area. When I was hanging around the Morley Galleria in the 1980s, looking for things to do, there was nothing to do but hang around in the Galleria or

get into trouble. It is still the case; there is literally nothing to do. The alleyway next to my office often has kids from John Forrest smoking cigarettes and hanging out and just generally doing what teenagers do. There is no youth centre as such. There is a fantastic youth centre in Altone and one in Bassendean, run by the Town of Bassendean, but there is absolutely nothing in Morley or Noranda covering that area. Considering the size of the schools there—we are looking at cohorts of up to 2 000 kids for each of the three major schools in that area—it is really lacking a youth centre. I hope to be able to work over the next few years with the local government and state governments to improve youth services in Morley. It has some pockets of challenging communities that need particular support. It has a high proportion of fly in, fly out employees, so was hit particularly hard by the slowdown in the mining sector, and those families were particularly challenged. In the 12 months leading up to the elections, speaking to many thousands of people, I found that jobs and job security was by far the number one concern on people's minds. There were many instances of people who had lost their contract or their job and were simply not able to make ends meet. They were looking for economic policies from a government that would give them some hope.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 5776.]

**KALGOORLIE MINER PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION
LORNA MITCHELL SPRING FESTIVAL
TELSTRA BUSINESS WOMEN'S AWARDS
IMOGEN KUIPER — QUEEN'S BATON RELAY**

Statement by Member for Kalgoorlie

MR K.M. O'DONNELL (Kalgoorlie) [12.50 pm]: I recently participated on the judging panel of the *Kalgoorlie Miner* photographic competition. Congratulations to amateur photographer Abby Murray, who claimed the title of "Best Goldfields Photograph" with a shot of her daughter at the Kalgoorlie Arboretum.

The 2017 Lorna Mitchell Spring Festival was held on Sunday, 8 October at Hammond Park in Kalgoorlie and celebrated its thirty-third year. The annual event, organised by the Kalgoorlie–Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry, attracted a crowd of thousands who enjoyed the 140 stalls, activities and entertainment. I was one of the many stallholders and I would like to congratulate everyone involved in putting together another fantastic event within the community.

Congratulations to Kim Eckert on being announced as a Western Australian finalist in the prestigious 2017 Telstra Business Women's Awards. Ms Eckert is the chief executive of the Kalgoorlie–Boulder Urban Landcare Group and a park ambassador for the WA Parks Foundation. She was nominated under the "For Purpose and Social Enterprise" category for her contribution in creating a better environment and lifestyle for Kalgoorlie–Boulder.

Congratulations to 10-year-old Imogen Kuiper, who has been selected as a baton bearer in the Queen's Baton Relay for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Imogen has raised over \$20 000 in the past few years for children's cancer charities by riding her bike hundreds of kilometres.

LIONS CLUB OF AUSTRALIND

Statement by Member for Murray–Wellington

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [12.51 pm]: Firstly, I welcome the students and teachers from St Anne's School in Harvey to Parliament today.

I would like to acknowledge the Lions Club of Australind and its contribution to the local community. The club meets on the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Leschenault day centre and, as with many Lions clubs, the Australind Lions are very active in their community. They give everything they can to those who need it most from yard clean-ups and donating to schools for underprivileged students to donating a gopher to a local in need. The club recently ran the sausage sizzle for the Telethon Carnival Day in Bunbury for the twentieth year in a row, raising money for this very worthy cause. This is on top of selling at the famous Bunnings sausage sizzles in Treendale once a month and the countless other volunteering activities they do, including manning the gates at the recent Brunswick Agricultural Show. What is especially important about the Australind Lions Club is that it currently has women in all leadership positions. This is something that deserves to be recognised. I am pleased to be a part of a club that encourages women to step into leadership roles. In 2018, the Australind Lions have the honour of hosting the 2018 district convention in Bunbury at the Sanctuary Golf Resort. I want to thank Australind Lions' president, Ann Knapp; secretary, Vera Bartlett; and treasurer, Robin Taylor. I also thank my sponsor Marlene Knott, and I cannot forget the tail-twisting, fine collector, Sue Crump. Thank you to the entire club and its members for their dedication to the community. What these people have done and continue to do for those around them is admirable. I am proud to be a Lion.

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS — ROE ELECTORATE*Statement by Member for Roe*

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [12.53 pm]: I have spent the past few weekends attending the excellent local agricultural shows in my electorate of Roe. The Esperance and Districts Agricultural Show was a fantastic day and I thank the president, Ewin Stewart; his vice presidents, Graham Cooper and Emily McDonald; the secretary, Fleur McDonald; the treasurer, Ann Dwyer; and the hard-working committee members for their tireless efforts in making the show a highlight on Esperance's calendar.

I am happy to say that the weather for the Narrogin Agricultural Show was about 15 degrees warmer than last year's wintery day and members of the local community came out in large numbers to enjoy the event. I congratulate the president, Vicki Chadwick; the vice president, Ash Nardini; the secretary, Fran Shales; the treasurer, Michelle Flynn; and the hard-working committee on an excellent show.

Despite the gale-force winds and the local rubbish tip being on fire, the Katanning Agricultural Show went off without a hitch. It is my home town and I am always glad to catch up with the locals and see how much this show means to them. Again, the president, Leisha Wood, and her committee have presented a fabulous showcase of local wares and provided an event for Katanning to be proud of. I would also like to acknowledge the help Leisha had from her secretary, Brenda Hawryluk; the treasurer, Rosalie Baxter; and the committee.

The theme for the Kojanup Agricultural Show in 2017 was "Something to Crow About" and it was a fantastic event. Kojanup has always had an incredibly supportive community and I thank the president, Peta Zadow; the vice president, Nathan Leitch; the secretary, Sarah Little; the treasurer, Debbie Fardig; and the wonderful committee.

**THORNLIE AND DISTRICTS TEE-BALL
THORNLIE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB***Statement by Member for Thornlie*

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.54 pm]: The benefits and joys of a healthy lifestyle are learnt in our youth, with our sports fields and sporting clubs playing an important role. I would like to mention two wonderful organisations in my electorate, which, through the significant commitment of the parent volunteers and their dedication to their kids, have contributed to the sporting enjoyment of Thornlie youth. One club is the Thornlie and Districts Tee-ball at Sutherlands Park. On a Saturday, it is a sea of yellow cabanas with the 600-plus kids playing under the shade cloths funded through the Local Projects, Local Jobs scheme. My thanks and recognition for their great work goes to Tanya Houston, Matt Scoble, Michelle Aslander, Michelle Black, Russell Keats, Tren Ritchie, Darryl McLoughlin, Stuart Sutton, Adam Kemp, Tim Rogers, Damien Rose, Damien Temple and Chris Kavanagh. Their contribution to the health and wellbeing and encouragement of children to be involved in sport is to be commended.

I turn to the Thornlie Junior Football Club, which is another recipient of Local Projects, Local Jobs funding—in its case, for digital scoreboards. The club has a very hardworking committee that made an enormous voluntary commitment of time and effort. I would especially like to acknowledge Nadene Treloar, Kim Burke, Cheryl Zuin, Sharon Galvez, Teena Bremner, Warren Reid, Mardi Henderson, Clare Aldridge, Leanne Urbas, Wayne Barrett, Mick Fraser and Jenny Farrell. Although three of these people are now involved in the Thornlie Senior Football Club, their support and assistance with the juniors needs to be noted and highlighted for the great contribution it is. We look forward to seeing the digital scoreboards next season. Thank you again to everyone who makes so strong the Thornlie and Districts Tee-ball and the Thornlie Junior Football Clubs.

RAY RUDLAND — TRIBUTE*Statement by Member for Dawesville*

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [12.56 pm]: On 19 October 2017, I joined the member for Mandurah in attending the funeral of Ray Rudland. Born in 1954, Ray was a loving husband of Marlene and a devoted stepfather of Lisa, Robert and Liz. It was obvious to all who attended Ray's very moving funeral that he was part of an extensive and loving family—not just that of his own bloodline, but also of the community at large. As commander and member of the Mandurah Volunteer Marine Rescue Group for more than a decade, Ray was absolutely steadfast in his goal of serving Mandurah. I first met Ray during the election campaign when he approached me concerned about the issue of methylamphetamine use throughout our community. Later, at one of my public forums, he gave a moving speech and insight into the personal experiences he had had, as part of the VMRG, risking his life to save those in danger on the water. A leader with passionate devotion, Ray was a kind-hearted soul who wanted nothing more than to give himself to those he loved—not only his family, but also the Mandurah community. In my mind, he will always be the embodiment of all that is great in our city. Ray was taken too early from this earth, and at the funeral we heard touching eulogies from both family and representatives of the VMRG about his life and contribution. All who were present could be left in no doubt that Ray's dedication to his loved ones was matched only by his dedication to civic service. For the entirety of my time in this place, I will do all I can to ensure that Ray's memory lives on in Mandurah. I have already approached the VMRG to ensure that we can establish a permanent memorial of some sort. Having corresponded with his dear wife, Marlene, I know his family greatly misses him, I miss him and I know Mandurah misses him. May his memory live on, and he rest in peace.

BLETCHLEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL*Statement by Member for Southern River*

MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River) [12.57 pm]: I rise to congratulate Bletchley Park Primary School, one of the outstanding schools in my electorate which, this year, celebrates its tenth anniversary in Southern River. It officially opened with students on Monday, 4 February 2008. This was a school fought long and hard for by former member for Southern River Paul Andrews, MLA, and I commend his work in bringing the school to be, and I acknowledge our now Premier, Mark McGowan, who was then Minister for Education and Training when the school was funded, built and then opened in 2008. I acknowledge our current principal, Craig Ashby; deputies, Beatrice Bouska, Sue Bachman, Kylie Avery and Cathy Wolfenden; and the many incredible staff and educators. I acknowledge the inaugural principal, Cris Partington, who returns as our principal in 2018; and Bec Burns, a past principal, for their stewardship. We also have an exceptional school board led by Sharm Anu and a proactive and passionate parents and citizens association headed by Renae Ritchie that represents our amazing families. The students of Bletchley Park are of high calibre, intelligence and compassion. As a teacher myself in Southern River, I have taught many Bletchley Park students as they progressed to my high school, and I confirm they are students of great talent. I proudly display art from Bletchley Park students in my electorate and parliamentary offices. I was honoured yesterday to have the current year 6 student councillors of Bletchley Park's tenth anniversary class here at Parliament House for lunch—Ella Barratt, Jullianne Betita, Jarrod Hui, Shayl Lindsay, Ethan Natta, Rishaan Pasha, Skye Richter, Aleisha Smith and Andrew Walker with Mr Ashby and Mr Sullivan. I know the future of Southern River is bright with such exceptional young people. I look forward to the tenth anniversary assembly later this month where I will be proud to stand as the member of this Parliament for an outstanding school in my community.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm***QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE****GOLD ROYALTY RATE INCREASE — DISALLOWANCE
NEWCREST MINING****655. Mr K.M. O'DONNELL to the Treasurer:**

Greetings, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Greetings, member for Kalgoorlie. Fire away, member.**Mr K.M. O'DONNELL:** I refer to Newcrest Mining's decision to invest \$93 million following the Legislative Council's disallowance of the gold royalty increase, securing jobs for Western Australia.

- (1) Why is the Treasurer once again seeking to attack jobs in the gold industry?
- (2) Why is the Treasurer creating ongoing sovereign risk issues that threaten investment in the Western Australian mining sector?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

- (1)–(2) Greetings, member for Kalgoorlie! I thank my good friend the member for Kalgoorlie for his question. I am not surprised I got a question on this topic today and I am pleased it is from the member for Kalgoorlie who has had a firm and consistent position on this issue. I want to make a couple of points. In respect of the decision by Newcrest, that was of course a decision that was made quite some time before it let me know about it. It had been around for a while. It was not a decision that impacted on the government's decision to increase royalties or the fact that it was knocked over by the Liberal Party in the upper house. That was a decision that Newcrest made, hopefully not to automate its mine, member for North West Central, but it made that decision in any event.

I note the member for Kalgoorlie's comments in the media—I think they were very sensible, which I will come to in just a minute. What I have said to the media is that I am now engaging with, and have been engaging with, the mining sector—the gold sector fairly broadly—to have a conversation around, “Okay, we saw what the credit ratings said and they expect the government to react to the hole that the Liberal Party put in the budget of nearly \$400 million.” That decision might impact on future decisions around our credit rating. I have engaged the gold sector, through its representatives, to say, “Look, I heard what you said around your worries around the marginal mines.” I heard what they said; I am not belligerent. There are a small number of marginal mines. I asked whether there was a way, as we do with some parts of the iron ore sector, to protect them, member for Kalgoorlie, perhaps from any adverse impact of any future royalty rate increase, in the event that we proceed to increase the royalty rate as per the budget decision. It has been a good conversation thus far and at a very broad, high level, member for Kalgoorlie. I have even suggested that I am not expecting the sector to come back with detailed modelling on a particular proposal—I can get Treasury to do that—but I would like some broad principles around how we might be able to ameliorate any increase on those more marginal mines so that the mines

that are making very significant profits, as I have said, will pay an extra around about \$20 an ounce at the current price of around \$1 600 an ounce. I think that would be a good thing to help fill the effort for budget repair. I noted the member for Kalgoorlie's comments today. I think he was being sensible. The member for Kalgoorlie said —

... if the government comes back with something, then we have to look at it. It's like legislation. If they say, "Will you support our legislation?" well, can we see it first? Can we read it and then we can say?

Et cetera, et cetera. I am pleased that the member is willing to engage. I hope the Liberal Party is willing to engage. I have heard the concerns raised by many members opposite around jobs and marginal mines. I did not think the original proposal was going to impact on jobs, but I have heard what members opposite have said around marginal mines, and hopefully we can come up with something that generally—as I said, I do not expect the gold sector to warmly embrace this proposal—will at the very least assuage their concerns.

GOLD ROYALTY RATE INCREASE — DISALLOWANCE NEWCREST MINING

656. Mr K.M. O'DONNELL to the Treasurer:

I have a supplementary question. Has the Treasurer met with Newcrest Mining since the disallowance and reassured it there will be no gold royalty increase as it proceeds with this \$93 million investment?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

I thank the member for the supplementary question. I have not met with Newcrest since the disallowance. I obviously met with it during the very broad—I will not say hostile—frank conversation —

Mr R.H. Cook: Robust!

