



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 20 September 2018

Legislative Council

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THE PRESIDENT (Hon Kate Doust) took the chair at 10.00 am, read prayers and acknowledged country.

2017–18 ANNUAL REPORTS — TABLING

Statement by Minister for Environment

HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Environment) [10.02 am]: I rise to briefly inform the house about the late tabling of 2017–18 annual reports. Due to the scheduling of the 2018 parliamentary sitting dates, a number of ministers are expecting to table agency annual reports on 9 October 2018. Section 64 of the Financial Management Act 2006 requires ministers to table agency annual reports and the Auditor General's opinion, if applicable, within 90 days after the end of a financial year. If a minister is unable to do so, he or she is required to inform Parliament under section 65 of the FMA on or before the expiry of the 90 days—that is, 28 September. The last sitting date in 2018 for both houses of Parliament within the 90-day prescribed period is 20 September, with the next sitting date of Parliament scheduled on 9 October 2018. For documents to be tabled, Parliament must be sitting and not be in recess. Ordinarily, the alternative tabling provisions under the FMA allow for the annual reports to be regarded as tabled when Parliament is not sitting. However, the State Solicitor's Office has advised that the alternative tabling provisions in section 83 of the FMA when Parliament is not sitting at the time of tabling do not operate as intended.

The SSO has confirmed that the accountability requirements of section 65 of the FMA can be administratively achieved by way of tabling individual ministerial notifications in Parliament through one minister—the minister representing the Treasurer in the Legislative Council, and the Treasurer in the Legislative Assembly—on behalf of all ministers who are unable to table the annual reports on or before 20 September 2018, being the last sitting date before the recess within the 90-day prescribed period. Ministers have since notified the Treasurer in writing of the agencies within their portfolios that are unable to table their annual report by 20 September. Therefore, in accordance with section 65 of the FMA, I now table the notifications provided to the Treasurer by affected ministers in relation to those agencies.

[See papers 1922–1935.]

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Members, I have papers for tabling!

PAPERS TABLED

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

Hon Nick Goiran: How about the Department of Communities? It is not underneath the papers somewhere? Obviously not!

The PRESIDENT: We will proceed when you are finished.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

Eighth Report — “The More Things Change...: Matters arising from the Corruption and Crime Commission’s Report on Operation Aviemore: Major Crime Squad Investigation into the Unlawful Killing of Mr Joshua Warneke” — Tabling

HON JIM CHOWN (Agricultural) [10.07 am]: I am directed to present the eighth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission, “The More Things Change...: Matters arising from the Corruption and Crime Commission’s Report on Operation Aviemore: Major Crime Squad Investigation into the Unlawful Killing of Mr Joshua Warneke”.

[See paper 1936.]

Hon JIM CHOWN: Sometimes, the more things change, the more they stay the same. The Corruption and Crime Commission tabled reports on these interactions in 2015 and 2018 as part of its reporting into WA Police Operation Aviemore. Operation Aviemore was a major crime squad investigation into the unlawful killing of Mr Joshua Warneke. These reports comprise some of the most important work done by the commission. The first report in 2015 examined police failures to comply with both the Criminal Investigation Act 2006 and their own police manual when interviewing suspects. This report also exposed systemic issues in the manner in which police interact with Indigenous people.

When there is a failure of compliance with procedure, the wrong person might be convicted or material that might be crucial to conviction is excluded because it was obtained illegally. Under Operation Aviemore, a case of wrongful conviction occurred in 2014. An Aboriginal man, Gene Gibson, was convicted in the WA Supreme Court

of the unlawful killing of Joshua Warneke. Mr Gibson did not speak English as a first language and, as later became evident, suffered from foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. On 12 April 2017, the WA Court of Appeal overturned the conviction on the basis that there was a miscarriage of justice.

In the 2015 report, the CCC made seven recommendations to WA Police in relation to improving police interview practices and for dealing with vulnerable people. In its 2018 report to the Parliament, the CCC found that two recommendations remained outstanding. These relate to cultural awareness training of police officers and the administration of a caution to those for whom English is not their first language. Without sufficient training and understanding of Aboriginal culture, the interactions of many officers in remote and regional Western Australia with the Aboriginal community are found wanting. Unfortunately, the committee notes that recommendations regarding cultural diversity training have been made to the WA Police Force as far back as 2013. Although some training is currently delivered, it concerns the committee that in mid-2018, cultural diversity training for police officers in Western Australia appears to still be neither appropriate nor sufficient. A lack of experience and training can lead to the perception of systemic racism.

The committee is left with unanswered questions: What is the reason for the slow pace of appraisal of the cultural awareness training delivered to recruits? Is the WA Police Force taking these matters as seriously as it should? Police are progressively addressing a number of initiatives in this matter and the committee will watch developments with interest. Our criminal justice system must not stay the same; it must vastly improve for the most vulnerable people in Western Australia.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Seventy-sixth Report — “2018–19 Budget Cycle — Part 1: Estimates hearings and related matters” — Tabling

HON ALANNA CLOHESY (East Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [10.11 am]: I am directed to present the seventy-sixth report of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, entitled “2018–19 Budget Cycle — Part 1: Estimates hearings and related matters”.

[See paper 1937.]

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY: The report I have just tabled advises the house that the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations has considered the 2018–19 estimates of expenditure laid before the Council in May 2018, as required under its terms of reference. The committee intends this report to be the first part of a broader examination of the 2018 budget cycle. The committee held hearings with 17 agencies and asked questions of a further 47 agencies, either as questions prior to hearings or as additional questions. The committee considers that the process provided an appropriate level of scrutiny of these estimates.

The report reflects on five related matters. These are cost–benefit analysis for capital projects, implications of the commonwealth budget 2018–19, the use of credit card surcharges by agencies, the use of the “other” category in agency financial statements, and listing projects in the asset investment program. The report contains one finding and five recommendations.

The committee extends its appreciation to ministers, public servants and Legislative Council members who participated and assisted the committee in its consideration of the estimates. I commend the report to the house.

DISALLOWANCE MOTIONS

Notice of Motion

1. Commerce and Industrial Relations Regulations Amendment (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2018.
2. Planning and Development (Development Assessment Panels) Amendment Regulations 2018.
3. Public Transport Authority Amendment Regulations 2018.
4. Shire of Morawa Fencing Local Law 2018.
5. Western Australian Meat Industry Authority Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2018.

Notices of motion given by **Hon Robin Chapple**.

EMERGENCY SERVICES — TRAINING REVIEW

Motion

HON COLIN de GRUSSA (Agricultural) [10.16 am] — without notice: I move —

That this house calls on the state government to immediately review emergency services training with a view to —

- (a) provide nationally accredited and recognised training to emergency service volunteers and recognise prior learning of volunteers;
- (b) ensure localised and regular delivery of this training to regional volunteers; and
- (c) ensure training packages are developed in consultation with each of the volunteer emergency service associations.

This motion is reasonably self-explanatory. Obviously when we talk about emergency services, it is important that our services are adequately trained and that training is adequately available to people no matter where they are based or live, no matter what service they are in. From my perspective, I bring this motion to the house for consideration to reflect on some of the meetings I have had around the state with various emergency service organisations and to look at some of the issues that they have raised with me about training, to try to see if we can find a way to improve things for them and to see what is happening in that space within government. Every year as we head into the bushfire, cyclone or storm season, we are constantly told, rightly, that we as a community need to be ready for those events. We need to prepare our homes, have our bushfire plans, tie down trampolines when the big winds come and that sort of thing. I think that the community is well aware of those needs. In addition, our emergency services have to be adequately prepared—that is, in terms of equipment and people. Given that most of our emergency services members are volunteers, it is important that we have enough volunteers in the services, and part of that is having adequate training. Adequate training not only ensures that those volunteers have the right skillset to do the job, but also is a good way to attract people in the first place to join volunteer organisations, which are desperately crying out for new volunteers.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services 2016–17 annual report shows that in that year emergency services attended 306 searches, a total of 9 546 fires—4 805 of which were bushfires—1 400 structure fires, 2 852 road crash rescues, 2 041 rescues that were not road-crash related, and 1 130 marine rescues. Our services are busy. Those volunteers are working hard. Are they getting adequate training to do that job?

I now want to reflect on a couple of reports over recent years that have identified training as an area for improvement within the department. I will firstly talk a little bit about the January 2016 Waroona bushfire special inquiry and a couple of opportunities outlined in the report. In keeping with the reason for bringing forward this motion, it is about opportunity. I see it as an opportunity for us to make sure that our emergency services continually improve. Opportunity 14 identified in this report states —

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services training for Fire and Rescue career staff ... to include enhanced training in natural hazard incident management; hazard reduction burning; rural and forest fire behaviour and the Department of Parks and Wildlife use of fire as a management tool.

These identified opportunities for improvements in training are for some of the career firefighters, as well as for volunteers of course. One of the views expressed by the department was that younger volunteers are more interested in joining the brigades because of the higher level of training and support available. One of the constant—not criticisms—things raised with me by members of volunteer organisations around the place when I meet with them is that it is hard to attract new volunteers to those organisations. Yes, people are busy and they do not necessarily have the time they used to have, but I believe one of the main areas of attraction to work on is in promoting not only the organisation, but also the skills that people can gain from being a part of that organisation. There is an opportunity to increase the level of promotion of the training that is available and also, as we will discuss later, to make that training more available.

There are a couple of important opportunities in the report of the special inquiry into the Waroona fire. Obviously, it is focused on fire, but one of the comments states —

In addition to there being a perceived lack of experienced persons in rural fire management in DFES, there was also the suggestion put to the Special Inquiry that the agency does not provide adequate training to their staff in bushfire management, and emphasises theory rather than practical experience.

The State Emergency Services Volunteers Association expressed the view that this issue is not confined to bushfire skills:

I think this is important —

... what is becoming increasingly apparent to SES volunteers throughout the State is that DFES staff have no training in the (natural hazard) roles they take over and the events are not managed efficiently with many problems occurring.

When we talk about training, we are talking about training not only at the level of the volunteers or the frontline members, but also at the top level to ensure that those people in control of major incidents have adequate knowledge of the different hazards they will face and do not look just at the fire perspective of things. The report goes on to state —

DFES provides training to paid staff and volunteers through the Professional Pathways Project, which includes leadership, technical and operational training.

We will talk about this pathways project, and hopefully we will hear from the government about what is happening with that process, because there has been some criticism of it from some of the people I have met. Concern is identified in this report that modules required to be undertaken are lengthy and are delivered during business hours—of course that makes it hard for volunteers to attend—and the prerequisite subjects also fail to recognise pre-existing knowledge and training, some of which was undertaken prior to the pathways project being adopted. There is a need to ensure that there is a good way to recognise the training that people have already done.

In a report from the Office of the Auditor General, there was a conclusion about how making a sustainable volunteer workforce is becoming an issue. It asked the question about whether DFES actively trained and equipped fire and emergency service volunteers. Most of the participants in the survey said that they had the right equipment, but the issue that was most prevalent for them was the training. They did not feel that they had adequate training or access to adequate training. Those things are interesting of course.

In travelling around the state, I have had the opportunity to meet with a number of emergency service members from Carnarvon down to Kalbarri and Esperance, and my colleagues have met with service members from the south west, as well as with people from the volunteer representative organisations in Perth. The perception of the State Emergency Service is that the training is no longer competency based; it is now WA-based workplace training and is not necessarily aligned with other states, which potentially affects the ability to deploy some of our volunteers or service members to other states. There does not appear to be a facility for recognition of prior learning to be obtained in a timely manner. Indeed, in some of the conversations I have had with those members, I have been told that they have been unable to complete certain levels of training; in fact, it would take a volunteer eight years to reach the competency level because of the number of modules they have to do and the fact that they have to travel to a major centre to do it. That is really holding back our emergency services volunteers. It is holding back those organisations from having accredited, trained people to then pass on that knowledge and train volunteers at a local level. These concerns need to be addressed, and hopefully they will be.

From the point of view of the SES, some of the training courses are not always delivered using the equipment that the SES uses. That obviously presents issues. We have to make sure that the training is relevant and available and that they are using the right equipment. There is no point in training someone to use something that they are not going to use in the primary role they take on.

In a meeting in Albany, it was pointed out that level 3 incident controllers are required to come down from Perth because there was not the capacity locally, but the understanding of the volunteers there and in other places is that volunteers cannot achieve those level 3 qualifications; that is reserved for the hierarchy of the department. Perhaps we can ascertain whether that is correct, but, whether or not it is correct, the perception is that it is holding people back from undertaking that level 3 qualification. It is important for people in the local area to have that qualification because the local knowledge that that person has is also very valuable in times of major incidents, rather than having people come from outside who do not have the local knowledge and who then have to rely on other people to provide that knowledge, which could potentially confuse the operation. Out of that, there is a belief that far more level 3 fire incident controllers need to be based in the regions.

We have talked to people in Denham. The pathway for volunteer marine rescue members is difficult and they find it hard to access. Yes, it is an isolated place and these guys are prepared to travel, but some of the travel they have been asked to do is extremely onerous and at their own expense. Perhaps there is a way that we can bring the training to them or to take some sort of rolling training model out to these people to ensure that they all have access to it. Some of the guys in Esperance have also said that the training seems to be more focused on getting numbers through and they are not really interested in recognising the prior learning of people. This is a consistent theme that came through, no matter which service we spoke to. Of course, some of the training was a little disjointed. People were asked to do an on-road driving training course before they could do the off-road one, but most of the members of the emergency service never drove on the road so they did not see that they needed to do that course, and there was no recognition of their own knowledge or experience anyway.

These things, again, which are combined in the view of most of these people, put people off joining the volunteer services. That is not what we need. We need more people to join the volunteer services. It is not just about putting out nice advertisements asking people to join their local fire brigade or marine rescue service; it is also about telling people the opportunities that are offered. When I have met with these people, they have said the opportunities would be good if they were available, accessible and achievable in a realistic time frame. Therefore, some thought needs to be put into how that might occur.

I now want to refer to a Department of Fire and Emergency Services report titled “Together We Can: Western Australian Emergency Services Volunteer Sustainability Strategy 2016–2024”. The report identifies different outcomes and actions. I hope we will hear from the government today where DFES is up to with those particular strategies. Page 31 of the report lists strategies to increase the recruitment of volunteers. They include the need for volunteers to be engaged in a relevant pathway; developing e-learning resources for volunteers, where appropriate, to reduce training time; tracking the timeliness of new volunteers’ training pathways; and implementing the volunteer identity card. The report refers also to the need to promote additional qualification and training opportunities for targeted volunteers via the pathways program.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services “2016–2028 Strategic Plan” outlines the department’s strategic planning framework for the 12-year period to 2028. I refer in particular to strategic direction 4, “Valued and Capable People”, which is about the need to have the right people in the right places with the right skills and knowledge. The time line for implementation lists the outcomes that are aimed to be achieved for 2020. One of those outcomes is that DFES volunteers are accessing a range of opportunities to build their technical and

experiential skills. Another outcome is that the structure of the volunteer services meets the needs of emergency services across the state. That is an interesting outcome. Many of the smaller emergency services organisations argue the case that they tend to get left behind. The people in these organisations are all part of the same community. In my meetings with them, they said the fire guys get whatever they want—if they need new equipment, they get it—but it is very difficult for the marine rescue guys, the SES and other organisations to upgrade equipment or get new equipment. There is a disconnect in that area. There is now a dedicated bushfire commissioner within DFES. The State Emergency Service and the volunteer marine guys should also have a dedicated commissioner so that they will have a point of connection to improve the training available to them.

One idea that was put to us about how to attract volunteers and provide training to volunteers in regional and remote areas was “voluntourism”. That is quite a neat name. We could identify people with the necessary skills who are willing to volunteer to be trainers, and offer them accommodation or another form of incentive to stay in rural and remote areas in exchange for providing training and relief to the staff of the local volunteer organisations. That opportunity needs to be explored. It again comes back to access to training, and the length of time it takes to get through the training courses, and also the fact that the training seems to be very fire orientated, so the SES and VMR groups seem to be missing out.

To get back to the motion, in summary, we need to find out what areas we can improve. We need to ensure that prior learning is nationally recognised, and that there is a consistent training program across the nation so that people from other states can be interchanged with people from this state. We also need localised training that is locally delivered. That is very important. The different organisations face unique issues in the jobs they do. The organisations in Shark Bay and Denham engage in different types of rescue operations than might be the case in the south west of the state, where people might need to be rescued from forests or bush, or from cliffs. There needs to be an understanding of the local area. That can be improved only by having more highly trained people from the local area involved in the training.

The most important point in all this is the need for consultation. All the organisations I met with made it very clear that they did not feel they were adequately consulted about their training needs. They also felt that it was essentially left to them to try to attract volunteers. There was no higher level process or procedure to enable that to happen. It is important to address that. We are coming into the fire season, and towards the end of the year we will be coming into the cyclone and storm season. This is the time to think about our emergency services and look for ways to ensure that our fire and emergency organisations are provided with the people and training required to protect all of us when we need it.

HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Environment) [10.36 am]: I wish to make some comments on behalf of the McGowan government on this motion. I thank Hon Colin de Grussa for bringing this motion before the house. I indicate that the government will not be supporting the motion, and I will go through the reasons why. At the outset, I acknowledge the amazing work done by the emergency services right around Western Australia, particularly in regional Western Australia. I want to acknowledge the volunteers in particular—the many men and women who help protect our communities on a daily basis—and place my thanks on the record.

I have to say, not knowing the intricacies of the issue, that in relation to training, I have obviously sought advice from the Minister for Emergency Services, who has responsibility for this area, so I place these comments on the record as the views of the minister. I am told that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services currently has in place an incredibly sophisticated training and professional development program. The department, as a registered training organisation, provides professional development services for volunteers and employees to enhance both their operational and organisational skills so that they can best serve their local communities right around the state.

The McGowan government is committed to providing high-quality, interactive and realistic learning environments, including specialist training, to equip volunteers to operate in the often dangerous situations they find themselves in. DFES has two primary training grounds—the WA Fire and Emergency Services Academy at Forrestfield and the simulation centre at Belmont. These facilities have the capacity to train volunteers from all the fire and emergency services and career firefighters from around Western Australia. Members may be interested to learn that the academy is equipped with applied training grounds, simulation programs and a variety of innovative learning options. Students have access to a range of learning resources through the DFES eAcademy. Students also have access to subject-matter experts across all the courses on offer. The current DFES training model delivers nationally recognised or accredited training, mostly delivered at, or coordinated through, the WA Fire and Emergency Services Academy. This training is provided to career firefighters as part of their vocational training qualifications. All volunteer programs are coordinated and delivered by DFES regions; that is, our volunteers are trained in the regions by people in the regions.

In 2014, DFES introduced professional pathways for volunteers and staff. This pathways framework complements the existing experience and knowledge of both career and volunteer personnel through harmonisation of the skills training and development for all personnel. Pathways training helps to ensure that there is a career path for volunteers to train as career firefighters. It is aligned with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services catalogue, which includes three main streams of competency—namely, incident management, leadership and

management, and technical skills. I am told that a number of key requirements underpinned the development of the volunteer pathways, including the provision of flexibility for different levels of volunteer commitment and time. DFES recognises that some volunteers may be time-poor but are still dedicated to serving their community. This dedication should be encouraged and DFES should work to ensure that such volunteers can contribute in a flexible way that suits their lives. Another requirement was the utilisation of existing training products, some of which are best practice training and, as such, there is no need to reinvent the wheel. The third of the key requirements was to develop the pathways at a base level that will change and develop over time.

In 2016, DFES introduced a new web-based learning management system, known as eAcademy, to assist volunteers and staff to manage training. The e-Academy is the single source for all DFES pathways training information, approvals and record management, automating pathways training registrations and approvals and information management processes. Although there were some issues with eAcademy, DFES is working with volunteers to understand those issues and has made progress in rectifying them. There are tight controls over registered training organisation activities, which have strict compliance requirements, particularly around trainer-assessor qualifications. This strict compliance regime caused a significant impost on volunteer trainer-assessors and, based on feedback, accredited training was discontinued for volunteers. In addition, volunteers also expressed concern about the mandated volume of learning and training time commitments for accredited training, which were considered onerous by a vast majority of volunteers. It is also important for honourable members to understand that we should be making it easier for those who wish to volunteer and serve their communities to do so. This should obviously be tempered by the need for volunteers to do this safely. As a result, DFES now delivers role-specific training to all volunteers to a DFES competency framework. DFES is committed to training all volunteers, as well as career firefighters, to the best standard for their role. Certainly, regional communities and communities throughout the state would want that. We want to know that the volunteers who are serving us in our communities have access to training so that they can serve to the highest standards. All trainer-assessors hold training and assessment qualifications, along with industry knowledge, skills and experience. I am told that all trainer-assessors complete the DFES workplace training and assessment course to develop the required skills and knowledge to facilitate effectively. Different levels of certification can be achieved as a result of participating in training and assessment activities within DFES. I am told that these include the record of attendance, the record of completion, the statement of attainment or qualification and pathway certificates.

DFES has volunteers and employees from all walks of life. It is worth noting that DFES provides a range of services to ensure that all students, regardless of age, gender, cultural or ethnic background, disability, sexuality, language skills, literacy or numeracy level, remote location and other personal circumstances are able to access, participate in and achieve suitable outcomes through vocational education and training. Available services include pre-enrolment materials; access to mentors within the workplace; referrals to language, literacy and numeracy programs when appropriate; flexible delivery models and methods; alternative format learning materials, including e-learning; flexible scheduling and delivery of training and assessment; counselling services through the Employee Assistance Program; and learning and assessment programs customised to the workplace.

I am told that DFES is currently reviewing the training offered to volunteers. All volunteer courses will be mapped to a competency framework in 2019. DFES has already commenced this with bushfire training programs. Volunteers have been heavily engaged throughout this process. Volunteers can apply to external providers for recognition of prior learning should they wish to pursue nationally recognised units of competency. DFES offers volunteers recognition of current competency, enabling volunteers to complete an assessment-only pathway if that is what they choose.

As part of the collaborative and consultative approach by DFES, volunteer training interests are represented through service-specific volunteer training advisory groups that also have association representation. When designing or reviewing training courses, DFES relies on numerous subject matter experts to ensure the best and most relevant training for our unique conditions in Western Australia.

Honourable members would be aware that I have previously spoken about the Minister for Emergency Services' announcement on the Rural Fire Division. In fact, we have had some debate in this chamber about this important initiative. It is worthwhile noting the impact that the Rural Fire Division will have on the delivery of training for all volunteers and career firefighters. For the first time ever, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services will have a division dedicated to rural and bushfire management, which will enhance our capability at state, regional and local levels. The new division includes the Office of Bushfire Risk Management, a bushfire risk management program and related activities, land-use planning and bushfire technical services, and, of particular significance to this motion, a new first-of-its-kind \$18 million Bushfire Centre of Excellence, which will facilitate high-level training and bushfire science.

This is a major step forward for Western Australia. I think all members agree that it is a positive initiative. We are embarking on one of the most ambitious reforms to the bushfire sector in WA, one that includes significant investment in training that harnesses the skills that we have and looks to what we will need in the future. The Bushfire Centre of Excellence will improve rural fire management through leadership, collaboration and innovation across the sector. Its primary focus will be to enhance the coordination and delivery of bushfire

management training across the entire sector in WA. Importantly, this includes volunteers from all services. It will lead to improvements in interoperability through shared training programs and peer-to-peer learning. I am told that work on this is well underway. The government will consult with volunteers and other key stakeholders to further develop concepts for the Bushfire Centre of Excellence in the very near future. I am told that a request for proposal to host and construct the centre will be released shortly. I know that members who represent regional WA in particular will have a keen interest in where the centre will go. I know Hon Dr Steve Thomas has previously made comments in this place about where he thinks it will go. Certainly, we will put out the request for proposal to host and construct the centre very shortly.

Hon Colin Holt: Give us a hint!

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I wish I knew. Honourable member, I have previously said that as a regional member, I have an interest in where it will go. I would love to see it in my electorate, just as members of this and the other place would undoubtedly love to see it in their electorates.

Hon Colin Holt: Let's put it in Broome.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I am not sure that Broome is the most central place for it. However, if it was offered to us in Broome, we would take it. I will go back to putting my case on the record, otherwise I will run out time.

The operational planning and design of the centre of excellence is progressing, with capital funding to support the construction of the facility available from 2019–20. The location of the Rural Fire Division will be considered in parallel with the functional design of the Bushfire Centre of Excellence, paying particular attention to training and capability building within all the volunteer groups engaged in bushfire management throughout the state. The centre will not just be for volunteer and career firefighters; it will deliver training for all emergency services personnel. It is about collaboration, supporting our volunteers and harnessing their expertise, whether they are from a bush fire brigade, the State Emergency Service, a volunteer fire and rescue service or a volunteer fire and emergency service.

Two other important improvements are worth mentioning. Volunteer liaison officers will be based within the commissioner's office to provide a direct link between volunteers and the commissioner, an issue that was raised previously as something that has been missing around the state. We all know that bushfire risk management is a shared opportunity and a shared responsibility. Getting these essential on-ground works done is very much part of that. Enhanced training of personnel within the sector, irrespective of whether they are paid, within government or industry or volunteers, is essential to achieving that. This government is absolutely committed to the enhanced training of all volunteer groups operating within the bushfire sector as they form a critical, irreplaceable component of the Western Australian capability in this regard.

In closing, DFES recognises that emergency services volunteers are incredibly important in defending and preparing our state in a variety of situations. The training is incredibly important and DFES takes it very seriously. Training of volunteers is nationally recognised, training is delivered regionally and all training is developed in consultation with the volunteers and their volunteer associations.

HON DR STEVE THOMAS (South West) [10.50 am]: Madam President, thank you for the opportunity to make a few opening comments on the motion moved by Hon Colin de Grussa. This is an excellent motion and I thank the honourable member for moving it today. In honour of his motion, I have worn my volunteer emergency services tie with its bright orange emergency services colours. I know that Hon Colin de Grussa is a passionate advocate for emergency services. I think this is a very worthy debate.

Hon Colin de Grussa raised a lot of very important points. It was very hard to find anything to disagree with in his address. I propose to move on to a few other issues, referring to a couple that the Minister for Environment presented to the house. I wish to make the point that training for emergency services will always be a fairly tricky exercise for a number of reasons. One of the first ones, particularly in rural areas, is that a group of people who have historically fought bushfires have developed a degree of competence and expertise and are not always willing to undergo additional training to be ticked off by a bureaucratic process and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. I understand that. I also understand the reverse argument that says a DFES manager of a fire—the fire control officer on a fire field—needs to have a degree of confidence in the people who are volunteering and who have turned up to assist to fight that fire that they are capable of doing the jobs that they might be sent to. The fire control officer needs to have some confidence that the people that they have are adequately trained because the last thing they want to do is send someone out on a fire field who gets injured because they were inadequately trained or did not know the detail or the best method to use in a particular situation. I understand that.

There has always been some reticence within DFES to make full use of volunteer firefighters unless they have a good working knowledge of their capacity. That capacity varies very much over the state. When I look at the area that I cover in the south west—in the Capes region, Margaret River and Busselton—the volunteer firefighters, DFES employees and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions employees all work together remarkably well. There is a huge amount of cooperation and respect for each other. At an emergency event in that area, we see that come together reasonably seamlessly. There is respect across all three of those groups. That does

not happen universally across the south west electorate and it certainly does not happen universally around the state. We do need to ensure—I have raised this before—that that mutual respect is developed. In my view, that can only happen through joint experience on a fire field or through joint training. That joint training is absolutely critical. I agree with Hon Colin de Grussa that it is important that that become nationally recognised. We should be able to take a volunteer firefighter from the south west of Western Australia, plonk them in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales, for example, and expect them to have a fairly similar standard of training and some indication of their capacity. I think that is a good thing. I think that the government has taken some steps in the right direction with training. The interaction between the department and the volunteers has increased to such a level—I commend the department for that; I think it has put much greater effort into being inclusive—that mutual respect can occur. The last thing we want is volunteers turning up to a DFES-controlled fire when the DFES fire controller does not know or understand the capacity of the volunteers or they do not have the capacity required. It is absolutely essential that training is enhanced.

Along with the minister, I guess we all have some expectation of enhanced training based on the development of this \$18 million centre of excellence, which I still think should be somewhere between Pinjarra and Manjimup in the south west land division where most of the forests meet most of the people. That is where the greatest risk lies, and I still think that is the best location. I will obviously be a little disappointed if the government announces that it will go into Darlington where the United Firefighters Union of WA announced it was going some months ago. I will be very interested to see who is running government in Western Australia. That will be a very interesting announcement. I am hoping that commonsense will reign in that process. I attended the opening of the revamped Yarloop Fire Station. For six weeks, the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services had been saying that he did not want to take it too far out of Perth. For some reason, he changed his approach significantly and said that it is an open tender process and he will look at every location.

Hon Stephen Dawson: There you go—open mind.

Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS: The proof of the pudding will be in the eating. I look forward to that announcement with some degree of enthusiasm to see whether the minister has managed to find a good regional compromise. I think Broome might be a long way to go but there is plenty of room in the —

Hon Stephen Dawson: I'm not sure too many of them would complain.

Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS: I have a few places that I might recommend but I am happy with an open process. Hopefully, if it is a genuinely open process, logic will dictate that it will go somewhere in the region that I mentioned.

I note that the minister said that the centre of excellence will lead to improvements. We hope that is the case. We hope that additional training will occur, and to a higher standard. We are dealing with about 27 000 or 28 000 volunteers around the state in emergency services, the vast majority of them—about 22 000—bushfire volunteers and fire volunteers. That is a lot of training to be provided. We always have to try to make sure that the training is as convenient as possible because there is an issue of requiring a reasonably full-time two to three-day course, for example, to get a basic fire ground ticket. It is not a small and simple thing. It is not a quick online course. Significant things need to be taught because people's lives are at risk. There is a significant and sometimes onerous process to go through. Hon Colin de Grussa raised very good points about making that training as regional as possible—providing it as close to home as possible. It would be nice to see it streamlined as much as possible but having opened this debate with the comment that DFES has to be able to send people out to a fire ground whom it knows are adequately trained to deliver that service, it will never be a simple argument. Either side of politics—or all six or seven parties represented in this chamber—could probably find examples of where that was not done perfectly and raise issues about the conflicts between the recipients of that training, in particular in regional areas, many of whom have looked after the fire zones and risk zones in their patches not just for years but for generations, and bring that historical local corporate knowledge to the people. That group of people do not necessarily appreciate being told in a basic fire-training service how to do their job, but we have to find a way for them to work together. I admit that DFES has become far more aware of making sure that it delivers that training in a way that is respectful to the corporate and regional history that those people are aware of.

I see improvements in the process. It is difficult to maintain a volunteer workforce that does not feel like it is respected and valued. I appreciate that DFES has made this better over the past few years, and I commend it for that. I still think there is a way to go to make sure that we continue to do that. I see no alternative in the long term other than to provide that high level of training to people who are there that gives faith to those managing particularly larger fires, and to provide training to a level that means that they can be adequately used. There were examples in our major fires in Yarloop, in particular, and in Esperance, where volunteer firefighter units were stacked up somewhere out of the way while the Department of Fire and Emergency Services crews got on with the job. That only changes with mutual consideration. I appreciate also the comments of the mover of the motion about the State Emergency Service, Volunteer Marine Rescue Western Australia and the other groups. It is absolutely critical that their training becomes a little more integrated, even though it will be specialised for the most part, and that they are equally respected. I think that to be equally respected, they need to be given a seat at the table and directorships at DFES.

HON RICK MAZZA (Agricultural) [11.01 am]: I would first like to thank Hon Colin de Grussa for bringing this very important motion to the house. It is very timely considering the start of the bushfire season is just around the corner; I think it will be only a matter of weeks. The forecast for next week is for temperatures in the mid-20s with no rain, so it will not be too long before there are bushfire issues.

A lot has been said about bushfires today and that the new Rural Fire Division will create a centre of excellence for training. It is a little disappointing that it is not up and running yet, considering that the bushfire season is very close. If my memory serves me right, the briefing I had on the new Rural Fire Division was that the training would be sent out to the regions and to brigades to provide the training onsite, rather than creating a centralised centre of excellence where people had to come in. I hope that will be the case. I remember some years ago attending the very well maintained Rocky Gully town hall where we had some bushfire training with the local brigade and a member from DFES had come down as a trainer. It was a very informative and very valuable day. These training programs are very, very important. I think the government should keep them under constant review. Minister Dawson said they were not reviewing it this time but went into some lengthy detail about how training is provided throughout the state. It is not just bushfire training. There is a lot of focus on bushfires but there is, of course, the State Emergency Service, marine rescue, volunteer ambulance brigades and volunteer fire and rescue. All those involved in emergency brigades need adequate training and to be valued as they are.

During a lot of the debate on a Rural Fire Division, the Economic Regulation Authority put together some models on how much it would cost to implement a rural fire service. One of those models was a fully paid service that contained only about 3 000 full-time employees. That was estimated to cost more than \$500 million. That gives us some idea of the value of volunteers within the state. That was only for bushfires. When we start adding on SES, fire and emergency services and all the other volunteers, it could easily be worth double that. A lot of the expertise of these people will be in the local community on the ground, knowing the terrain and knowing the people, which is absolutely invaluable.

There is also a lot of responsibility on these people. A fire incident manager or controller has an enormous amount of responsibility managing a fire incident to make sure that volunteers are kept safe and that the emergency is dealt with. Just as equally, someone involved in marine rescue also has an enormous amount of responsibility. I recall being out to sea a few years ago when a very panicked radio call came in from someone who could not see land, had forgotten their compass directions and, obviously, did not have a GPS, and it was getting very late in the afternoon. The radio controller for marine and rescue was able to calm down that person, get them to trust their compass, and give them directions and over an hour or two, land was sighted and the panic had subsided. There is a lot of responsibility on these people, even on volunteer ambulance brigades. In the country, a lot of people rely heavily on ambulance brigades and, of course, their training is very, very important.

I definitely support this motion. There is no doubt that we have to constantly review training requirements and make sure that we value these people. I received a letter recently—I do not know whether other members received a letter from the same person—from a long-time member of the SES in country Western Australia. One of his concerns, amongst many other things, was about the training that SES members were receiving and that they were not valued. One of the charters of the Rural Fire Division is to try to bridge the gap between DFES and volunteers where there seems to be a bit of a cultural divide. That bridge needs to be crossed not only with volunteer bush fire fighters but also other emergency services. In short, I support this motion and I hope that the government takes on board the need to value volunteers and provide the training required, and makes sure that we constantly review these requirements and that our volunteers are valued, as they should be.

HON COLIN HOLT (South West) [11.05 am]: I thank Hon Colin de Grussa for bringing this motion to the house. I have to say that I am very disappointed with the government's response in that it will not support this motion, especially the first part of it, which calls for the government to review the adequacy of the training of volunteers. I know that the minister in this house is a representative minister, so he would be supplied with notes from the minister's office, with some consultation from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services itself. We can understand, when we call for a review into training for volunteers and the emergency sector, that DFES will have a view on that. That is exactly what we got from this minister's response. It was purely what DFES wants us to believe. In this motion, we are asking for a review into processes that support our volunteers. It is not make-believe. We get representations all the time from volunteers and organisations about the adequacy of training for our volunteers entering emergency organisations. One of the things I think needs to be looked at in particular is—I do not want to make a qualitative judgement—training at a local level to fulfil a volunteer role. When people want to progress from being a volunteer to a professional, which has to be one of the breeding grounds for a DFES professional workforce, we would think that DFES has to think about those pathways. I want to know from a review how those pathways are going. That is a very appropriate question to ask of the government and of DFES. Can we ask DFES itself to do a review into that? I would have thought it would be pretty difficult. It will have a view of the world of how it thinks it is delivering on it.

I want to give an example of how I have come across this in the past. Everyone will remember the unfortunate death of Mr Ward, who died in the back of a prison van in the goldfields. The State Coroner reviewed that death and one of his recommendations was that Western Australia Police review the training that police officers are

given on the Bail Act. I was a member of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs, which undertook an inquiry into the transportation of detained persons and the implementation of the coroner's recommendations in relation to the death of Mr Ward. The coroner handed down some findings and people were meant to go off and do stuff. On the basis of a petition, the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs asked how the training was going, so we had an inquiry into the implementation of the coroner's recommendations. One of the recommendations was, obviously, training police on the Bail Act. We got the police in and asked: how did the review go into the training of police officers on the Bail Act? It is on the public record that the senior officer said, "We've done our review." When we asked what that review found, the reply was, "Everything's tickety-boo; everything's all right." The coroner said that a review was needed into how police officers are trained in the Bail Act. They did a review and said, "No; it is all okay." Does it not seem incongruous to members that the police reviewed their own processes and found that they are all right? That just does not add up. That is why this motion asks for a review into how we train our volunteers. However, the minister stood up and gave a response on behalf of the government that it got from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, which is in charge of that. It is incongruous and does not make sense. We should be asking questions based on things that come back from the volunteers and volunteer organisations. DFES should be thinking about how to do training better to promote through the volunteer ranks to the professional circuit. The government's response that it will not do a review is completely unsatisfactory.

I wonder whether there is any appetite in this house to have a select committee to look into the training of volunteers in emergency services. We seem to establish a select committee every second week in this house to look at things. The government is always happy to agree to those. Why not do one of them? I would love to amend the motion to bring that about. Maybe we will put a motion on the books to do that. It would be worthwhile getting an independent review of how volunteers are trained in this state, firstly, to support their own communities in the emergency volunteer work that they do, and, secondly, to provide pathways up into the system to give DFES and our professional services more capacity. People retire all the time. What is the plan? What is the pathway to take these people through?

This is a really good motion. It is very disappointing that the government has said that there is nothing to see here. Unless the minister wants to correct me, the government got advice from only the minister's office or the department. I wonder whether it got any advice from any of the volunteer organisations before it made the statement that it was not going to support this motion. That would be an interesting outcome. This house should be saying that an independent review is needed to support volunteers and volunteer organisations throughout the state, and especially in regional Western Australia, where we hear that there is inadequate access to training for our volunteers. That is especially so in remote areas. The minister talked about those remote areas, where he would potentially like to put the new Bushfire Centre of Excellence. People in remote areas are the ones who are saying most of all that it is very hard to get accredited professional training in the regions. The minister should go back to the minister from the other house whom he represents and ask those very questions himself. What we have been given today is a response from department-land and minister-land that there is nothing to see here. That is not adequate. We should support this motion. We should think about having a select committee to take this matter further.

HON COLIN TINCKNELL (South West) [11.12 am]: I thank Hon Colin Holt for his words and also Hon Colin de Grussa and other speakers for their contributions to this debate. I warn the government that it really needs to take notice. This is a very good piece of non-government business, which One Nation will be supporting. In this non-government business motion, Hon Colin de Grussa has clearly identified three areas of weakness in the system and that things could be done about this. Quite a bit has been said about the rural bushfire situation. There was one vote in that. Members of this place are reflecting what the public are saying. The government really needs to listen to that. Yes, we may have different political views; however, when we speak on issues like volunteers, we are talking about the public of Western Australia. We are not talking about their political views but about their desires and wishes and the things they are telling us. My bit of advice to the government is to listen to this non-government business debate and try to take some action to improve the situation.

The community resource centres luckily avoided some proposed cuts. That is one organisation that could help to provide training or a place in which some of this volunteer training could be done. Maybe it would cost a little more and it would maybe need a little more support from the government to make that happen, but it would be money well spent.

We are having trouble keeping volunteers in all spheres right across Western Australia—it would not matter whether we were talking about volunteers in sport, the rural fire brigade or many different services. I think they are being undervalued. We are now seeing people turn away from being rural fire brigade volunteers. It will not be long before they start to turn away from other areas as well. One thing that is absolutely outstanding about Australian society, and especially Western Australian society, is volunteers. This does not happen in the UK. This does not happen in the US. It does not happen in western Europe. It does not happen in Canada or New Zealand, which are very similar societies to us, but it does happen in Australia and especially in Western Australia. We need to respond to this. We do not want to lose these volunteers.

Hon Colin Holt made it quite clear that this is a good piece of non-government business. The government really needs to stand up, take note and try to look at ways in which the three suggestions outlined in the non-government business motion could happen. I am looking outside the box here. Maybe we could have transportable training units that travel throughout the regions. That has been done before in many different areas. That is maybe one way in which we could make it easier to get training to those remote areas. If not, maybe the CRCs, as I mentioned before, could be a place into which we could put more funding to enable this training to happen. We do need nationally recognised training. It is important that this training is recognised by all states across Australia. We need to get out into regional areas and support them, because we have an enormous number of ageing volunteers. Training and the updating of their work in that volunteer area is needed. A lot of these people started a long, long time ago and need to keep up with current ideas in volunteering and the improvements that have been made. When all is said and done, all we are asking for is that consultation be done. We know what DFES will say. We know what we are saying. Members are just reflecting what the public is saying. We are bringing it to this Parliament and we are asking this government to consider those important issues.

HON TIM CLIFFORD (East Metropolitan) [11.17 am]: I welcome the ongoing debate around volunteers and how we should support them. I take on board what Hon Colin Holt said about review processes. The Greens all support a good review process and transparency in government, so I look forward to continuing to work with all parties in this place to ensure that our volunteers are supported on all levels. That is even more important when it comes to emergency services, because these people are putting their lives on the front line; they risk everything they have to protect the community, and even more so in the regions.

Hon Dr Steve Thomas spoke about his wish to have the training facility put into the south west, because that is apparently where the majority of the forests and more of the fires are. I do not really have an opinion on where it should be, but it should serve the community regardless of where it is and it should be in a place that is accessible. I am open to ideas around training. I assume that we would have mobile training facilities that would go out to the regions and not have it completely centralised. That is something I will continue to look at to make sure that when it is rolled out, it serves the community in the best way possible.

I would like to go back. The Greens will continue to support measures that ensure all emergency services are properly staffed and funded so that volunteers can be fully trained, supported and equipped with all the equipment that they need. The Greens will also ensure that all volunteers, regardless of whether they are in the metropolitan or rural areas, are supported equally and, as the Minister for Environment mentioned, that they are open to more diversity and that we make sure we encourage people from all walks of life to have an opportunity to serve as a volunteer in our emergency services.

I want to make a couple of quick observations in the time I have left. Currently, the federal public safety training package is being reviewed. Submissions closed in August and they are being reviewed by the federal government. I am looking forward to looking at some of those submissions to see what processes are suggested so that volunteers within Australia as a whole can access diplomas that will be recognised in different states. That is something that has come up in recent times. I had a quick look online to see what positions the Department of Fire and Emergency Services had advertised. Currently, there are 10 level 3 volunteer management support officers needed to help coordinate and manage volunteers. I hope the job definition formats around those positions encompass some of the things that have been mentioned today so that some of the information we have been debating goes down to ground level and is taken on board in that training so that that can be passed on to volunteers and so that they can work with them in a collaborative way.

As I said, I welcome the debate. I welcome the discussion around volunteers. When it comes to money, I am pretty sure that whomever we pay, we will make sure that they do their job and they are well supported. That is even more so for volunteers, because those people give up their time and risk their lives. I continue to support the debate and I look forward to more discussions on the subject in the future.

HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary) [11.22 am]: Very briefly in the time that we have left, I want to take the opportunity to acknowledge Hon Colin de Grussa for bringing on the debate. What a shame he was not in the Parliament when the coalition was in government, because ideas like this would have been great during that time when we had the capacity to carry some of them out. I remember having debates in this house whilst we were in opposition, and bemoaning the fact that the relationship between career firefighters and volunteers had never been poorer than under the term of the last coalition government, to the point where we were losing volunteers in droves and something needed to be done. I acknowledge the member for bringing on this discussion today and throwing his ideas into the mix. It is important that we do that during parliamentary debates. They provide useful pieces of information from time to time for the government.

As the minister said, the government inherited a system that was in very, very poor shape. We have taken steps to address those outstanding issues. The first thing we did was appoint an experienced minister, Minister Logan, who had been in cabinet before, and assigned him to this very important role. The Minister for Emergency Services has listened. He has consulted. We have come up with the concept of a Rural Fire Division—I think that has been very well received by the sector, by the volunteers—and, from that, the Bushfire Centre of Excellence. The important

thing to remember is that the Rural Fire Division will be funded predominantly by the metropolitan area—90 per cent of the levies raised to fund the Rural Fire Division will be raised from the metropolitan area and that will be spent in the regions on the Rural Fire Division. I thank the residents and the ratepayers of the metropolitan area who will do that and I think that they will be comfortable enough to provide that important service to regional WA. The minister has listened, and, more importantly, the minister has acted.

I also think that the employment of Commissioner Darren Klemm is a very positive move. One thing about Darren Klemm that I am a little unsure of is that he is a former Claremont premiership player! Except for that, he also spent time in Northam. He was a career firefighter in Northam, working with volunteers. He worked his way through the regional system to the top. We have a very capable commissioner, who once tried to coach me at football, who knows regional Western Australia and understands the importance of all of the things that we have been talking about here today. That is a very good appointment.

I went with the minister and the commissioner to Three Springs a couple of weeks ago to the opening of its first-ever fire shed. Three Springs had never had a fire shed. Now people have a facility where they can put their trucks, train, meet, and do the important work that volunteers do. There is hope that now there is a purpose-built facility in Three Springs, we can attract more volunteers, because their numbers have dwindled over the years.

Members are getting hung up on where the Bushfire Centre of Excellence is going to be, but is it not great that we are adopting that policy and will have such a facility? We have needed that for many, many years. Finally we will have a Bushfire Centre of Excellence. I think that is a very positive thing.

I also want to take the opportunity in this debate to thank, on behalf of the government, all volunteers, whether they are volunteers in bush fire brigades, the State Emergency Service or marine rescue. Has their world not changed under the new funding arrangement? They will get significantly increased funding for the important services they provide as a consequence of the changes made by this minister and this government.

Of course we will continue to have these debates, but I think it is fair to say that the government has been proactive on this issue. We are working to help retain and recruit more volunteers. Many of the initiatives that we have been carrying out have that front and centre. The minister is experienced; the commissioner is competent. I welcome these debates, but I acknowledge that we sat in opposition for eight and a half years while these and many other important issues remained unaddressed. They are now being taken care of. I thank all volunteers right across the state who do this important work. Eighty-five per cent of our regional firefighting capacity is voluntary. We cannot do this without them, so I thank them all and encourage them to be involved and I encourage others to join them. As a government, our door is always open. We are always here to help our volunteer organisations. I believe we are doing that. I thank the member for this discussion and I hope that we can have more; but, in the main, we are getting on with the job.

HON COLIN de GRUSSA (Agricultural) [11.27 am] — in reply: In conclusion, in the few minutes I have left, I want to thank all members who have contributed to the debate. It is important we have these debates in this place. From the outset I tried to make it clear that this motion was not political; it was not about a criticism of this government or any other government for that matter. It did not take long, of course, for Hon Darren West to make it political and to make it into a political football as usual. Every time Hon Darren West stands, of course, members would be reminded of *Little Britain*. We have all seen Daffyd in *Little Britain*—the only farmer in the Parliament!

Hon Sue Ellery: The difference is that he actually is, and Daffyd is not the only gay in the village.

Hon COLIN de GRUSSA: As am I. Once a farmer always a farmer, thank you very much! Do not insult me by suggesting that anyone else is more a farmer than anyone else, thank you!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon COLIN de GRUSSA: This motion is about trying to find a way forward for all. It is not about criticising the government. It was not about saying, “This government is not doing the job; that government was not doing the job.”

Hon Tjorn Sibma: Very thin-skinned.

Hon COLIN de GRUSSA: That is right. The government cannot handle the fact that we have brought something in to debate. The motion is not a criticism of this government; it merely addresses issues that have been raised by our constituents. Is that not our job? Hon Darren West tried to make out that Darren Klemm as commissioner is so good and the minister is so good. If they are so good, why are they afraid of a review? Why are they afraid of trying to make things better when, clearly, our volunteers are saying that they are not better? In fact, things are not better. The minister’s “consultation”, if members want to call it that, when he visits people is not consultation. All the people I have met have said, “We barely get two minutes to talk to him. He flies in and he flies out.” It needs to be better. I am not criticising the minister directly, but if he wants to be serious about consultation he should be serious about it and do it properly.

As I said at the outset, this motion was not intended as a criticism of this government or any other government, but perhaps I should have put in the motion the word “independent”. I think Hon Colin Holt raised a very important point; that is, what Hon Stephen Dawson, as minister representing, trotted out in this place was nothing more than a departmental briefing note: “We’re the good guys. Everything is fine and hunky-dory. Let’s just keep going with what is happening.” It did not address the issue. It did not recognise that volunteers are saying that this is an issue. It did not recognise the fact that those volunteers do not feel that they have been consulted, and certainly the ones I have spoken to have not been consulted in any meaningful way on this issue. The intention was to draw attention to this issue to see whether we can find a way to consult better.

One of the other things that came through in the debate, especially in the contributions from members on the other side, was that it was all about fire. This is not all about fire. I recognise that some good changes have been made in terms of bushfire. There is nothing wrong with that; I am happy to acknowledge that. But, as other honourable members have pointed out, State Emergency Service members are contacting us constantly with issues around training and being able to communicate with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services hierarchy and so on. There needs to be some understanding that these issues are real and will not go away.

One of the key points in this motion is the availability of training. To me, that is one of the greatest problems. It does not mean that we have to go to every little town and deliver that training. It is about making it accessible and available regularly so that a training course that should ordinarily take a couple of years does not take eight years, as is the case for some volunteers. We need to try to find a way to do these things better.

Again, the motion was never about criticising any government; it was merely about trying to find a way to do things better. There is nothing wrong with having a review, talking to volunteers and asking them what they need. Unfortunately, it seems to me that the hierarchy of the department has this view, despite what it puts in its annual reports and strategic plans, that the volunteer is somewhat lesser than a paid employee. No, they are not. They are equal. Every volunteer does as much as a paid employee. In fact, they do more, because they also run their own business or do whatever they do outside the volunteer role that they take on. These people need to be highly recognised. I thank all our volunteers for the work they do and for continuing to do all they can to make us safe. I also thank the people of Western Australia, who foot the bill for our emergency services and do not generally complain about it, and why would they? We all want to feel safe, wherever we live. Whether a bushfire is next door or a thousand miles away is irrelevant. We should all contribute to making our state safer. Again, I thank all members for their contributions to this debate.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to standing orders.

CHILDHOOD CANCER

Motion

HON MATTHEW SWINBOURN (East Metropolitan) [11.33 am] — without notice: I move —

That this house notes that September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and the house —

- (a) recognises the impact that childhood cancer has on the children of this state who are afflicted by cancer, their families and the broader community;
- (b) commends the hard work, dedication and sacrifices of the doctors, nurses, health professionals, and supporting staff who do what they can every day to treat children afflicted by cancer; and
- (c) acknowledges and recognises the continuing contribution of the many Western Australian research groups, such as the Telethon Kids Institute, to finding better treatments and cures to childhood cancers.

As outlined in the motion, September is International Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, a time when cancer organisations around the world put the spotlight on childhood cancer and the need to improve diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for our children. Many members would know that, for me, childhood cancer is very personal. My son Mitchell was diagnosed with cancer three years ago when he was 10 and we continue to live with his cancer. His diagnosis was for two cancers: one is a paraganglioma, a rare neuroendocrine tumour, and the other is a GIST, or a gastrointestinal stromal tumour, which is an even rarer form of cancer. Those two together are known as Carney Stratakis syndrome. When a child has a childhood cancer, parents learn a lot of new medical terms that they thought they would never have to become familiar with. I do great violence to many of the terms, notwithstanding my best efforts, and I may continue to do violence to those terms in my speech today, so I apologise to anybody whose name I mash up and for the drugs I misname. I do try!

Mitchell’s cancers are genetic cancers and, unfortunately, they have come about as a result of a mutation in his genome that comes from me and my side of the family. We had no warning about this prior to having children and it had no bearing on our decision to have Mitchell. Of course, we do not for a single day regret having him, but we certainly regret what he has to go through. Mitchell’s cancer was diagnosed three years ago and he has undergone

numerous procedures to deal with that. Unfortunately, his cancer metastasised and now he has tumours in his liver and those tumours are inoperable and will continue to grow. At their present rate, we are not sure how much longer we have with Mitch, so we continue to deal with that daily.

What is it about childhood cancer that deserves our attention today? Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children in Australia. Sadly, it is estimated that about 1 000 children and adolescents aged between zero and 19 years are diagnosed with cancer each year in Australia, and every week almost three Australian children die from cancer or cancer-related illnesses. In every country in the world, cancer is the leading cause of death in children by non-communicable diseases. Globally, those numbers translate to a whopping 163 000 children diagnosed each year, with 1 500 child deaths each week. I am certain that those figures are not that accurate and that probably a lot more childhood cancer goes undiagnosed in parts of the world and is attributed to other kinds of disease. Worryingly, these numbers have been increasing. For one-third of these kids, their cancer is diagnosed before they are four years old, and half of all childhood cancers begin in the womb and are diagnosed later. Of course, cancer is also becoming more pervasive in adult populations. An estimated 138 000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in Australia this year, with that number estimated to rise to 150 000 by 2020. This disease is a leading cause of death in Australia, with more than 48 000 deaths in 2018 estimated to be attributed to cancer. The hard fact is that one in two Australian men and women will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

Disappointingly, survival rates for some common childhood cancers have not improved in more than 25 years. It is worth noting that childhood cancer is quite different in many respects from adult cancers. The treatments that are used are quite different, so it is not a one-for-one thing. Research into childhood cancers is different from research into adult cancers. Childhood cancer not only impacts on the health of the children; it impacts on them in many other ways. Having a childhood cancer is not like having a broken bone or the flu or some other disease. Treatments last for months to years, and none of these treatments is pleasant. Children lose a lot through cancer. Often they lose their hair, but not always, they sometimes lose limbs and, of course, some lose their little lives. Children with cancer also lose part of their childhood, as they have to deal with the very real world of pain and suffering and have to deal with their own mortality at a time when most children would not even understand the concept. Children with childhood cancer also lose time at school and the opportunities that education brings. Of course children do not choose if or when they get cancer. It never comes at a time that is convenient. I have met children trying to complete their final year of school and their Australian tertiary admission rank exams in the middle of chemo treatment, soldiering on bravely through the illness and nausea and the damn inconvenience of it all. Unfortunately, one young gentleman did not make it through his fight with cancer.

The impact that childhood cancer has on families, as well as the paediatric and oncology staff, is especially devastating. Cancer is a nasty, horrid and excruciating disease. As I said previously, unfortunately I know only too well how childhood cancer can affect children and their families. Like all families affected by childhood cancer, we do our best every day to cope with Mitchell's cancer, and it can be hard to talk about it. However, I feel a responsibility to give some personal insight from my lived experience in this month of September and to do as much as I can for the cause in my capacity as a member of this chamber.

I wish I could pretend this issue did not exist. But my family and I have lived with the anguish of childhood cancer for more than three years now. It is with us every single day. Of course I wish it was not part of our lives, and that we could live our lives free from fear and Mitch could live his life free from suffering. For Mitchell, cancer has affected him in many, many different ways. First, there are the obvious things, such as the multiple surgeries that he has to undergo as a consequence of his cancer. Currently, he has had three laparotomies. For those who do not know what a laparotomy is, it is where people are opened up across their abdomen so that the surgeons can reach inside to access their body cavity. Mitchell is not a very big child, and surgeons have big hands, so they have to make a lot of room in there. He has also undergone three lots of what is known as radiofrequency ablation, where a probe is inserted into his liver to essentially microwave and kill the tumour cells. He has also undergone multiple scans, which are part of the daily grind of cancer. Mitchell has had many, many magnetic resonance imaging procedures. For each MRI, he needs to have a cannulation. For members who do not know what a cannulation is, it involves putting a cannula into his arm so that they can pump contrast into his bloodstream to illuminate the cancer tumours. Unfortunately for Mitchell, he has very tricky veins, and it often takes several attempts to get the cannula in. Mr Acting President (Hon Dr Steve Thomas) would know how hard it can be to find a vein. It is not fun to watch. It is certainly no fun for Mitchell. He is often left looking like a pincushion. It is a very tense situation. Junior doctors in particular like to test their skill against the problem and often do not know when to say enough is enough and get in someone more skilled. I have learnt a lot about the medical system and about my rights and opportunities to stop people from doing things I do not like. It is not easy as a parent to watch another person dig around your child's arm with a needle while you are telling them it is going to be okay.