Mr B.S. WYATT: — during the robust conversation that was had in the lead-up to the upper house rejecting the royalty increase. I met with the CEO, Mr Biswas, and a range of other people from Newcrest. The member for Kalgoorlie may recall that at the time there was a large conference in Denver that the gold sector goes to and I managed to get hold of Newcrest's presentation that it put up on its website. The numbers highlighted the fact that Newcrest has in globo—members will forgive me—a very significant profit margin with very low all-in sustaining costs. It is a very efficient and very good company. Newcrest's specific issue was in respect of Telfer, and I accept its argument that Telfer has higher all-in sustaining costs than Newcrest in globo, so I have asked how we can protect mines like Telfer. Telfer is basically the mine that we are worried about because of the significant employment around it. How could we potentially ameliorate mines such as Telfer from any increase? Let us not forget that Newcrest in globo is making a lot of money in the gold sector because it is a very efficient and very good operation, and gold prices are at record highs.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY — DEFENCE

657. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Minister for Defence Issues:

First, I proudly acknowledge the staff and students from Woodvale Secondary College in my electorate who are in the public gallery today.

I refer to concerns of job losses within the Western Australian shipbuilding industry due to the federal Liberal government's failure to give Western Australia its fair share of key defence work. What is the McGowan Labor government doing to fight for more defence work and secure more defence industry jobs?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for her question. I understand that there was commentary in today's media, in *The West Australian*, with respect to observations made by David Singleton from Austal regarding his concerns over Austal's future in the event that it were not part of the selected consortium for the build of the offshore patrol vessel contract, which will be announced shortly—I hope. I understand also that subsequent to the publication of the newspaper, Mr Singleton appeared in the media—I think he was on one of the radio stations—and has tempered his claim, saying that the reporting did not really reflect his position. He suggested that Austal would not be leaving Western Australia in the event that it did not get the OPV contract and that it has sufficient forward orders to take it into the future for some years. I acknowledge that. I will say that I recognise Mr Singleton as a robust and effective advocate on behalf of Austal and Western Australian industry in the defence sector. He should be commended for that. However, I make the point that regardless of which consortium is chosen for the offshore patrol vessel, it will be a Western Australian consortium partly. There is the Austal proponent and its partnership, but also Forgacs and ASC Shipbuilding have combined with Lürssen and Damen to be the other proponents. So the three proponents are Western Australian regardless. The concern I share with Mr Singleton is the lack of indication of certainty for Western Australian industries. In the event that the OPV is awarded sometime this

year—I hope it is in the near future because it is getting to the point where we are getting worried about the time frame—the concern is not so much whether a Western Australian company and Western Australian employees will benefit from the awarding of the contract overall, it is whether 10 vessels will be built in Western Australia as committed to by the federal government, and as committed to me by the Minister for Defence Industry, Hon Christopher Pyne, when I saw him earlier this year.

The concern is now that the longer this goes on and the more protracted this process becomes, the greater the questions and uncertainty around whether a third offshore patrol vessel will be built in South Australia in the event that the frigate construction slips. Even more so, the concern is about whether Western Australia will get the 10 vessels it was promised by the federal government. That concern will become more and more heightened the longer this process is drawn out.

The member asked me what we are doing. We are working collaboratively with the federal government. I do not want to go out there and attack Minister Pyne. I have been reluctant to do that since I met with him after our initial robust conversation through the media. I have refrained from doing that since then; it is some six or seven months now since we met in Canberra. However, I am becoming more concerned, the closer we get to a potential federal election, that a South Australian cabinet minister at the federal level might be reluctant to deliver a visible win for Western Australia.

One of the proposals we made to him—he confirmed this—was that full-cycle docking for Collins-class submarines needs to be moved to Western Australia before they start building ships in South Australia. That is 500 real jobs. We do not magically create 500 skilled people capable of doing full-cycle docking in Western Australia without moving the process across here earlier than it is required to commence. I ask that the federal government get on with making that decision, because that is 500 jobs we could have right now and there is also a construction project associated with building the facility next to ASC in Western Australia, down in Henderson, that would create jobs. Those are things that the federal government could be doing right now.

I will complete my answer by asking a question of the shadow Minister for Defence Issues and the Leader of the Opposition: what are their views with regard to the \$100 million that was promised by the Prime Minister earlier this year, in February? What are their views with regard to getting certainty from the federal government on the offshore patrol vessel contract? What are their views with regard to shifting the Collins-class full-cycle docking to Western Australia?

The SPEAKER: Minister!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: I'm happy to answer the question the minister has asked me as shadow Minister for Defence Issues, because as the shadow Minister for Defence Issues, we are not in government but I am happy to govern from this side of the chamber, because the junior minister clearly doesn't know what he's doing!

The SPEAKER: You might think you are very funny, but there are protocols in this Parliament. I call you to order for the first and second time. If you do it again, I will throw you out of the chamber—disrespect for the Chair.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Thanks, Mr Speaker. The reason I asked —

The SPEAKER: Minister! You will finish this.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The reason I ask is that I suspect the member for Churchlands is sitting over there with his fingers crossed, hoping against hope —

Point of Order

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: The minister continues to ask me to answer a question that you have just ruled I cannot answer.

The SPEAKER: That is not of point of order, and you are very close to going home. You are disrespecting the Chair and I will not put up with it. Minister, I will sit you down if you do not finish straightaway.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA: I feel it is very likely that members opposite are crossing their fingers, hoping against hope that the federal government does not actually help Western Australia. They need to speak up on the state's behalf.

SYNERGY — RENEWABLE ENERGY

658. Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to this government's commitment to supporting employment in renewable energy and its commitment to creating jobs in regional Western Australia. How does Synergy's investment in renewable energy projects in the midwest deliver on this commitment?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

I thank the member for that very good question. Members will certainly have seen in newspaper reports that Daniel Mercer, to his credit, got a lot of detail about a cabinet decision made on Monday and duly reported it, as all mischievous journalists do. However, the detail was correct, and I made some comments accordingly. If I can, I will give a quick outline. Obviously, our Large-scale Renewable Energy Target obligation, as set by former Prime Minister Tony Abbott, requires the nation to come up with around 33 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2020. Of course, we in Western Australia have an obligation to play our part in respect of the provision of renewable energy. To be frank with members, in terms of large-scale renewable energy we are very much underdone in WA compared with most other states in the nation, and we have not, through Synergy, made the decision we need to make in respect of our obligation for the provision of large-scale renewable energy.

On Monday the cabinet made a decision to partner with the private sector to deliver on our LRET obligations by 2020 to ensure that we do not have to pay the penalty we would otherwise have to pay. That means that a vehicle will be created and we will carry two assets—the Albany wind farm and the Greenough River solar farm—into that vehicle, which will effectively be our equity and, of course, the right to develop the Warradarge wind farm. As the Leader of the Opposition no doubt knows, the Warradarge wind farm is generally considered probably the best —

Dr M.D. Nahan: It's owned by Synergy.

Mr B.S. WYATT: That is right; it is already owned by Synergy, which is why it is a good fiscal decision, as the Leader of the Opposition no doubt knows. The Warradarge wind farm is considered to comfortably be the best renewable prospect in Western Australia and it will produce renewable power to Western Australians at the cheapest possible rate, and that is what I was interested in doing—ensuring that Synergy consumers have the smallest impact in respect of undertaking our obligations under the federal government's Large-scale Renewable Energy Target.

That will create a vehicle under which the state will own around 20 per cent and the private equity partner will own 80 per cent. The member for Bateman asked this question yesterday, and I can assure him that the asset will be operated by Synergy, not by the private equity partner; that is why it is called private equity. It will be operated by Synergy. Construction will hopefully begin next year. This is a very important decision by the government that will deliver on our LRET obligations and deliver a very, very good renewable energy asset for Western Australia. I want to emphasise the point that, despite the 20–80 split, because of the size of Warradarge wind farm, renewable energy assets on Synergy's balance sheet will increase quite considerably as a result of this decision.

GREENOUGH RIVER SOLAR FARM — PRIVATISATION

659. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the Premier's statement during the election —

“Everyone knows that when you privatise State-owned utilities, power prices go up, and services go down.

Can the minister confirm that the government's privatisation of the state-owned Greenough River solar farm in my electorate, and other energy assets in the state, will result in prices going up and services going down, or was this just electioneering by the Premier?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

I thank the member for Geraldton for the question, and I hope he is delighted with what we are delivering into his area—about 200 construction jobs. All I want from him is a simple thanks; that is all I want. We are delivering jobs and expanding the Greenough River solar farm. These are all good things for his local community and the Premier made that point, as did the Labor Party, time and again during the election campaign.

His issue is: why are we having private sector investment into generation assets, when we will not sell the distribution assets? I assume that is —

Dr M.D. Nahan: You promised not to sell any of our assets.

Mr B.S. WYATT: No. Leader of the Opposition!

Dr M.D. Nahan: It was one of your 200 great initiatives. You promised not to sell any assets.

Mr B.S. WYATT: The Leader of the Opposition is quite incorrect. The commitment by the Labor Party was that we would not sell Western Power and we would not sell Fremantle port, and we will not sell Western Power and we will not sell Fremantle port. That is quite a different commitment. The Leader of the Opposition can go and look at any press statement I put out or any media conference I did with our good friends from —

Dr M.D. Nahan: The Premier made it clear: only one asset would be sold—TAB; that's it.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr B.S. WYATT: The Leader of the Opposition can look at any press statement I did or any media conference I did, and I confirmed that time and again.

Dr M.D. Nahan: You were going to sell Western Power!

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr B.S. WYATT: Of course there is a difference, member for Geraldton. We are not selling Western Power, but we are happy for private sector investment and distribution, which is the reverse of the Liberal Party's position. The Liberal Party wanted to sell Western Power but it does not want private sector investment in generation. Clearly, they are different.

Mr D.C. Nalder: That's not true.

Dr M.D. Nahan: No.

Mr B.S. WYATT: It is. This went to its cabinet and it rejected it.

Dr M.D. Nahan: No.

Mr B.S. WYATT: A very similar proposal of private sector investment in generation went to the cabinet, but as is always the case with this Leader of the Opposition—the political palindrome—when he sat on this side of the house, he was unable to convince his cabinet of anything he once stood for. That was always the problem of the Leader of the Opposition. He is the man who stands for anything—whatever is required to get him through that particular day.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I have warned you twice. I call you to order for the first time.

Mr B.S. WYATT: When the Leader of the Opposition does that, people work out that he does not stand for a thing.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: The reason the Labor Party split Western Power —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you have said that five times. I think everyone heard it the first time. I call you to order for the second time.

Mr B.S. WYATT: The reason the Labor Party split Western Power back in the 2000s was to ensure that there was private sector investment in generation. What did we get? We got private sector investment in generation. That is why we are getting more of that. That is a good outcome for the people of Western Australia. It is a good outcome for the balance sheet, which the member for Riverton crippled during his time as Treasurer of this state, and it is good for the member for Geraldton, because it will deliver jobs in his local community.

GREENOUGH RIVER SOLAR FARM — PRIVATISATION

660. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Energy:

I have a supplementary question. Why is the Treasurer giving more than half a billion dollars to foreign companies for renewable projects at the expense of Western Australian energy companies, Western Australian renewable projects and Western Australian jobs?

Mr B.S. WYATT replied:

Now, that is actually not a bad question! I will give the member that, because there is an argument around what Synergy should do. Back in 2015, the Minister for Energy, who is now the Leader of the Opposition, said to Synergy that it should go out and seek expressions of interest from all the various renewable projects around the state. All those organisations provided all their sensitive information and all their detail to Synergy. In the end, Synergy landed on Warradarge, which, as the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, is owned by Synergy. A lot of those organisations that the member spoke about with the Greenough River renewable project are particularly cranky about that behaviour by Synergy. I understand why they are perhaps cranky. The reality is that when I looked at this, I had two things in mind: what is the cheapest source of renewable energy in Western Australia, and what is the best outcome for the finances of the state? That became Warradarge. I accept the crowding-out argument that I think the member is trying to raise with me now, but the reason we have done Warradarge at 180 megawatts is to create opportunity, because there are some smaller renewable opportunities that are not owned by Synergy that could also contribute to meeting our Large-scale Renewable Energy Target obligations. It is a 180 megawatt stage 1 for Warradarge. It can, of course, be increased in the future, but there is an opportunity to take on and do some of those other renewable projects that are now hopefully coming closer to cost. That is the plan. I hope that the member for Geraldton supports it. It is good for his local community. By and large, the Liberal Party should support this, because it is private sector investment in generation, which is a good outcome for Western Australia.

GOLD ROYALTY — CONSULTATION

661. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Acting Premier:

My question is to the Acting Premier, who is representing the Minister for Transport as the Acting Minister for Mines and Petroleum, and who is also acting on behalf of the Premier's portfolios. I refer to the article on the front page of *The West Australian*, which indicates that the government will be introducing a new mining royalty.

- (1) Who has the Minister for Mines and Petroleum met with in consultation on the new gold royalty?
- (2) How did the minister come to the decision to introduce the new royalty hike?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) I will relieve him of one misimpression—I am not representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum. However, I will make some general comments on royalties. We know that there are some people in the chamber who, when they were on the government benches, destroyed the state's finances. We understand that the state's finances are in particularly poor shape, thanks to the mismanagement of the Leader of the Opposition when he was the Treasurer and his other merry band of friends over there, who are doing the same thing in opposition that they did in government.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough!

Mr R.H. COOK: They were budget wreckers in government and they are budget wreckers in opposition. As the Treasurer has explained to the house, we are engaging in a conversation with stakeholders about what we need to do in terms of the revenue side of the budget in terms of budget repair.

Point of Order

Mr D.T. REDMAN: This is a point of relevance in the response. The question was very specific. Either the minister answers it or he sits down and we get on with business.

The SPEAKER: That is very interesting. I remember when you were a minister and you answered in the same way. I will give the same leeway to this minister.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr R.H. COOK: The question is about royalties, which goes to the issue of revenue, which goes to the issue of budget repair, which goes to the issue of mismanagement by the previous government.

Point of Order

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I asked the Acting Premier, who is acting on behalf of several ministers who are not present in the chamber, whom the Minister for Mines and Petroleum met with in regard to the gold royalty hike.

The SPEAKER: It is not a point of order, but the minister will get back to the answer.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Dr M.D. Nahan: Just say you don't have a clue!

The SPEAKER: Members want to hear the answer; just listen!

Mr R.H. COOK: This is just pathetic. Members opposite are so hopeless. The Minister for Mines and Petroleum has been talking to the same stakeholders as the Treasurer. The Minister for Mines and Petroleum has been talking to the same people we speak to on a daily basis to make sure that our policies are crafted in a way that meets the expectations of industry. One thing the industry never had an expectation of was how disastrous that mob would be in government.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members of the National Party!