Then there is the medication. The cruel irony of cancer is that in many cases the only way to deal with it is to try to poison the body and kill the immune system. Mitchell is currently on medication that makes his feet very sore and gives him rashes. We persevere with it in the hope that those things will be outweighed by what it might be doing to those tumours in his liver.

Then there are the less obvious things: the loss of childhood opportunities; the modification of daily activities to accommodate his reduced strength and stamina; the painful conversations about his future and telling him about his next painful and traumatic medical procedure; and the constant hospital visits. The list goes on. We know many other families in the same nightmare battle, going through their struggles with childhood cancer, and we also know many families who have painfully lost their precious children through cancer.

In July this year, Mitchell commenced taking the trial drug Regorafenib—I hope I get it right —

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Dr Steve Thomas): The good news, member, is that Hansard will make it look as though you got it right!

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: They will; thank you, Hansard.

We have been told that the most optimistic outcome is potentially stable growth for an unknown period of time, depending on Mitch’s tolerance. Mitch is currently about to commence his third course of this treatment and will undergo his first screening at the beginning of October to determine the medicine’s effectiveness. We have been holding our breath, hoping for a positive result in October. The waiting and the anxiety is relentless and exhausting. Yet our story is only one of thousands. I never imagined, like so many other parents in this situation, that our lives would turn out like this. Living with childhood cancer is an inescapable nightmare, filled with the horror of watching your child suffer in ways no parent should ever have to watch, along with that constant threat of losing your child, regardless of receiving treatment. All we can do is stay strong as a family, and enjoy the precious time we have with our son and hope we get as much of it as possible.

We are fortunate to have world-class cancer treatment and research facilities for children here in Western Australia. However, this did not come about by chance; rather, it came from the hard work and dedication of many wonderful people. That includes the people formerly at ward 3B at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, now ward 1A at Perth Children’s Hospital, and the Telethon Kids Institute. I would also like to acknowledge the paediatric and oncology medical professionals for their tireless efforts in their emotionally intense, demanding and at times quite depressing work. The doctors, nurses and other medical staff all deserve recognition for performing under continual emotional pressure in complex work environments. The emotional toll on staff of working in oncology is well known. This is reflected in the inevitable burnout of staff. One particular person to whom I would like to give a shout-out is the indefatigable Dr Nick Gottardo. Dr Nick, as he is known by one and all, is the co-head of the Telethon Kids Institute’s brain tumour research team and head of oncology at Perth Children’s Hospital. He was recently a nominee for Western Australian of the Year, and a more worthy nominee is unlikely to be found. Dr Nick has such energy, enthusiasm and excitement that it is contagious. Dr Nick, we love your work, and we love you. There are, of course, many, many more people who work in this area who deserve special recognition. I simply do not have the time to name them all. Just know that your dedication and work is eternally appreciated.

We must all keep up our efforts in this state to do what we can to eliminate childhood cancers, ensure these kids live as pain free as possible, and support the affected families. Although this motion does not propose specific policies on this topic, I will be working hard to ensure that childhood cancer remains a focus of this house and the government. Of course given my situation, I would like as much money as possible to be put into cancer research. But our society has competing interests and priorities, and I am not one who would simply argue that we should not spend a dollar over here because we could be spending it over there on cancer research or treatment. Having said that, money does make a difference, and naturally I advocate that we should put as much money as we can towards research, especially so that we can continue to support and retain our existing researchers, as well as attract the brightest minds into this area. All I hope is that we continue to do what we can with the resources available to ensure as few families as possible have to go through what mine has. Ultimately, medical research and investment in treatment will cure cancer. I truly believe we can find a cure for cancer in this century. It will be a significant global effort. Western Australia must contribute all it can to the cause with our leading medical research. That is why I am making an effort to speak up and contribute what I can to raise awareness this September.

The reality is that childhood cancer, or cancer generally, could very easily become any family’s nightmare, too. My sincere best wishes are with the affected families across our state. I am with you. I hope everyone can join me to “Go Gold” this September—I have worn as close to gold as I can get with my tie—and support Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. I urge all members to please help to raise awareness, wear a ribbon, donate, share posts and attend fundraisers, and do anything else for the cause.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all those children out there fighting cancer. You are my heroes. I would like to acknowledge the heroes who gallantly lost their fight and got their angel wings. Next, I want to call out some more heroes—the men and women who spend their lives treating and caring for our children with cancer. You really are the best people. Finally, to those super smart and dedicated people who are trying to find cures and better treatments, you are all champs, and you have my eternal gratitude and admiration.

I commend the motion to the house.

HON ALANNA CLOHESY (East Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [11.48 am]: I thank Hon Matthew Swinbourn for bringing this important motion to our attention, and for sharing his very real and very personal story with us, which I know is a difficult thing to do. I want to recognise the real impact that childhood cancer is having on Mitchell and his family and friends, and the broader community. I am wearing gold, too. I am responding on behalf of the government. I will make my contribution very brief because I know a lot of members want to participate in this debate. Every year, between 85 and 90 Western Australian children are diagnosed with cancer. The annual figure belies the very real and devastating impact that these diagnoses have on kids and their family, friends and community. I will give an overview of the range of treatment and other services that are available to with kids with cancer in Western Australia as a way of recognising the very important cutting-edge work that is being done and as a way of thanking all those who are involved.

All kids with cancer in WA are treated at the paediatric haematology and oncology unit at Perth Children's Hospital. The unit uses a total care approach to therapy, which means that it has a large multidisciplinary team with medical and psychosocial expertise in providing inpatient, same day and outpatient care for children and young people with cancer. The unit is also accredited for bone marrow transplants and also manages non-malignant blood disorders, such as haemophilia and aplastic anaemia. A very important part of the unit is that it is an active participant in international and national cooperative groups, which means that child patients can be part of cutting-edge clinical trials. That part of the work is the very foundation on which children's cancer treatment is based. We heard that from Hon Matthew Swinbourn. The unit also provides follow-up care and ongoing support for children and adolescents who have completed treatment through the late effects and survivorship program. A transition clinic is incorporated in the service to ensure a smooth transition for kids with cancer into adult services.

Over the last 50 years, remarkable progress has been made through research into childhood cancer. For example, leukaemia was once a death sentence and is now curable in the vast majority of children. However, as we heard from the honourable member, childhood cancers continue to have poor cure rates and, indeed, remain incurable despite highly aggressive treatments. We know more scientific research is urgently needed to find answers to beat childhood cancer. Amazing work is being done in this area in this state. In addition to providing cutting-edge clinical trials—for example, the personalised medicine trials of Zero Childhood Cancer and the AIM BRAIN project—the paediatric haematology and oncology unit at PCH works in close partnership with the Telethon Kids Cancer Centre and some of its groups, including the brain tumour research group, the leukaemia and cancer genetics group, the cancer immunotherapy group, the drug discovery unit and the oncogenic signalling laboratory. Perhaps Hon Matthew Swinbourn could help me with the pronunciation of that one! Together, clinicians and scientists at PCH and Telethon Kids Institute are working in collaboration with other laboratories around the world to discover vulnerabilities in paediatric cancers and develop therapies that destroy cancer cells while minimising harm to healthy cells.

I acknowledge and thank every single dedicated and highly trained professional involved in every aspect of this work from research to clinical care to support. I know that the kids and their families and friends have the best people around them in a clinical sense and I wish them all the very best on their journey.

HON NICK GOIRAN (South Metropolitan) [11.53 am]: On behalf of the opposition, I rise to speak on the motion before the house. At the outset, I indicate my support for the motion moved by my learned friend Hon Matthew Swinbourn. I commend the member for bringing the motion to the attention of the house and for the particularly unique contribution that he was able to bring because of the lived experience of his son Mitchell and his family. Naturally, the opposition will be supporting this motion. I am also pleased to speak in my capacity as one of the co-chairs of Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care.

Typically, children's cancers are diagnosed in patients under the age of 15 years. Cancer is a chronic disease that has a severe impact on all aspects of a child's development, which poses many hardships for them and for the family and friends of children diagnosed with cancer. Cancer is relatively uncommon among children, with less than one per cent of cancers occurring in children. Cancer was made a national health priority area as far back as 1996 in response to concerns about the rising incidence of many cancers and the burden of death and disability this was placing on the Australian population. Children who survive cancer can suffer serious long-term consequences resulting from their treatment. These late effects are many and varied and depend on factors such as the type of cancer and the treatment the child received. Some examples include learning and behavioural problems, vision and hearing deficiencies, stunted growth, heart disease, reduced lung capacity, dental issues, impaired sexual development and a higher risk of second cancers. As well as improving survival, it is important to find better therapies that do not impact on long-term health and quality of life.

The causes of many childhood cancers and factors driving changes in the incidence of cancer over time are largely unknown. Unlike cancers in adults in which behavioural factors such as smoking, alcohol consumption and diet and exercise play an important role, almost nothing is known about what increases the risk of cancer in children. Children's cancers are rarer than adult cancers. They differ significantly from the cancers that affect adults as they tend to occur in different parts of the body and when viewed under a microscope, they look quite different. As a result, children's cancers require a specific treatment approach.

I know from my work with the Parliamentary Friends of Palliative Care that cancer is the second-leading cause of death in Australian children. Each year, around 750 children aged under 15 years are diagnosed with cancer and almost 100 die from the disease. Australia continues to have one of the highest rates of childhood cancer in the world, with around half of all children diagnosed with cancer aged under five years. The incidence of childhood cancer increased significantly from 1983 until the mid-1990s, but has remained fairly constant since. Leukaemia is the most common type of cancer diagnosed among Australian children and accounts for about one-third of all cases, followed by brain tumours, which are responsible for 25 per cent of all diagnoses, and lymphomas, which account for a further 10 per cent. Childhood cancer incidence rates increased by 11 per cent between 2006 and 2014 in those aged between zero and 14 years. Although more children are being diagnosed with cancer and it remains one of the leading causes of death in this age group, survival rates are significantly improving. Indeed, around 84 per cent of children will survive at least five years after a cancer diagnosis due to advances in treatment. This is up from 72 per cent in the early 1990s. Australia has the lowest childhood cancer death rate of all G20 countries and its five-year survival rates for childhood cancer are among the best in the world. The key reason for the downward trend of death rates is improved treatment, particularly the introduction of more effective chemotherapy protocols and adjunct therapies, such as radiotherapy. Cancer research, especially clinical trials, has contributed to improved treatments and better survival rates. A possible exception to this is melanoma. Figures show a 38 per cent decrease in the incidence of melanoma in Australia between 1993 and 2013. This is most likely the result of long-running public health campaigns such as the one that we are most familiar with, the Slip! Slop! Slap! campaign, which promoted improved sun protection, particularly among children, and highlighted the importance of public health campaigns.

Cancer diagnosis of a child can understandably send huge shock waves through a family. Parents, grandparents, siblings and others will respond in different ways. It is quite common for different family members to experience a range of emotions, including anxiety, disbelief, anger, guilt and, of course, sadness. Children with cancer have many concerns and reactions that are different from those experienced by an adult diagnosed with cancer. Many children-specific services are available in Australia, and these groups should be commended. Indeed, I note that the honourable member has specifically called on the house to commend the hard work, dedication and sacrifices of the doctors, nurses, health professionals and supporting staff who do what they can every day to treat children afflicted by cancer. I want to add to that by acknowledging the contribution made by the following organisations: CanTeen, Camp Quality, Kids Helpline, Make-a-Wish Australia, Ronald McDonald House Charities, the Starlight Children's Foundation and Redkite. Hospital School Services, which also provides educational support for children whose physical or mental health prevents them from successfully participating in their own school programs, provides support to both public and private school students. I also want to acknowledge the Leukaemia Foundation, Blood Buddies and Cancer Australia, which have an excellent range of information relating to children.

I conclude by indicating the opposition's support for the motion moved by the honourable member. I thank him for taking this opportunity to move an important motion like this during private members' business and, in particular, acknowledge that September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. On a personal note, I wish Hon Matthew Swinbourn and his family, in particular, Mitchell, every success.

HON MARTIN PRITCHARD (North Metropolitan) [12.02 pm]: When I make contributions, I always believe that the best contributions are those that bring some life experience to the debate. I want to thank Hon Matthew Swinbourn for bringing that to this discussion. It is obviously a very difficult time for him and his family, particularly Mitchell. It is obviously a fairly opportune time to have this debate, being Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. I presume it is because of that that we have had the opportunity of having a screening van out the front of Parliament House, which I believe many members have taken the opportunity to visit.

Cancer is quite a topical issue. I want to tackle it from a slightly different angle, again bringing my life experience to it. I am very selfishly thankful for the fact that I have never had to tackle the issue of childhood cancer. In recent years, I have tackled the issue of adult cancer. For a moment, I want to tackle it from that angle. Often as adults, we care for and try to protect our children but not necessarily by setting the best example. I want to use my father as an example of that, not in an unkind way. I think I have mentioned in previous debates that my father was English. I have spoken about the fact that he came to Australia from England. My father was not like myself; I took after my mother. He was fair-haired and blue-eyed, and had the profession of a bricklayer. On coming out here, he continued his profession. During those years—I think it probably still happens—bricklayers, particularly in the cottage industry, had a uniform of a pair of very small shorts, a pair of thongs and nothing else. My father spent many, many years in the sun and spent most of the summers with his nose continually peeling because of the effects of the sun. My father lived through the Slip! Slop! Slap! campaign that Hon Nick Goiran talked about, which was particularly successful. Being brought up by my father, he would often tell me to wear a hat and put on sunscreen and then he would head out for the day and lay bricks in the burning sun without following that advice himself. I wanted to take the opportunity to use that little anecdote to encourage parents to not only care for their children, but also to set good examples. Do not expect your children to think something is cool if you are not prepared to do it yourself.

When looking at the information relating to childhood cancer for kids under 15 years of age for my contribution to this debate, I was quite surprised to find that the cancers that kids attract are different from the ones that adults attract. They act differently and the treatment has to be specialised as well. There are broad terms such as benign tumours, which are localised and in most cases are obviously able to be treated either by radiotherapy or surgery. Then we have the one that everybody fears when they feel a lump—that is, the malignant tumours, which can invade the surrounding area or metastasise and get into the bloodstream, causing secondary tumours around the body. That is obviously the one that we fear the most. As I said, it was a surprise to me to find out that although they may be called the same, they are different. Even though my life experience is with adult cancer, my sympathy probably goes out more to the children who suffer who have not contributed in any way, shape or form to the issues that they have but have to deal with all the consequences.

It was very sad when my father passed away after a long life. In some ways, he was quite lucky because he had those melanomas for many years and they never internalised. He probably lasted 10 years longer than he expected to live. In some ways—I hope he forgives me for saying this—he contributed to his own problems by going out into the elements and probably knew that there may be consequences down the track. He also lived life to the full. He smoked a pack of cigarettes a day for the whole of his life and drank quite heavily until his later years. But cancer is inflicted upon children without them contributing to it in any way, shape or form. For such young people and their families to have to deal with the consequences of that, I can only imagine how Hon Matthew Swinbourn feels when he has to take his son to see doctors, knowing that it will hurt but he is doing everything he can to help his son. That must be quite difficult for him. Every year, about 700 children under 15 years old in Australia discover they have cancer. The incidence is fairly equally distributed between boys and girls. About half are under four years old. That is amazing to me. I think Hon Nick Goiran indicated that about 84 per cent see through this terrible affliction to five years and then, of course, they return to the normal risk factor of kids who have not had to endure the things they have.

The signs a child with cancer presents are quite numerous. In looking at them, I was quite surprised. It is like thinking about a heart attack. We might feel our chest, but heart attack symptoms are a lot wider. Symptoms in children with cancer are easy bruising, tiredness, lack of interest, low energy levels, constant pain in certain areas, restricted movement, constant fever or illness, frequent headaches, nausea, blurred vision, unexpected weight loss. The symptoms are very broad. I think it must be quite difficult for parents to pick up those symptoms in their kids. Although cancer in children differs from that in adults, treatments have to be targeted towards children's cancer, but they are broadly similar. I think Hon Nick Goiran indicated that treatment is either curative or palliative. That is important because a life is a life and, in my view, it needs to be treated for as long as it can be whether it be curative or palliative. The treatments follow the same sort of paths that would happen to an adult. There is obviously surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, targeted therapy and stem cell or bone marrow transplant and, obviously, a lot of observation.

Bringing it back to my own experience, my father-in-law passed away four years ago from cancer. He underwent both chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Finally, he actually died of a heart attack due to the stress the two forms of treatment put on his body. None of these treatments are easy and to think that they are inflicted upon kids is horrendous in my view.

HON ALISON XAMON (North Metropolitan) [12.12 pm]: I rise on behalf of the Greens and indicate our wholehearted support for this motion brought on by Hon Matthew Swinbourn as part of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. I thank the honourable member for his courage in sharing a very painful and personal journey for him and his family, particularly Mitchell.

Australia has one of the highest incidences of childhood cancer worldwide. As has already been said, and I will agree, we are not actually quite sure whether this is because in other countries, diagnosis is escaping people. That is based on the figures that are available now. The reality is that we are lucky in Australia to have a medical system that can diagnose and we do not know whether that is the case in other countries. We do know that childhood cancer is the single greatest cause of death from disease in Australian children, with around three children losing their lives to cancer each week. It is estimated that each year in Australia, on average, 750 children between the ages of zero and 14 are diagnosed with cancer. Fifty years ago, only two per cent of children with cancer survived, but now, I am pleased to say, survival rates are greater than 80 per cent. I note that four out of five children who survive childhood cancer, experience at least one physical or mental health issue, which are so-called late effects of treatment. The physical effects can include heart disease, osteoporosis and obesity and psychological effects such as anxiety and depression are reported by almost 50 per cent of survivors.

Leukaemias, as has been said already are the most common types of cancer diagnosed among Australian children, followed by tumours of the central nervous system—that is, mainly brain tumours—and then lymphomas. Almost half the number of children diagnosed with cancer in Australia were aged from zero to four years. Older diagnoses were the median age of five years—very young. Worryingly, even after adjusting for changes in the population, the incidence of all childhood cancers combined in Australia has increased significantly by a total of 35 per cent between 1983 and 2014. Australia is estimated to have the fifth highest incidence of countries in the G20, but it has the lowest childhood cancer mortality rates among the G20, which paints a positive picture of our ability to

successfully treat cancer. Despite the promising advances being made by research, and that have been made in the past four decades, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month presents an opportunity for us to reflect on the still unacceptably high rates of cancer in children, and, as has already been well put in this place, the devastating and far-reaching impact that each and every diagnosis brings. A cancer diagnosis will always radically change the trajectory of the lives of those affected, no matter what the outcome. The treatments are brutal, as has been described. They are often administered over months and years. It is heartbreaking to consider that young children have to endure this suffering. Children with cancer often become part of a tight-knit community alongside other families affected by cancer. This can mean sharing in the joy of successful treatment; it can also mean that those children share in the profound grief of losing their friends to the same disease they are dealing with.

It goes without saying that we as a community need to do all we can to support those who are affected by childhood cancer. Many unsung heroes work tirelessly to support those affected by cancer, from very large organisations such as the Cancer Council WA, to small peer-led support groups or not-for-profits working in the area of specific cancers such as Sock it to Sarcoma. I would also like to acknowledge the medical staff who treat children with childhood cancers. The people who work in this field are, indeed, a special breed and the care they show makes an immeasurable difference to families and their loved ones at the most difficult of times.

I will talk a little about the Telethon Kids Cancer Centre. Investing in research is at the core of reducing the impacts of cancer generally and this is, of course, the case for childhood cancers. No discussion on research is complete without acknowledging the exemplary work of the Telethon Kids Institute in this space through the Telethon Kids Cancer Centre. That centre is bringing together specialist teams of researchers and oncologists required to defeat childhood cancers. The TKI researchers are working in close partnership with the clinicians at Perth Children's Hospital to develop new and more effective treatments with less debilitating side effects. I was recently honoured to be one of the people invited to the opening of the new TKI research facilities at Perth Children's Hospital and got to see the laboratories where this work is being undertaken. It is a fantastic investment and I note the commitment of both the federal and state governments to ensure we have a world-class, world-leading research centre into children's health, generally, but specifically looking at the issue around children's cancers.

Recently, researchers at the centre have been successful in joining two major research initiatives into a personalised medicine program for children with high-risk cancer and boosting survival rates in brain cancer patients. The centre is amongst world leaders in personalised medicine, which aims to personalise treatment based on each patient's genetic information. Scientists believe that this approach could push survival rates up to 100 per cent, while at the same time reducing the toxic side effects of treatment. This research is incredibly exciting, because it has the potential to benefit all cancer sufferers, including those who have rare cancers. With brain cancer killing more Australian children than any other disease, it is also heartening to know that the Telethon Kids Institute is represented on a federal round table that sets the priorities for how money should be spent in order to improve survival rates. These are just two examples of many research projects being undertaken by the centre. We have come a long way in cancer treatment, but we still have a lot further to go. It is heartening to know that we live in one of the best places in the world when it comes to research and treatment. That should give us all hope, but we should always be mindful of those people who are living with the journey of childhood cancer—people like Mitchell and Hon Matthew Swinbourn's family. This is an area that should affect all of us in terms of looking at the impact on people's lives. I thank the honourable member for bringing on the motion.

HON PIERRE YANG (South Metropolitan) [12.20 pm]: I will start by thanking Hon Matthew Swinbourn for bringing this motion to the house. As we have heard, this month is International Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, so it is timely that this house debates this motion. Across Australia, 140 000 people are diagnosed with cancer each year, with 750 of them being children. Too many children have to face the battle of childhood cancer. That is 750 children and 750 families each year who are deeply affected by childhood cancer. As we have heard from Hon Nick Goiran and Hon Martin Pritchard, childhood cancer is not the result of behavioural causes. Some adults develop cancer as a result of their personal choices, such as drinking, smoking and other behaviours, but for children, it is a completely different story. They have to deal with this nasty disease from a very young age, almost certainly through no fault of their own. Doctors and researchers are yet to discover the causes of many childhood cancers. Currently, there is no prevention.

Members of this house will agree that families and children who are dealing with cancer, who are putting up the good fight day in, day out, deserve our respect and support. I have met Mitchell a few times since I came into this place. I just want to say, what a brave kid. The sorts of things he has to go through would be, to many of us, unimaginable. There is no doubt that he is a brave little kid and he is having a good fight. I sincerely wish all the very best to him in his battle with his cancer. I also want to show my respect to Hon Matthew Swinbourn and his wife, Glenda, for the support and unconditional love they give to Mitchell.

We are truly lucky to live in a lucky country. We have one of the best health systems in the world, if not the best, and we are lucky to have the best health professionals in the world. The motion commends the hard work and dedication of our health professionals in this field. We are lucky to have them. My wife and I have two young children. Over the years we have been to hospital a few times. We know that when we send our children to hospital, they will be looked after and cared for with all the dedication and skills of our health professionals—our doctors,

nurses and other staff members. Our oldest child had a seizure many years ago. That was his first seizure. I was on my way back home from a local council meeting when my wife called me to say that my son had just passed out. I said, “Why are you calling me? Call the ambulance.” She did. I was at home by that time. We knew that if we called 000, help would be on its way. As soon as the paramedics arrived, they looked after our son and took him to hospital for care. From personal experience, I know that our health professionals—the doctors, the nurses—are doing the best they can to look after their patients. They will find the correct treatment and treat their young patients.

I know that all members agree that this is a very important subject we are debating today. Cancer is something that we are yet to conquer as a human species. Cancer treatments take a huge toll on otherwise healthy people, let alone bodies that are enduring cancers, in the way they try to treat cancer. Many of the treatments, including chemotherapy, kill not only cancer cells but also a lot of healthy cells. This weakens the body and shatters an otherwise healthy and happy life. Hon Martin Pritchard talked about this. To even think about children having to go through that kind of treatment is just heartbreaking. Too many children have to go through this. Sometimes they win the battle and other times they do not. It is important that we, as representatives of the people of Western Australia, debate this, discuss this, raise awareness and show our support. We can do this not only by raising awareness but also through providing financial support to good research institutes such as the Telethon Kids Institute and the Telethon Kids Cancer Centre to support their good work and research. They are dedicated to trying to find cures for these nasty cancers that are devastating many children and many families.

I give my best wishes to Mitchell, Matthew and Glenda, and to all children and families who are affected by childhood cancer, and I commend the motion to the house.

HON LAURIE GRAHAM (Agricultural) [12.30 pm]: In the short time available I will concentrate on a couple of areas. I am very pleased to speak to Hon Matthew Swinbourn’s motion on childhood cancer. I cannot put myself in his position. I find it very difficult to understand how he can deal with something like this at this time of his life. It must be very difficult. I have been very fortunate that childhood cancer has not affected my extended family. It is a blessing in that regard.

I have a daughter who worked at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children after she completed her training some 20 years ago. That is probably nothing unusual, but the interesting thing is that she now works in the emergency department because she found that the pressure of working for several years on a ward in which the children were not going home, who were unfortunately not going to survive, was too much. They were mainly children who were related to boat people and had no family support. She often talks about that. She tried her best where she could to support those children, often taking them on outings et cetera. She was not the only one; all the staff who worked there at that time—I got to know a number of them—were very involved. It is very important that people who work in this area are recognised for their service. Her decision to move on was mainly because she started her family and she found it very difficult going home to them after nursing patients at the end of life.

The Children’s Leukaemia and Cancer Research Foundation website says that one in 500 children will have cancer before the age of 15. I know members have talked about various numbers today. It says on that website that 600 additional children are diagnosed each year. Its quest, obviously, is to find cures for childhood cancers. It has been at it for 30 years and I am sure that without its involvement we would be in a worse position than we are today. Fifty years ago, only two per cent of children survived a diagnosis of cancer. Today, the overall survival rate is in excess of 80 per cent. The good thing about the foundation is that it is committed to groundbreaking research that looks at rare cancers et cetera that affect only a few people. That is a tremendous situation.

In the remaining time, I would like to talk about Ronald McDonald House. That is something Hon Nick Goiran touched on and recognised. Ronald McDonald House provides a fabulous service for regional people. Obviously it is very difficult for people from regional areas to suddenly get a diagnosis of childhood cancer and be left in the metropolitan area without family support. It is fantastic the way staff at Ronald McDonald House work. I would like to talk about the volunteers in particular, because the majority of people who provide support for patients being treated at Perth Children’s Hospital are volunteers who work regular shifts there every day. They provide an invaluable service. Regional people who have no family support in Perth are very disadvantaged. It was great to see that when the new Perth Children’s Hospital was built, that organisation built a new 47-bed facility at Nedlands. I understand that unfortunately it is fully booked just about all the time. Although it can cater for people in dire situations at short notice by juggling things around, it is very difficult.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to standing orders.

CITY OF KARRATHA FENCING LOCAL LAW 2018 — DISALLOWANCE

Discharge of Order

Hon Martin Pritchard reported that the concerns of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation had been satisfied, and on his motion without notice it was resolved —

That order of the day 1, City of Karratha Fencing Local Law 2018 — Disallowance, be discharged from the notice paper.

DUTIES AMENDMENT (ADDITIONAL DUTY FOR FOREIGN PERSONS) BILL 2018*Second Reading*

Resumed from 19 September.

HON MARTIN ALDRIDGE (Agricultural) [12.36 pm]: I rise to continue my contribution to the second reading debate on the Duties Amendment (Additional Duty for Foreign Persons) Bill 2018. Before I go much further, I want to reflect for a moment on the contribution I made to this debate on Thursday, 13 September 2018. It is not by way of a correction, but I think I can add further to a comment that I made at that time. I will not make a habit of quoting myself, but on Thursday, 13 September 2018, when I made some remarks on the government's change of mind, or change of heart, about the Moora Residential College, I said —

The government has since reversed its decision, or it has been reported that it has reversed its decision, on Moora Residential College. I have not seen an official media statement issued. I would have thought the Premier would have wanted to take credit for that. But if we assume that the government has reversed the Moora Residential College cuts, that is some \$945 000 in savings that is lost, which brings those five projects to a total saving to the government over the forward estimates of just \$9.5 million.

Upon further review, I located a media statement that was issued by the Premier on Tuesday, 4 September 2018, titled "Residential accommodation in Moora to remain open". What is interesting is I perhaps missed this initially because the media statement was not issued jointly by the Minister for Education and Training and the Premier.