Mr R.H. COOK: One of the expectations of industry is that we would engage with the mining companies and other members of the industry to make sure that we continue —

Mr V.A. Catania: Who are they?

Mr P.C. Tinley: None of your business!

The SPEAKER: Members! Minister, you will get to your point.

Mr R.H. COOK: My point is that we are meeting with lots of companies to talk about how everyone in the community can be involved in budget repair. Everyone in the community understands that we have to have budget repair because of the disastrous way in which members opposite—you in particular and you in particular—mismanaged our finances over eight and a half years.

GOLD ROYALTY — CONSULTATION

662. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Acting Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given that both the Minister for Mines and Petroleum and the Acting Minister for Mines and Petroleum are currently not in the Parliament, whom have they met with in the lead-up to the announcement of the government's new royalty hike?

Mr B.S. Wyatt: There is no announcement.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

As several members have already observed, there is no announcement.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS — INVESTMENT AND SUPPORT

663. Mr S.A. MILLMAN to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

I refer to the 2016 census results, which highlighted the importance of the arts sector in creating jobs and supporting our communities. How is the McGowan Labor government investing in Western Australia's cultural industries and supporting jobs in the arts sector, and is the minister aware of anyone who does not believe that these local groups and organisations deserve support?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I thank the member for Mount Lawley, whose electorate contains two great Western Australian performing institutions. I know that he is very proud of them, as is Western Australia of our history of delivering to the world quality individuals who have made the world their stage in the creative industries. Only recently, I launched an introspective photographic exhibition of the late Heath Ledger, who epitomised the creativity of Western Australia.

I thank the member for his question. It is really important that, as we continue to broaden the economy of Western Australia so that we do not rely on a narrow range of employment deliverers, we do not underestimate the importance of the creative industries in Western Australia. I do not know whether many members heard the member for Bunbury speak about the incubation, nurturing and encouragement of creative industries in the south west region, which has some great product, including CinefestOZ. There are people in that region who are delivering and working on animation—they are delivering to the world. We need to understand that the creative industries are integral to a broadened economy in Western Australia. It is great to see that as part of the government's commitments, a number of creative entities in Western Australia have received funding under the Local Projects, Local Jobs initiative.

Of course, the West Australian Youth Orchestra, which has its home in the member for Maylands' electorate, will receive \$300 000 for its facilities. I am sure that when WAYO enhances its facilities, it will use local business to deliver what it needs to get the place out of which it operates up to standard. It will be very happy with that contribution. I know, member for Wanneroo, there is a wonderful theatre company in the northern suburbs that received a grant from Local Projects, Local Jobs. I know that projects in other members' electorates, members from all sides of Parliament, have received those grants. It was disappointing that during the estimates process, the Leader of the Opposition—he was joined by his erstwhile young assistant, the member for Dawesville—talked about the so-called Labor slush fund. Let me remind the member for Dawesville, the Leader of the Opposition and others about some of the projects that have been delivered in their electorates. I would hope that they do not want them taken away. I hope that the member for Dawesville does not want them taken away because he knows that those delivered in his electorate will utilise local businesses to deliver those projects to those groups. I hope he does not want the grant given to Midway Community Care, which provides quality care to people with disabilities, to be taken away. I hope he does not want that one taken away—I hope you don't, I hope you don't! These projects deliver quality outcomes to many people across the state.

Point of Order

Dr M.D. NAHAN: He is not standing in his place. He is gravitating out into the aisle.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am acting for two others!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It is essential. I hope that the criticism that is being levelled, including that from the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Dawesville and others, recognises that those projects are delivering quality to groups throughout the state and they are welcomed by those groups. I know that many members in this place have attended the presentations with regard to those.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: What is wrong with you; what are you on now?

The fact of the matter is —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I will not listen to him over there. I will not be interrupted or distracted by him.

The fact of the matter is this: those projects are good projects. They are delivering quality and they are making sure that local businesses have an opportunity to provide services. They are much needed and appreciated by those thousands of people who will benefit from them.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT — REFORM

664. Mr A. KRSTICEVIC to the Minister for Local Government:

Given the minister's statements while in opposition and his comment yesterday morning on Gareth Parker's show, and I quote —

We're going to bring some legislation into the Parliament that specifically allows the minister to deal with an individual councillor.

Where is the minister's long overdue local government legislation to sack individual councillors or is he just spin over policy substance?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

There was so much love between the member for Carine and I yesterday. We went to the casino to present to the Local Government Professionals group and there he was —

The SPEAKER: Minister get to the point. Get to the answer.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes, it is very relevant, Mr Speaker!

We were so much in sync that Gary Adshead found it difficult to find a wedge between us. He could not find a wedge between us. The fact of the matter is this; the member knows that we have launched a major review of the Local Government Act. Of course, the former minister, the former member for Wanneroo, who was at the same convention yesterday, said at the same convention a year ago that there was no need to review the Local Government Act—it did not need reviewing. The former government had been blinkered for so long that it had no idea. Let me tell members this; we believe very firmly —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe and member for Perth, if you want to have a conversation, go outside.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: We believe that the Local Government Act is inadequate because when there are issues with a local government's capacity and capability and indeed its integrity to deliver, the only option as the member knows well, is to deal with the entire council. That is despite the fact that only one person or one elected member is causing problems for that council and bringing the council into disrepute, not acting responsibly and in fact breaching—in the case of some, 45 times—the Local Government Act. What we have said is this: there should be a section in the Local Government Act that allows the minister of the day to deal not only with councils when they become dysfunctional—when we see a setting up of the process of a suspension of the council, the establishment of a panel inquiry process and, indeed, at the very height, a commissioner or commissioners—but also there should be a provision in the act to allow for an individual to be dealt with. There will still be a high bar in terms of natural justice. Natural justice must be delivered and it must also be fair. But for goodness sake, we should not see a situation in which two and a half years go by and we still do not have an outcome. We must have a process. In answer to the member's question, we will bring legislation to the Parliament. It is complex but we will get it right because we are going to make sure that it is fair and that it delivers what the intention is that it deliver. Watch out, and I look forward to the member supporting it.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT — REFORM

665. Mr A. KRSTICEVIC to the Minister for Local Government:

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister confirm that he is intending to give himself ultimate power to sack local government mayors and councillors?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

Goodness gracious! This obviously worries the member for Carine. There must be a process, a process that is clear and transparent and that ensures a fairness and, indeed, is based on the principles of natural justice. That is the sort of bill we will bring to this house. I tell you what: when we bring it into this chamber, I expect the member for Carine to give it thorough investigation. We will bring in a bill that is fair and allows the minister of the day to address issues around an individual who ultimately may, through their behaviour and actions, bring a council into disrepute. I think most people in Western Australia will support it.

COMMUNITY SPORTS FUNDING

666. Ms E. HAMILTON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Can the minister advise the house how the McGowan Labor government is investing in grassroots sports in the outer suburbs, particularly sporting clubs and groups in Joondalup; and, is the minister aware of anyone who does not believe that these local sporting groups and organisations need support?

Mr M.P. MURRAY replied:

Thank you, member for Joondalup. I certainly can show that the McGowan government is supporting grassroots sport. This government is making very sure that it supports grassroots sport by putting \$10 million into grassroots sport. The member may have noticed that we stood up against some of the high flying sport clubs in Australia that took us on and wanted to follow down the Liberal Party's line about how much they should get out of sport at the expense of others. We stood up and said that they were not going to get that. We will put money into grassroots sports. We all know that community sport is a major part of our lifestyle in Western Australia, both for our mental health and physical wellbeing into the future.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: It also helps us save money in the health system because we have a healthy society. It also helps to with integration when new people, many of our migrants, come to this state. We do not have the same problems that places on the east coast have. We are recognised Australia-wide as leading the pack in the sport and rec situation. Much of our —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I will protect you, minister!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: We are certainly out there and we are proud to have made 172 of these grassroots election commitments—172—in the short time that we have been in government.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I also say that it is unfortunate for sport and recreation that the previous minister was not on the job at all and struggled very, very much to connect with the community and the department.

I recently announced grants, including \$6 750 for the highly successful Joondalup Women's Football Club, now the Falcons. It has now integrated into the West Perth Football Club, a historic move under this government, not under the previous one, between a Western Australian football club and a women's team. It also means that that team is able to access jumpers and the like at a reduced cost to the players. Another \$10 000 was for playing infrastructure for the Midvale Junior Football Club to assist disadvantaged families who work to address—listen to this—antisocial behaviour in their area. I think it is a great movement in which sport is working very hard to take away some of the antisocial behaviour that people complain about all the time. It is being done through sport under smaller grants to local government.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Another side of that is \$1 000 for a defibrillator for the Champion Lakes park —

Point of Order

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Mr Speaker —

The SPEAKER: Member, I know I am on your deaf side.

Mr M.P. Murray: Can I have another half-hour please, Mr Speaker!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is good to see the minister finally keeping on script, but clearly he is quoting from a document.

The SPEAKER: What point of order?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: He is quoting from an official document, perhaps he can table it and spare us all the grief.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Sit down. Minister, you will bring this to a quick end, I am sure.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I will go another 10 minutes; I will come down from the half-hour!

Can I say, like anyone else, I have my notes in my hand.

Mr J.E. McGrath interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for South Perth!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: There are probably a few more things, but if we talk about sport, maybe the member for North West Central should do a bit, because it could help his mental health!

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Mr Speaker, I asked whether he was quoting from an official document. If he could table the document.

The SPEAKER: No. I just ask you to withdraw that last comment, minister.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I did not know the member was so sensitive. I withdraw.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The minister is reading from a script; he is not reading from notes.

The SPEAKER: I think you would have got burnt the other day. Is that an official document?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: No, they are my notes.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I can see the documents from here. They are just notes that have been done.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I could probably challenge the member for North West Central to read some of the scribble that I have on here. I am sure he would really struggle—not only with the scribble, but to read at all!

What I can say —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Is anyone querying that that is an official document? Just leave it then. Minister, you will finish this very quickly.

Point of Order

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Could the Minister for Sport and Recreation please inform the chamber where the \$10 million is coming from? Is it coming from out of the stadium?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for South Perth, I call you to order for the first time. That was frivolous. Do you want a second one?

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M.P. MURRAY: May I continue?

The SPEAKER: Yes, very quickly.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Can I just follow on from that?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: The more you interject, the longer he will speak.

Several members interjected.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: May I go on?

The SPEAKER: Just wait. It is your question time, so just keep fiddling around there and I will let the minister wait until everyone is quiet.

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

The SPEAKER: You have got a lot to say there, member for Cottesloe—a lot to say—the thing is that no-one is listening.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: For those who wish to listen, of the money for the 172 local projects, nearly \$5 million has already been distributed to those clubs. Some of them had very, very low amounts and they had not had funding before. It is always great to go out there and give that funding to a club that has been battling away on its own, not getting a great deal of help from the previous government and not getting a great deal of help from the community to be able to build and bring those people into the fold so they have somewhere to go.

The SPEAKER: Come on, minister, wind it up.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: That means that 172 sporting teams will have better infrastructure, new lighting and updated equipment, or uniforms for those who cannot afford it. But, in finishing —

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Mr Speaker, standing order —

The SPEAKER: What is the point of order? He has already sat down.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The standing orders state —

Reading from documents should be limited to a few lines ...

Clearly, the minister is in breach.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: The Speaker is not supposed to be on that side of the chamber!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: What was your comment?

Mr S.K. L'Estrange: I have nothing to say.

Suspension of Member

The SPEAKER: I call you to order for the third and fourth time.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call people when I like, and the member for Churchlands is putting the Chair into disrespect for the second time today.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Mr Speaker, for the direction for this house, could you please point out where in the standing orders you have the authority to make multiple calls on the one issue?

The SPEAKER: Under standing order 48, it is up to the Speaker to make that decision.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Multiple calls?

The SPEAKER: Yes. I have put up with the member for Churchlands today. He is supposed to be the leader of opposition business and all he has done is put the Chair into disrepute. I call him to order for the fourth time. As the member has been called to order more than three times, I now suspend the member from the service of the house until the adjournment of today's sitting.

[The member for Churchlands left the chamber.]

Point of Order

Mr D.C. NALDER: Mr Speaker, standing order 48 makes reference to you expelling someone from the house. It makes no reference to multiple calls for the one issue. Can you please direct this house, when you have made two calls for the one issue in this house, to the basis for calling twice. I am trying to understand the standing orders.

The SPEAKER: It is at the discretion of the Speaker to make the call. Before, the member got up and was disrespectful to the Chair. I stood up and then as I was standing on my feet, he said I should be on the other side of the house—I should not be looking after them, that it is not fair. To me that is disrespectful of the Chair. If you want to query that decision, you have the option to do so, but I will not have anyone, no matter who is sitting in this chair, be challenged by a member from that side of the house or that side of the house. Since this Parliament has started members have been getting out the standing orders and they do not always understand them. I understand that for new members of Parliament, but we have had members of Parliament who have been here before who are bringing up issues of relevance and things like that. It is my job to make sure that the chamber works in a proper way. If members want to query my decisions, they have the options to do so.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Mr Speaker, I will just finish off!

The SPEAKER: Yes, okay.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Sit down.

MCGOWAN MINISTRY — CHINA AND JAPAN VISIT

667. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Acting Premier:

In the absence of the Minister of Transport, the Deputy Premier is representing that minister, who in turn is acting as the Minister for Asian Engagement. I refer to the Minister for Asian Engagement's current trip to Asia.

- (1) How much will the trip cost?
- (2) Why is it necessary to have four ministers on the same international trip when the government already has a specific Minister for Asian Engagement?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) As the member would be aware, the Premier made a very extensive statement to the house yesterday detailing the outline of the trip he is making. It is a trip about jobs. It is about generating jobs in Western Australia—jobs in tourism, jobs in education and jobs in vital export companies. As is the —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: You asked a question, listen to the answer.

Mr R.H. COOK: As is the practice in this place, when a minister undertakes overseas travel, they are required to provide a report to the chamber. The Premier went further than that yesterday by providing an insight for members ahead of his travel. He will come back, he will report on his trip and all the details will be available to the member then.

MCGOWAN MINISTRY — CHINA AND JAPAN VISIT

668. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Acting Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given the answer that we have just been given, does the Acting Premier share with us our concern that the Minister for Asian Engagement is not up to the job?

The SPEAKER: That is an opinion. You do not have to answer that.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Obviously, I do not share that concern. It might come as some surprise to the member opposite that the Minister for Asian Engagement is in Asia doing his job.