As I said in my contribution last week, in December 2017 the Minister for Education and Training was left to announce the \$64 million in cuts in a media statement by herself. Then January came around and obviously Hon Mark McGowan, the Premier for all Western Australians, rode in on his white horse and announced a review of that decision, which reflected a reduction in savings in the order of \$41 million. Then, of course, fast forward to this month, on 4 September a media statement was issued by the Premier with no reference to his minister for education, which is rather odd. Members can draw several conclusions from that. Perhaps the Minister for Education and Training did not agree with the Premier's position on the ongoing operation of Moora Residential College after the federal government committed some \$8.7 million in capital funding—\$8.7 million this government could not find in its budget.

Hon Nick Goiran: I think they're fighting! They are not talking to each other.

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: Fighting! It is interesting to note from this media statement, and I have canvassed some of the things, that obviously the government made an argument in defending its decision to close Moora Residential College and to not invest the \$8.7 million that was required to refurbish the facility not based purely on the capital works. It was to be redundant because of the opening of a new school in Yanchep. It was because of a strategic approach that it was taking to the location of residential colleges. At one point, it argued that students would get a better education elsewhere, and that was one of the reasons that underpinned its decision to close Moora Residential College but not the school. That is an interesting point. Capital works was another reason. The other favourite reason was the previous government; it blamed the previous government for all its failings.

All those factors, obviously with the exception of the capital works, seemed to have fallen away when the Premier released this media statement on Tuesday, 4 September. All those things clearly do not matter anymore. I remember asking the Minister for Education and Training in this house earlier this year whether she would keep Moora Residential College open if the money was found from sources external to government to deal with the capital works and she said very simply, "No"—two letters; no. I am not sure what has changed between me asking that question earlier this year and the Premier, in isolation, issuing this media statement on 4 September, but I suspect that there is some disagreement in the government. I suspect that the Premier made a decision, perhaps not even in consultation with his Minister for Education and Training. That may be a worthy question to ask in a future question time—the extent to which the Minister for Education and Training played a role in this decision when the federal government made its offer of \$8.7 million to refurbish Moora Residential College. I wanted to put those comments on the record by way of correction, if you like, because when I made my contribution on 13 September 2018, I was wrongly searching for a media statement from the Minister for Education and Training, when clearly the media statement came from the Premier.

I have mentioned at a few stages during the debate the position of some of the parties. Those parties will have an opportunity to rise when I conclude my remarks and further clarify their position on the Duties Amendment (Additional Duty for Foreign Persons) Bill 2018.

I concluded my remarks yesterday by talking about some of the things that have been quoted, particularly by members of Pauline Hanson's One Nation about the National Party's proposed amendment to the bill. I want to draw members' attention to the fact that so far during the second reading debate on the bill, the leader of One Nation, Hon Colin Tincknell, has expressed a view that the tax rate should be somewhere in the order of 10 to 15 per cent, which is rather at odds with the media statement issued by his party when announcing a policy of a similar sort just days before the last state election, advocating for a tax rate of 20 per cent. I am not quite sure

why One Nation is not advocating for or, indeed, does not have an amendment on the supplementary notice paper to meet the election commitment it made at the last election for a tax of 20 per cent. Maybe that will come during the committee stage of this bill, if we get that far.

We know that One Nation is negotiating with the government. Before I get to that point, I want to talk briefly about One Nation's media statement, which I quoted from briefly yesterday afternoon. This media statement, headed "Pauline Hanson's One Nation WA announce housing priorities", was issued on 20 February 2017. It states —

Pauline Hanson's One Nation WA has unveiled measures to address Perth's housing issues and affordability in WA.

WA leader and South West Region candidate Colin Tincknell today announced the party's plan to stop 'dirty money' buying up Australian assets and in partnership with our infrastructure policy, ease the squeeze in Perth and generate major new infrastructure projects focusing on providing local jobs and prosperity for West Australians.

"All West Australians deserve access to safe, secure and affordable housing in cohesive communities. Sadly, too many West Australians, particularly younger people, find it difficult to put a roof over their head. Home ownership was the Australian dream but it has become the Australian nightmare in recent years," Mr Tincknell said.

"The major parties have supported and overseen rapid, immigration-fed population growth, which has placed upward pressure on land and housing prices. It is projected that another 800,000 new homes will be needed in Perth and Peel to accommodate the third world-like rate of population growth pushed on West Australians by the major parties.

Governments of both persuasions have also failed to crack down on illegal foreign purchases of existing homes and the flow of 'dirty' foreign funds into Australian property for laundering purposes. Combined, this is pricing many ordinary people out of the market," said Mr Tincknell.

Mr Charles Smith, policy spokesperson and candidate for East Metro District stated, "Tying these issues into our other policy we will hit foreign buyers with a new Foreign Buyer Additional Tax at 20%. West Australia will not be a City where dirty money is laundered and washed distorting our markets pushing everyday Australians out".

I make some observations about this media release for want of locating the actual policy, which I have not been able to find. The media statement and policy announcement are clearly driven by two things—one is the allegation that the government is somehow complicit in laundering dirty money into Australia and the other is to address the housing affordability issue. If they were the primary motivations for One Nation announcing such a policy and essentially supporting the bill before us, I would be interested to know how those two issues will be addressed by the passage of this bill. If we believe what the government and the Treasurer have said, which is that the market impact of this decision can be likened to a rounding error, in effect there will be almost no impact by this new duty on foreign buyers of residential property in Western Australia. It will be interesting to hear some explanation for how those two things that drove the motivation for One Nation's commitment of a 20 per cent tax would benefit housing affordability. As I said in my remarks yesterday, I think it will have very little to no effect on housing affordability in Western Australia; in fact, many other measures would probably make a greater contribution.

Obviously, we are aware that the government has been negotiating with One Nation on the passage of this bill. There was an article in *The Australian* of 7 September by Rebecca Le May titled "One Nation may back WA foreign buyers tax", so there certainly was no rock-solid commitment on 7 September. The article states —

A planned surcharge on foreign buyers of residential property in Western Australia may be supported by One Nation upper house MPs if the Labor state government accepts certain proposals.

One would think that the opening line of this article in *The Australian* would have suggested that One Nation would support the passage of this legislation only if its demands were met. It continues —

The Liberals have vowed to oppose the tax, saying it will drive foreign property buyers elsewhere and depress an already flat housing market.

The Nationals have also threatened to not back it if Labor does not use some of the money to reverse education cuts, an argument partly extinguished after the federal government promised cash to save Moora Residential College.

One Nation's WA leader Colin Tincknell said his party was working constructively with the cash-strapped state government instead of using blackmail.

"We don't horse-trade that way," Mr Tincknell told AAP.

But One Nation had asked the government to adopt certain amendments to the bill, and while talks continued, he would only say they were "all about fairness to the taxpayers of WA" and would "bring in even more cash to the coffers".

“At this stage, we’re looking at supporting it,” Mr Tincknell said.

Premier Mark McGowan promised a four per cent levy during the 2017 election campaign but has bumped it up to seven per cent.

One Nation wanted a 15 per cent tax, which the state government would not accept as it was “a bridge too far”, Mr Tincknell said.

He stood by the party’s decision to reject the McGowan government’s gold royalty hike last year, which would have been used to reduce the state’s crippling debt, but said he recognised households were now bearing the brunt of budget-repair measures.

The state government was spending too much on things that could wait until the budget was back in surplus, Mr Tincknell said.

These included pouring millions of dollars into a wave energy plant at Albany that will only power a modest number of homes.

“Indoor swimming pools in Collie is not a priority,” the South West MP said.

“If you really want to fund raise, stop pork barrelling.”

From the contributions so far in this debate, it is not clear to me whether One Nation intends to give effect to the commitment that it took to the election by proposing an amendment to the bill before the house to remove the exemption for 10-lot developments, and whether its support for the bill is contingent upon its proposed amendments being passed. The Minister for Environment may be able at some stage to clarify its deal with non-government parties to see the passage of this legislation.

It is interesting to note that there have been other missed opportunities for One Nation to implement its election platform, if indeed it is the case that One Nation will not move the proposed amendments that it issued both prior to and post the election. For example, One Nation has committed to a 20 per cent reduction in the number of members of Parliament. As is the case in most parliamentary cycles, I think an electoral reform bill will be brought before the house at some stage in the near future. That will obviously provide an opportunity for parties that believe in that course of action to pursue amendments in that area.

Another interesting budget saving measure that was advocated by One Nation at the last election was a 20 per cent cut in the salary of members of Parliament. This was reiterated following the election on 31 March 2017 in an article in *The Australian* by Andrew Burrell titled, “Get rid of one in five MPs: One Nation”. The article states in part —

Pauline Hanson’s One Nation says it will use its leverage in the West Australian parliament to push for a 20 per cent reduction in the number of MPs and to slash the salaries of all politicians by about \$30,000 a year.

The party’s leader in WA, Colin Tincknell, told *The Australian* he was prepared to take a 20 per cent pay cut when he starts his \$165,000-a-year job as one of three One Nation MPs elected to the state’s upper house.

And he said he would “certainly” push for a 20 per cent cut in the number of seats that would be contested at the next election.

It is interesting that when this house was dealing with another budget saving measure—as we are with this bill, some would argue—namely, the Salaries and Allowances Amendment (Debt and Deficit Remediation) Bill 2017, no such amendment was moved by One Nation to reduce the salaries of members of Parliament by 20 per cent. Indeed, no contribution was made by One Nation to the second reading debate on that bill. The only contribution made was by Hon Robin Scott, who opposed Hon Alison Xamon’s motion to refer that bill to a committee inquiry. One would think that if One Nation wanted to give effect to its policy to cut or slash members’ salaries, that would be the bill by which to do that, and that it would have supported Hon Alison Xamon’s motion for referral of that bill to a committee inquiry to examine such things. However, neither of those things happened on that occasion.

In returning to education, I refer to an article in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of 12 January 2018. If I am not mistaken, this was either the day on which, or the day after, the government had announced its revised position to not close Schools of the Air. The article is by Zach Relph and is titled “School’s in for summer”. I would like to quote a couple of extracts from this article. It states —

Emma Hogg, of Kinclaven Station in Rawlinna, welcomed the School of the Air announcement but said she would continue to advocate for the Goldfields Camp School to be reinstated.

“The fight is not over yet—the Goldfields Camp School provides interaction and keeps us together as a community,” she said.

Nationals WA deputy leader Jacqui Boyde backed Mrs Hogg’s calls and reaffirmed the importance of the State’s camp schools.

“The McGowan Government’s partial reversal of its cruel suite of education cuts is a show of regional West Australia’s ‘people power’,” she said.

“However the party remains bitterly disappointed that a number of Labor’s controversial cuts would still go ahead, including the closure of five regional camp schools.

The article went on to say —

One Nation’s Mining and Pastoral Region Member Robin Scott attributed the reversal to public pressure, while echoing a will to retain the camp schools.

“This wise reversal is the result point that West Australians who care can have a real impact on the political process:’

“At this moment, I am very happy to share with my constituents a feeling of elation, but there is more work to do.

“We need to confirm that there will be no cutbacks to residential colleges and no cutbacks to camps.”

I could not agree more wholeheartedly with the members I have just quoted in Hon Jacqui Boyde and Hon Robin Scott.

I now want to draw members’ attention to an article posted by *The Courier* on 13 March 2013. The article is by Sophie Moore and is titled “Protest over WA country college closure”. The article is about the rally that was held at Parliament House at the beginning of this year when Parliament began sitting for the 2018 parliamentary session. It states in part —

Robin Scott, the One Nation member for the Mining and Pastoral region, says all of the planned education cuts are counterproductive.

“If the government persists with chiselling rural youngsters out of their educational opportunities, they will never be forgiven,” Mr Scott said.

Point of Order

Hon CHARLES SMITH: Mr Acting President, I draw your attention to standing order 48. We are debating a foreign buyers’ tax, not an education tax.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Robin Chapple): There is no point of order. Thank you.

Debate Resumed

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: I will start again —

Robin Scott, the One Nation member for the Mining and Pastoral region, says all of the planned education cuts are counterproductive.

“If the government persists with chiselling rural youngsters out of their educational opportunities, they will never be forgiven,” Mr Scott said.

Tuesday’s rally follows a protest by the Country Women’s Association, the first in its 94-year history.

The government has previously backflipped on \$23 million in education cuts, leaving it to scrape savings from other departments.

I guess the observations I have made during the course of my contribution over three sitting days is that it is all too easy for us as members of Parliament to lend our support to campaigns in the community and to speak positively in the media. However, the question is how will we use the power that we have in this chamber to give effect to things that we want to see changed. That will obviously be the test of this chamber at a later stage as the debate on this bill progresses.

I now want to quote a tweet from Hon Colin Tincknell on 12 January this year, in which he said —

One Nation WA is working hard to defend country and regional people in this state. That is the our promise! City centric policy like the one made on the run with no consultation for **education** by this Labor government is happening too often!

I want to mention another post that was made on 11 January, the day prior. This was around the time, if members recall, when the government had reversed part of the \$64 million in education cuts that it had announced the previous month in December 2017. It is a post by Hon Colin Tincknell on Facebook titled “Education Announcement: A Good Decision, but not Enough”. The post states in part —

The decision by the State Government to reverse some of their \$64 million in education funding cuts has been welcomed by Colin Tincknell, MLC for the South West region and leader of One Nation WA, however he believes the decision to review and reverse the funding cuts should have covered the entire package.

Mr Tincknell said, “I congratulate the Government on listening to community concerns over the \$64 million cuts in funding to education. The decision regarding the School of the Air, funding cuts for the gifted and talented student programs, Northam residential college and the intake into the level 3 classroom teacher program will no longer be on hold, are welcome.”

“However, the Government needs to address the other elements of the package. The closure of the Landsdale School Farm, which has a main focus on students with a disability, is a poor decision, as is the one to raise the cost of vacation swimming lessons from \$13.40 to \$30.00. Equally the closure of the Moora Residential College, the closure of six Education Department run school camp sites, programs delivered at Canning College being only available to fee paying international students and the total closure of Tuart College, are all very bad decisions.”

“The value of delivering education and education services cannot be measured in dollars and cents alone. The amended savings figure of \$41 million is miniscule to the value of education. The cost of education is an investment in the future of WA. The One Nation members of Parliament will work tirelessly to have the remaining cuts reversed,” Mr Tincknell concluded.

They are strong words, particularly in that last paragraph, about the efforts to which One Nation will go to make sure that all the funding cuts for education services will be reversed by this government under One Nation’s watch.

This culminated in a rally held last Tuesday. I have already reflected to some degree on that rally. If I am not mistaken, that was the third rally held at Parliament House. The first was the rally held at the beginning of the 2018 sitting period. The second was the rally initiated by the Country Women’s Association. By the time we got to the third rally, the government had reversed a number of its decisions, in particular to close Schools of the Air and to close the Moora and Northam Residential Colleges, among other things. The rally was well attended, despite the fact that the campaigns that had pushed for the education cuts to be reversed in full had already forced the government into reversing those decisions.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: Before we were rudely interrupted by the lunchbreak, I was talking about the rally held at Parliament last week. I thought there were a number of really eloquent speakers who put the causes of their campaigns quite succinctly, and at times quite emotionally. They are people who are invested in what they think is the right thing and their message was strong in speaking to the government about what these funding reductions, particularly in the education space, will mean to them, their organisations and to the people in the communities where they offer a service. In anticipation of moving my amendment, the Nationals WA has been accused of holding the government to ransom and I have mentioned some direct quotes to that effect. It is certainly one thing to make a commitment in opposition—to freeze TAFE fees at a cost of \$23 million over forward estimates—and it is only reasonable to expect that any opposition party that expects to become a government will have a financial plan to fund its election commitments. What I find rather unusual and quite different is how this government continues to link together its decisions in this way. We do not need to look any further than the second paragraph of the second reading speech of this bill, which says —

A surcharge of four per cent was announced in the lead-up to the March 2017 election to fund the government’s freeze of TAFE fees and to assist with budget repair.

The government is clearly linking this bill with an outcome, as it has done with other bills. That was the second reading speech of Hon Stephen Dawson, the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Finance, when the bill was introduced earlier this year. If members want to reinforce their thinking that that is the government’s approach, I refer them to a media statement on Wednesday, 15 August 2018 issued by the Treasurer, Ben Wyatt, titled “Liberal and Nationals parties side with foreign investors over WA households”. The first dot point states —

- Members of the Liberal and Nationals parties put foreign investors ahead of WA families

A direct quote attributed to the Minister for Finance, Ben Wyatt, states —

“It is impossible that the Liberal and Nationals parties can make any argument about their concern for education when they have passionately expressed no interest in helping keep TAFE fees at their current levels. Clearly they believe the significant increases in TAFE fees under their watch weren’t enough.

In the second reading speech by the minister in this place—I am sure similar, if not the same, words were used in the other place—and in a media statement, one of many, issued by the Minister for Finance on the bill before the house, we have heard references in which the government clearly links revenue with expenditure. I have made the point throughout my speech that the government intends to raise \$123 million in revenue across the forward estimates and spend just \$23 million of it, giving effect to its election commitment to freeze TAFE fees. I am not sure whether it stands up to scrutiny that one could accuse the Nationals of holding the government to ransom, when in effect the government is saying to us, “If you don’t pass our bill, you don’t support a freeze on TAFE fees.” It has said this on other matters. We only have to look at another matter which will come before the house before too long. I refer members to the media statement, “McGowan government rejects sale of Landgate” from Wednesday, 27 June 2018 by Hon Rita Saffioti and Hon Ben Wyatt. The first dot point states —

- Landgate’s automated land titling service to be commercialised
- ...
- Decision will fund Western Australia’s participation in the National Redress Scheme

I assume that if that bill is not passed at some future time by Parliament the government will issue a media statement saying that we did not support the National Redress Scheme because we did not support its bill to commercialise—the government’s word—part of Landgate. The media statement says —

The decision will fund Western Australia’s participation in the National Redress Scheme and the State Government’s decision to remove limitation periods for all child sexual abuse actions, which, combined, could cost \$640 million.

This is quite an extraordinary way to introduce legislation, by linking funding decisions directly, by government media statement and second reading speeches, to the content of the legislation that is before the house.

One of the other arguments that members have prosecuted during the second reading debate has been about budget repair. Some members have even gone as far as suggesting beyond budget repair how the government might use the windfall of \$100 million to fund certain things. Housing affordability has been mentioned by members as well as education. Those have been the two main things I have heard throughout the debate. Regarding budget repair, it is hard to determine how this government is repairing the budget, when we look at its own budget papers from 2018–19 and that net debt under its watch will exceed \$40 billion over the forward estimates. I am not quite sure which part of the budget the government is repairing, but it is adding \$7.78 billion to net debt from the period 2017–18 to the end of its current forward estimates. This is a government that carried on and on about state debt, and still does. I heard the Minister for Education and Training at the rally last week stand up and say that she has had to make these funding decisions because of the forty thousand million dollars’ worth of debt that was left to the government. Obviously, its budget papers tell the truth and clearly ministers ought to read their budget papers. Some members from other parties have spoken about, as I said, the things that they would like to see this windfall spent on. I would like to know whether their support for the legislation comes with some assurance that the government will take action on those things. Labor backbenchers have been very absent from this debate thus far. What assurances have they sought from their government about some of these things? I am sure they would not disagree with everything that I have said and that they would say privately that they do not agree with all the cuts their own government has made. Then again, preselections are just around the corner!

A number of unresolved matters need to be explained throughout the second reading debate. We have engaged consistently with this bill in that we will not support its passage and give a \$100 million windfall to the government, after it allocates \$23 million to give effect to its election commitment to freeze TAFE fees, without some consideration of any number of the issues that I have raised—largely, the issues focused on education cuts in Western Australia and, in particular, within our regional electorates. A number of those decisions have been reversed, but there are some to go. The most noteworthy, concerning and front of mind is the way the government is going about privatising six camp schools in Western Australia, which I canvassed more extensively my contribution yesterday.

Amendment to Motion

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: At this point I would like to move a reasoned amendment. The Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Finance has moved that the bill be read a second time. I move —

That the motion “That the bill be now read a second time” be amended to delete all words after “That” and substitute —

the bill be read a second time only after the government commits to using the part proceeds of this additional duty to reverse its \$41 million cuts to education so as to continue the operation of Moora Residential College, camp schools, Landsdale Farm School, Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre and restore the 20 per cent raided from the agricultural education farm provisions trust.

By brief explanation, unlike other parties, we will not give the government a \$100 million cheque. If others are satisfied that the government will address these things in due course, I would like to hear those assurances given to the house before this bill passes this chamber. The Nationals WA will not give the government a blank cheque because we are not convinced that they are doing the right thing by the communities of Western Australia and we do not believe that this Premier is governing for all Western Australians. I commend the motion to the house.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Matthew Swinbourn): Members, Hon Martin Aldridge has moved a motion in his name to amend the motion before us. By way of explanation for the house, a member who wishes to place on record any special reasons for not agreeing to the second reading of a bill may move what is known as a “reasoned amendment” to the question for the second reading. Such an amendment is typically to leave out all words in the main question after the word “That” and to add other words. A reasoned amendment is intended to offer reasons for rejecting a bill. It may be declaratory of some principle adverse to, or differing from, the principles, policy or provisions of a bill; or it may express opinions as to any circumstances connected with the introduction or implementation of a bill; or it may be otherwise opposed to its progress. Supporting such an amendment is tantamount to opposing the bill. Erskine May’s *Parliamentary Practice* states the following rules that govern the contents of reasoned amendments —

- (1) The principle of relevancy in an amendment ... governs every such motion. The amendment must ‘strictly relate to the bill which the House, by its order, has resolved upon considering’, ...

An amendment on the second reading need not be confined to the contents of the bill but may refer to matters which are cognate to it. It continues —

- (2) The amendment must not be concerned in detail with the provisions of the bill

Nor should it allege defects which could be solved by amendments to the bill which could be moved in committee. It continues —

- (3) An amendment which amounts to no more than a direct negation of the principle of the bill is open to objection.

A reasoned amendment, if carried on the second or third reading of a bill, is fatal to further progress of the bill, and no order is made for the second or third reading on a future day.

HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [2.14 pm]: The Liberal Party will support this reasoned amendment. We do so because it adds consistency to our argument. Hon Dr Steve Thomas has very articulately expressed the views of the opposition on this issue; that is, we oppose the Duties Amendment (Additional Duty for Foreign Persons) Bill 2018 overall. We oppose it because the government does not have a mandate to increase the foreign buyers surcharge on residential properties from four per cent to seven per cent. We are doing it to be consistent. We are mindful that this reasoned amendment will, in effect, kill the bill. We do so quite justifiably. Quite frankly, the government has no credibility whatsoever for this increase in the surcharge. Labor went into the election with a commitment of four per cent. It is now seven per cent. We are doing this for exactly the reason the Nationals WA gave for this reasoned amendment—that is, to provide certainty to the education sector.

Over the last 18 months, the education sector has suffered enormously due to a lack of certainty. As a former Minister for Education and Training, I want to put some certainty back into the education sector to stop the grief and anguish that exists in communities right across Western Australia. We will provide them with the substance of finance to ensure the certainty that has been missing. It is deplorable that communities around Moora Residential College, Landsdale Farm School, Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, and Perth Modern School—right across the length and breadth of this great state of ours—have had enormous uncertainty over the last 18 months. We are doing this to provide certainty, which we think is eminently sensible. If this reasoned amendment gets up and this bill is defeated and the government brings it forward in the next calendar year, the barrier will be that the money will go directly to reversing those cuts in education. Those cuts have a hole in them larger than can be imagined.

Hon Rick Mazza: Just big!

Hon PETER COLLIER: Yes, very big.

The cuts have had an enormous impact. It is a direct result of the decision-making of those opposite leading to uncertainty, particularly the Minister for Education and Training. Let us look at some issues that are profoundly significant in education. I will start with Perth Modern School. The decision was made before the election took place and with no consultation whatsoever to put one of our premier public schools in the nightclub centre of Northbridge. That plan lasted all of a couple of months. On 14 May 2017, when the ink had hardly dried on ministers' ministerial certificates, the Minister for Education and Training stood in this chamber for 45 minutes while the gallery was full of people and said that the government was going to go ahead whether people liked it or not. On 13 June, the government changed its mind. That is how certain it was! The uncertainty that existed in the community for eight months was completely unnecessary. A decision had already been made. The minister said that it was not such a good idea to put it near the nightclubs in Northbridge and that it would put it in Subiaco, just down the road from where I live. That will be a marvellous centre with regard to parking et cetera! A lot of thought went into it! A lot of thought went into the multistorey school! When the government decided to take it from Northbridge and put it in Subiaco, the minister said —

“Due to the previous government's inaction, families in our inner city suburbs desperately need new school accommodation to ease enrolment pressures and Kitchener Park is the ideal location.

If Kitchener Park is the ideal location, why did the government not choose it in the first place? Why did it have to put the community through that nonsense for six months before it decided it had got it wrong? That is one example. The next example is the perfect reason why we support this reasoned amendment. It is in regard to education assistants. There was absolutely no justification whatsoever for the government to make any cuts to Moora Residential College, or any of the residential colleges or camp schools, and it comes down to the education assistants. I will tell members why.

We heard from the Minister for Education and Training that anything from \$180 million to \$200 million to \$220 million had been cut from education by the previous government. That is absolute garbage. We had the same issue with regard to EAs. All these EAs were apparently cut from the schools—anything from 300 to 450. But the piece de resistance was on Thursday, 23 August 2018, when the minister said, about the purported cuts by the previous government —

When the budget was at its strongest and revenue was at its highest, \$220 million was cut directly from school budgets across Western Australia. Over 600 teaching positions, 110 Aboriginal and islander education officers and more than 1 000 education assistants were cut.

That is absolute garbage! If the education minister honestly thinks that is correct, she needs to repeat it in this chamber and it will become a matter of privilege because she will be saying something that is wrong. We cut 1 000 education assistants? Give me a break! It was absolutely nothing like that.

To make one thing perfectly clear, in 2014 we asked schools to constrain their budgets based on the fact that we had had an unparalleled increase in funding for schools. There had been a 70.3 per cent increase in funding for our schools in our entire period in government. That was unprecedented. Yes, we did look into cutting back on education assistants because we had more than any other jurisdiction in the nation. No-one had the number of education assistants we did. So we looked at cutting back 350 education assistants. Let us have a little bit of perspective here: 150 of those education assistants were for students with anaphylaxis issues. We had one education assistant for every child that had a peanut allergy. One education assistant would chase this one child around the classroom or playground. Ours was the only jurisdiction that had EAs for students with anaphylaxis reactions. We decided to do what every other jurisdiction did and put it on online, so that all teachers had access to it. That was eminently sensible. The Bolsheviks opposite kept telling us we were spending too much, but when we tried to do something eminently sensible, what did they do?—"Oh no, you can't cut all those education assistants." Does the now government really want one education assistant chasing around Billy who has an allergic reaction to peanuts or put the money where it should belong? That was one of the things. Aboriginal and Islander education officers is a good one. I would love to know how many AIEOs the government now has. It will never, ever fill the gap. We had more AIEOs than ever before, but it just cannot be done. The shortfall in AIEOs cannot be filled.

I have always said that perspective is magnificent. The numbers the minister used were absolutely wrong. She told an untruth to this house, and I really challenge her to come in here and correct the record, or else prove that 1 000 EAs were taken from our classrooms, because it is wrong. I will finish on that one.

In 2008 there were 5 457 EAs in Western Australian schools. When we ended our term in government at the end of 2016, there were 7 561—an increase of 38.5 per cent during an increase in student numbers of 15 per cent. So perspective, guys, truth; that is what matters—truth. That meant an increase of around 233 EAs every year. Schools had certainty. They did not have the uncertainty they have at the moment. This nonsense about \$200 million of cuts to our education budget is garbage. The minister must know that. What about the \$46 million we put back into primary schools in 2015? What about the \$46 million we put into students with a disability and special needs in 2016? What about the \$18 million for the chaplaincy program? What about the \$113 million for maintenance? What about the \$20 million for the primary devices program? Those figures are fact. I again challenge the minister that if the figures are wrong, come in and dispute it—she will not be able to. She will again be misleading the Parliament.

Having said that, what I really love—this is why we have to support this amendment—is that the situation now has no certainty! Let us have a little look at the sleight of hand here. The government now prides itself on saying it will put 300 EAs back into the classroom using money that was an election commitment—wrong. Look at the budget papers, guys. It is not new money. Look at where in the budget papers it says education assistants will be put back into the classroom. The footnote reads —

- (a) Existing agency spending has been reprioritised to meet some or all of the costs of this commitment.