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — DETAINEE MANAGEMENT

669. Mr M.J. FOLKARD to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to this government's strategy of providing stability for young people at Banksia Hill Detention Centre, having put a few people there myself over the years, in response to issues at the facility earlier this year. Can the minister update the house on the progress of the new approach, and have there been any signs of success?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

I thank the member for his question and acknowledge his commitment to youth justice in Western Australia. I want to update the house on what has been happening at Banksia Hill over the last six months since I intervened, as the member knows, to bring an end to the chaos and the policy failure at Banksia Hill that had led to successive riots and millions of dollars' worth of damage. Since that time we have put in place a regime that ensures that we have stability at Banksia Hill. I would like to put on the record my thanks to Andy Hughes, the new superintendent of Banksia Hill, and his team, and all the staff at Banksia Hill who have basically turned that terrible situation around.

I was out there only last Friday and I can tell the house that the place is now very stable; it is clean and tidy and the gardens are well cared for. That has been done by the young people themselves. No significant incidents have occurred since May. The special operations group has not been deployed at all since we made these changes. There was a period when the special operations group was going out to Banksia Hill every single week because of issues. Staff morale is very, very good and now attendance by staff has improved out of sight. I met with the Community and Public Sector Union—Civil Service Association of WA delegates only last week here in Parliament House and they were effusive about the changes that we have made at Banksia Hill because at last their workplace is now safe and stable and they can go to work and do their job without feeling threatened.

I would like to inform the house of one example of the work that has been achieved at Banksia Hill and what happens once we have stability and control of an institution like that. Last Friday I was at the career exhibitors show at Banksia Hill. Twelve organisations were in the main hall at Banksia Hill exhibiting careers for young people so that they could see that there is a life for them after Banksia Hill. Some of the contributors to the career expo were Rio Tinto, the Australian Defence Force, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and St Catherine's College at the University of Western Australia. All the young people attended, including those who were in a more secure unit at Banksia Hill. They all had an opportunity to go through the careers expo and they all

expressed great admiration and thanks to the staff for allowing that to take place. The good thing is that a number of those young people have signed up to take part in not only courses, but also programs. For example, I met a young woman there who made a commitment to sign up to the Australian Defence Force and she will join the Navy as soon as she gets out of Banksia Hill. Those sorts of things could not have happened before May under the previous regime. It would have been too dangerous for those exhibitors to put up their stands at Banksia Hill.

The staff have done a remarkable job. I hope that the general public, this house and the media are now aware that we have brought that stability to Banksia Hill. I hope it remains. I certainly hope that there are no further instances of what we have seen in the past. I wish the staff out there all the very best and thank them for their work.

UTILITIES — STATEMENTS OF CORPORATE INTENT

670. Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP to the Acting Premier:

Before I ask my question, I would like to acknowledge Mrs Kirsty Pratt, who is in the public gallery this afternoon on behalf of victims of child sexual abuse and who is waiting for the government to honour its election commitment.

I refer to the following government businesses that have failed to table their statements of corporate intent as required by law—namely, Western Power, Synergy, Horizon Power, the Water Corporation, Aqwest, Busselton Water, LandCorp, ChemCentre, the Forest Products Commission, the Government Employees Superannuation Board, the Insurance Commission of WA, Racing and Wagering Western Australia, the Western Australian Treasury Corporation and the five port authorities. Given the Premier's commitment to gold standard transparency, why is the government failing to be open and accountable with the people of Western Australia?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I would like to thank the member for the question. It is a good backbencher question. We all know that a lot of backbenchers cut their teeth on looking at when departments table their statements of corporate intent. I am guilty of doing the same activity myself. The member is right. It is not ideal that we have situations in which departments fail to meet their obligations to table these documents within the appropriate time. Unfortunately, it is not unusual and it happens on a fairly frequent but irregular basis with different departments. I am certainly happy to follow that up. The member is right; it is not ideal, but it is not unusual. We will certainly take care of that.

UTILITIES — STATEMENTS OF CORPORATE INTENT

671. Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP to the Acting Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Further to the Acting Premier's commitment to follow that up, could he also inquire of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet when its consultants' report, travel report and ministerial resourcing report is due to be tabled?

Mr B.S. Wyatt: When are they due to be tabled—not overdue though.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I should clarify that they are overdue.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I will.

The SPEAKER: That is the end of question time.

McGOWAN MINISTRY — CHINA AND JAPAN VISIT

Standing Orders Suspension — Motion

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the National Party) [2.56 pm]: — without notice: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the following motion to be moved forthwith —

That this house condemns the government for absenting four ministers on a parliamentary sitting day, thereby avoiding public scrutiny and diminishing the ability of the opposition to hold the government to account.

I think we have seen today why there is a need for the government to agree to this motion. Absolute arrogance and contempt have been shown to this house today. Indeed, it has emerged over the past 16 weeks that this house has sat. Some examples of why we think this government needs to explain why, at its own instigation, it has arranged overseas travel —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water, I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough, you have one of your own side on her feet.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Why has this government, presumably signed off by the Premier, arranged overseas travel for a number of its ministers on a day that Parliament is sitting, and during question time? I understand that one of the ministers chose to wait until after question time was completed to join the Premier and other ministers. I am not sure—I would like an explanation, and I am sure members of the opposition would too—why the rest of that delegation could not do the same thing. It is our job as the opposition to have the opportunity to scrutinise and raise issues during question time and in the house on behalf of the people of this state.

Today, a very simple question was asked of the Acting Premier, who was representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum. He was asked who the Minister for Mines and Petroleum had met with in consultation on the gold royalty—an issue that is contemporary and live today. Members would rightly expect that the opposition would ask questions about that in this place. He also asked how the minister came to the decision to introduce the new royalty hike. The Acting Premier was unable to answer that question and obfuscated in true polly-speak. As we were having this debate, the Minister for Housing said, “It’s none of your business.” He said that we do not get to ask that question. How outrageous!

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Housing, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The arrogance of this government is being displayed by these ministers. The government has a significant majority in this house. With power comes great responsibility. The government sets the parliamentary schedule. Three ministers in this house and one minister in the other house have not turned up on a sitting day to make themselves available for the opposition to ask questions.

Yesterday, we had the farce of a minister who turned up but waffled through his answer. That is another example of this government not taking the role of this Parliament seriously. The Minister for Sport and Recreation was asked a very simple question yesterday, and he ended up talking about the Queen, for heaven’s sake! I watched that answer. This is the arrogance we are seeing from ministers. Ministers have been nothing but contemptuous of this Parliament. I do not know about other members in this place, but when members in the other chamber have asked questions, the response from the government has been, quite frankly, breathtaking. When we were in government and provided answers in the other place, they were delivered on time —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr D.A. Templeman: Do you want to have the debate?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Yes.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Then sit down and I will move an amendment.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Thank you.

Standing Orders Suspension — Amendment to Motion

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [3.00 pm]: I move —

To insert after “forthwith” the following —

, subject to the debate being limited to 15 minutes for government members and 15 minutes for non-government members

Amendment put and passed.

Standing Orders Suspension — Motion, as Amended

The SPEAKER: As this is a motion without notice to suspend standing orders, it will need an absolute majority in order to succeed. If I hear a dissentient voice, I will be required to divide the Assembly. The question is that the motion, as amended, be agreed to.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

Motion

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the National Party) [3.01 pm]: I move the motion. I thank the government for agreeing to debate this very important issue. In question time today, three ministers, covering 12 portfolios, were not available for the opposition to ask questions. Although the Acting Premier is here today, the Minister for Transport, who is acting for other ministers, is also not available today, and that is preventing questions from being asked in the other place. As I said in the previous debate, this is a sign of how contemptuous and arrogant this government has become in such a short time. The government has so many members in this house, but with so much power comes responsibility. At the very least, it would be appropriate that the ministers, and cabinet, I presume, who set the parliamentary sitting calendar, would make themselves available for the

opposition to apply scrutiny and ask questions on behalf of our constituents and the people of Western Australia. Rather than do that, ministers have chosen to take overseas travel. That trip was instigated by the government. We understand that from time to time ministers need to absent themselves from this place. We certainly did that when we were in government. On occasion, when an event was organised that a minister needed to attend, the minister was paired and provided with the opportunity to attend that event. We understand that. However, two ministers have gone on an overseas trip that was organised and created by the government, at its instigation. The government knew that Parliament was sitting today.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Wait until you hear the answer and then you will understand why it was done.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I look forward to the answer. However, that is only one element of the reason we have moved this motion today. There is a growing level of arrogance by this government and its ministers to this house and to providing the opportunity for the opposition to ask questions.

The government has created the machinery-of-government changes. It has reduced the number of government departments and it has given its ministers a significant number of responsibilities. Three of those ministers are absent from the house today. That means there are 12 portfolios about which the opposition is unable to ask questions. Although we were able to ask the Acting Premier a question today, no-one could rightfully argue that the answer that was given by the Acting Premier was appropriate and provided any level of information. It was a very simple question, and it is a very contemporary issue.

Mr R.H. Cook: Cross-examining the minister's diary is a very simple question?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The Acting Premier should have anticipated that the gold royalty would be a significant issue in this house.

Mr R.H. Cook: Surely there was some other issue that you could have thought of to demonstrate your point.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I can tell the minister right now that the gold royalty is an issue that a significant number of our constituents are concerned about.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, a person from your own party is on their feet!

Mr V.A. Catania I am responding to the interjection.

The SPEAKER: I am responding to you, and I call you to order for the first time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The government should take this opportunity to explain why those senior ministers could not schedule their trip outside the parliamentary sitting schedule. The government should also take this opportunity to explain why the Premier needs to take three ministers with him to hold his hand. Is the Premier incapable of managing the business of the state while he is travelling overseas? The government should also explain why this trip has been taken and how much this trip will cost taxpayers. This trip is at a time when we are having debates in this place about the austerity that many Western Australians are facing, and we are having debates about the gold royalty because the government does not have the mettle to talk to the iron ore companies and do some real work on debt reduction. The Acting Premier and the government should explain to the people of Western Australia why they are treating this house with such contempt.

There are 12 portfolios that we are unable to ask questions about today: Premier; Public Sector Management; State Development, Jobs and Trade; Federal–State Relations; Education and Training; Mines and Petroleum; Commerce and Industrial Relations; Electoral Affairs; Asian Engagement; Transport; and Lands. That is unacceptable and it could be remedied very easily. As I have said, that is only one of the elements that has emerged since this government has come to power. The government is using its enormous majority to be enormously arrogant and contemptuous of this house. The government is showing contempt to the people of Western Australia in the way it treats this house when it answers questions. The way in which the Minister for Sport and Recreation behaved yesterday was absolutely atrocious. It was shameful. The minister was asked a serious question yesterday, and he talked about the Queen! That is no way to treat this house. The opposition is asking, quite rightly, why the Premier and the ministers are not here on a day when they know Parliament is sitting and that issues are running in their portfolios that are of interest and that the opposition would want to ask questions about, and they were simply unprepared. That is not a good sign either. From our perspective, I hope the government will take the opportunity to explain why it believes it can show such contempt and be so arrogant in this place.

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Leader of the Opposition) [3.06 pm]: I would like to join in the debate on this motion. There is no doubt that the government of the day won the election with a huge landslide. The public wanted change, and this government is now in charge and has formed executive government. However, the people of this state also want the opposition to hold the government to account. The essence of parliamentary democracy is that Parliament holds the executive to account—that is why we separate the two. The government has shown consistently over its period in office complete contempt for this Parliament. It is not just contempt for members of the opposition as individuals, as the Minister for Water said. It is contempt for the people we represent. We

represent the people of Western Australia, who elected us to this place—in diminished numbers—to hold the executive to account. It is understandable why the Premier, the Minister for Asian Engagement and the Minister for Education have gone to China. The number of foreign students from China is in freefall—it is down 20-plus per cent. I am sure they will be told by the people in China that the reason the numbers are down is the policies of this government. We support those ministers going to China to encourage more foreign students to come to Western Australia. However, they could have gone to China today rather than yesterday. As the Leader of the National Party indicated, that means we have had to vacate debate in this Parliament across a range of portfolios. The reason we asked a question of the Acting Premier is because during the previous debate on gold royalties, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum was missing in action. He was hiding. We had a hunt on the internet: where is Bill? He is hiding again on this issue. The question was put to him: who did you meet? The Treasurer, who is appropriately leading this issue, told the public through the media, “We’re meeting the Chamber of Minerals and Energy; we’re meeting leaders of both large and small-scale businesses in the gold industry.” We wanted to know whether the Minister for Mines and Petroleum was doing likewise as part of his executive responsibility. He could not answer. The response from the member for Willagee, one of the better people in this house on this issue, was, “It’s none of your business; it’s executive government; we don’t need to tell you.”

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Yes they do. That is why we are here—that is, to ask questions like that. The Treasurer was willing to talk to the media about who he was meeting, and appropriately so, yet the Minister for Housing told Parliament, “It’s none of your business, this is executive government; go away; you don’t count.” The Minister for Water said, “We respect Parliament but we don’t respect you individuals.” That shows contempt for the institution that they are in and that we all work hard to get to. It shows contempt for the institution and that their huge victory has gone to their head and they are abusing it.

Yesterday we debated the Perth Children’s Hospital. It has been a longstanding issue on which the Acting Premier, appropriately, had us under scrutiny over the last term of the previous government. The issue was important; there were clear problems with the issue and the issue was about how the hell lead got in the water and a range of other issues. He aggressively held us to account. He talked to everyone under the sun—the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union and everyone else—appropriately so. Then he writes us a letter saying “Shut up about that issue. You should not discuss it in Parliament because it might affect our negotiating position.” Parliament has special roles and responsibilities and the community of Western Australia gives us special privileges to debate issues exactly like that. In other words, his action was an attempt to muzzle Parliament. The Premier’s response was that our actions would not only jeopardise the government’s negotiating position but also, what we said indicated that we were in cahoots with the managing contractor. That is what the Premier accused us of. That is outrageous.

I want to raise one other point that shows contempt for people today. The Minister for Corrective Services called one of my colleagues a name—“Uncle Fester”. That was a slur and he knows that where he comes from it has certain connotations—“Uncle Fester, the child molester”. He knows what it means.

Several members interjected.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Yes, it is. That was an attempt to slur him. That is the standard members opposite are going to.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, can you get back to the point please.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: We are almost at the end of this term.

A government member: A year.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: A year; and they have shown complete contempt for not just the opposition, but also as the Minister for Water said—I believe he holds us in contempt—the institution.

If they do not pick it up, they will crumble.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [3.13 pm]: We can see a pattern emerging: the increasing arrogance by a puffed up politician called the Premier. Arrogance and contempt is all we have seen. We have seen “Papergate”, where he said there was only one piece of paper, but there were two.

Several members interjected.

Ms S.E. Winton: Are you reading?

The SPEAKER: No, but member for Wanneroo, I will call you to order for the first time.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: We have seen “Carnegiegate” whereby the Minister for Regional Development had a hand in the till and now we are seeing “Muzzlegate”, where the Labor government is telling the opposition to put a muzzle on. How dare you stop democracy in this house! Today we heard a senior minister say “It’s none of your business.” God, I do not think we have ever —

Mr D.T. Redman: Is he a senior minister?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: He is probably not a senior minister. We have heard arrogance displayed by the Labor government in answer to questions that this side of the house has put to people like the Premier. It is unbelievable arrogance by the Premier.

Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Kingsley, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: We can see the Premier over in Shanghai having a beer; having a Tsingtao with his sneakers on, wiping his forehead saying, "Geez; it's good to be the Premier of Western Australia," wearing a T-shirt with "I love Rockingham" on it. He will be walking the streets of Shanghai with the Minister for Education and Training and the Minister for Asian Engagement, on a taxpayer-funded trip saying, "God, it's good to have 41 members in Parliament." Forty-one members breeds the arrogance we are seeing right now. We can see the arrogance the Premier is displaying in this chamber through answers and the way he has handled an issue over two pieces of paper: only one; nothing to see here. He is off on his trip happy to freeze everyone's pay except his own superannuation entitlements.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Get back to the point.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: "Gold royalty accountability" is what the Premier said, but not for the Premier or anyone else because of the government's 41 members. "Don't worry; we'll win government next time; don't worry because we have such a large majority, but we might lose a few." But let me tell members, the arrogance coming out of this government is being displayed by all. As I said, there is an increasing pattern of contempt for this place and contempt for the opposition trying to make sure they are accountable to the people of Western Australia. They are not doing that. Today there are three ministers out of this chamber and more out of the other chamber. Why did those members not travel on a non-sitting week, which is next week? I would like to hear the Acting Premier's answer. Why did they not organise it for next week and why are so many ministers away? Why cannot one minister do the job?

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Acting Premier) [3.17 pm]: For the information of the chamber and members opposite, the Premier is not here today, as would usually be the case, because this industry delegation to China was scheduled for earlier in the year. Unfortunately, because of the scheduling of the Nineteenth National Congress in China, they had to change the timing of the delegation. That is the fact of the matter. It was planned for earlier. While it is important we get this delegation going, at this time of the year, it is difficult because of the timing of Parliament. As we know, Parliament continues to meet fairly regularly in the lead-up to December. The original schedule got pushed out following the announcement of the timing for the national congress, which conflicted with the minister's delegation.

Mr D.J. Kelly: We found it difficult to get the Communist Party's congress to meet the member for North West Central!

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: Thank you.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Members, not across the chamber or I will start calling people to order.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr R.H. COOK: Let us be clear about what this delegation is about. It is about jobs and about the Western Australian economy and how we can continue —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr R.H. COOK: It is about jobs and the Western Australian economy and how we can continue to grow the economy, particularly given the poor performance we are having in education and tourism. That is one of the key reasons we have to continue to lead these delegations to make sure we realise the economic opportunities that come with them. The Premier, as members know, will obviously be joined by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Asian Engagement. Of course, that is a natural fit in this situation. The Minister for Asian Engagement will also undertake some work in South Korea. Obviously, the Minister for Education and Training has an important role to play in that delegation because, as everyone knows, we have to do better with our international student numbers, particularly Chinese students.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.H. COOK: Those aspects of the delegation are loaded up during the earlier part of the timetable. That is why the Minister for Tourism is delaying his departure and stay for this part of the week.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, you wanted an answer; listen to it.

Mr R.H. COOK: However, the structure and nature of the delegation to China requires the Premier, the Minister for Education and Training and the Minister for Asian Engagement to go during the earlier part of the trip. It is a delegation of over 40 industry leaders; it is not simply about arranging the diaries of a small group of people. It is a structured delegation of people with commitments, and from that point of view the structure of the visit to China could not be changed.

In addition, members will notice that the Minister for Transport is not here today. Unfortunately, she has to attend a Council of Australian Governments meeting in Hobart for transport ministers. As members on the other side who have had experience with these things would know, these meetings are invariably scheduled on a Friday and if we had the luxury of living on the east coast, we would be able to travel at the end of the day. The Minister for Transport is in transit on her way to Hobart to attend that meeting. From that perspective, the absence of ministers from the chamber is unfortunate, but also unavoidable. I think all members understand that the Premier and his colleagues are undertaking a very important delegation to China to make sure that we can continue to improve our opportunities there.

This is not an exercise in arrogance. If it were an exercise in arrogance, it would be standing in the election for one political party, then, as soon as the election is over, switching to another political party! That is arrogance.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, just be careful what you call people in this place. You call them by their constituency.

Mr V.A. Catania: Call them all to order!

The SPEAKER: I will call you to order if you talk when I am on my feet. I will not have people being called names that are not their electorates.

Mr R.H. COOK: I would have thought that the last set of members of Parliament who would bring a motion of this nature to the chamber would be our friends in the National Party. They are serial offenders in absenting themselves from the chamber. Although the Premier and his colleagues are undertaking an important delegation to China because they are interested in jobs for Western Australians and in improving the economy, we all remember the absence of the former member for Pilbara when he was on the previous government's front bench. That was in the first sitting week of 2011 when Hon Brendon Grylls absented himself from the chamber for a whole week.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Where did he go again?

Mr R.H. COOK: Where did he go, members?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.H. COOK: Mr Speaker, on that occasion, it was not a case of ministerial responsibilities getting in the way. It was a family holiday! Even though it was the first sitting week of Parliament —

Point of Order

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The minister is talking about a past member—only one. We are talking about four ministers being away!

The SPEAKER: Member, that is not a point of order. If you get up with a point of order and scream like that, I will call you to order. You are already on—only one; I will give you one for that; it is now two.

Debate Resumed

Mr R.H. COOK: Our friends over there are the last people who should come into this place and criticise ministers for absenting themselves for important political work for Western Australian taxpayers. I remember on that occasion, where the Treasurer now sits —

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I call you to order for the third time; it is not a shouting match.

Mr R.H. COOK: Where the Treasurer now sits, there was a completely absent chair in the first week of Parliament. It was not because the former minister was trying to generate jobs in Western Australia. It was not because he was concerned about the economy. It was because he was concerned about his family holiday.

I remember at the time the Premier saying, “Give the guy a break and give his wife a break. They have two young children. This is the time they have been able to arrange to have a week off.” Our ministers may not be here today, but they are working on behalf of the taxpayers of Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: National Party members, if you want to give it, you have to accept some back.

Mr R.H. COOK: They are not absenting themselves simply because they want to take a holiday. The Premier and his colleagues are out there working for Western Australian jobs. The Minister for Transport is at a COAG meeting so she has to be absent from the chamber for that purpose. That stands in stark contrast with the former ministers in this place who would simply absent themselves because they wanted to take a family holiday. That is the form we have here. That, ladies and gentlemen, is called contempt of Parliament—not the fact that the Premier is away on an important delegation that is generating jobs for Western Australians.

The former minister had form in this. As late as the end of 2016, the former minister would absent himself simply to scurry off to do early electioneering. I remember that the member for Fremantle wanted to grieve to Hon Brendon Grylls, but he had just disappeared. Do members think that he was overseas looking for jobs for Western Australians? No!

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party!

Mr R.H. COOK: He was off campaigning in his electorate. That mob have form when it comes to absenting themselves from the chamber. At least the Liberal Party turn up!

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr R.H. COOK: At least Liberal Party members turn up; at least they have some respect for the chamber. When they were not here, we knew they were out working hard when they were on the government benches. It is not like our friends over there in the National Party who are serial offenders of absenteeism from this place.

We have an agenda for Western Australia: it is jobs; it is the economy. That is why the Premier is out there today working for jobs and working for the Western Australian economy. He is out there for the people of Western Australia. That is in stark contrast with the National Party mob when they were in government. There is a reason the Premier and his colleagues are out of the chamber today. It is regrettable, but, unfortunately, it is unavoidable because of the timing of the national congress. We have a single priority as a government—that is, Western Australian jobs and the Western Australian economy—and we will continue to pursue that agenda as our priority.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Tourism) [3.28 pm]: At the outset, I would like to join the —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the National Party, it is not just a chat across the chamber. The minister is on his feet. I call you to order for the second time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. At the outset, I would like to join the Deputy Premier in congratulating National Party members for all being here for the first time in months! I am fairly certain that for at least the last six months, there has not been one sitting week when all five of the reprobates on the other side of the chamber have been present. I congratulate them and thank them for their presence!

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, you are on three calls.

Mr P. PAPALIA: On behalf of their constituents, I thank them for their presence. It is nice to see them for a change.

With regard to the delegation the Premier is leading, it is no secret that the Premier is leading a very significant delegation as his first overseas trade delegation to China. It is not a secret because he told the tourism sector of Western Australia, at a business breakfast six months before the election, that that was exactly what he was going to do. He laid it on the record and he told the sector at the time that he would be taking the Minister for Education and Training, the Minister for Asian Engagement and the Minister for Tourism because it was a significant initiative to diversify the economy and grow jobs in Western Australia. That commitment was applauded by the tourism sector because we are lagging dismally as a consequence of the Barnett government’s neglect of tourism and international students. We went from 12 per cent of the total international student share under the Carpenter government to less than seven per cent under the Barnett government. Fewer than seven per cent of international students in Australia are coming to Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! You do an MPI so you can ask a question and get an answer. All you have been doing is interjecting. Minister, get on with it, please. Sorry; resume, minister!

Mr P. PAPALIA: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Tourism is also lagging dismally, particularly international tourism. I understand —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Moore, you should know better.

Mr P. PAPALIA: He does not speak very often, except when I am speaking! He cannot seem to stop himself!

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: The Minister for Water has cracked a funny joke; a voice-activated dummy, I like that!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr P. PAPALIA: Do not take it too personally.

I understand that the previous government had the benefit of an unprecedented mining boom, so it was able to sit back and watch the royalties roll in while doing nothing to diversify the economy. We have to rectify that; we have to fix that. Eleven months before the election we went into the public domain with a commitment to the people of Western Australia to elevate tourism to become a much more significant part of the economy and to diversify the economy through those means.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are on three.

Mr P. PAPALIA: As I said before, six months before the election, the Premier went on the public record in front of the media, the tourism sector and the education sector to make a commitment to lead his very first trade delegation to China to grow jobs on behalf of the tourism and education sectors in Western Australia, and to take three ministers with him for that very purpose.

The previous government's neglect was transparent. When I went earlier this year to Guangzhou, home of the only airline that flies directly from China to Perth, I was told that the last time a tourism minister had visited from Western Australia was 2011. When I went to Japan to talk to airlines about a direct flight from Japan—which we have not had since 2011—I was told that the last time a tourism minister from Western Australia had visited was in 2012. The previous government neglected our key markets and we are trying to fix the mess. Do not criticise us for picking up the pieces. Do not criticise us for doing what we committed to do. We are just fixing the mess. We are looking for opportunities to grow jobs through tourism and international students, as we promised we would do six months before the election.

Division

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (14)

Mr C.J. Barnett	Mrs L.M. Harvey	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr P.J. Rundle
Mr I.C. Blayney	Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup	Dr M.D. Nahan	Mr A. Krsticevic (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr V.A. Catania	Mr R.S. Love	Mr D.C. Nalder	
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mr D.T. Redman	

Noes (34)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr S.J. Price	Mr D.A. Templeman
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr D.T. Punch	Mr P.C. Tinley
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Ms S.F. McGurk	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr B. Urban
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr K.J.J. Michel	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr R.R. Whitby
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms C.M. Rowe	Ms S.E. Winton
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Ms A. Sanderson	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Ms E. Hamilton	Mr M.P. Murray	Ms J.J. Shaw	Mr D.R. Michael (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr T.J. Healy	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski	
Mr M. Hughes	Mr P. Papalia	Mr C.J. Tallentire	

Pairs

Ms L. Mettam	Mr M. McGowan
Mr P. Katsambanis	Mr W.J. Johnston
Mr K. O'Donnell	Ms R. Saffioti

Question thus negatived.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS — INVESTMENT AND SUPPORT*Question without Notice 663 — Correction of Answer*

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [3.37 pm]: I want to correct the record on a question I answered during question time. During question time I stated that there had been a \$300 000 contribution by Local Projects, Local Jobs to a project in Maylands for the West Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra. I was incorrect; that was the total project cost. The correct figure is \$50 000.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B*Supplementary Information Question B22 — Correction of Answer*

MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Community Services) [3.38 pm]: I rise in accordance with standing order 82A to clarify information in relation to Legislative Assembly Estimates Committee B and supplementary information asked of me through supplementary information question B22 on 21 September 2017.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Ms S.F. MCGURK: You are looking a little different from when I started the clarification, Madam Deputy Speaker!

By way of explanation, there are four grants listed in the answer that did not come from the \$1.8 million budget line item for 2017–18 referred to in the question. The four projects incorrectly listed are: the Patricia Giles Centre Inc; Youth Futures WA Inc; Dungeon Youth Centre Inc; and Orana House Inc. All four projects are Local Projects, Local Jobs grants being administered by the Department of Communities.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS (NATIONAL RECOGNITION) BILL 2017*Assent*

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the bill.

BILLS*Returned*

1. Appropriation (Recurrent 2017–18) Bill 2017.
2. Appropriation (Capital 2017–18) Bill 2017.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

**APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2010–11 TO 2015–16) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2017
APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2010–11 TO 2015–16) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2017***Second Reading — Cognate Debate*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.40 pm]: I continue my remarks on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and the Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017. Before I was interrupted by other business of the house, I was informing the house about some of the important youth services in my electorate of Morley, what I consider to be a significant gap in services in Morley and the need for many non-government organisations to have more secure funding. I am very pleased that the Labor Party went to the election with a commitment to provide longer-term funding contracts for non-government organisations that provide services, because having a contract rolled over every 12 months makes it impossible to plan adequately for the future, take into account the future changing needs of an area and retain good staff—and staff are the lifeblood of these services. The relationships that they form with the kids in the area are critically important. The provision of long-term funding for non-government organisations will enable them to retain good staff.