The government has taken money out of other areas of education to put into the EAs. That is because progressive Labor is making inroads into United Voice; it wanted 300 more EAs to buffer up the number of United Voice members.

Hon Martin Aldridge: Preselection.

Hon PETER COLLIER: That is exactly what it is all about, guys.

How can the government come in here, spruik this and say, "It's an election commitment; we have to do it", when it did not actually even do it? It took money from one part of the education department and put it into another. And you guys think you have the high moral ground on this? I would love to know whether the minister asked a schoolteacher whether they wanted an extra EA for two days a week or \$300 000 in the bank. What do members reckon they would take? I guarantee they will take the \$300 000 any day.

Let us get our priorities right, guys. That is why this amendment needs to be supported. We are now saying there can be no sleight of hand—"You can't do this anymore, guys"—and that money must go to education. The government cannot use sleight of hand and say it will not happen.

There was to be a reprioritisation of money from large secondary schools to smaller secondary schools. The hardworking Hon Donna Faragher asked how much money was saved from senior secondary schools; the answer was \$12 million. Do members know how much went to the smaller secondary schools? It was \$6 million. Where is the missing \$6 million? The good, hardworking Hon Donna Faragher asked exactly that question. What was the response? It was —

The balance of the funding was reinvested into other support for schools, such as additional education assistants and time for level 3 teachers to provide mentoring and mental health education in classrooms.

Caught out! You guys are as subtle as a flamethrower! The government thinks it can actually get away with this. All it takes is a couple of parliamentary questions and the government is caught out. This is exactly what this is all about!

I am a lifelong educator. I was the proud education minister of this state for almost six years, and I hate that the uncertainty this government has provided has caused so much unrest in our education sector. That is what we are dealing with at the moment. As a direct result of that, communities like Moora have suffered enormously. For the last 10 months they have suffered. The Minister for Education and Training is getting all indignant over there—tantamount to just saying, “Suck it up; it’s going to happen whether you like it or not”, and that is exactly what happened. As far as Moora was concerned, that went along with all the other education cuts.

There was a media release on 13 December, just before Christmas, when the government thought we would all be off eating our pudding et cetera, and would not even worry about it. The media release said there would \$64 million in cuts by the government. Six camp schools were to be cut, Schools of the Air was going to be cut, Tuart and Canning Colleges were to be closed, funding for Landsdale Farm School would cease, the residential colleges at Moora and Northam would close, the level 3 classroom teacher program would be put on hold until 2020, funding for gifted and talented programs in schools would be reduced by 25 per cent, and VacSwim fees would increase. There it was. It was released after Parliament had risen, so there would be no scrutiny of it. We were not coming back. We had the first quarter of the year off—these guys were obviously sunning themselves or skiing in Austria. All this funding has been cut, and there is no certainty. Imagine if you worked at the Schools of the Air! You guys will remember this over Christmas—they erupted. Imagine if you were a mature-age student at Tuart College, and all of a sudden your college is going to close next year.

It is the same at Canning College or Landsdale Farm School for students with a disability; imagine how they felt! There is no certainty. Then, again, the government read the political tea-leaves and thought: we better not do that; we have to get it right this time. Of course, the government backtracked on funding for the Schools of the Air, the gifted and talented program, level 3 classroom decisions, and accommodation at Northam Residential College. Government members backed off on them because they saw that the political winds were changing and there was a little bit of an issue in Darling Range. They realised that they had to stop this, so they made cuts, but remember that they did not reverse the decision on Moora Residential College. What a ridiculous decision that was. What a great community it is. Do you know what it came down to, Mr Acting President? It came down to \$370 000 per annum of recurrent funding. That is all that was. Government members said they would not do it and that Moora would close whether people liked it or not. That is exactly what they said. When it was put to the Minister for Education and Training after the decision was made—I will come back to that in a moment—she said —

Western Australians elected us to fix the pattern of the behaviour of the previous government, which was to recklessly spend and let debt and deficit to build up. I think West Australians, they know that we’ve had to make some really tough and difficult decisions but they know why we are doing it.

Really? Do government members honestly think that the people of Moora knew why they were doing it? Why did the education minister not go to Moora and ask, “You do know why we’re doing it, don’t you? It’s those terrible Tories; they did a terrible job.” Would they say, “Yes, we understand, minister. That’s fine; close our residential college”? What an absolute load of garbage that is. It is an insult to people’s intelligence from the education minister. Read the tea-leaves or read the community tea-leaves.

As far as the Premier was concerned, members should have heard him on radio 6PR on Wednesday, 5 September 2018. Do not forget that the government did not solve the problem. My good mate Mathias Cormann solved the problem. He gave the government \$8.7 million to keep Moora Residential College going. If it were not for Mathias, it would not be open. These guys cannot take any bows for that; they did not keep it open. My mate did. My mate kept it open. The government will pay for the recurrent costs. When Gareth Parker asked the Premier —

If it was good policy to shut the Moora Residential College before, why is it good policy to keep the Moora Residential College open now?

Mr McGowan said —

We always said that we didn’t think that it was justifiable to spend nearly \$9 million doing up the college for 25 students when there was other opportunities at other colleges around the place for the students to go to that were only half full. But the commonwealth has a different view; if they want to give us \$9 million I’m not going to knock it back.

What sort of a justification is that? The commonwealth government is going to give us the money so all of a sudden this policy decision that the government talked about is out the window. What a stupid justification. Gareth Parker asked him about the ongoing costs. The Premier said —

... will be up to \$500 000 but having said that, when the students went to another residential college there would be a cost there, so it’s somewhere up to \$500 000. We haven’t nailed that down exactly.

He has not nailed it exactly! What have government members been saying for the last eight months? If they do not know how much the recurrent costs will be, how could they close Moora Residential College? What an absolute insult. To keep Moora Residential College open is testament to the complete lack of certainty that these guys have provided to the education sector throughout Western Australia. These guys should hang their heads in shame. They have provided uncertainty in education right across the state.

I will also say, and I have told these guys before: they got an extra \$4.7 billion because of the result of the GST. They got \$4.7 billion. They are flush with money, yet we still have this issue that they are not making any determinations; they are not making decisions. The only decision they made was when the good Liberal–National government in Canberra gave them \$8.7 million. All they have worried about is upsetting the gold sector and the education sector and freezing members' wages but, in the meantime, government members did not mind taking a \$30 000 trip to Sydney to look at a high-rise school when they were not even going to build one! They did not mind taking the extra \$5 300 for an additional car by double dipping. They do not mind all that sort of stuff. They did not mind shifting the Premier 50 metres from Hale House to Dumas House. I thought government members did not have any money! We are not being unreasonable here. All we are asking is for these guys not to feed us this garbage. It takes us questions and questions and questions to get to the bottom of it, but we always do. Government members have been caught out regarding this funding. They have transferred some funds of the Department of Education to another fund and then said that it is new money. It is not new money. We are saying to these guys that we have given them a chance and they have stuffed up their opportunity. Give education some certainty. That is why the Liberal Party will support this amendment.

HON RICK MAZZA (Agricultural) [2.34 pm]: I also rise to support the amendment, for two reasons. The first is in support of country education. I think the Leader of the Opposition has thrashed that out pretty clearly regarding the impact that cuts have had in country WA. The second and most important reason is that I understand through the statement made by the President that this reasoned amendment, if successful, would kill the bill. That would suit me just fine because I have some grave concerns about this foreign investors tax and the impact it will have on the real estate market in Western Australia.

Struggling families and mortgage holders who are already under enormous pressure will be kicked in the guts even further. Even the day before yesterday, there was an article in *The West Australian* about the impact of the housing market in this state and the fact that a lot of people are struggling to maintain their mortgage payments. Some people are taking losses of \$50 000 to \$100 000 and they cannot get out of their mortgages because house prices have fallen by such an extent. If we pass this foreign investors tax, I am quite sure that a lot of foreign investors who will have to pay \$50 000, \$60 000, \$70 000 or more to get into the Western Australian housing market will simply not be there. This \$123 million that is supposed to be raised by a seven per cent foreign investors tax will certainly diminish greatly because investors will not come here.

In some contributions to the second reading debate, I heard an argument that we did not get it and this is about affordable housing. Affordable housing does not come from tearing down house prices. Affordable housing should be about reducing unemployment, improving wages growth and increasing the standard of living so that people can afford to buy a house, not tearing down house prices for those who already own a property. That is not affordable housing. It will mean affordable housing by basically ripping off other people. I certainly support this amendment. I hope it is successful and that people see reason, and that we are able to kill this bill.

HON ALISON XAMON (North Metropolitan) [2.36 pm]: I rise on behalf of the Greens to indicate that we most certainly will not be supporting the move to kill this bill. It is for a couple of reasons. Firstly, as has already been articulated, the Greens do not do cross deals. That is not the way we operate. We have never operated that way in the Parliament and we are not about to suddenly chuck out three decades' worth of practice and start doing it now. Secondly, I think the most important thing to point out in the context of this reasoned amendment is that the Greens have absolutely no desire to kill the substantive bill. My colleague Hon Diane Evers has articulated well the Greens' position on the Duties Amendment (Additional Duty for Foreign Persons) Bill 2018 so I do not feel the need to repeat why the Greens are very happy to support the bill in its substantive form.

One of the things I will express is my appreciation for the honesty in both the Liberal Party's contribution and also Hon Rick Mazza's contribution just then. They both made it very clear that one of the reasons they are prepared to support the amendment in front of us is that they do not support the substantive bill. I absolutely accept the authenticity of both Hon Rick Mazza and Hon Peter Collier representing the opposition in remaining opposed to the education cuts and I am happy to accept that is the case, but it has to be acknowledged in this chamber that both parties have also made it clear in this chamber that they are happy to see the bill die a death on its own terms anyway. The Greens do not hold that view. The Greens are very strongly of the view that it would be a very bad thing to stop over \$120 million from coming into the state coffers. I need to talk about the lack of authenticity that has been demonstrated by National Party members in the campaign they chose to run in their desire for support of the "kill the bill" amendment. I have been speaking out about the education cuts since they were first announced in December and I agree with the comments that have been made in this place about how much distress they have caused and how unnecessary it has been. I remain absolutely committed to wanting to see a reversal of the

education cuts. I think it was a mistake by the government to cut education in the way it did, or at all. Education is meant to be one of the cornerstone principles on which the Labor Party prides itself, and I think it was an error of judgement to make the cuts it has made. I absolutely accept that it has had a disproportionate impact on regional Western Australians.

I am particularly concerned that, over the course of the last few weeks when I have spoken to people—the same people I have been speaking to since last December about the Nationals’ amendment—is how deeply misled they have been about the nature of this amendment. People have genuinely been led to believe that if this amendment were to be supported, it would mean millions of dollars would be set aside to ensure that the money was repaid and the cuts reversed. When it is pointed out to them that the nature of the amendment is such that there will be no money coming in and that the bill will die in its entirety, the level of despair coming back from those people is palpable. People feel like they have been played for fools. They feel like they have been lied to about the nature of this amendment, because we know that a percentage of zero dollars is zero dollars. The Greens are not prepared to play that game.

There has been a narrative about what the money is going to be spent on. It is true that we have been told that the money is going to be spent on election commitments around TAFE. That was not part of the deliberations that resulted in the Greens supporting this bill, because the reality is that we judge each piece of legislation on its own merits, and we determined that this was a worthwhile bill in its own right. But I will say something about the fact that it is going to be spent on TAFE, if indeed that is what it is going to be spent on. I keep standing in this house and talking about the need for additional investment in TAFE, so if that is indeed where the money is going, that is fantastic. We need it for this state. We know that the fees put in place under the previous government played a direct role in reducing the number of people being able to enrol in and attend TAFE. That was really bad, because we know that we need to further train up people to ensure that we meet future training demand for Western Australians, so I am glad if this is where the money is going to go. The reality is that the Greens do not seek to have money tied for certain purposes; but in any event, what would that matter when we have a situation in which the Nationals are trying to ensure that no money is raised? There will not be any reversal of cuts if that occurs.

What I did not hear during the more than two hours’ contribution by Hon Martin Aldridge was where the Nationals WA actually stand on the issue of foreign duties. It is very unclear. The Liberal Party has been very honest and up-front and has articulated clearly why it objects; Hon Rick Mazza has been very clear and honest about why he objects to the particular substantive position of the bill. But we are yet to hear where the National Party actually stands on this. All we know is that it is keen to blackmail the government into achieving a particular outcome through a mechanism that would mean that that outcome could not be achieved. If that is not fundamentally dishonest, I have absolutely no idea what is.

I would like to talk a bit about the campaign that has been run. It is absolutely true that the level of outrage, despair and distress experienced by people in the Moora community needed to be acknowledged. The day I found out that the federal Liberal government had decided to fund Moora Residential College and that the state government had as a result made the decision to ensure that the college stayed open I, for one, was thrilled; I was really happy. I was very, very happy for that community and those people, and I remember saying in my office, “Great. That particular campaign’s been won—really glad we’ve got that outcome.” But I am starting to wonder: is there a bit of bad blood around this? I am wondering whether perhaps there is a little misery coming from the National Party—that it was relying on this outrage continuing in order to achieve an electoral outcome. That has not happened because the bulk of where its energy was focused has effectively dissipated. I am glad that the Moora community has managed to achieve that outcome; it is a very, very positive thing. I think the decision to close the college in the first place was wrong and I think it would have had a highly detrimental impact on the families already living there as well as families who planned to live there in the future.

I have continued to work with people who are concerned about the decision that was made by the previous government—a government of which Hon Martin Aldridge was a member—to move the International School of Western Australia to the Doubleview Primary School site. That decision has continued under this government, but if it were to be reversed, it would save \$20 million from the education budget. I am very disappointed that that has not been seriously considered when we are looking at so many other cuts, including the cuts to Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre; we are really talking about a tiny amount of money for such an enormous investment. We are also talking about Landsdale Farm School, which provides a wonderful service and plays a very unique role within the education landscape.

I note that I am the only person who keeps talking about what is happening with Canning College and Tuart College, but we should be very concerned about what is happening with their reduction in course options—particularly for people who want to complete years 11 and 12 but may not want to go on to university. We have spoken about community kindergartens, we have spoken about the ag school, we have spoken about the camp schools—all these things, I think, are going in the wrong direction. I also think it was a huge mistake to remove Aboriginal education staff from the district offices. That decision needs to be reversed. I have had complaints from people in the regions including, interestingly, from the police, who have said that it is making their lives more difficult and that they want to see that decision reversed.

However, this is not the mechanism by which any of that is going to be achieved. As I say, I think it is fine if members of the opposition and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party WA wish to make a point. If they object to the substantive motion, they can certainly make their point. But if Hon Martin Aldridge is serious about wanting to reverse the cuts, there is a simple tool: we need only one more vote to pass the gold levy. I am quite certain that if that regulation were to be reintroduced, it would be possible for the honourable member to have discussions with the Treasurer and perhaps see whether half a billion dollars coming back into the coffers could make a difference. I suggest to the honourable member that if he is dinkum about wanting extra dollars coming in and wants to see them tied, that is a way through which it could actually occur.

Several members interjected.

Hon ALISON XAMON: I will be very clear for the honourable member—the grown-ups are speaking now, thank you—that the Greens will support the gold levy, should it be reintroduced. We need only one more vote. If the member wants to have discussions with the Treasurer, perhaps there can be room to talk about a reversal of the education cuts. Perhaps there can be talk about how we can lock in contracts for the community resource centres he has referred to. Let us talk about how there could be a whole range of moneys going into health and mental health in the regions. Let us talk about the extension of telehealth, which is an important and essential provider of health services in this state. We could talk about what could happen with the provision of community legal centres within regional centres. We could talk about how we could help family and domestic violence services for women, particularly in the regions. We could talk about how we could improve our child protection services in the regions; I am quite sure that Hon Nick Goiran would have a whole range of suggestions for how money could be invested in child protection services in the regions. We could make sure that we have more public sector workers out in our regions. We could ensure that a whole range of community services providing the essential roles for our regions were able to be put back in. A mechanism could be employed, because the reality is that if those negotiations happened around the gold levy now and it was made quite clear to the Treasurer that the Greens would support —

Hon Martin Aldridge interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon ALISON XAMON: The Greens are going to support the gold levy anyway, but as the member has made it quite clear that the Nationals' vote is up for negotiation because presumably they are ideological gypsies who stand for nothing, they can surely enter into negotiations with the Treasurer. That is if the Nationals are dinkum about it, but they are not. They are not dinkum about it. Instead, they are trying to present us with an option to kill off a revenue source that has no capacity to ensure that any cuts to education funding are reversed. If indeed the money is going to go into TAFE, it also removes the capacity for TAFE. What is the problem that the Nationals have with TAFE and training? I do not understand. I would have thought we all want to see significant investment in that area, but apparently not. Apparently it is not an area the Nationals want to see any investment in. I am really, really concerned about the way the Nationals have chosen to play this card. I am not sure when this reasoned amendment was initially put up whether the Nationals had the knowledge it was going to effectively kill the bill.

When I began talking to the Nationals about the amendment when it was first put on the notice paper, that issue was never put to me—not at any point. The amendment was very much put to me in the same terms that it has been put to members of the community who have been so concerned about the cuts; that is, if they support the amendment, it means that money will be set aside and that means that the cuts will be able to be reversed. They were very much the terms. It was not until last week, when I basically made it clear that I understood that this amendment was going to kill the bill and we would never see that money, that the Nationals said, yes, the amendment would kill the bill. Do members know what? The Greens do not engage in blackmail; that is not how we do it. We try to lobby the government, we try to make the argument and we try to raise concerns. We also have not been standing in the way of legitimate revenue-raising measures. Members in this place will always have different positions about what is deemed to be a reasonable revenue-raising measure and what is not. So far, the measures that have been presented in this place have been deemed to be appropriate by the Greens, so we have been prepared to support them. Some people do not support some of them. I note there have been consistent positions on the gold levy—for example, by One Nation, which has made it quite clear that it does not support the levy on its own terms—by the Liberal Party, by the Liberal Democrats, and by the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party. But we heard today that the Nationals are quite happy to potentially put anything on the table in order to get particular outcomes for areas they think need to be supported.

I am saying that we need one more vote for the gold levy. Is that not what people were chanting out the front? When I say people chanting, I mean National Party members. In this case, we need only one more vote in order to get the gold levy, in which case, go crazy. There are so many things that could be funded; there are so many things that could be put on the table. The Nationals could put things that they talk about on the table. Admittedly, I never hear them talk about mental health, alcohol and other drugs, health, family and domestic violence, justice issues or child protection—I do not hear those things. But I do hear about the education cuts and I have heard about the community resource centres. At the very least, they could be at the forefront of those negotiations. If the National Party was dinkum about this—I do not believe it is—it would immediately be getting on the phone to the

Treasurer, Ben Wyatt, and saying, “You know what? We want to see the money coming in to reverse these things. Let us start talking about the gold levy.” The National Party could tie those discussions in, because it has made it clear that its votes are up for grabs as long as it gets what it wants, regardless of how things have been presented. That is what the National Party has said about this bill; why not the gold levy as well? The Greens will support the gold levy if it comes back anyway. We need one more vote. Do members know what? There is one more vote needed, and then we will be able to get education cuts reversed, as well as a whole range of other changes. This amendment will absolutely not achieve that outcome. It will ensure only that a legitimate revenue-raising source, which the Greens support, will not make its way into the coffers and we will not be doing anything to help reverse education funding cuts.

HON COLIN TINCKNELL (South West) [2.55 pm]: Just to put it clearly right from the start, One Nation will not support this furphy amendment. We have given all the reasons that we support the foreign buyers tax. Hon Charles Smith gave a clear indication of all the reasons that we will support it, so I am not about to repeat those things.

One thing I make quite clear is that this has always been a policy of One Nation’s, and it continues to be. The government took it from four per cent to seven per cent and we would like it to be taken further to 10 per cent or 15 per cent if possible. We encourage the government to do so. However, whether it does that or not, we will support this bill, and we will talk and work with the government. Hon Alison Xamon put it fairly clearly that supporting this amendment means that there will be no money, and it is clear that the amendment was moved for that reason. It is really hoodwinking the public and trying to con everyone that there is some money, as the Nationals WA say, for education. If there is some money for education, it will come because of the foreign buyers tax or other taxes that may brought in. We will continue to discuss many things with the government, and we have done that ever since we entered this place. Hon Alison Xamon made it quite clear that to say yes to this amendment means that we will not have a foreign buyers tax.

Hon Charles Smith spoke about debt. Australians are drowning in debt and one of the reasons for that is more mortgages on family homes. This is crippling to future generations. We have said before why we support this. If people cannot buy property in other countries, that is up to those countries. It is up to those other countries to make those decisions. In Australia, we have decided to have a foreign buyer tax and it has been gradually increased around the states, and finally Western Australia is coming into line with the rest of Australia. Many countries similar to us have brought in a foreign buyers tax. They have brought it in for a reason. They believe that foreign buyers should be adding and contributing to tax and the resources, such as those that Western Australian’s provide to those buyers when they buy property. They believe that is a fair contribution. We have seen that in New Zealand foreign buyers have been stopped. At this stage, we have not put that provision in and we would not even support it. The reason for that is that most of the investment of foreign buyers, such as Chinese investment, is in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, not WA. I do not see us losing a great deal of foreign investment because of this foreign investment tax. Ninety per cent of Chinese investment has been in those other states.

I want to quote the deputy president of the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia, Mr Damian Collins. He was quoted by the Treasurer in his speech of 16 August —

“While there could be a slight impact from this, foreign investment only represents a small proportion of the WA property market,” Mr Collins said.

“Instead, the billions of dollars’ worth of key transport infrastructure spending will put the property market in a strong position to continue its steady recovery.”

That is coming from Mr Collins. Even he said that foreign investment represents a minor amount. A tax will not make major changes. Another quote on domain.com.au attempted to justify why it is a bad tax, but quietly shows that it is not. It is a quote from Carrie Law, chief executive of juwai.com, the Chinese real estate website. She said —

“In the second half of 2016 Chinese were investing in Australian real estate at an almost irrational pace. It was like money falling from heaven for vendors and developers.”

Guess what? It has stopped raining money and the real estate development industry will have to adjust and not simply ride the gravy train. It is not up to government to correct any disparity in markets. We believe that this is a good tax and a chance for foreign investors to make a contribution to the Western Australian public. We will not be supporting the amendment, but we will certainly support the bill.

HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Environment) [3.01 pm]: It will not be any surprise to members in this place this afternoon that we will not be supporting Hon Martin Aldridge’s amendment to the Duties Amendment (Additional Duty for Foreign Persons) Bill 2018. Acting President, I appreciate your guidance this afternoon on the fact that a reasoned amendment, if carried, in the second or third reading of a bill is fatal to further progress of the bill. We know that this amendment kills the bill. That is what it is about. I remind

members in this place, including Hon Martin Aldridge, because he seems to forget, that what we are trying to do with this legislation before us is fix the mess that his government left us with. It had eight and a half years. It wrecked the finances then and the Nationals WA seek to wreck the finances again today with this amendment before us. Shame on them! Members have heard in this debate previously that the government has committed to fixing the finances. Also, an amount of money from this bill will go towards freezing TAFE fees.

I remind members on the other side that it was the Liberal–National government—in fact, it was probably the now Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the other place—that raised TAFE fees by 500 per cent. Regional and metropolitan Western Australians are all suffering because of that decision. What is the National Party trying to do today? It is trying to wreck the finances again. This bill is about helping Western Australians. It is about ensuring that the entire burden of budget repair does not go on Western Australian families. With this bill, we are looking to foreign nationals who purchase a residential property in Western Australia to make a small contribution and start paying for the infrastructure and the services that are funded by Western Australians and they benefit from. That is what we are asking. That is what we are seeking to do.

This amendment is problematic for a number of reasons. Linking legislation to particular funding measures sets a dangerous precedent. This goes against treating legislation on its merits, which is one of the most important principles in this place. Let us be clear that this amendment before us is an attempt to kill the bill. It is trickery. I am pleased that at least the Leader of the Opposition and Hon Rick Mazza told the truth and said it straight out: they do not like the foreign buyers surcharge. Good on them. I appreciate them having a strong view. They said that they are supporting this amendment for that reason. That is not what the National Party said. It gave us a range of other reasons. It said that it was really a bit of a stunt. It was trying to put it out there and get 18 votes so that it could do some horsetrading. That is not what this is. It is an attempt to kill the bill. The National Party has not said whether it supports the foreign buyers surcharge. I suspect that it does not. I do not understand why it wants to put the whole burden on Western Australians. Why will the National Party not see the benefit of such a bill and let foreign owners pay for the benefits that they get from this state?

I was not going to take my whole time, but I want to make a few points. If it were not enough for the Liberal and National Parties to leave the Western Australian public behind with about \$41 billion of debt by the end of the forward estimates period, they are now seeking to increase that debt and wreck us. I ask the Leader of the Opposition: does he know who should hang their heads in shame? It is the mob opposite—the mob that was in charge of the treasury bench for eight and a half years. They left this state and the economy in the situation in which we found ourselves in March last year. We are seeking to fix that and turn around the economy in Western Australia. That is what we are doing.

Several members interjected.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Members opposite have short memories. They are hypocrites. The Liberal and National Parties' eight and a half years on the treasury bench led us to the situation in which we found ourselves last year. The National Party in particular is trying to make this problem even worse with this amendment. I will get a chance to respond to the second reading debate at some stage. For those members who have made a contribution, I will, of course, try to answer their questions, but I make the point that every other state in Australia has a levy. They recognise the value of a levy and that we should be making foreign buyers contribute to things such as infrastructure and services. That is what we as a government are trying to do in Western Australia. With those words, I say again that the government will not support this amendment.

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan) [3.06 pm]: Our good friend Hon Nick Goiran is away on urgent parliamentary business, but he indicated to me that that might be fortuitous, because, otherwise, he might be tempted to respond and participate in this debate on the Duties Amendment (Additional Duty for Foreign Persons) Bill 2018. Sadly for members opposite, I am still here and I am going to participate in this debate. I have been moved to do so by some of the claptrap that I have just heard trotted out in the name of debate from members opposite. Just to show that I can be positive about these things as well, I agree with the honourable minister when he says that he is looking forward to the second reading debate to tease out a few elements of fiscal policy and what successive governments have done, because I will be acquainting him with a few things then and I will reserve some of my remarks for that.

I notice that now, apparently in the last day or so, the former government has contributed a further billion dollars to the fictional debt for which it previously blamed us. It is now \$41 billion. What has happened in the last week to have it go up another billion dollars? Have some late accounts finally come in or something? Has Colin's bar bill suddenly arrived and exceeded all expectations? I will save my comments about that for another time, because there is a more serious matter here. I will say generally that I am fed up with the absolute pack of lies that keep getting thrown up by this government in our general direction. Let the facts speak for themselves.

What the honourable minister has just repeated with his prepared notes from the media outlet or wherever he gets them from—oh, he is doing his own now—is absolute rubbish. Perhaps the lies have been repeated so frequently that now those uttering them have started to convince themselves that they are true! They are not true.

They are absolutely untrue, and the way that the government continually misrepresents the fiscal situation in Western Australia is reprehensible. Be assured that Her Majesty's loyal opposition will not allow this to go uncorrected. It might take us some time, but I am sure we all agree that it will be worth it.

In relation to the process that is before the Chair most immediately, I have to tell members that I do not like this novel approach that is being taken. I just want to express the view that I hope that this type of reasoned amendment—I am not sure whether “reasoned” is meant to be couched in inverted commas—is not a technique that I would like to see become a standard practice in this house. I do not want to see that become a standard practice. I do not recall ever seeing its use employed before; I do not recall it at all. The effects of a reasoned amendment are twofold, as I see it. One is to address a specific debate that does not necessarily have anything to do with the bill that is before the house or subject matter that is not in any way directly connected with the policy of the bill. I do not think it is a desirable development if we allow that to creep into our procedures. The second reason I do not believe in it and why I would not like to see it become a standard practice is that it is the wrong way of going about dealing with this sort of bill. The substantive bill that is struggling to have its second reading survive is what we often call a money bill. It is captured by section 46 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act and, as such, it is specifically a bill that the Legislative Council cannot amend. The reasoned amendment before us has been employed as a device that holds out the prospect of perhaps achieving some sort of amendment to government policy through it connecting to this bill. That is not how it is going to work. It provides a vehicle to raise the concerns that the mover has raised—sure. But he could have and has done that in the context of the second reading debate, even though that will not change what the Duties Amendment (Additional Duty for Foreign Persons) Bill 2018 seeks to do, and neither will this reasoned amendment change it because it is not open for the government to say, “Okay, we can see the writing on the wall. We’ll agree to your prospect of reversing \$41 million in cuts or whatever it might be. Okay, we’ll tap the mat on that. We’ll agree to it in public. Please pass the bill.” That is not going to achieve the outcome the member wants. The government is not going to do that and neither should the government do it on this sort of basis. There is another vehicle that is available to the house. Again, it is not employed very often but it should be the vehicle upon which the mover’s aspirations are based. It can also be found in section 46 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act that I just referred to. In the case of a bill that the Legislative Council may not amend, that provision allows a message seeking amendment to be sent to the Legislative Assembly. That is another way that a member can seek to place their concerns before the government. I dare say it will not have much luck when it gets to the other place and then we will see what happens when its message comes back in return, but that is the measure provided for in the constitutional machinery of this state. I was surprised that that avenue was not explored or followed in preference to this one. Anyway, the mover can make his own case as to why he has chosen to do that.

I will conclude by saying again that the process we are following is not one that I would like to see become a standard practice in this house. It is all very well to make a point through this vehicle if that is what a member wants to do. But if everyone wants to start moving reasoned amendments, we will be going on forever debating some bills into the future as we deal with a series of reasoned amendments because someone wants to talk about something other than what is in a bill. No matter what members might think and no matter how bloody-minded someone might be about the politics that have to be played out in this place, the one thing that all members have to understand about this house is that the bottom line is that the house has to work. It has to function. I feel that we could find ourselves derailed somewhat if this sort of practice were to become a standard. The effect of voting in favour of this reasoned amendment is, as someone just put it, to kill the bill. I have heard that somewhere before—kill the bill.

Hon Michael Mischin: Two volumes’ worth.

Hon SIMON O’BRIEN: Two volumes’ worth?

Hon Michael Mischin: Yes, there were two movies.

Hon SIMON O’BRIEN: That might be a very good thing and instruct some members on how they vote on the question that is immediately before the house, but I suspect we will return in due course to the substantive motion, which is that the bill be read a second time. Perhaps then we might discuss and dissect some of the perfidious argument that we have once again been showered with from the government benches, but that is all something for us to look forward to later this afternoon, Mr Acting President. I wanted to make those observations in passing.

Finally, I thought that Hon Alison Xamon gave a very fine speech just now. I listened to it with great interest—the “one more vote” speech. I wonder where she might get that one more vote from?

Hon Alison Xamon: Hon Martin Aldridge. His vote is up for grabs apparently.

Hon SIMON O’BRIEN: Apparently she already has it teed up. The rest of us will not need to bother about that and I am sure the house will be grateful to learn that I will not have to comment further about that matter just now. Let us not see too much more of this device of a reasoned amendment regardless of whether the Senate or anybody else thinks it is a good idea because, ultimately, with all respect to those who have engaged in the debate, it is not a very good way forward for our house in the future.

HON COLIN HOLT (South West) [3.17 pm]: I will make some comments in support of the amendment. I have listened to the debate very carefully. This is an extraordinary measure to take and one that I cannot remember having occurred before during my time in here. It is an extraordinary measure to take to achieve an outcome that reverses the final bits of those education cuts announced by the government back in December 2017. Let us go back a little bit in history. I want to come back to that because the motivating factor behind this extraordinary amendment is the fact that we need those cuts to be reversed. In 2017, a range of policy decisions were made by the government to save \$64 million in the education space. Those decisions included the closing down of Schools of the Air, cuts to the gifted and talented program throughout schools, the closing of Moora Residential College and camp schools, the raiding of the agricultural education farms provision trust and the closing of Landsdale Farm School and Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre.

Hon Alison Xamon: And Tuart College.

Hon COLIN HOLT: Tuart College came close; thank you. Let us look at that.

They were the cuts. Every member here will know the amount of angst felt within the community, because how many motions and debates have we discussed in this place about those education cuts since they were announced? Since we came back, it has been the dominant feature of this chamber and the other chamber, I suspect, although I have not looked at it. It has been the dominant policy decision that has absolutely consumed this chamber. Have any of those debates changed the outcome anywhere along the way?

Hon Alison Xamon: There have been some reversals.

Hon COLIN HOLT: Not because of the debate in here. The first thing that happened is that people out there started to protest about the closure of Schools of the Air, as they rightly should have. It is an iconic education system, probably not repeated anywhere else in the world, and the government wanted to close it and replace it with something else. After much pressure, the Premier came around and said, “We’ve gone too far with our education cuts and we’re going to reverse them.” You beauty; one part of the battle won. Then we moved along and Moora Residential College was not part of that reversal. Who has been here for three or four rallies at the front of Parliament House in support of saving Moora college? For the first time in its history, the Country Women’s Association decided that it was going to march and protest on the steps of Parliament House to raise its concerns and to say that the government cannot do this to our regional education. Was that an extraordinary measure by the CWA? Was that a tool that the CWA used to bring about a change in that outcome? Of course it was; it went to extraordinary measures. It had not done it for 100 years. It marched on the steps of Parliament House to ask for a reversal of those cuts. Was it successful and were the other five rallies successful in getting anywhere near a reversal of those cuts? No, they were not. What changed the Moora college outcome? Someone from Canberra rode along on his great white horse and said, “I’ve got 8.7 million bucks for you. How can we negotiate an outcome for Moora Residential College? Here’s 8.7 million bucks on the table. How about we keep it open?” What did the government do? It kept it open. It was willing to negotiate that outcome because something else was on the table for it, yet we still have that last tranche, \$10 million worth, that the government is holding out on with its policy. I reckon we have tried just about everything, and that is what has led to this extraordinarily reasoned amendment to again raise the issue that we want those education cuts reversed. We want to save those camp schools, all six of them, except of course Broome, which has already been saved for some unknown reason. There is still no logic in my mind for why that one has been taken out of the mix, except potentially for political reasons.

Hon Michael Mischin: Who is the local member up there?

Hon COLIN HOLT: The member for Kimberley.

This is what this has led to: a desperate measure by the CWA ladies who decided they were going to break 100 years of history to march on the steps of Parliament House to demand it.

There have been questions about whether the passing of this amendment will kill the bill. Do members not think that there was another step way before this amendment was first flagged? It was to come to the negotiation table, just like the government went to the negotiation table with the federal government when it rode over on its great white steed with \$8.7 million. We have heard from One Nation members about how they like to negotiate behind closed doors to get outcomes for things that are important to them. How did that go in reversing the cuts? That did not deliver anything at all. All those debates and negotiations behind the Chair have delivered no outcomes in reversing these cuts. I dare say this last desperate measure to try to again raise awareness about reversing those cuts will fail, given the responses from cross-party members about not supporting this amendment. If the crossbenchers had said to the government, “Actually, we’re really keen on this amendment”, do members think it would have killed the bill? Do members think the government would have said, “Actually, we’re going to go ahead with it; you’re going to kill the bill and we’ll forget about it”? The government had a number of options. It could have come around and said, “Yes, we’re going to reverse the cuts. For the final time we’ve heard the message strong and clear, and guess what? We’ll ask Hon Martin Aldridge to withdraw or not move his amendment”, which he moved today. The government knew it was coming. If there had been negotiations, Hon Martin Aldridge would

not have moved his amendment today—you beauty; tickety-boo; off we would have gone and all would have been good—because the negotiation worked. The other thing that could have happened is that the government could have not brought the bill on for debate today and worked with all you guys who said, “I’d really like to get an outcome for education. How can we do it?” Did it do that? No, it did not. The government is the one that has linked education to the outcome of this bill—freezing TAFE fees, a \$23 million commitment. I have no problem with that, but the government linked it to education. Did it withdraw the bill, or not list it for debate and say to you guys, “I feel your angst”? No, it did not. It has taken them on their word when they said, “We’re supporting it because we don’t want to kill the bill.” It would not have been killed. The government absolutely wants this revenue measure. This is our last chance to try to bring the government to the negotiation table to reverse the education cuts. I think that chance has gone now. This was our last chance. We are getting towards the end of the year. Camp schools look like they are going off, even though we have not seen the contract or the terms and conditions; Landsdale Farm School is gone; and Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre is gone. This was the last chance to somehow say to this Parliament and this government, which did all those cuts in the very first instance, that they have caused that amount of angst in the community. We are doing this today because it is the last chance to have a crack at it, and we want to support the community and to raise awareness that the government just cannot do this anymore. It is an extraordinary measure, yes. It is absolutely an extraordinary measure, just like it was when the CWA marched on the steps of Parliament House for the first time in its 100 year history. People feel passionate about this, and we are here to do what we can and to use whatever tools we can, which we have done since December last year—we have used every tool in here—to try to bring about a change. It has not worked and this last desperate measure is not going to work. The government will get its revenue measure and it will continue with the last of those education cuts.

Division

Amendment put and a division taken, the Acting President (Hon Martin Aldridge) casting his vote with the ayes, with the following result —

Ayes (11)

Hon Martin Aldridge
Hon Peter Collier
Hon Colin de Grussa

Hon Donna Faragher
Hon Nick Goiran
Hon Colin Holt

Hon Rick Mazza
Hon Michael Mischin
Hon Tjorn Sibma

Hon Dr Steve Thomas
Hon Ken Baston (*Teller*)

Noes (17)

Hon Robin Chapple
Hon Tim Clifford
Hon Alanna Clohesy
Hon Stephen Dawson
Hon Sue Ellery

Hon Diane Evers
Hon Adele Farina
Hon Laurie Graham
Hon Martin Pritchard
Hon Robin Scott

Hon Charles Smith
Hon Matthew Swinbourn
Hon Dr Sally Talbot
Hon Colin Tincknell
Hon Darren West

Hon Alison Xamon
Hon Pierre Yang (*Teller*)

Pairs

Hon Jacqui Boydell
Hon Simon O’Brien
Hon Jim Chown

Hon Kyle McGinn
Hon Alannah MacTiernan
Hon Samantha Rowe

Amendment thus negatived.

Second Reading Resumed

HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Environment) [3.31 pm] — in reply: I thank members for all their contributions over the past couple of weeks to what has been a good debate on the Duties Amendment (Additional Duty for Foreign Persons) Bill 2018. I took copious notes and I want to try to address the issues that various members raised during the debate. I thank Hon Dr Steve Thomas for his contribution. Although the impact of foreign buyers on the Western Australian market may not be as big as on the market in Sydney, I am advised that, nonetheless, there is an impact.

I will put on the record the foreign persons surcharge in other states. When it was introduced in Victoria on 1 July 2015, it was three per cent. From 1 July 2016, it was raised to seven per cent. When it was introduced in New South Wales on 21 June 2016, it was four per cent. It was raised to eight per cent from 1 July 2017. In Queensland the surcharge was three per cent from 1 October 2016. It was seven per cent from 1 July 2018. South Australia introduced it at seven per cent from 1 January 2018. It was initially announced at four per cent, but it was introduced at seven per cent. Tasmania’s surcharge came in from 1 July this year and was three per cent. As members have rightly pointed out, a surcharge of four per cent was announced as an election commitment to fund the government’s freeze on TAFE fees and to assist with budget repair. However, in light of the surcharge increases in the other states, the government reconsidered and we have the seven per cent duty in front of us.

During the second reading debate, Hon Dr Steve Thomas labelled the surcharge as a “xenophobic tax”. It is a fact that foreign investors in residential real estate are treated differently in a number of countries around the world. Some countries, including China and India, do not allow any foreign investment in residential real estate at all.

Hon Dr Steve Thomas: Let’s not consider that a goal.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I am responding to comments that were made during the second reading debate.

Hong Kong, Singapore and the Canadian state of Ontario have a 15 per cent tax for foreign buyers. British Columbia has a 20 per cent tax. A number of places around the world already have these taxes in place. As Hon Colin Tincknell pointed out during his contribution, taxing foreign purchasers of residential real estate at a higher rate than citizens is a common theme in countries around the world. I have just advised the house of the figures elsewhere.

As I briefly mentioned in my comments on the amendment we have just dealt with, we believe it is reasonable that there is a rate in various places around the world. Foreign buyers should contribute to the cost of the infrastructure and services from which they directly benefit. Infrastructure and services have been developed and funded by Western Australian taxpayers over a long period. We think it is time that foreign buyers contributed to that too.

Hon Dr Steve Thomas also raised a concern that the people with the most to lose from the surcharge are the people trying to sell real estate, the majority of which will be Australian citizens. The member’s comments are on the basis that the impact of the surcharge on the market will drive down prices. However, Australia’s foreign investment laws generally prohibit foreign persons from purchasing established dwellings, and any reduction in the number of foreign buyers is unlikely to have a material impact on the prices of established homes. The member’s assertion that the people with the most to lose from the surcharge are Western Australians trying to sell real estate is incorrect. The honourable member also raised concerns that the surcharge would have a negative impact on the Western Australian property market and questioned the timing of the introduction of the tax. The surcharge is expected to have a very minimal impact on the Western Australian housing market. Data from the Foreign Investment Review Board and Landgate show that foreign buyers are a very small part of the property market in Western Australia and are estimated at 1.26 per cent of the total residential property transactions in 2016–17. It is no surprise that a 2017 report by Acil Allen Consulting—a report commissioned by the Property Council of Australia—noted —

... the amount that foreign buyers add to prices is minor and may actually be better described as rounding error ...

... overall, the notion that foreign investors add to dwelling prices is unfounded.

Hon Dr Steve Thomas also claimed the government is experimenting with financial policy. However, we know from the experience of the other states that there is no evidence that the introduction of a surcharge in those jurisdictions has had a material impact on foreign investment. I note that both Hon Dr Steve Thomas and Hon Rick Mazza said that the Western Australian residential market is different from other states, such as New South Wales and Victoria—or Sydney and Melbourne, I think were the words used—where property markets have seen considerable price growth. However, South Australia, which is a market that is more similar to Western Australia’s, also introduced a seven per cent surcharge from 1 January this year. In July this year, the South Australian Valuer-General revealed that median house values had hit a historic high in that state. They were up 2.41 per cent in the June quarter from the same quarter last year. In commenting on the June quarter results, the CEO of the Real Estate Institute of South Australia said that the June quarter had been nothing short of spectacular. A one-off surcharge is unlikely to be a decisive factor for foreign persons investing in residential real estate. Other factors, such as capital growth prospects and exchange rates are expected to be more important considerations for foreign purchasers.

I want to address Hon Tjorn Sibma’s comment that the cost of the surcharge will have a flow-on effect in the housing sector, which will make it more difficult for first home buyers to enter the market, and Hon Colin Tincknell’s request for the government to use the revenue raised to assist first home buyers. I reiterate that the impact of the surcharge on the housing sector or on house prices is expected to be minimal, given that foreign buyers make up a very small part of the Western Australian property market. As I said, it is estimated at less than two per cent. First home buyers already receive generous assistance from the government with the \$10 000 grant for the purchases of new dwellings. There are also transfer duty concessions for first home buyers who purchase homes with a value of \$530 000 or less or who purchase vacant land with a value of \$400 000 or less. Further, I add that housing affordability in Western Australia is currently as good as it has been for many years. I think this is favourable for all home buyers, including first home buyers.

During his contribution, Hon Nick Goiran asked why the government had increased the rate to seven per cent. As announced in this year’s budget, the rate increased from four to seven per cent to achieve national consistency. Other states and most jurisdictions I have previously outlined introduced a rate of three or four per cent, and subsequently raised their rate to seven or eight per cent.

Hon Nick Goiran: That's not what you said before the election.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: No, and I have said that; absolutely. I have said the commitment we made at the last election was four per cent. Since then other states have raised their rates. Western Australia wanted to be competitive, so we too raised our rates. Unashamedly, we have said our commitment was four per cent, but we have gone with seven per cent, and that is in the Duties Amendment (Additional Duty for Foreign Persons) Bill 2018 now before us.

I have a couple of other notes I wanted to put on the record. I thank Hon Charles Smith for his contributions on the bill. I appreciate that he supports the bill, but believes it did not go far enough. We have no intention of raising it to the 10 or 15 per cent suggested, but I appreciate the member's comments and contribution in relation to this bill.

Hon Martin Aldridge made a comment about deals being done. Absolutely no deals were done with minor parties or anybody else to get this legislation through. People have voted it through on its merits. I wanted to place that on the record.

Hon Charles Smith also talked about foreign investors leaving their properties empty. That was a good point to make. Of course, Hon Charles Smith has previously been on the record, including in September last year, urging the government to strongly consider the introduction of a significant foreign buyer tax.

I appreciate the acknowledgment of Hon Diane Evers that some of the income will go towards freezing TAFE fees. We made that commitment, and I think that will be beneficial to many, many Western Australians, many of whom have been priced out of TAFE education for the last little while. Hopefully, the money raised through this bill will help those people. The honourable member also indicated that she did not believe foreign buyers would be deterred, in that the main drivers for investing remained. I agree with her comments.

I thank Hon Martin Aldridge for his contribution to the debate. I got a sense that he was generally unhappy about the state of affairs. I said earlier on that members seem to forget the last eight and a half years, and the fact that we are trying to address the financial situation we find ourselves in.

With those comments, I again thank all members for —

Hon Simon O'Brien: Just before you sit down, where did the \$41 billion come from?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: It is not question time, member. But I will happily —

Hon Nick Goiran: Clause 1, forthwith!

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: — answer that for the member at another time.

I again thank all members for their contributions to the second reading debate today and over the last few days. I commend the bill to the house.

Division

Question put and a division taken, the Acting President (Hon Martin Aldridge) casting his vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (17)

Hon Robin Chapple
Hon Tim Clifford
Hon Alanna Clohesy
Hon Stephen Dawson
Hon Sue Ellery

Hon Diane Evers
Hon Adele Farina
Hon Laurie Graham
Hon Martin Pritchard
Hon Robin Scott

Hon Charles Smith
Hon Matthew Swinbourn
Hon Dr Sally Talbot
Hon Colin Tincknell
Hon Darren West

Hon Alison Xamon
Hon Pierre Yang (*Teller*)

Noes (11)

Hon Martin Aldridge
Hon Peter Collier
Hon Colin de Grussa

Hon Donna Faragher
Hon Nick Goiran
Hon Colin Holt

Hon Rick Mazza
Hon Michael Mischin
Hon Tjorn Sibma

Hon Dr Steve Thomas
Hon Ken Baston (*Teller*)

Pairs

Hon Alannah MacTiernan
Hon Samantha Rowe
Hon Kyle McGinn

Hon Jacqui Boydell
Hon Jim Chown
Hon Simon O'Brien

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

Committee

The Deputy Chair of Committees (Hon Martin Aldridge) in the chair; Hon Stephen Dawson (Minister for Environment) in charge of the bill.

Clause 1: Short title —

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: During the minister's second reading response he told us that one of the main purposes of this bill is to address a state debt that at the end of the forward estimates will stand at \$41 billion. I thought it was part of the minister's script that it was \$40 billion, or, alternatively, forty thousand million dollars. Can the minister explain how it is now \$41 billion?

Hon Nick Goiran: Don't use the number "4"—people get confused.

Hon Simon O'Brien: You promised you would answer me.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I thank Hon Simon O'Brien for his question. I am advised, member, that the \$41 billion figure was in relation to the debt forecast by the end of the forward estimates period. It resulted from figures released in the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement*, which referred to this figure of between \$40 billion and \$41 billion at the end of the forward estimates period.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: When did the government become aware that it was \$41 billion and not the \$40 million that the Premier and everyone else now says it is?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I think the member probably misspoke; it was never \$40 million.

Hon Simon O'Brien: Billion, yes.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: The member did say \$40 million. It was between \$40 billion and \$41 billion. It has been that figure; it was rounded up in the contribution I made today, but it was between \$40 billion and \$41 billion. However, since then, of course, that figure has dropped.

Several members interjected.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: If I may, the —

Hon Peter Collier: At this rate, we'll have no debt by the end of the day!

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: It depends, doesn't it?

Several members interjected.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: If I could just understand that, is the minister saying at the pre-election —

Several members interjected.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Sorry; I cannot hear what the member is saying. I seek your guidance, Mr Deputy Chair, to make sure that the member can be heard in silence so that we can answer his questions.

The DEPUTY CHAIR: Thank you, members. Hon Michael Mischin has the call.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I would like to get some clarity on this because the minister was saying it was in the pre-election financial forecast; is that right?

Hon Stephen Dawson: Yes.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Something that was created and obtained prior to the March 2017 election is the basis for the comment that, at the end of four years, the debt would be \$41 billion; is that correct? It is hardly current information; would the minister agree with that?

Hon Stephen Dawson: Yes.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Things have happened since, haven't they?

Hon Stephen Dawson: Things have happened since.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: It has been 18 months under this current government, so this current government should have made some inroads into that figure, yet that figure is still being touted by government members as the debt due to the previous government.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Looking at this year's budget papers for 2018–19, in budget paper No 3, the forecast net debt is \$40.853 billion in 2020 and \$40.413 billion in 2020–21. Obviously since the election last year, the figures have changed, but certainly the figures I raised earlier related to the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement*.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: It is still not even \$41 billion. We are talking about \$40.8 billion and then \$40.4 billion. Where does the minister get the \$41 billion from? Is that the pre-election estimate?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: The member was obviously not listening when I mentioned earlier that I did round up those figures. Yes, I rounded up those figures, but the fact remains that the debt is significant for this state and the bill before us seeks to start addressing that debt.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: What was the debt at the time that the McGowan government came into office in March last year?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Again, the PFPS estimates were the figures that we based ourselves on. This bill before us does not mention the finances at the time we came into government. The member can ask his questions but I do not have advisers with me who can go back to those dates; the advisers I have with me now are adept at answering questions on the bill that is before us.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Thank you, but I would have thought it was germane to the bill because the second reading speech—the policy behind the bill—states that the surcharge of four per cent was announced in the lead-up to the March 2017 election —

... to fund the government's freeze of TAFE fees and to assist with budget repair.

Can the minister not tell us the figure that the government was trying to fix? Can the minister not tell us what the debt was when the government inherited office?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I can tell the member that this bill will bring in approximately \$123 million, which will go towards repairing the debt that the PFPS and this year's budget papers highlight. The bill before us will bring in \$123 million but, obviously, since the election, a number of things have changed. Contributions have been made by the federal government and money has been taken away by the federal government. The money has fluctuated over that period but, regarding the bill before us today, I am advised that we estimate about \$123 million will come in, of which \$23 million will go towards freezing TAFE fees. The extra \$100 million, if the surcharge brings in what we anticipate, will go towards budget repair.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I understand that, but I also understand that it has been spruiked on numerous occasions that the government inherited a debt of \$40 billion. That suggests it was that at the time that the government took office. Relying on 18-month-old projections, the minister is saying that it will be \$41 billion, rounded up, but even now, after a year and a half in office, he cannot tell us the debt that the government inherited and yet the government is blaming us for a debt in the order of \$40 billion, give or take a few billion, because the rounding figure is pretty fuzzy—half a billion dollars here and half a billion dollars there. Is the minister able to say whether the McGowan government inherited a debt of \$40 billion, or not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I can give the member only the same answer I gave him before; that is, we rely on the figures that were provided in the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement*. The figure is extremely high and the bill before us seeks to remedy that by repairing the budget and also paying for a freeze of TAFE fees, which I think will be supported by many Western Australians.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I think this is important because part of the point that Hon Martin Aldridge made in moving his reasoned amendment was an objection to the second reading speech. It is on the basis of that and certain assumptions that have been made in the second reading that we have been asked to support this bill. It is also important because the figure of \$40 billion is constantly bandied about by the Treasurer and others, and in debate in this place. Now, when there are Treasury officials here to deal with a revenue bill, the minister cannot tell us whether that figure is correct. We are not supposed to worry about whether the fundamentals that underlie this policy are correct; we are supposed to look at the end product that it will help in some way. It is important because, as recently as 17 August, the Treasurer, using the government media office media release facility as an avenue for informing the public, publicly criticised our questioning of this legislation's policy by saying —

It is ... of great disappointment that after leaving the State with a record \$40 billion of debt, the Liberal and Nationals parties are now trying to block a measure that would require foreign property buyers to help pay down that debt.

The Treasurer is saying that, as at March last year, there was \$40 billion of debt. Is that correct or not, or can the minister not say?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I cannot comment on a media statement that the Treasurer put out. I do not have it before me. Certainly, as the minister representing the Treasurer in this place, that is all I do—simply represent the Treasurer. I cannot comment on what he has put out, whether it is through the government media office or anything else. He obviously stands by the statement he put out. I can only tell the member what I have told him before, so I cannot give him any further answers in relation to this issue.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: So when we hear the words “\$40 billion worth of debt inherited” or “\$40 billion debt left by the Barnett government”, we cannot be confident that that is correct. Let us get to the bill and perhaps the minister can help us with that. Was it an election commitment to impose this duty on foreign buyers in order to freeze TAFE fees?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: The commitment was in two parts. It was made around freezing TAFE fees and budget repair. We knew that the debt was significant so we said we would bring in this surcharge, and that would pay for both those things—repairing the budget and freezing TAFE fees.

Hon COLIN TINCKNELL: I refer to the exemption relating to subdivisions for the purposes of the construction of 10 or more dwellings. Why do we have an exemption for 10 when in other states it is quite a bit more than that?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I am told that the purpose of the residential development exemption is to limit any negative impact of the surcharge on the construction industry in Western Australia. Ten or more dwellings was chosen as the threshold for the exemption because it aligns with the definition of “commercial land” for Foreign Investment Review Board purposes. This is consistent with the approach of not applying the surcharge to commercial property. A lower threshold of 10 or more dwellings, compared with 50 or more dwellings in other jurisdictions, was adopted to ensure that the surcharge would not impact significantly on the new housing market, which would obviously have flow-on effects for jobs and the construction industry in this state. We were very mindful of not having an impact on those. Exemptions for commercial property transactions, including large residential developments, will ensure that Western Australians are not indirectly paying the surcharge through increased prices for housing, goods and services.

Hon COLIN TINCKNELL: The exemption would not apply if the residents were foreigners, or not Western Australians or Australians?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: If there is an exemption for the building, even if a foreign person buys into that building, they will have to pay the surcharge. Even though the building, by virtue of its size, may escape the surcharge, the individual who is purchasing a unit in that building will not escape the surcharge and so will have to pay it.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I would like to get back to understanding exactly how this election commitment ties in with those other commitments. Is the minister saying that at the time of the election there was a commitment to freeze TAFE fees?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I am advised that was the case.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Is the minister saying that there was an election commitment to impose a levy, surcharge or tax on foreign homeowners or buyers?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Yes, that is the case.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Is the minister saying that the two were linked—that the freeze on TAFE fees was dependent upon or connected with the commitment to impose this tax?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Again, yes, that is the case.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: The government is raising a projected \$123 million over four years—is that right?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Yes.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: How much of that is necessary to maintain TAFE fees at their current level?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: If I may, I outlined this earlier. In fact, I have outlined it a number of times during the debate, but I am again happy to outline it for the member this afternoon: that figure is \$23 million, or thereabouts.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Is that over the same period that the levy is being claimed?