I touched on the previous government's decision to cut \$52 million, I believe it was, out of the budget for financial counselling. At the time, I campaigned very heavily locally against that decision. It was an appalling and short-sighted decision and it seemed to be the decision of bean counters who wanted to run a red line through the budget and were just looking for money where they could find it without looking at the consequences of cutting that kind of funding. The consequences of cutting financial counselling in an environment of an economic downturn and record unemployment means that many of the people who would normally seek financial counselling end up in primary services, such as emergency hospitals and family and domestic violence refuges, or they end up on the street or in crisis shelters and crisis accommodation, and all those services are incredibly expensive at that end. The government needs to be sensible and provide funding for individuals and families early in a crisis situation to keep them in their homes, jobs and school and to keep them paying the mortgage, rent and bills so that they do not have to access other government services to survive. It was an incredibly short-sighted decision, and I am very pleased that the budget just handed down by this government has returned funding to the sector. Sadly, due to the significant restructure of financial counselling, the Salvos in Morley no longer provide

financial counselling. It cannot provide that service because of the restructure that occurred under the previous government. The nearest centre that the people in my electorate can access that I am aware of is in Balga and for those who live in Morley, Balga is not that close and public transport is not great going east to west. It is really inadequate for that community.

The other important aspect of people's concern about jobs locally was our Metronet plan and our Western Australian Jobs Bill. I am very pleased that the bill has passed in this house. It will work hand-in-hand with the government's Metronet plan. Our aim is to provide 50 per cent local content in the manufacturing of rail cars and support for local contractors and local tenderers to tender for work. Rather than having the very slick operations and tender departments of the large multinationals, we want local contractors who employ local people to support that infrastructure plan and build the rail.

Another issue that is significantly important—I am pleased that we have delivered some funding for this in my local area—is road safety. This year there have been three tragic deaths on local roads in my electorate, which is exceptionally high. In the five years that I have been representing the area, if you like, from the upper house and now the lower house, there have been three, two of which involved elderly pedestrians and the other a motor vehicle and a motorcycle. It really highlights the issues on our local roads and, frankly, how pedestrian-hostile the area is. When I say the area, I mean Dianella, Noranda, Nollamara and Morley, which are the four suburbs that I represent. I am hosting a road safety forum at the end of next week with the Road Safety Commissioner, Iain Cameron, and representatives of local government. I want to see a better approach from state and local government representatives to work together to resolve these issues. Local members receive requests from people for pedestrian crossings, better lighting or better road markings and often when members approach local government, their response is inadequate and it is similarly often inadequate from Main Roads. There is an awful lot of buck passing and claims about what Main Roads will and will not do, claims about what local government will and will not do and what it is responsible for and what it is not responsible for. I would like to see a more collaborative approach. I have set up the forum to enable the two levels of government to work together with the Road Safety Commissioner to put in place best practice for road safety. There are a lot of major junctions and significant arterial roads in my electorate and in neighbouring electorates. A lot of people want a more pedestrian-friendly environment.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms A. SANDERSON: That is an area of significant concern and certainly the death on our roads this year—indeed, all road deaths—were entirely preventable. We need to work better together on an approach that prioritises pedestrians in many ways. I take my life into my hands when I cross the road from my office to get to Morley Galleria Shopping Centre. I have done it once with my son in his pram and I will never do it again. Apart from the fact that it is almost virtually impossible to cross the road in the time the green man is flashing—I am pretty able and can move quite quickly—the pavement around the area just stops and people can choose whether to scramble through the bushes with their pram, wheelchair or walking stick or go on the road. The entire area needs a rethink. We have provided \$1 million worth of funding to look at that intersection, and I will be working with local government to help do that. I urge the government to consider, particularly with the mooted significant development around Morley, a better pedestrian environment. People are starting to demand that a little more now. Councils are becoming more aware of that. The latest buzz word at local government is “activation”. Everyone has an activation hub or they want activation in a certain area. I hope that that involves “pedestrianisation” for my electorate and that we can move on from the car dominated and car-priority culture in Western Australia.

I want to mention the NorthLink project, which we love and hate. It will be incredible for congestion when it is finished and will provide enormous benefits to businesses, particularly in my electorate and neighbouring electorates such as Maylands, Bayswater and Bassendean, which are significant areas of industry. I absolutely recognise the time that will be saved for the logistics of their goods and services. It has been and continues to be a point of enormous stress and anxiety for the local community that live next to the intersections; it is the intersections that are creating the biggest problem for people. Most people have gone from living in a very, very peaceful and quiet neighbourhood to now living with an overpass over their house. It is very, very busy with an overpass and a walkway and people can see into what was once a lovely, quiet street. Residents' home lives have been entirely changed by this project. It was a federal Labor project. We inherited it as a state government and I am really pleased that we have done everything we can to ameliorate as many of those issues as possible. In many instances, we have gone above and beyond the minimum requirement of Main Roads WA and contractors to provide privacy and noise protection.

The underpass for the Hampton Park Primary School, which was agreed to by the previous government, albeit kicking and screaming, will be a huge improvement for that school. The fact that there will be continued access under what is now quite a magnificent underpass is a huge win for that school and the parents and citizens association that campaigned heavily on that. Also, the Lightning Park–Lightning Swamp area will maintain its own slip-road out, and it was a commitment made before the election of over \$3 million. There will be a slip-road out of Lightning Park that will not impinge in any way on Lightning Swamp. It is a very important environmental

asset, a hidden gem in the area for those who enjoy an urban bushwalk in the Noranda area. It will not impinge at all. That has meant that a very busy and popular recreational facility can continue to function without local residents around it being aggravated by huge amounts of traffic going in and out. Similarly, there is the Benara Road overpass, which will have some additional screening, privacy and noise amelioration installed to protect some of those residents. All in all, just in my electorate there are millions of dollars' worth of commitments over and above what was required. I thank the Minister of Transport for her support and for always being willing to listen to residents and understand the issues. It is not always easy to deal with contractors—they have to work within certain parameters—but I have been really pleased to work with the minister in getting outcomes for those residents. That has been good for everyone.

I have to mention that jobs are the government's priority, as is diversification of the economy. The digital economy is the future, without a doubt. I think it is clear that the federal Liberals do not understand the value of the digital economy, not only the value in dollar terms, but also the potential impact of the digital divide. There is a new gap between the rich and poor and it is not just monetary; it is also digital. It limits access to education and the broadening of any other opportunities. To give an example, I will talk about a fantastic woman in my electorate. She is the president of Hampton Park Primary School P&C. She has multiple sclerosis. She is quite open about that and is always happy to campaign on raising awareness of MS, so she is perfectly comfortable with me talking about her in this place. She is really quite an outstanding woman who gives a lot back to our community. Her partner is unemployed and she is unable to work. They live on a very, very low income, and they have no internet—they cannot afford to pay for it. An average internet plan for most people is \$40 to \$100 a month, which is an awful lot of money. It would cost \$40 at the very minimum—I made that up; I am sure it is more! She does not have the internet to do even the most basic things for Centrelink, apply for jobs for her partner or do all the things kids need to do at school—she now has high school kids. I have said to her that she can come to my office when she needs to and use the internet or wi-fi to access Centrelink. I said my office was always available and open to her. It is incredibly important. We have seen an absolutely stubborn refusal from the federal government to shift on the mode of the national broadband network rollout. Fibre to the node is absolutely failing to deliver. In Morley, the pits are 30 years old and the copper is so degraded that when it rains, the internet cuts out, so people do not really want the NBN—they are not interested.

Mr J.N. Carey: It is terrible.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Yes.

Several members interjected.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Yes, exactly.

Mr B. Urban: What is fibre to the node?

Ms A. SANDERSON: Member for Darling Range, that is another conversation. I will take the member through it outside of the chamber.

People are not excited about the NBN at all.

Ms J.M. Freeman: They have stuck really ugly boxes on our corners.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Yes. People end up fighting them on their front lawn or their verges, but frankly, if people have a box in front of the house, they are probably going to get good internet connection, so there is some benefit!

Several members interjected.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Yes, the internet connection.

Fibre to the kerb is the answer and the state government is advocating heavily for this, because in an innovation economy, in a digital economy, we absolutely need the internet. We lose businesses out of the Morley area because of the internet. They move to Malaga or other areas because they simply cannot function as a business. There is a significant drain on the local economy. We are very far behind, and it is frustrating. There has been a parliamentary inquiry and a recommendation that the remaining rollout be fibre to the kerb, and my understanding from the inquiry is that the cost differential is minimal but the impact on delivery is exponentially better—so much better. I urge the state government to continue to advocate heavily for a better rollout in WA and that we keep a very close watch on it in Morley and Noranda in particular.

I will finish up with just a few words. This bill is really about the supplementary spending of previous governments. I think the former Premier, the member for Cottesloe, asked in a heated debate: What would you not have? What spending did you not like?

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Good question.

Ms A. SANDERSON: It was a good question. Notwithstanding the incredibly poor management of the opening, building and management of that contract, the Perth Children's Hospital will be absolutely incredible. As a parent who has spent many a night in one of those awful chairs at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children—or made my

partner—we are all looking forward to having a great hospital there. Elizabeth Quay is fantastic and the Perth Stadium will also be incredible. Were they the things we would have built in a time of downturn? Members of the public I speak to generally say not necessarily. Putting aside the children's hospital, they would not necessarily have prioritised the stadium or Elizabeth Quay. There was also a lot of waste and debt. Some of that waste was because of Muja AB, which cost between \$300 million and \$400 million. Serco's contract with Fiona Stanley Hospital provided Serco with \$118 million to run an empty hospital. There were also information and communications technology blowouts in the health department around Perth Children's Hospital. There was an awful lot of waste and debt. The kind of debt that we have been left with as a community is not good debt—no debt is good—but debt simply for providing infrastructure, jobs and future jobs can be considered good debt. Debt to pay the bills is bad debt, and that is what we are borrowing for now. We are borrowing to pay the bills. If someone went to a financial counsellor and said that they were paying for their shopping, their phone bill and their kids' school fees on the credit card, the counsellor would say to stop doing that because it is a very bad way to manage finances. The state government got itself into that position and we are now running bad debt. We are simply borrowing to keep the lights on. That is not a situation that can continue. I hope that other parties will support future measures to bring the budget back under control and improve the revenue stream. I hope that as a community we can move on from this episode of bad debt as quickly as possible so that our children and our children's children are not saddled with this ball and chain for their futures as well.

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [4.00 pm]: I also join with the opposition today to speak to the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and the Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017. I did not have the opportunity to congratulate the government for the announcement made by the Premier last week about the Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement Bill 2017. Although he is not here, I congratulate the state's thirtieth Premier and the Attorney General for their work on what I think is righting a substantial wrong. It is a wrong, which I raised in my maiden speech, with respect to the rights of Aboriginal Western Australians, which was committed within this very chamber. Previous members were complicit in allowing what I think were heinous and egregious acts committed against homosexual Western Australians, who were considered criminals. It will give me great pride to talk about and vote in support of the expungement bill and acknowledge those historical wrongs. It is not my place to apologise on behalf of the government to the people of Western Australia. I think the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the National Party did a sterling job in that regard and I support them for that.

I contrast my pride for the introduction of the expungement bill with my disappointment that we are here today speaking on these appropriation bills. When I look back on the legislation that this house has had to deal with, unfortunately I see very few bills of substance. I expect that freshman members would share these sentiments; in their first year, they would not have thought that they would be voting largely on legacy bills of the former government. There are a number of state agreements and bills, including the Constitution Amendment (Demise of the Crown) Bill 2017, that were legacy bills of the former government. Unfortunately, only in recent weeks have we seen the government start to install a proper legislative agenda. Spending the entire day on these legacy appropriation bills is pretty lazy legislating.

The leaders of my party and the National Party have already spoken about having so many ministers absent from Parliament today. It is evident, I suspect, when we are dealing with appropriation bills, that this government is already not prioritising the Parliament and giving it the due courtesy that I think it deserves.

I rarely do this but I recognise the willingness of the Minister for Tourism to stay here and commit his time to Parliament versus other ministers who decided to travel.

Mr P. Papalia: They're focusing on education for the first few days.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I appreciate that, though I suspect that the minister could still have enjoyed his time over there.

Given that these bills are legacy bills and they deal with investments made by the previous government, I thought I might very quickly place on the record some of the achievements that the previous Liberal–National government has made in my district. During the election campaign we put together a fantastic document outlining local Liberal achievements. I will quickly go through some of the investments of the former government that those opposite continue to criticise for leaving the state in a situation of what they say is bad debt.

Mr J.N. Carey: It is. That's a fact.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Indeed, member for Perth, but I suspect that residents in my district do not quite feel the same way when they see that Mandurah has been so fundamentally transformed by the previous Liberal–National government. I will very quickly go through some of those achievements of the previous Liberal–National government in my district, given these are legacy bills. The Liberal-led state government invested \$42 million into the Mandurah Aquatic and Recreation Centre, which is a great facility that I enjoy membership of to this day. Those funds fundamentally improved sporting and recreational abilities for people in my community.

Mr B. Urban: It was federal money.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: There was some federal money for that as well —

Mr B. Urban: Secured by the late Don Randall.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Indeed, it was secured by the late Don Randall, a good man. A total of \$42 million was spent by the Liberal-led state government, I think through royalties for regions. A total of \$48.8 million was allocated to the Mandurah traffic bridge; \$121 000 to upgrades at Dudley Park Bowling and Recreation Club; \$4 million for tech upgrades at Halls Head Primary School; \$1.7 million for improvements at Glencoe Primary School; \$49 million into transforming the Growing Our South initiative, which will see 23 000 jobs by 2050, an initiative taken up by the current government; \$300 000 for floodlights at Peelwood Reserve; \$220 000 for South Mandurah Tennis Club improvements; \$31 844 spent at Dudley Park for upgrades; \$36 million for rebuilding Halls Head College; \$20 000 for the South Mandurah Tennis Club improvements; and Waratah youth community centre saw improvements to the value of \$739 000. The Novara boat ramp was expanded, with \$55 000 spent for a new jetty and ramp; \$15 000 for the Goodstart Early Learning Child Care Centre; \$100 000 for improvements at the Halls Head Primary School; \$250 000 for the Midway Community Care centre, something that the Leader of the House touched on today, which delivers great services for disabled members in my community; \$500 000 for the Port Bouvard Surf Life Saving Club upgrades; \$100 000 for new floodlights at Falcon Reserve; \$39 981 at Parkridge jetty; \$70 000 for an expansion of boat ramps in Dawesville; and \$2.1 million for wastewater reuse projects. Sailability, a disabled sailing program that operates out of the Port Bouvard Recreation and Sporting Club in Dawesville, gives disabled members of the community the opportunity to sail. It received \$50 000 to enable that program to occur. At the Mandurah workforce development centre, \$1.07 million was spent over four years to help Mandurah deal with historically high unemployment levels; \$9 million for redevelopment of Rushton Park; \$89 000 for the Mandurah Wildlife Rescue hospital; infill of deep sewerage right across Falcon and Wannanup in my district; \$155 million spent on building Mandjoogoordap Drive, the main road that goes into the city as we come off the freeway; \$1 million spent over four years to assist in mosquito control management; Yalgorup National Park saw \$13.3 million spent as part of the parks for people program, a program that I was very pleased to help author as a policy adviser for the former Premier and see that rolled out in my district, which was fantastic; \$50 000 for Florida Parade access, which improved access to a very constrained part of my district; \$80 000 for the Eyes Wide Open leadership program for young teenage youth at risk in Mandurah; \$34 250 for the principal shared path program and bike lanes; and another \$6 million spent to improve the overall health of the estuary.