Hon Stephen Dawson: Yes.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: The minister says \$100 million, give or take, is going towards budget repair; \$100 million is going to be applied to what the minister describes as budget repair.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Yes, member. That is correct.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: What does “budget repair” involve?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: It involves paying down the debt that Western Australia owes. It is—we have had this conversation—around \$40 billion to \$41 billion. It is a significant debt owed by the state, so this money will be put towards that and hopefully will go some way towards decreasing the interest we pay.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I thank the minister, but remember, we could not come to a figure as to what the debt was. We had an 18-month-old pre-election forecast that it would, all things being equal, be \$41 billion, or actually less than that; \$40.8 billion or \$40.45 billion, or something. The minister cannot in fact tell us what the debt was at the time, but we are looking at \$100 million to supposedly pay down whatever the debt was. How is it going to do that? Is it going to be earmarked and banked into an account in some way to pay down debt, or is it going to be available to consolidated revenue to apply to other purposes?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I am advised that this money will go into consolidated revenue, but regardless, the debt will be approximately \$100 million less if this bill passes through this house.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: If it goes into consolidated revenue, it will be available for the ordinary budget process, will it not? If it turns out that the Department of Education, for example, decides it needs some money for a Local Projects, Local Jobs, money-for-votes project, it will be available for that too, will it not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: As a result of the bill before us, the money will go into the consolidated revenue account, the debt will be lowered, and we will have to pay less interest. That is essentially it. It is in consolidated revenue, but there is a commitment by government to lowering the debt we were left with, and this will bring that amount down by \$100 million over the next four years.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: In fact, it will bring it down by \$100 million over the next four years until the government spends it on something else, because it is not being hypothecated; it is not being banked away in a debt-reduction account, is it? It is being made available in consolidated revenue to be spent as the government thinks fit at the time, correct?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: It is not being hypothecated; it is going into consolidated revenue. Again, I say the government is committed to using this money to reduce debt.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Is the government planning? For example, we heard a great deal about a windfall account that the Treasurer announced after the election. Any funds that happened to become available and that would be necessary to pay down debt would be put into it and dedicated to the function of paying off the debt, whatever that may happen to be. Is that happening with any of this \$100 million?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: There is an account already. A debt reduction account exists. This money is going into consolidated revenue, but we are committed to paying down debt and also putting some money into the account, as I mentioned.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: How much does this debt reduction account have in it at the moment after it has been operating for the last 18 months?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I am advised that \$98 million went in last year and \$355 million will go in in 2018–19.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Will the \$100 million gained from this levy over the next four years that the government is not spending on freezing TAFE fees go into it?

Hon Stephen Dawson: No, it is not going in there. It is going into consolidated revenue to help pay down debt.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I noted the concern of many that there were education cuts. Is it expected that any of this money will go towards reversing those cuts in the education department?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: As previously stated, this money is not to be spent on education. It will simply go into consolidated revenue, so our debt will be \$100 million less and therefore we will be paying less interest as a state.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: When the minister says it is going to be paying off debt, who does it get paid to? It goes into consolidated revenue. Does the government pay it to anyone in particular? How is it being applied to reduce the debt?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: If this bill ever passes this place, we will have an extra \$100 million in consolidated revenue. That then means that we will have less money to borrow and, as a result of borrowing less, we will have to pay less interest.

Hon COLIN TINCKNELL: Farms are commercial enterprises, but also residences. Will this bill apply to farms?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: The answer is simply no, it does not apply to farms.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I just had a couple more questions about the assumptions upon which this is being based. The minister answered a question without notice on 13 September. He was asked a question with reference to the foreign buyer surcharge and the fact that Landgate and the Foreign Investment Review Board do not collect data on the number of properties that will attract the foreign buyer surcharge. It asked on what basis Treasury arrived at the estimate that 1 000 properties would attract a surcharge and how Treasury forecast the total revenue. The response was —

The Department of Treasury estimate was based on Foreign Investment Review Board approvals data, which was adjusted in accordance with assumptions on foreign investment in residential real estate used in the commonwealth government's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics' report. It was also informed through discussions with other state treasuries.

Can the minister give us some more information about how the figure of 1 000 was arrived at, based on that information?

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again, on motion by Hon Stephen Dawson (Minister for Environment).

Sitting suspended from 4.15 to 4.30 pm

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**FREMANTLE NETBALL ASSOCIATION — PAVILION****862. Hon PETER COLLIER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I refer to question without notice 839 asked on 19 September 2018 regarding the Fremantle Netball Association pavilion for the southern suburbs netball hub.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that under the community sporting and recreation facilities fund guidelines, funds will not be available for projects that have state government funding in excess of 66.66 per cent of the total project cost?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that the state government's contribution to this project exceeds the guidelines and that the state's contribution to this project is 81.81 per cent?
- (3) On what basis did the Premier announce in October 2017 that the government has fulfilled its election commitment to provide \$1.8 million to the Fremantle Netball Association, given the CSRFF advisory committee did not meet until 6 December 2017 to consider applications and make recommendations, and the minister did not approve the project until 21 February 2018?
- (4) Why does the Minister for Sport and Recreation's media release dated 26 February 2018 announcing the latest round of funding under the CSRFF, and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' website, not include this project in the list of successful grants for the 2018–19 round?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The community sporting and recreation facilities fund guidelines, which are considered by the department in its assessment of projects, provide that the state will fund up to two-thirds of a project. The minister, as previous ministers have done, allocated a larger proportion of state government funding to deliver this election commitment to the benefit of netball families in the southern suburbs.
- (2) The minister approved the waiving of the maximum state funding contribution to deliver on the government's election commitments. The waiving of this condition is not unprecedented.
- (3) The \$1.8 million contribution to the Fremantle Netball Association was an election commitment to a facility serving the growing southern suburbs and used by approximately 5 000 women and girls on a weekly basis. Upon coming to government, further project planning was undertaken. This formed the basis of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' recommendation to the minister that that the project was ready to proceed. The Premier then announced this in October 2017.
- (4) The media release of 26 February 2018 listed the projects approved by the minister on 19 January 2018. The Fremantle Netball Association project was approved by the Minister on 21 February 2018.

SOUTHERN PORTS AUTHORITY — MINISTERIAL DIRECTION**863. Hon PETER COLLIER to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the ministerial direction to the Southern Ports Authority tabled in Parliament on 23 August 2018.

- (1) What were the termination payment obligations for Cliffs Asia Pacific Iron Ore Pty Ltd?
- (2) On what basis was Cliffs Asia Pacific Iron Ore Pty Ltd released from its contracted termination payment obligations?
- (3) Will the minister table the contract between Cliffs and the Southern Ports Authority, the operating agreement, and the lease agreements for shed 2 and shed 4 and the office building; and, if not, why not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The value of the termination payment obligations is \$50.2 million.
- (2) Cliffs Asia Pacific Iron Ore Pty Ltd was released from its obligations as part of the government's support package to enable continued iron ore exports from Cliffs Asia Pacific Iron Ore Pty Ltd's tenements by Mineral Resources Ltd and to help to retain jobs within the region, particularly at the port of Esperance.
- (3) The Cliffs lease agreements and operating agreement were entered into on 30 May 2014 and varied by the variation of operating agreement on 3 November 2016. The minister will seek advice as to the commercially confidential nature of these agreements.

HALIDON PRIMARY SCHOOL — ADMINISTRATION BUILDING UPGRADE

864. Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the administration building project at Halidon Primary School, which arose out of an election commitment by the member for Kingsley.

- (1) Can the minister produce and table a copy of any advice she received in her capacity as minister —
 - (a) regarding that commitment and prompting the project to be undertaken by the Department of Education; and
 - (b) regarding the progress and completion of that project?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) (a) This project was funded through the Local Projects, Local Jobs program. Again, I refer the member to Legislative Council questions without notice 570, 575, 616, 620 and 683, as well as Legislative Council question on notice 1578.
- (b) The work comprised a redevelopment of the current administration building. It was commenced on December 2017 and it was completed in January 2018.
- (2) Not applicable.

CAMP SCHOOLS — FAIRBRIDGE WA

865. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the minister's answer to questions without notice 819 and 842 asked this week relating to camp schools and the proposed commercial lease terms. Given that there are no specific terms or conditions proposed for catering, the types and number of camp activities to be offered, and the pricing of those activities, can the minister give an absolute guarantee that costs incurred by Western Australian schools and families for students to attend camp schools will not increase and that camp-based activities will not be negatively impacted under these new arrangements; and, if not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

The preface of the question refers to answers to questions that I do not have in front of me right now. I can provide the answer that I can give the member now.

Hon Donna Faragher interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The minister is trying to provide you with a response to a question that you asked. You might want to listen.

Hon SUE ELLERY: The requirement in the tender process is that the camp school services remain affordable and accessible to school students. This really is a win-win situation. I checked the history of price increases since 2008. I found that in every single year the prices of camp schools went up. In 2010 they went up by something like 5.5 per cent, but over the period that the previous government was in power, the prices at camp schools went up by 21 per cent. Every single year, the prices went up. The commitment given by this government was that the camp schools would remain affordable, and they will.

Hon Donna Faragher: What about camp-based activities? What about those? You won't answer that, will you?

Hon SUE ELLERY: If the member puts the question on notice, she will get an answer.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: The next member might want to sit down until his colleagues quieten down.

CHILD PROTECTION — CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE — ROEBOURNE

866. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the answer provided by the Minister for Police to my question without notice on 23 August 2018 in which the house was informed that there are 50 victims of the conduct of the 58 offenders charged as a result of Operation Fledermaus and the Pilbara joint response team.

- (1) Does the Department of Communities know who the 50 victims are?
- (2) If yes to (1), does the department know the ordinary residential location of each of the 50 victims?
- (3) Further to (2), does the department know the school enrolment status of each of the 50 victims?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) This question relates to Western Australia Police Force data. The Department of Communities is, however, aware of the names, ordinary residential locations and school enrolment status of all child victims identified during Operation Fledermaus by the Pilbara joint response team.

COLLIE FUTURES SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM**867. Hon COLIN HOLT to the Minister for Regional Development:**

I refer to the Collie Futures small grants program.

- (1) Please provide details of all applicants, including the name and address of the applicant; the project description; and the funding amount requested.
- (2) Please provide a list of all successful applicants and the funding amount for each.

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Regional Development, I provide the following answer.

- (1)–(2) On 7 September 2018, the minister announced the first tranche of projects approved under the Collie Futures small grants program with a total state government contribution of \$678 000. The first eight projects funded are: DC Two's modular behind-the-grid technology data centre, \$200 000; the Mellegers Family Trust's trails centre, \$100 000; Planwest WA's Collie distillery project, \$90 000; Global Marketing Technologies' Collie hay-pressing plant feasibility study and business plan, \$80 000; Collie Synfuels' Collie flagship project and fuel-cell vehicle H₂ infrastructure and distribution study, \$50 000; Collie Synfuels' Collie flagship project, liquid H₂ export option feasibility study, \$50 000; Collie Cycle Club's Collie to Donnybrook and Return Cycling Classic, \$8 000; and Keip Filtration's hydration hub, \$100 000.

A number of applications are still under consideration for funding and as such it would not be appropriate to provide details on all applicants at this point.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS**868. Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE to the Minister for Regional Development:**

I refer to a plan to streamline regional development commissions released by the Minister for Regional Development under a freedom of information request 295 days after the initial application was received.

- (1) When was the minister or her office first briefed on the proposal to streamline the regional development portfolio?
- (2) Has the proposal, or any aspects of the proposal, been endorsed by the minister or the state government?
- (3) If yes to (2), what plans have been put in place to proceed with implementing the proposal?
- (4) Has the state government instructed Parliamentary Counsel to commence drafting a bill to repeal or amend the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Regional Development, I provide the following answer.

- (1) As would be expected following a change of government, the minister was briefed shortly after the election on the structure of the regional development portfolio and opportunities for improvement. The proposal the member is referring to was prepared by the former Department of Regional Development in May 2017 and discussed with the minister's office around that time.
- (2) The proposal referred to by the member was not endorsed by the minister or the state government. However, it should be noted that as part of the 2017 machinery-of-government changes, the staff of the regional development commissions were transferred to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to enhance integration of the regional development effort. The minister has also reduced the size of the regional development commission boards from 10 members to seven to enhance effectiveness.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No, and there is no intention to do so.

INTEGRITY (LOBBYISTS) ACT

869. Hon CHARLES SMITH to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the Integrity (Lobbyists) Act 2016.

- (1) Have there ever been any offences under section 8(1) of the act?
- (2) Have there ever been any offences under section 24(1) of the act?
- (3) Does the government have any intentions to make Western Australia's lobbying rules more robust?
- (4) Does the government have any plans to place a requirement on those employed by government to be prevented from joining a lobbying firm for a set period greater than 18 months?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Public Sector Commission advises the following.

- (1) The commission has not instituted any actions under section 8(1) of the Integrity (Lobbyists) Act 2016.
- (2) The commission has not instituted any actions under section 24(1) of the Integrity (Lobbyists) Act 2016.
- (3) The Public Sector Commission's advice to government is that the current act is considered to be sufficiently robust.
- (4) The Public Sector Commission's advice to government is that there is no need for such a change.

FOREST PRODUCTS COMMISSION — "FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014–2023" — REVIEW

870. Hon DIANE EVERS to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Has the Forest Products Commission and/or the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions conducted a review or similar inquiry of compliance with silvicultural prescriptions in the past 24 months?
- (2) If yes to (1), was the review part of the process of preparing for the mid-term performance review of the "Forest management plan 2014–2023"?
- (3) If yes to (2), why was information about the review not included in the draft review report?
- (4) If yes to (1), will the minister please table the reports and any other data and information developed as part of the reviews; and, if not, why not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

- (1) The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions has undertaken silvicultural compliance activities. Questions relating to the compliance activities of the Forest Products Commission should be directed to the Minister for Forestry.
- (2) Yes.
- (3)–(4) The "Forest management plan 2014–2023" draft mid-term performance review includes reporting against key performance indicator 17—silvicultural outcomes for the area cutover—which is drawn from ongoing monitoring undertaken by DBCA.

PLUTO LNG TRUCK LOADING FACILITY

871. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the application for planning approval for Woodside's plans for the Pluto LNG truck loading facility, which is approximately 1.4 kilometres from the nearest boundary of Murujuga National Park.

- (1) Was a works approval needed for the Pluto LNG truck loading facility?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), has one been granted and will the minister table it?
- (4) Is a licence to operate needed for this facility?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?
- (6) If yes to (4), has one been granted and will the minister table it?
- (7) When will this facility commence operation?
- (8) Can this facility operate without any approved licences?
- (9) If yes to (8), why and how?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

Madam President, this is a nine-part question. I have provided an answer today but I just draw that to your attention.

- (1) No.
- (2)–(6) Woodside Burrup Pty Ltd holds licence L8752/2013/2 for the Pluto liquefied natural gas premises on the Burrup Peninsula, granted under section 57 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. The LNG truck loading facility is located within the licence boundary of the Pluto LNG premises and not considered to require a separate works approval or licence under the EP act.
- (7) Woodside Burrup Pty Ltd has advised the department that the LNG truck loading facility project is due to be completed in November 2018.
- (8) As the LNG truck loading facility is located within the boundary of the Pluto LNG prescribed premises and the department considered that the facility will not change emissions from these premises, this facility does not require a separate licence under the EP act.
- (9) I ask the member to refer to the answer to parts (2) to (6).

CITY OF MELVILLE — INQUIRY

872. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:

Further to my questions asked in June and August, I again refer to the Department of Local Government—authorised inquiry into the City of Melville.

- (1) Has the report of the inquiry been completed; and, if so, when?
- (2) Has the minister or his office received the report, or a draft of the report; and, if so, when?
- (3) Why has this report apparently been kept secret?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No.
- (2)–(3) Not applicable.

SOUTHERN PORTS AUTHORITY — WORKSAFE INVESTIGATION

873. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the minister representing the Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations:

I refer to the WorkSafe Western Australia review into allegations of workplace bullying and harassment in the Southern Ports Authority, to the minister's answer to question without notice 704 asked on 28 August 2018, to the *Albany Advertiser* report on this issue of 6 September 2018, and to the answer to question without notice 785 given on Tuesday this week.

- (1) Exactly how many of the claims of workplace bullying and harassment have now been formally found to be substantiated by WorkSafe?
- (2) If the minister's answer to question without notice 704 was correct on 28 August, when were they found to be substantiated?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations, I provide the following answer.

- (1) The Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 does not provide authority for an inspector to "substantiate" claims. However, section 48 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 does provide the authority for an inspector to issue an improvement notice if an inspector is of the opinion that any person is contravening any provision, or has contravened a provision, of the act in circumstances that make it likely that the contravention will continue or be repeated.
- (2) Not applicable. In accordance with (1), no claims were substantiated.

FRANCOIS PERON NATIONAL PARK — COSTS AND REVENUE

874. Hon KEN BASTON to the Minister for Environment:

Can the minister please supply the following records in relation to Francois Peron National Park in the Shark Bay region for the 2017–18 financial year —

- (1) annual wage bill;
- (2) annual maintenance costs;

- (3) annual vehicle costs;
- (4) total revenue from entry fees, camping and other miscellaneous returns; and
- (5) other grants received?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The estimated annual payroll bill, including overtime for Francois Peron National Park in 2017–18 is \$259 000.
- (2) The estimated annual maintenance costs, including materials and services for Francois Peron National Park in 2017–18 is \$130 000.
- (3) The estimated annual vehicle costs for Francois Peron National Park in 2017–18 is \$60 000.
- (4) Estimated total revenue is \$165 033.
- (5) There are nil.

STRAWBERRY INDUSTRY

875. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) What assistance is being offered by the WA state government to strawberry growers in WA?
- (2) What actions has the minister taken to ensure support being offered by the federal government comes to Western Australia?
- (3) Has the minister asked the federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources to come to WA to see the depth of the crisis facing WA growers?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Agriculture and Food, I give the following answer.

- (1) The Premier has announced a \$100 000 reward for anyone with information that would assist police with their investigations into the needle sabotage. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is working closely with the state's peak industry body, the Strawberry Growers Association of Western Australia, to determine what requirements and assistance the industry needs.
- (2)–(3) The minister has written to Hon David Littleproud, the federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, outlining the impact on Western Australian strawberry growers, and requesting details and administrative arrangements for the \$1 million of commonwealth government funding announced yesterday. The minister has offered DPIRD resources to support engagement with the industry in WA and to facilitate access to funding.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION —

“INTEGRATED ATLAS OF MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS”

876. Hon ALISON XAMON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the “Integrated Atlas of Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs”, the development of which was initiated in 2016 through a partnership between the WA Primary Health Alliance and the Mental Health Commission.

- (1) When will the integrated atlas be launched?
- (2) Given that a considerable amount of time has passed since the initial information needed to populate the atlas was collected, how can the minister be assured that the information contained in the integrated atlas remains current?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Mental Health Commission has completed a comprehensive review of the integrated atlas and has subsequently approved its publication, recommending it is utilised by the WA Primary Health Alliance and the Mental Health Commission for planning and policy purposes. The MHC and WAPHA are now in discussion regarding a publication date with an expectation that this will occur in October 2018.
- (2) The completed integrated atlas includes only services that are considered stable—that is, those that have been funded for more than three years or have funding secured for three years—with 20 per cent or more clients with a mental health diagnosis. The underlying data within the atlas is therefore unlikely to have varied significantly. The Mental Health Commission is continuing to liaise with WAPHA to determine options for updating the atlas in future.

CITY OF SWAN — MIDLAND OVAL REDEVELOPMENT — REVIEW

877. Hon TIM CLIFFORD to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:

I thank the minister for his responses to my questions regarding the review conducted by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries into the City of Swan and its adherence to the Local Government Act 1995 in regard to the Midland Oval development.

- (1) What were the terms of the review and, specifically, did the review take into consideration the process relating to the development and advertising of a business plan?
- (2) Has the review been completed?
- (3) If yes to (2), what were the outcomes of the review and were any actions required of the City of Swan as a result of the review?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The review is considering whether actions taken by the City of Swan in its Midland Oval redevelopment have been compliant with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995, particularly the requirements of section 3.59 of the act.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.

CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION — NORTH METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE — MISCONDUCT — GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

878. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Public Sector Management:

I refer to the whole-of-government response to the matters raised by the Corruption and Crime Commission in its “Report into bribery and corruption in maintenance and service contracts within North Metropolitan Health Service”.

- (1) As at 30 June 2018, how many of the 11 firms named in the CCC’s report remained on agency or departmental common-use agreements?
- (2) Can the minister table the details regarding the above CUAs and advise their current status?
- (3) As at 30 June 2018, had any of the 11 firms named in the report been awarded contracts by the state government in the preceding 12 months?
- (4) If yes to (3), will the minister table those details and advise the current status of those contracts?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Public Sector Commissioner advises the following.

- (1)–(4) The audit and review of existing contracts with the firms named in the CCC report is ongoing and the results will be made public once it is finalised.

CAMP SCHOOLS — FAIRBRIDGE WA

879. Hon JIM CHOWN to the Minister for Education and Training:

With Fairbridge WA being the McGowan government’s preferred tenderer for the six camp schools—Bridgetown, Dampier, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Pemberton and Point Peron—and in consideration of Fairbridge WA’s annual reports of 2014, 2015, 2016 that indicate that Fairbridge was running at a significant loss over those periods —

- (1) Would the minister please explain why she believes that Fairbridge WA has the ability to run the camp schools in an affordable manner and give continuity to its ongoing commitments to thousands of public school students each year?
- (2) How much has Fairbridge received in the form of government grants over the last five years?
- (3) If Fairbridge has been receiving government grants, please give a breakdown on a per annum basis.
- (4) Will the new administrator of the six camp schools be instructed to give priority to public school students or state-run schools who wish to access these important educational facilities?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Department of Education conducted a robust tender and evaluation process to select the most suitable proponent to manage the six camp schools.

- (2) I have been advised that Fairbridge WA operates over three areas: heritage and general accommodation; education through the curriculum and re-engagement in education schools; and as an accredited registered training organisation. Fairbridge WA receives funding from various state and commonwealth sources.
- (3) The honourable member would need to ask Fairbridge WA about its sources of funding.
- (4) Fairbridge WA has committed to provide public school groups priority access to camp accommodation during school term periods.

NORTH METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE — 2017–18 BUDGET

880. Hon PETER COLLIER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

What were the 2017–18 actual results versus budget targets and variance for the North Metropolitan Health Service for —

- (a) the total cost of service;
- (b) the net cost of service;
- (c) total equity;
- (d) the net increase/equity in cash held; and
- (e) approved salary expense?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The information is in table form by target, actual and variance for 2017–18, and I seek leave to have it incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated —

	Target \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
(a) Total Cost of Service	2,257,635	2,449,212	191,577
(b) Net Cost of Service	1,219,196	1,286,722	67,526
(c) Total Equity	2,041,907	1,967,636	(74,271)
(d) Net increase/equity in cash held	5,300	9,015	3,715
(e) Approved salary expense	1,289,481	1,388,748	99,267

INTEGRATED TIMBER PROCESSING YARD — EXPRESSION OF INTEREST 22/2107

881. Hon DIANE EVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Forestry:

I refer to my previous question without notice 41 asked on 14 March 2018 and the minister's response on the results of the integrated timber processing yard expression of interest.

- (1) Will the minister please table the assessment of the expression of interest responses that were due to be completed in July 2018; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Can the minister please provide an update on this issue since the completion of the assessment?
- (3) Given that the mid-term review of the forest management plan has found that the Forest Products Commission is finding it difficult to find buyers for its products, will the government reconsider how forest products will be managed?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Forestry, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No written assessment report was created. The assessment was a subjective review of information received by respondents to inform future tender processes.
- (2) As a result of the expression of interest responses, the Forest Products Commission made a decision to seek market interest in the production of veneers or other engineered wood products from the other bole volume resource. A request for proposal was released on 11 September 2018.
- (3) The FPC continues to seek new market opportunities for underutilised other bole volume. The current tender is part of this process. The forest management plan mid-term review confirms that this direction is appropriate.

KINDAIMANNA COMMUNITY KINDERGARTEN — ENROLMENT THRESHOLD EXEMPTION

882. Hon DONNA FARAGHER to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to Kindaimanna Community Kindergarten's request for an exemption from the new enrolment threshold for 2019.

- (1) Has the minister considered the kindergarten's exemption request?
- (2) If yes to (1), what is the minister's decision?
- (3) If no to (1), when does the minister intend to make a decision?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.

Hon Peter Collier: Another backflip!

Hon SUE ELLERY: Does the member want me to grant the exemption or not?

Hon Donna Faragher: Yes, I do.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Let us be clear about that.

- (2) I wrote to the parent management committee of Kindaimanna Community Kindergarten today to advise that I have decided to grant it one more year—2019 only—to transition to the new enrolment threshold from 2020 onwards.
- (3) Not applicable.

LANDGATE — PASTURES FROM SPACE — DECOMMISSIONING

883. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the decommissioning of Pastures from Space and related tools offered by Landgate to farmers and pastoralists across Western Australia.

- (1) How was the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development consulted on this decision?
- (2) Can the minister please table the advice provided by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to Landgate or the Minister for Lands related to this decommissioning?
- (3) Has the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development identified, or been asked to identify, private sector providers of the same or better services at an affordable price?
- (4) If yes to (3), please table a list of those providers.

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Agriculture and Food, I provide the following answer.

- (1) The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development was made aware of Landgate's decision to no longer deliver Pastures from Space.
- (2) Ongoing discussions are occurring between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and Landgate on potential alternative service delivery.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.

PRISONERS — MEDICARE ACCESS

884. Hon ALISON XAMON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the minister undertaken any work with his federal and state counterparts towards allowing prisoners to access Medicare?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1) —
 - (a) what work has been undertaken;
 - (b) is access to Medicare for prisoners supported by other states; and
 - (c) does the Minister expect a positive outcome from this work?
- (4) If yes to (3)(c), when?
- (5) If no to (3)(c), why not?

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes, noting that prison health services are under the governance of the Department of Justice and the Corrective Services Ministers' Conference has taken the lead nationally on advocating for improved Medicare access for prisoners. The Corrective Services Administrators' Council, comprising the heads of corrective services agencies, has established a national Medicare Working Group. In April 2018, the Minister for Corrective Services approached the Minister for Health to seek a Department of Health representative to participate in the working group. In May 2018, the Minister for Health approved the nomination of Dr James Williamson, assistant director general of the clinical excellence division in the Department of Health, to participate in the working group. The working group last met on 26 June 2018.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)
 - (a) See the answer to part (1).
 - (b) Other states and territories have historically supported improved Medicare access for prisoners.
 - (c) Advice received by the minister from the Minister for Corrective Services is that he recently raised the matter at the Corrective Services Ministers' Conference for the commonwealth and expressed his deep dissatisfaction with the current situation. The Minister for Corrective Services will continue to pursue these changes along with other state and territory corrective services ministers.
- (4) The Minister for Health will continue to collaborate with the Minister for Corrective Services to advocate for improved Medicare access for prisoners.
- (5) Not applicable.

JOBS — SKILLED MIGRATION LIST

Question without Notice 825 — Supplementary Information

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Minister for Education and Training) [5.04 pm]: I have some further information for Hon Charles Smith in relation to question without notice 825, asked on 18 September, that I undertook to provide for part (3). I have been advised that no government ministers have met with the Australia China Business Council WA to discuss the graduate skilled migration list.

TRANSPORT — MATAGARUP BRIDGE — SUPPLY AGREEMENT

Question on Notice 1582 — Answer Advice

HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Environment) [5.05 pm]: Pursuant to standing order 108(2), I wish to inform the house that the answer to question on notice 1582, asked by Hon Peter Collier, MLC, of me, the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Transport, on 22 August 2018, will be provided on 9 October 2018.

QUESTION ON NOTICE 1587

Paper Tabled

A paper relating to an answer to question on notice 1587 was tabled by **Hon Darren West (Parliamentary Secretary)**.

PAPERS TABLED

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

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES

Fifty-second Report — "A matter of privilege raised by Hon Jim Chown MLC" — Tabling

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Kate Doust): I am directed to present the fifty-second report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges, "A matter of privilege raised by Hon Jim Chown MLC".

[See paper 1945.]

The PRESIDENT: The report I have just tabled relates to the referral to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges of a matter of privilege raised by Hon Jim Chown, MLC. The committee has made three findings and one recommendation as follows —

The Committee finds that there is conflicting evidence regarding what was said between the Hon Darren West and Moora councillors, Cr Tracy Humphry and Cr Tracy Lefroy at the pre-dinner drinks function for the 2018 WALGA Wheatbelt Conference on the evening of 5 April 2018.

...

The Committee finds that the alleged contempt of the Legislative Council by Hon Darren West arising from the information that he gave to the Minister for Education and Training for the purpose of answering Question without Notice 329 is unproven.

...

The Committee finds that no other person committed a contempt of the Legislative Council in relation to this matter of privilege.

...

The Committee recommends that the Legislative Council take no further action in relation to this matter of privilege.

Made Order of the Day — Motion

On motion without notice by **Hon Simon O’Brien**, resolved —

That consideration of recommendation 1 contained in the fifty-second report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges, “A matter of privilege raised by Hon Jim Chown MLC”, be made an order of the day for consideration in the Committee of the Whole House.

BILLS

Assent

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following bills —

1. Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement Bill 2017.
2. Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2017.
3. Heritage Bill 2017.