That is a significant contribution by the previous Liberal–National government. If there was ever an excuse to recognise the fantastic investment by the former government, I guess it would be these bills that we are debating now when we look at the legacy of the former government.

Mr J.N. Carey interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.C. Blayney): Members, it might be a bit late in the day but I will call people if I have to. I do not want to. Sit back and enjoy listening to our representative from Dawesville.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: As can be seen from the previous Liberal–National government —

Ms S. Winton interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Member for Wanneroo, I have so much to go through that I just want to make sure we get there first. I will get back to you.

Mr J.N. Carey: Will you take one interjection?

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: No. As we can see, the previous Liberal–National government invested in Mandurah and the Peel region. That stands in stark contrast to this government, which has largely forgotten our community. Unfortunately, I have to wake up every day thanking God that the member for Mandurah has been made a cabinet minister because I suspect without him, the Premier of this state would not realise that there is a city of some 85 000 people at the end of our freeway. If the member for Mandurah was not in cabinet, I fear for where our city might be. The investments that I outlined here today by the former Liberal–National government, which have been enabled by this legislation, far surpass Labor's most recent budget efforts with respect to Mandurah, which saw no new money for our hospital, no new money for our police station, no new money for roads and no new money to help with the growing population of our schools in Mandurah.

Mr B. Urban: It was eight years before that. Mandurah Police Station needed to be done about six years ago.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Sure. I take the point. But it burdens me, and I suspect also the member for Darling Range, that that station might service part of the district, but we know that the expansion of Mandurah Police Station is to allow for another 100 new police officers, yet this government denies it.

I find it unfortunate that the member for Swan Hills has suggested that the people in her electorate are second-class citizens as they do not have access to the MRI facilities at St John of God Midland Public Hospital. That hospital was enabled with \$36 million of state government money to build another 300-odd beds. We can contrast that with

the facilities at Peel Health Campus, which are decrepit and falling apart. I raised that today with the Deputy Premier. If the member for Swan Hills is taken at her word and the people of her district are considered second-class citizens because they cannot access an MRI, I would hate to think what that would make the residents of Mandurah, who, if they have a tier 1 emergency incident, cannot be seen within the time frames that have been put by the Department of Health, and only 65 per cent of the time can be seen within the four-hour rule.

I note with interest that as part of the most recent budget, which ignored Mandurah, the Premier decided that he would travel across Western Australia to sell the budget to the people of this state. The name that was given to that on social media is #seatblitz. That shows the true nature of this media-centric Premier. He is full of spin, and very little substance. Rather than delivering on his promises to the people of Western Australia, and investing in Mandurah, the Premier is trying to get his hashtag to trend on Twitter as part of the budget process.

Mr J.N. Carey interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.C. Blayney): Member for Perth!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Rather than investing in my city of Mandurah, the Premier is resorting to a hashtag.

Ms S.E. Winton interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo, I will have to start calling you. I remind you that you have already been called once today.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: As members can imagine, I was very keen to see where the Premier's roadshow would lead and whether we will see the Premier in Mandurah. There is a faint glimmer of hope within me that the Premier will travel to the end of the freeway and come to Mandurah. Sadly, when I looked at Twitter and went through the list on #seatblitz, it was clear that the Premier's contempt for the City of Mandurah is alive and well. As part of the ambitious target set by the Premier's office, in which he would travel the length and breadth of this state to sell his first budget, it seems that, once again, the Premier has decided to forget not only Mandurah but also the entire Peel region. The Premier did not as part of #seatblitz visit his most marginal seat—the seat of Murray–Wellington. I was curious—if the Premier is not going to Mandurah or Murray–Wellington, where is he going? I have said a number of times that I suspect members on the back bench have already been thrown under a bus by this government. They have already been ignored by this Premier. A number of members on the back bench will be turfed out at the next state election in 1 220 days. That is not only because of the inevitable swing against them, but also because this government has decided not to invest in their seats and harden them against a swing.

Ms S.E. Winton interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The member for Wanneroo may balk at the prospect of a swing against the Labor government. I would like to reference some polling that has been released and that none of us in this place have yet made mention of. On 12 October, Essential released polling that showed that the first-preference vote of the Labor Party in Western Australia has dropped some 3.2 per cent. That 3.2 per cent reduction may not be very much. However, I suspect that the Premier and his team know that if a 3.2 per cent primary vote were to follow through to the two-party preferred vote in 1 220 days, the government would lose eight seats. I will go through the seats of the eight people who will be turfed out of Parliament based on polling that has been released publicly. First and foremost, the Labor Party would lose the seat of Joondalup, at 0.6 per cent; that would be gone. The seat of Kingsley, at 0.7 per cent, would be gone. The seat of Jandakot—I apologise to my good friend the member for Jandakot—may also be gone and he would be out of a job. The member for Murray–Wellington, who has been ignored by this Premier in his #seatblitz, will be gone at 1.4 per cent. The member for Pilbara, whose seat is being greatly hardened by this government to stop an inevitable swing, may be at risk at 2.3 per cent. The retiring member for Kalamunda, at 2.5 per cent, will be gone. The member for Burns Beach, at 2.5 per cent, will also be gone. Maybe the mate whom he helped become Commissioner of Police will help him with a new job. The member for Bicton, at 2.0 per cent, may also be gone.

Mr J.N. Carey interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I am glad the member for Perth finds this so hilarious. He sits there on his safe margin. I suspect only the member for Perth would have the arrogance to assume that it is fine to lose so many of his colleagues. How dare he betray his own members!

Mr J.N. Carey: Watch out, members! They're casting Zak for *The Bold and the Beautiful*!

The ACTING SPEAKER: It is all very interesting, but I would rather hear the member for Dawesville than all the interjections, if that is okay. Member for Perth and member for Wanneroo, I have warned you a number of times. I will have to start calling you. It is probably a bit late in the day to get you out of the place early, but I would like you to make it possible for other members to hear, thanks.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I would not mind addressing the interjection from the member for Perth. He continues to raise *The Bold and the Beautiful*, I think it is. He needs to reference what that is, because I am not certain that I know what that show is. Let us get up to date and find something more relevant.

Mr J.N. Carey: The Premier was watching it at 4.30 pm yesterday, with a glass of chardonnay!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Indeed, he was, and we are from very different generations, member for Perth.

This reduction in the Labor Party's primary vote has already happened in what would absolutely be considered this government's honeymoon period. What will happen when members opposite have to start making decisions, start bringing legislation to this Parliament that might be contentious, and start governing? I suspect that once the government stops with its incessant media indulgences and things like #seatblitz and starts to govern, it will upset more people in the state of Western Australia and more than eight seats will be up for a prospective loss.

Ms S.E. Winton interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I hope so, member for Wanneroo.

I will say it again. This state's thirtieth Premier is not a popular man. We know that, because the last election was not so much a "Kevin 07" style rush to power but more of a denial of the former government. The Premier has never had much popularity. I suspect the peak of his popularity was when the member for Cannington orchestrated a failed coup and somehow could not make the very popular former federal Minister for Defence the next state leader of the state Labor Party.

Mr F.M. Logan: You really are Rick Forrester!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I do not know what that means, minister.

We need to add to the mix the fact that we have a very ambitious and capable Treasurer, whose legislation we are dealing with today, who I suspect is paying very close attention to those polls. I would encourage those eight vulnerable members who are slated in public polling to lose their seat to do as much as they possibly can to take a stand against the Premier and his team and ask that more be done to harden their seats. I acknowledge that in the Premier's team, quite apart from the member for Murray-Wellington, who did not get a visit as part of #seatblitz, a number of seats have already been written off. We know that from what the Premier said in selling his budget. As I look at those eight vulnerable members, I know that as part of the Premier's #seatblitz, he went everywhere. He visited all seats.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: As I look at those eight vulnerable members —

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I am giving you your first warning, member for Perth, and I call you for the second time, member for Wanneroo.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I went through the list of where the Premier went and what he got up to as part of #seatblitz. As I looked through those vulnerable eight seats, I noted that although he visited every seat that was marginal or at risk, there was a slight difference in the visitation time. I credit the Premier's team for managing to roll him out to every single seat. Good on them; they ticked that box. But curiously, as part of #seatblitz and that opportunity to have a visit from the Premier, some districts got money and some did not.

Let us first look at the seats that the Premier's office decided were worth hardening. The district of Baldvis got more money as part of #seatblitz for electronic signage at the community college. The district of Forrestfield got \$50 000 for upgrades at Edney Primary School—a great primary school. It is not as good as Woodlupine Primary School where I went but it comes a very close second! The district of Jandakot got \$224 000 as part of #seatblitz for upgrades to the playground. The district of Bicton got \$1.8 million for upgrades to the netball courts. The district of Belmont, even with the very solid margin that the member now enjoys, still got \$20 000 for the men's shed—well done, member for Belmont. The member for Wanneroo's electorate got \$400 000 for Tapping senior high school as part of #seatblitz.

Ms S.E. Winton: It is Tapping Primary School.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Sorry, I will correct the record—Tapping Primary School. The member is quite right. The district of Wanneroo got \$400 000. The district of Joondalup benefited from \$746 000 for HBF Arena. Unsurprisingly, the district of Pilbara got a splash of cash right through it once again as part of the \$1 billion committed by the state Labor Party to do its best to hold that seat. The district of Mount Lawley received \$120 000 towards RTRFM, which I suspect was strongly advocated by not only the local member, but also the by the part-time disc jockey and very good media adviser in the Premier's office. Finally, as part of #seatblitz we could never forget the district of Perth that got \$250 000 for the north west common. In all of that it was very clear to all of us that the Premier had decided, as part of his budget, what seats he wanted to save, which was also very evident as part of his media photo opportunities, because when he went to the districts of Kalamunda, Burns Beach and Kingsley, not a single dollar was spent as part of #seatblitz.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: That is it! I am going to start seriously calling people now because I cannot hear, and Hansard probably has not got a hope. Member, that is the final warning, and I will just remind the member for Wanneroo that she is on two calls.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: It would bother me if I were in the districts of Kalamunda, Burns Beach or Kingsley because it would seem to me that not only have they not been prioritised by this government, but also when the Premier comes to my district, he does not come with cash in hand. Instead, after his photos have been taken, he wants to get out of the place and dodge around everyone as quickly as he can. All that the Premier has done is satisfied the inevitable requirement to ensure he went to every metropolitan seat, but he did not follow through with any substance to see any funding diverted to those seats. I strongly recommend that the members for Kalamunda, Burns Beach and Kingsley start polishing up their curriculum vitae. I suspect that when the member for Kalamunda, who was here a moment ago, realised that he got no money, he decided to get out the door before we gave him that advice! I can promise him that in 1 220 days he will need to get out that CV because he will be out of a job. To be quite frank, I welcome the opportunity for a new member for Kalamunda, someone with a bit more energy I hope.

Mr J.N. Carey interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Perth, I am calling you for the first time.

Point of Order

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I ask the Acting Speaker to advise the member for Dawesville to refrain from using the sort of language that he used about the energy and capacity of the member for Kalamunda. He knows, I know and every other member in this chamber knows that he was referring to the member's age, which I think is just wrong.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.C. Blayney): I ask the member to withdraw any aspersions that he may have implied by making that comment.

Debate Resumed

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I withdraw unreservedly. I will inform the minister that members opposite have made various references to my age on a number of occasions. At any point of time, I am called a range of things that seek to exploit my young age and vitality. I apologise, minister, for any contrast.

I will get to the end of my contribution here this afternoon. The former government of Western Australia and the state's twenty-ninth Premier governed for all Western Australians regardless of their electorate's margin. The same cannot be said for the unpopular Premier in the member for Rockingham who not only continues to ignore communities like Mandurah, but also, it seems, members of his own party.

Ms S.E. Winton interjected.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I have seven minutes. I will get back to the member if I have time—we will see, member for Wanneroo. If the polls keep slipping away, as they are now, and keep on trend, I suspect it will not just happen to those vulnerable eight members; three of whom have already been cut. Far more government members will see the tide go out and far less money spent on them and their districts in the budgets to come. As long as the member for Rockingham is their leader, as long as he ensures that he governs only for the indulgences of the positive media coverage, and as long as he continues to ensure that he does his very best to try to reverse the trend of his lack of popularity, then his condescendence and arrogance will start to become a burden on all government members. I suspect that in time, as long as we keep dealing with this non-legislative agenda and the government continues to indulge in its unusual media cycle that it gets up to now, many government members will lose their seats, and I, for one, welcome that prospect. I commend the bills to the house.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore) [4.26 pm]: It is nice to be heard in the house. I am quite pleased to be speaking because it is one of the rare occasions on which the Minister for Tourism is in the house while I am speaking. He is able to witness me talk. He did make some rather unkind comments earlier on in the day and now I am here to refute the idea that somehow I am silent in the house.

Mr P. Papalia: You are here so infrequently that it is not surprising that I don't listen!

Mr R.S. LOVE: I am here usually. It is just the occasional division I miss.

I would like to speak very briefly on the Appropriation (Capital 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017 and the Appropriation (Recurrent 2010–11 to 2015–16) Supplementary Bill 2017, which appear to be so important that it has taken the whole day in the house and some other time to get through just the second reading debate. It is quite disgraceful that at this point in time, with only three weeks and a few hours left in our parliamentary year, that this is the best the government can do in its first year.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

Mr R.S. LOVE: It is six sitting days, and half an hour. What are we doing? We are talking about bills that are dealing with matters going back to 2010–11 and just tidying up a bit of an administrative function. The money is

long spent and the bills do not really achieve anything. If that is the best that this government can do, I am glad that it is sending all these people off to China! They clearly would be wasting their time being in Parliament because this government is not bringing anything to the house to discuss, and it is very poor in my view.

As we are talking about historic matters, it would be nice to recap some of the achievements over that period from 2010–11 until now. Being a country member, one of the major things I see as I drive around my electorate and those of other members is the great change that has occurred because of royalties for regions. The former member for Pilbara, once the member for Central Wheatbelt, was maligned in this house again today, even though he is not here, for taking a holiday seven or eight years ago, I think it was. Somehow he got himself mentioned in this house again, but the scheme that he and the rest of the National Party helped to bring about has made a huge difference to regional Western Australia. Royalties for regions money has not just been spent in country seats held by National Party members, but also in places like—not in the seat of Murray–Wellington so much, but in other areas of the state.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Do you know that the former member for Murray–Wellington was very, very angry with you lot. He was an angry man.

Mr R.S. LOVE: A member has to go through processes to get royalties for regions spent in their electorate. Foremost, a member has to put forward worthwhile projects and work with the development commission and other bodies in that area to get the project up. I have heard other members admit that they did not really know how to get things going. It is because the members were not driving it; it was driven from the grassroots, by the local governments, by the regional development commissions and by the local champions, not by a bunch of worn-out political hacks running around the countryside.

Mr P. Papalia: Are you saying the development commission members are worn-out political hacks?

Mr R.S. LOVE: No; I am calling some of the local members that, some of whom are present in the house.

Mr P. Papalia: That's all the National Party appointed.

Mr R.S. LOVE: No; that is not actually true. Very few appointments to many of the boards had any association with the National Party before they were appointed. I think I can comfortably say that that was very far off the mark. If we look now at the people appointed at the moment to front up the development commissions, it is probably a different story—not that they will be doing anything. As we know, royalties for regions money has been absolutely stripped. The money is no longer being spent on local priorities; it will be spent on state matters such as the operations of the Water Corporation, which will lead to a profit that the government will reap. The government is now using a strange accounting method.

Before this government took over, we were looking forward to seeing some projects being delivered in my area. Despite its mantra that it would spend royalties for regions wisely, it decided it would not spend it in the way it was intended at all—not on fixing the legacy of problems brought about by 20 or 30 years of neglect by people like members of the Labor Party. One of the most disappointing aspects I have spoken about in this house before is the cessation of funding to the redevelopment of the Moora Residential College, a vital appendage, if you like, to the Central Midlands Senior High School to enable country students to have access to a reasonable standard of education. Within my electorate, many small communities do not have access to a senior high school within driving distance. Those students need access to low-cost, residential accommodation so they can get an education. Many of them are probably people who might even vote for the party of members over that side. They are people who do not necessarily have the resources to make use of Perth College, Scotch College or some other institution in a faraway place. It is still an issue for them to find that \$2 000 or \$ 3 000, which is the difference between subsidies provided by groups such as the federal assistance for isolated children and the state boarding away from home allowance, and the modest cost of a government hostel. They certainly cannot find the tens of thousands of dollars annually to educate their kids elsewhere. There is a real problem of access to education for these children. I am very much of the mindset that one of the biggest problems facing my electorate now is those children not having an opportunity for a decent education. They cannot get a year 11 or 12 standard education where they live. Their parents cannot afford to send them away, and the government is refusing to invest in the only facility between Perth and Geraldton that could accommodate them. At the same time it is dragging back the royalties for regions component of the boarding away from home allowance that helps to cover some of the gap between the amount of federal assistance and the basic cost of boarding at a residential college. It is a very real issue. When compulsory education for years 11 and 12 first came in, a small amount of money was given to each of the district high schools to provide some sort of program for those students. At some time, it was cut to some of those schools and that meant that, in some areas, the local district high schools stopped offering any sort of course for years 11 and 12. In one case we know of, those students had access to the school to do a School of Isolated and Distance Education program. But because of some behavioural issues, they closed down that room, so at one stage in the town of Dalwallinu, probably a dozen or so kids in the years 11 and 12 cohort were getting no education whatsoever. That is not acceptable and it is not something that should be allowed to continue.

The other issue of deep concern to me is the cessation of \$22.4 million announced under the previous government for the Turquoise Coast Health Initiative to pick up some of the areas outside the traditional wheatbelt zone where the Western Australian Country Health Service is the primary health provider. Historically, development of the wheatbelt took place about 100 years ago when the railways were developed and a good suite of hospital facilities were built in the inland areas. Much of my electorate was relatively undeveloped in that period, so it is only in the last 50 years or so that much of the areas I represent started to develop economically and develop a larger population. They therefore missed out on the legacy of early investment. When royalties for regions funded the Southern Inland Health Initiative, much of the investment went towards rebuilding infrastructure and providing services where they already existed. That is something I recognised when I was first elected and I worked pretty hard to put in place a program that would address the disadvantage that had developed in areas such as Gingin, Jurien Bay, Chittering and the like where there is not the level of health infrastructure that people would expect in places like Moora, Dalwallinu et cetera. Having achieved that, I was very disappointed to see the government whittle that down to only \$1 million, the component that will go to Dongara to help put in a few more aged-care beds. Dongara has a very large cohort of aged people. It is a very welcome investment but it is not the whole story and it certainly does not address a lot of the disadvantage that occurs for people in my electorate due to the lack of health care.

Since the pending announcement of the budget and the final understanding that that money would not be available, the Shire of Chittering has been drawing together a working group to see what can be done to provide the types of services that will now not be available. I am talking about a population that has grown pretty rapidly. It has a fair number of people who access a lot of their services from the metropolitan area, so they do not appear in any statistical analysis as an area of need. When they are discharged from Midland Public Hospital, there is nobody to provide after-hospital care, or the type of wound dressings and other sorts of things people would get who are discharged into the metropolitan area. It is an area that, at most, is an hour from Perth, where there is a real pocket of disadvantage for people with the inability for them to be looked after. Similarly, there is very little in the way of palliative care or any sort of assistance, if you like, for people who are at a very vulnerable time of their life. I have dealt with health professionals who have worked for a very long time in the health field. When they have a relative who is in trouble and in need, even they cannot navigate their way around trying to source some sort of help for their loved ones. I am talking about people who are actively involved, such as a nurse employed in the health service, a physiotherapist or whatever. They are people whom we expect to have good knowledge about where to get help, but they cannot get it. I am interested to know just what the government might have in store for those areas but given what we have heard about the WA Country Health Service shifting positions to Perth and to Bunbury, I suspect that not very much will go to the electorate to combat these types of issues.

One of the things we heard during the election campaign was that the Labor government would spend royalties for regions money where it was needed—on things such as roads. That is interesting. An amount of \$15 million has been allocated to the Shire of Gingin and other coastal shires as part of the first tranche—expected to be around \$60 million—to provide a decent transport system for the millions of tonnes of lime sand heading west–east every year from the coast and into the wheatbelt and grain growing areas. Those local governments and local communities are paying a very heavy price trying to provide the road system for very heavy vehicles, which do not contribute to their local community at all. The product goes out and there is very little return to the shire for the lime sand when it is sold. Up to one million tonnes of lime sand comes out of Lancelin alone and goes down shire roads. That can be compared with some of the areas in the eastern wheatbelt where I know they are upset about the tier 3 system. The entire tier 3 rail network carried about 600 000 tonnes of grain in an average year. The Shire of Gingin is facilitating the movement of a million tonnes of lime sand across its roads and it gets virtually no return from that whatsoever. That is a real issue for those local governments. Rather than addressing it in a positive way, the government has reduced its program to the bare bones of a \$10 million program and I do not think the rest of the \$60 million will be coming any time soon.

Similarly, a program was announced for \$48 million to be spent on roads of agricultural significance right across the state, but mainly to address some urgent needs that had been identified through the work done by some of the wheatbelt shires, and led by the Shire of Koorda president. A lot of work was done to identify the priority roads throughout the area. A \$48 million fund was announced to go towards that. It is down to a contestable round of, I think, \$10 million, which will not do a hell of a lot across the entire wheatbelt.

There is a bit of discrepancy in some of the language about the importance of roads and what we are seeing on the ground; I am talking specifically about royalties for regions–funded projects. The projects I mentioned were all funded entirely by royalties for regions and now, of course, royalties for regions is not there, but we can see money set aside in the budget. I think \$250 million of funds is still sitting there, unallocated, in royalties for regions. I know there is some talk about some of that money helping with the redevelopment of Geraldton Hospital. I hope that does happen at some point. Although the member for Geraldton is in the chair and cannot contribute to the debate, he and I would share the same concern about the need for that hospital's redevelopment. Geraldton Hospital is the centre point for the midwest's health services and it is the starting point to ensure that there is a robust medical and health system in the midwest, as distinct from the lower end of my electorate, which is down near

Perth in the wheatbelt. Ensuring that Geraldton Hospital is well supported with plenty of services in the area will ensure that the midwest has a good health system. We can combine the need for those services to be provided in the area with some very good training facilities that now exist in Geraldton at the former Durack campus—it is now Central Regional TAFE. There are some very good facilities and some specialist rural health training facilities.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Could I ask you a serious question? What is the season looking like in your electorate regarding farming?

Mr R.S. LOVE: It is a bit of a mixed bag and recent rains have turned around some of the areas. Further east and further north, the damage has already been done. I was talking to the Shire of Morawa president. I do not know what it has in the bin now, but the shire's expectation was for about 400 tonnes of grain off 19 000 acres of wheat that have been planted. That is not a very good return and would not even cover the return of the seed. If the minister goes out to that sort of area, he will see it is pretty dire. Some areas are looking much better now, but, overall, the Geraldton port zone will be well down, but because of some late rain, it is probably not as bad as we may have thought a couple of months ago. Sometimes, too, crops look okay but when we get in there, it is a little bit disappointing.

I would like to very quickly touch on another issue. There is a need in the midwest for economic growth, and having a poor agricultural season does not help. The recent decision by the Environmental Protection Authority on a mine site in the eastern part of my electorate at Blue Hills mine was very disappointing. Locally, it would have meant hundreds of jobs in the area at a time when we need them; we need some work for people in the midwest. The proposal to mine in what is known as banded iron formations was knocked back by the EPA. I think it was a little caught up in all the furore about the Mineral Resources situation further south and probably, quite unfairly, it was lumped in with that. The area that the company proposes to mine has been impacted over the years by many, many local mines—probably a dozen or so—so it is not as though we are going somewhere man has never been. This area has already been impacted by mining. The company had a very good program of rehabilitation. It worked closely with Kings Park to develop the ability to restore the area very quickly and to propagate some of the threatened species so that they could be returned in greater numbers. I hope that the appeal processes are underway—the minister is aware of my concerns in this matter—and that the Minister for Environment will act to ensure that the mine can go ahead because we need some work and development in the local area.

I am conscious of the time. I have pretty well said most of what I wanted to say, but I will ask for a very brief extension.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr R.S. LOVE: The last issue I want to touch on has been an ongoing problem. I came to this place in 2014 and grieved to the then Minister for Transport, Troy Buswell, about the condition of Jurien Bay Marina. For the last 15 to 20 years, it has been subject to repeated fish kill incidents and environmental degradation caused by the infiltration of sand and weed in large quantities. We were able to establish a working group that advised on what studies should be done and worked closely to get some work done to ameliorate the problem. As I recall, the design for the marina had the depth of the channel into the marina set at about four metres. By the time the working group got underway, the channel was down to only about one metre in depth. What happens at Jurien Bay Marina is that the lack of oxygen and the development of hydrogen sulphide in the water caused by the decomposition of large quantities of weed hits first at the entrance. A kill zone starts right at the entrance, so nothing can leave the marina and survive, and then it spreads right throughout the marina and kills everything. The task of that group was to try to make sure that the marina had a healthy environment. Unfortunately, since the election, the Minister for Transport has seen fit to disband the group and has also cut back on \$8.7 million of funding for the marina. I think that is very problematic. If the government tried to rebuild that asset, it would cost probably at least \$200 million to \$300 million. It is quite a major asset for the state and I think it needs to be taken very seriously. Very disappointingly, since the election and since the cessation of the working group and anyone doing any monitoring of the water, the fish kill has recurred. I am not saying that that is anyone's fault directly, but without someone locally raising those issues and interacting with the experts who were charged with understanding how to combat the problem and had the wherewithal to do it, these fish kills will keep happening. It is not a very pleasant situation for the animals or the local community, and it is not good for the industry. At times when the hydrogen sulphide levels rise, the water becomes extremely acidic and if people do not pull their cray boats out of the water, they will dissolve because the water becomes so toxic and acidic that it begins to attack the plate aluminium and other bits of metal that might be floating around in the marina. This is a real issue that needs addressing. It does not help very much when money is pulled out of it and when the government disbands the only group that is able to provide a local voice and coordinate with the state agencies et cetera. I was in that group; fair enough—get rid of me and put one of the Labor Agricultural Region members in there or some other nominee, but I think the idea of just getting rid of the group and cutting back on the whole program was a big mistake.

I thank members very much and I will wind up there.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

On motion without notice by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**, resolved —

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 21 November 2017 at 2.00 pm.

House adjourned at 4.49 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING — PORTFOLIOS —
CONFERENCE, SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE**

2020. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the minister the Minister for Education and Training:

Since 1 January 2017, have any officers or board members of a department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities attended a conference, seminar or workshop organised by a private organisation for which attendance was paid for by the department, agency, Commission or GTE, and if yes:

- (a) what was the name of the event attended by the officer or board member;
- (b) on what date was the event;
- (c) where was the event held;
- (d) how many officers or board members attended;
- (e) what is the name of the organiser or facilitator of the event; and
- (f) what was the ticket or entry cost of attendance for each officer or board member, and what was the cost of any travel or accommodation as part of the officer or board member's attendance?

Mr P. Papalia replied:Department of Education

For the time periods 1 January 2017 to 16 March 2017 and 28 June 2017 to 7 September 2017

[See tabled paper no 946.]

For the time period 17 March 2017 to 27 June 2017 please refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 1543.

Department of Training and Workforce Development

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 946.]

Note the period 17 March 2017 to 27 June 2017, covered in the answer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 1543, subsequent searches have identified some additional events, conferences or workshops and they are included in the above Tabled Paper.

Building Construction Industry Training Fund

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 946.]

Note the period 17 March 2017 to 27 June 2017, covered in the answer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 1543, subsequent searches have identified some additional events, conferences or workshops and they are included in the above Tabled Paper.