TRANSPORT (ROAD PASSENGER SERVICES) BILL 2018

Receipt

Bill received from the Assembly.

TRANSPORT (ROAD PASSENGER SERVICES) AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by **Hon Stephen Dawson (Minister for Environment)**, read a first time.

Second Reading

HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Environment) [5.10 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill is to be considered in conjunction with division 2 of part 9 of the Transport (Road Passenger Services) Bill 2018, which I will introduce later on. This amendment bill seeks to introduce a levy on bookings for certain on-demand passenger transport services in connection with the proposed buyback of owned taxi plates issued under the Taxi Act 1994. Section 46(7) of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899 requires a separate bill to impose the levy, and that is this bill.

Pursuant to standing order 126(1), I advise that this bill is not a uniform legislation bill. It does not ratify or give effect to an intergovernmental or multilateral agreement to which the government of the state is a party; nor does this bill, by reason of its subject matter, introduce a uniform scheme or uniform laws throughout the commonwealth.

I commend the bill to the house and table the explanatory memorandum.

[See paper 1946.]

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — MEMBERS’ STATEMENTS

Motion

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [5.11 pm] — without notice: I move —

That members’ statements be now taken.

By way of an explanation to the house, I am sorry about that confusion. The second reading speech for the Transport (Road Passenger Services) Bill 2018 would have taken us beyond 5.20 pm.

Question put and passed.

PLANNING — TOWN OF EAST FREMANTLE*Statement*

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan) [5.12 pm]: The house should not rise for the break until I acquaint it with the following concern that has been expressed to me by both residents and representatives of the Town of East Fremantle. Several scheme amendments are currently being put up for consideration by the WA Planning Commission, and I am concerned that it appears that the work that has been done by the East Fremantle council, the community and others who are stakeholders in respect of these specific proposed amendments are being given short shrift. I will be raising in the house on another occasion the detail of these concerns. My purpose in standing now is to address the Leader of the House, as the leading minister in the government, to indicate my concerns about these matters, and hope that we can have some constructive engagement with the Western Australian government to resolve some of these matters.

When local governments in my region, or indeed in any region, approach these processes in good faith, at great length and at no small amount of expense, I think it is reasonable that they should be taken seriously and given a fair go. I hope that the government will listen to the matter I am raising, and perhaps we can pursue it to the mutual benefit of all concerned outside the chamber in the near future. That is a matter I will leave in the first instance with the government.

The second matter is a related matter that I also raise in the presence of the Leader of the House, I think in her capacity of representing the Minister Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts. Although the matter that I have already raised is very much about local government interests, the next issue is about a heritage matter. The Royal George Hotel in East Fremantle has closed, as the minister would be well aware. I think it was 1978 when I last had a beer in those particular premises, but I am looking forward to doing so again, as are many members of the community. However, the Royal George Hotel currently stands empty. I would hesitate to call it derelict; I think it is in pretty good condition and it is ripe for refurbishment and preservation as part of our heritage estate. So it concerns me greatly that according to advice given to me, it appears that the state government and the Heritage Council are not particularly interested in anything happening with the Royal George Hotel site. This is an important issue. Its future relies in part on one of the scheme amendments I referred to just now that has been frustrated by the Western Australian Planning Commission, and that is not good enough. We have a real gem, a real asset to the community, and something needs to be done.

If I just advise members in these terms, perhaps my remarks now will attain a greater currency. We all remember the saga of the Guildford Hotel, another heritage pub, which in past times I might have had a beer at as well, and I am looking forward to going out there at the invitation of East Metropolitan Region members and having another one in due course. The Guildford Hotel is a very strong parallel to the Royal George. The Guildford Hotel sat derelict after a fire, members might recall, but in due course, and with some good work by a lot of people, the Guildford Hotel is now back better than ever. It has been refurbished. It is beautiful. It is functional. I understand that it is doing an absolutely roaring trade and it is self-sustaining. Do you know what? There is still no sign of the five or six-storey new building that was meant to be built out the back to raise the capital to pay for the refurbishment. It does not seem to be needed. The Royal George is in as good, if not better, a position to be refurbished and redeveloped. It was sold recently by the state to a private interest for \$570 000. If a few of us had known they were flogging the Royal George pub for \$570 000, plus tax, I think I could have got a syndicate together pretty quickly just from my colleagues here. In fact, it might have been a syndicate of one! But that is another story. The community would welcome it.

To bring all of this together, the East Fremantle town community is very sensitive to new development; it is very sensitive to redevelopment and it is very sensitive to higher density development. Have a look at what is happening now in East Fremantle. Members will see a very civilised form of higher density development happening not only in the town centre, but also elsewhere, and of course there is the old Leeuwin Barracks site on the horizon as well. The Town of East Fremantle council, through its mayor, Jim O'Neill; its CEO, Gary Tuffin; and all the team—councillors and indeed ratepayers—is doing a great job to be proactive in these matters. Yet they are being frustrated; they are not receiving the support that is required to get certain entities that are within the control of government to come to the party. I think that is a pity. That is why I raise this now, to seek to engage with the government. I hope that it will be able to respond and perhaps we can proceed with these matters outside of the house.

FOOTBALL VIOLENCE*Statement*

HON MATTHEW SWINBOURN (East Metropolitan) [5.20 pm]: I rise tonight to talk about an appalling incident that happened in my electorate, not very far from where I live. It is the assault of a young football umpire at Mills Park in Beckenham. Some members may have read about it in the newspaper yesterday. I know that young umpire. He is a tremendous young man. He did not deserve to be assaulted by anybody under any circumstances. It is a sad indictment on our society that people feel the need to express their frustration by taking it out on those

who give up their time to adjudicate our great game. My son is part of the same association as the young umpire who was assaulted—the Demons District Football Umpires Association. My son was involved in a game earlier that day. Fortunately, he was not involved in any bad actions with the crowd or the players on the field because he had come home by that stage. I will read from the report in *The West Australian*. It says that the West Australian Football Commission —

... is investigating whether a Belmont player —

I might add it is the Belmont Redcliffe Junior Football Academy joint club —

punched the umpire to the head and neck while another two players pushed and shoved him after the final siren.

Belmont spectators are also accused of running on to the ground after the match to confront and threaten umpires and officials.

...

A witness said all umpires at the game had to run from the ground after the final siren.

This is appalling behaviour in any circumstance. Young boys and girls umpire these games. They are learning the game, like the players are learning the game, and they will make mistakes. They do not deserve to be assaulted and chased off the ground by angry parents, spectators and players, under any circumstance. Until we change our culture and attitude towards umpires at all levels of the game, unfortunately these kinds of events will happen. As I said, these children give up their time to volunteer to adjudicate games and they deserve our full support.

I am here tonight to offer my full support to the Demons District Football Umpires Association umpires and all junior umpires, as well as all senior umpires. I wish them well on the weekend. I hope they get their calls right; and, if they do not, they are only human. The rest of us could put on the green jumper and try to umpire a game. We would see how hard it is and what it is like to run up and down the oval all day and try to get every call right when 36 players around us are trying to go after a slippery ball. I cannot emphasise enough my admiration and support for members of the Demons District Football Umpires Association for their dedication and professionalism. I hope the young fellow concerned is not put off. He is in the junior development squad for West Australian Football League umpires and he will be the goal umpire this weekend, I think in the Reserves or the Colts. I wish him all the best and I hope he never has to go through that again.

PILBARA ABORIGINAL ELDER — DEATH

Statement

HON ROBIN CHAPPLE (Mining and Pastoral) [5.22 pm]: I rise tonight to make a very brief statement on the passing of a significant Pilbara elder last night at 7.30. I will give a full eulogy in October. This Kariyarra person was of parallel age to myself, born in 1947, and he and I have spent many years fighting for the protection of Kariyarra sites across the Pilbara. He was the nephew of former Aboriginal leader and personal mentor to me, Manny Lockyer.

Rest in peace, dear friend. You can be assured that, with your family, I will continue your struggle to protect the sites that you and I have wandered across over these many years.

COMMUNITY KINDERGARTENS

Statement

HON DONNA FARAGHER (East Metropolitan) [5.23 pm]: I rise to say just a few words on community kindergartens. Members would be aware that over the past few months, I have asked quite a few questions about community kindergartens. As members would know, I and the Liberal opposition take the very strong view that community kindergartens have a place within our education system. We believe that they are an acceptable alternative to kindergartens based on school sites. There may be only a few remaining—at some point there were 300-odd; I think it was when Hon Barbara Scott was president of the Community Kindergartens Association—but they are important. They are important to the families who choose to send their children to these kindergartens. Some of these kindergartens have been operating for more than 40 years and they mean something. They mean something to the families, the students and the communities of which they are a part.

Over the past few months, in addition to asking questions in this place, I have visited many community kindergartens—there are a few in my electorate of East Metropolitan Region—and through that I have met many wonderful kindy kids, who made me do Play-doh, run around the playground and all those sorts of things. I have also met many equally committed and dedicated parents and teachers. I have met parents, such as Narelle at Mount Helena Community Kindergarten; Cristy and Richelle at Glen Forrest Community Kindergarten; and Jo Matthewson at Bullsbrook Community Kindergarten, whom many members know. I have also visited Spring Road Community Kindergarten in Kalamunda, Pineview Community Kindergarten and Byford Community Kindergarten.

I want to acknowledge and thank the minister for giving exemptions to four community kindergartens that would otherwise have closed next year—Glen Forrest, Mount Helena, Kindaimanna and Byford Community Kindergartens. I recognise that the minister obviously sent a letter today to Kindaimanna to tell it that it will be exempt. Those parents and communities should not have been put under this stress in the first place. I do not accept that increasing the threshold from 10 to 16 students was or, indeed, is the right decision that has been taken by this government. Kindies that have small student numbers are equally effective as those that are larger. Importantly, I do not think it takes into account situations such as that at Mount Helena or Glen Forrest, where there is perhaps smaller population growth than in other areas.

Today I am delighted to think that the remaining community kindies that operate in this state will be able to open next year. I am pleased that the minister has seen fit to give exemptions to those four community kindergartens that would otherwise have closed, particularly given that tomorrow is the end of term 3. In that way, all the parents and members of the community who are involved in these kindies have the assurance that next year those kindies will be able to open. Again, I recognise what the minister has done, but she should not have put the parents under the stress that she has by the decision that she has made. Nonetheless, an exemption has been given for next year and that is a good outcome for all these students.

2018 PERTH ROYAL SHOW

Statement

HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.27 pm]: Members may have noticed a bit of heightened excitement and a bit of extra buzz and energy around the Legislative Council today, and I know why that is. It is because in two sleeps, the 2018 Perth Royal Show will open. I encourage everyone to get along to the Royal Show this year.

I will give members a little bit of background about the Perth Royal Show. The families that pioneered the state of Western Australia also founded the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia in 1831—so, in the very early days of the Swan River Colony. In its early years, the society's meetings were held monthly at the Guildford Inn, which I think I heard Hon Simon O'Brien refer to earlier, and were usually attended by the then Governor, Sir James Stirling. Later, the meeting place became the Woodbridge Hotel. The society still enjoys the patronage and active support of the Governor of Western Australia.

On 3 January 1834, at a historic meeting of the society, it was decided to hold an annual show. This show came to be known as the Fair and Cattle Show. The first Fair and Cattle Show was held on 7 November 1834. According to the society's records at the time, the colony's stock amounted to 307 cows, 96 working cattle, 97 bulls and steers, 3 545 sheep, 492 goats and 374 pigs. In 1890 the Governor advised that the Queen had granted permission for the society to assume the title of the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia.

The Governor's Cup is awarded each year to the exhibitor with the most points in the livestock exhibits, including sheep, cattle, horses, goats and alpaca, and rewards both excellence and consistency, while also promoting the quest for higher standards. The Governor's Cup is by far the most prestigious award at the Perth Royal Show each year. I note that whoever wins the Governor's Cup this year will have to prise it from the Squires family, who have won it the last five times, and I think they are seeking a record six in a row this year.

Twelve years later, in 1902, in return for land the society held in Guildford, the state government granted RASWA a site of 34 acres—13.7 hectares—in Claremont. An artesian bore was quickly sunk and the site was cleared and levelled at a cost of £13 000. The first show at Claremont was in 1905, utilising the buildings from the old grounds in Guildford, with a newly erected exhibition hall and a bar. Prize money totalled £3 000 pounds and attendance topped 30 000 people. The original area granted to the society was 34 acres, or 13.7 hectares, and this was later increased to 52 acres, or 21 hectares, and then 75 acres, or 30.3 hectares.

In 1927, RASWA signed a contract with the speedway to allow racing at the showgrounds. This led to the erection of safety fences and lights, as well as enlargement of the arena, to allow the racetrack to equal three laps to a mile. The speedway offices were located in the Musgroves Building, which was erected in 1930. The shift to Claremont in 1905 more than quadrupled attendance at the show, and the number visiting the showgrounds for the state's biggest annual community event has been growing ever since, peaking at over 460 000 people in 1997. The \$1.8 million main arena was completed for the 2000 Perth Royal Show, making a big impact on visitors. It provides greatly improved public access and viewing areas, drawing attention to the main arena competitions and entertainment.

So, in two days' time, members can hold on tight as the 2018 IGA Perth Royal Show explodes into full carnival atmosphere to entertain more than 400 000 visitors over a fun-packed eight days of action and celebration, kicking off on the first day of the school holidays, 22 September, and running through to 29 September. Free entertainment is always a big part of the show, with so much on offer. Members cannot miss the racing and diving pigs; the AgVENTURE Trail, an interactive educational agricultural trail with lots of new activities, offers and prizes; Farm 2 Food, presented by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development; and the IGA Cooking with Kids stage. Foodies will delight in the huge array of offerings at Taste WA. Capturing

the best that WA has to offer and including winners from the recent Perth Royal Food Awards, with a menu compiled by one of the state's most-loved and well-known chefs, Don Hancey, the offerings at Taste WA will be second to none.

There will be an explosion of unbelievable skills and thrills every evening at 7.25 pm in the main arena. Witness the “Shattered Silence” monster truck; amazing mini dirt bikes from the One 10 Ministyle demo team; and the ASP FMX team of elite athletes, performing extreme acts of skill and daring as they backflip 30 feet in the air on motorbikes. Also not to be missed is the Flight Centre fireworks spectacular to finish off the night.

I encourage all members to take the time to attend the 2018 IGA Perth Royal Show. I was at the showgrounds this morning, representing the Minister for Education and Training at the launch of the Farm Skills competition—20 teams across the state competing for the mantle of the best skilled group of young people in the state. I congratulate Don Chipper and his committee for organising a great event. I also acknowledge Royal Agricultural Society president Paul Carter, his able deputy, Dave Thomas, and Peter Cooper for organising yet another fantastic show. It will be worth the attendance fee. Please get along and make this the best Perth Royal Show ever. Thank you, members.

ADELLE COCHRAN — TRIBUTE

Statement

HON PIERRE YANG (South Metropolitan) [5.34 pm]: It is with a heavy heart that I inform the house that a former colleague and friend, the director of infrastructure at the City of Gosnells, Adelle Cochran, passed away this week. I met Adele back in 2013 when I was first elected to the City of Gosnells council. She was then the director for community engagement. She was forever helpful and provided objective advice to elected members without fear or favour. We struck a pretty good personal friendship and a very good working relationship. Sometime after my departure from the local council, I think it was in 2017, she was promoted to the role that she was in as director for infrastructure. It was a major role in the city, but one I thought she was more than capable of doing. A truly professional public servant who served the good people of the City of Gosnells for many, many years has unfortunately passed away. I know that she will be sorely missed by those who knew her. It is a great loss to our community. I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt condolences to her family.

TRANSPORT (ROAD PASSENGER SERVICES) BILL 2018

First Reading

Bill read a first time, on motion by **Hon Stephen Dawson (Minister for Environment)**.

Second Reading

HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Environment) [5.36 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

Before I give the second reading speech, I want to advise members that the bill was amended in the Legislative Assembly and the printed bar 2 version of the bill will be available to members tomorrow both in hard copy and on the Parliament's bills database. This is not the first time the Council has proceeded in this way. In the past, it was common practice for the Council to receive a manually marked-up bill when amendments were made in the Assembly and the bill needed to be introduced into this house.

The Transport (Road Passenger Services) Bill 2018 before us today represents the most significant overhaul of the taxi and on-demand transport industry in the state's history. Throughout its history, the taxi industry in Western Australia has been heavily regulated by government through a strict and complex legislative framework over many years. In recent years, we have seen the arrival of new entrants to the passenger transport market, primarily through the use of technology. The now common term for this phenomenon is “digital disruption”. This has occurred in many jurisdictions internationally, and governments in Australia and overseas have been grappling to deal with it.

Now in Western Australia we have a divided taxi and on-demand industry. Taxis, which have both significant start-up and ongoing costs, remain heavily regulated compared with other forms of taxi-like services, now referred to as on-demand. Many taxi plate owners are Western Australian small business owners, whose livelihoods have been significantly impacted by the changes in recent years. To that effect, this government is committed to developing an industry-funded taxi plate buyback scheme. Not only is a buyback of privately owned taxi plates a way to allow the taxi industry to move forward and modernise; importantly, it is the right thing for government to do.

After coming to government in March 2017, the Minister for Transport engaged the member for Armadale, Dr Tony Buti, MLA, to conduct a fresh round of industry consultation to discuss the possible terms of the buyback and how the industry could be reformed. Throughout 2017 and 2018, over 50 hours of consultation took place with taxi plate owners, taxidrivars, management companies, industry associations and booking services.

In November last year, the Minister for Transport announced a new direction for reform, including the terms for a buyback of owned Perth taxi plates so that the entire industry could operate under similar rules for the first time. The Transport (Road Passenger Services) Bill before the house today brings these disparate and outdated pieces of legislation under a single framework for the first time.

In addition to simplifying the legislative environment, the bill formally enshrines a voluntary buyback scheme for owners of metropolitan taxi plates, many of whom purchased their taxi plates from the government in a regulated market. The bill also provides transition assistance for operators in the Mandurah and Murray districts to facilitate their introduction to the Perth taxi market. Much of the reform focuses on removing restrictions in the delivery of on-demand passenger transport services to the public whilst focusing on safety for passengers and drivers. The changes represent a major shift and aim to encourage new opportunities whilst providing a robust framework for the regulation of existing business models and future models yet to enter the passenger transport market.

On-demand passenger transport services are those in which the times and destinations of travel are determined by the hirer or passenger, either for an immediate journey or for some time in the future. The most easily recognised form of on-demand passenger transport vehicle is the taxi. However, on-demand passenger vehicles are also those that can be chartered for specific purposes, such as smaller sedans for casual trips, limousines and luxury vehicles for more premium travel and special events, and buses for group travel.

Ridesharing, also known as ride-sourcing or ride-hailing, is the on-demand chartering of a vehicle through use of a computer application, whereby the driver uses the spare capacity of a private vehicle to supply transport to a passenger. The relatively recent emergence of ride-sourcing services have increased transport options for the people of WA.

Some passenger transport services that are not considered on-demand are covered in this bill. These are services whereby the provider, not the hirer or passenger, determines where and when the vehicle will go. These include regular route and timetable services, such as those offered by Transperth in the city and Transwa in the country, and organised tours with a publicly available itinerary. To attain greater efficiency and flexibility in the industry, whilst encouraging innovation and accountability for safety, the bill significantly simplifies the licensing regime for the entire hire and reward passenger transport industry.

Unlike previous legislation, the bill clearly defines the role of the person connecting the potential passenger with the driver and vehicle for the trip from the person who has responsibility for the vehicle and the person who drives. Until now, the only obvious recognition of the critical role the booking provider or dispatcher plays in the provision of service to the customer has been in the taxi space in which the Taxi Act required the registration of companies that dispatch customer requests for a taxi pickup to their driver networks. Apart from the inconsistent treatment of players in the same industry, a lack of regulatory oversight limits our ability to ensure that those interacting with the public for the provision of safe passenger services can be held accountable for their actions or even take responsibility for what they do. The bill therefore brings all those who take, facilitate or communicate a customer's booking for an on-demand trip into regulation for the first time. This includes the likes of Uber, Ola and Shofer, which have emerged as operators in the casual on-demand charter market, as well as traditional Perth and country taxi dispatchers and small and bus charter vehicle operators.

Safety of the services being provided to customers is the primary focus of the bill. The current legislation provides little incentive for people who are dispatching or booking vehicles to see the potential crash risks posed by driver suitability and vehicle roadworthiness as their responsibility or to work with drivers and vehicle owners towards delivering higher safety standards. Similarly, the requirement for taxi dispatchers to refer serious criminal matters to the Department of Transport for investigation, and the lack of requirement for anyone else booking trips for passengers to do anything at all, abrogates their responsibility to appropriately manage the risks to their drivers and the passengers who are paying for the service. This new bill changes that. It establishes clear accountabilities for all those involved in the provision of on-demand and other passenger transport services to the paying public for the safety of services they provide, similar to that already in existence for the management of health and safety risks in the workplace.

The bill imposes safety duties and standards on all those in the chain of service provision and gives authorised officers a range of compliance tools, including audit, improvement notices, infringements and prosecutions, to develop and maintain an industry culture of safety. The department will use information and communication technologies to monitor and address noncompliance with safety duties and requirements by industry. The bill allows for the exchange of information with on-demand booking services on driver and vehicle hire and reward authorisation status, which will support the booking services in their identification and management of risks.

The bill introduces a new requirement for all providers of on-demand passenger transport booking services to be authorised. The definition of "on-demand booking service" captures not just the traditional taxi dispatcher and new ride-sourcing companies, but also operators of small and bus charter vehicles that take bookings directly from a customer. It also allows for other types of booking arrangements to be captured in the future, as the industry continues to evolve. Drivers who take bookings directly from a customer, either as a private book of clients or at

the roadside through taxi rank and hail, will not need to be authorised as an on-demand booking service if they have an association arrangement with a booking service that is authorised.

Authorised booking services will be required to not only manage their safety risks within the chain of accountability, but also have a process for dealing with complaints and queries about the services that are delivered to the customer. They will also have to report serious safety incidents to the department for notification and potential investigation, as well as keep detailed records on the trips they deliver or facilitate. The department will publish a list of authorised on-demand booking services on its website so that the customer can have confidence that the people they are dealing with meet our minimum safety requirements. The government will also continue to have oversight over maximum taximeter fares and how fares generally are to be calculated and made known to the customer in advance; however, what these fares will be has been left to industry.

The bill will ensure that anyone driving for hire and reward, including those driving vehicles for community and courtesy transport, will have to be annually authorised as a passenger transport driver. It amalgamates the current F and T driver licence endorsement categories into a single driver authorisation, with appropriate medical and character checks on those applying, and ongoing monitoring of relevant police charges and medical suitability. The existing requirement for reports on medical assessment against the commercial fitness to drive standard to be supplied at intervals according to the person's age will be replaced with a requirement for medical reports every five years, unless it is the doctor's expert opinion that drivers should be assessed medically at more frequent intervals.

Vehicles used for on-demand, regular passenger route and timetable services and tours will continue to be required to meet annual inspection requirements for roadworthiness. To encourage the uptake of new vehicles with modern safety features and high Australasian New Car Assessment Program safety ratings, regulations will allow inspections to be waived for most vehicles that are less than three years old. All vehicles will be required to have the appropriate hire and reward category of motor injury insurance to ensure that any third party victims of a road crash are appropriately covered. The bill makes it explicit that only suitably marked and equipped taxi vehicles will be authorised to accept unbooked jobs at the roadside, known as rank and hail. The penalty for engaging in rank and hail without being authorised to do so will be high, at \$12 000 for an individual and \$60 000 for a body corporate.

The regulations to be made under this bill will require all taxi vehicles statewide to be clearly identifiable as taxis and to display the regulated maximum metered fares so that the customer knows what potential charges to expect. The requirement for Perth taxis to have internal security cameras will also be extended to all taxis operating in WA. Only vehicles carrying out rank and hail will be required under regulations to have these additional passenger safeguards. This recognises that other vehicles cannot be secured by the passenger unless they have made a prior arrangement with the booking service. In these cases, the customer has generally already been given the vehicle's registration and the name of the driver who will pick them up, or they have been liaising with the company for some time in relation to a group or special event journey. Bookings made in advance are generally pre-paid or pre-negotiated by credit card, so cash being exchanged in the vehicle at the time of journey, which can be a source of dispute, is less likely to occur outside rank and hail.

Like those in many other states in Australia and around the world, on-demand charter vehicles will have to display a small, visible sign on their windscreen to give customers greater assurance that this is their expected vehicle. The people owning or managing vehicles that are used to deliver on-demand, regular passenger or tourism passenger services for hire and reward will continue to require annual authorisation. Unlike previous legislative and administrative arrangements, however, authorisation for periods as short as one month will be permitted. This will allow for a much easier process for temporarily increasing a fleet to cover peak, special event or seasonal demand.

The number of vehicles that can be authorised to provide hire and reward passenger services will be unrestricted, including taxis. As such, the bill removes the current restrictions on who can have a taxi and country taxi-car licence, where they can go and what they are allowed to do with the vehicle. It removes the concept of the Perth taxi control area, which stops taxis offering services outside their defined boundaries, and eliminates conditions that force country operators in particular to make services available at all times. It does not, however, preclude operators offering a 24/7 service as a service distinction. The bill will therefore permit the holder of the vehicle authorisation to operate the vehicle at any time and anywhere in the state while the authorisation is valid. This makes taxis the same as charter vehicles, which have always operated without restrictions on numbers, and leaves it to the industry's own assessment of market supply and demand to determine how many vehicles are needed.

These overdue changes are achieved in the bill through the repeal of the Taxi Act 1994 and amendments to the Transport Coordination Act 1966 related to country taxi-cars and omnibuses, which will take place on commencement of part 6 of this bill. The bill continues to support the provision of on-demand transport options for people with disability, with an unrestricted number of vehicles being able to be authorised to carry wheelchair passengers. Part 11 of the bill allows for the making of regulations to formalise the existing taxi user subsidy scheme, which provided almost 650 000 subsidised trips to participants in 2017. The government has committed to examining options for enhancing the TUSS to improve usability for members.

The government is aware that the changes embodied in this new legislation will bring about further transformation on top of that already brought about by the digital disruption seen in recent years. Accordingly, the bill brings in a targeted voluntary buyback scheme and adjustment assistance for those taxi-car licensees in Mandurah and Murray who operate in the competitive Perth on-demand market. A voluntary industry-funded buyback scheme has been developed for current owners and former eligible owners of metropolitan taxi plates in the context of ensuring that the transition to a post-reform market aligns with the best-practice transition assistance principles of efficiency, equity, fairness and legal liability.

The move to an unrestricted and unlimited supply of taxi vehicle authorisations impacts on a metropolitan taxi plate owner's ability to derive an income from leasing the plates to vehicle managers and drivers. As such, the bill gives to those who have or have recently sold an ownership right to operate a taxi in Perth the opportunity to voluntarily sell their plates back to government. It details the calculations for determining the amount of the buyback to be apportioned to eligible plate owners and former owners. This is largely predicated on the date of plate purchase and the length of ownership prior to the date of the announcement of the buyback on 2 November 2017. Each conventional plate is to be subject to a minimum buyback offer of \$100 000. The buyback amount recognises that plates held for many years have already allowed owners to derive an income against their investment from leasing the plate for others to operate, or by driving it themselves and taking the fares. Buyback offers will therefore be higher for those who bought plates more recently at high market prices that were reflective of the good economic times and scarce supply, but who have not had a chance to recoup the same level of income from their investment in recent years.

The costs of the voluntary buyback scheme will be covered by the imposition of an on-demand passenger levy that is expected to be in place for around four years. The Transport (Road Passenger Services) Amendment Bill 2018 included in this package is a separate instrument that will, at the time of its commencement, impose the temporary levy of 10 per cent or \$10—whichever is lowest—on fare revenue collected by on-demand booking services. The levy will apply to revenue generated from trips undertaken in vehicles with 12 seats or fewer and which occur wholly within a defined levy area that includes Perth and the local government districts of Mandurah and Murray. The levy will be collected from on-demand booking services that facilitate or provide the relevant trips.

On-demand charter booking services that solely do special events such as weddings and school balls will be able to apply for an exemption from the levy. The fares associated with the chartering of buses with over 12 seats, and route bus and tourism passenger services that are not on-demand, will not be required to have the levy applied. The local districts of Mandurah and Murray have been included in the area defined for the levy. This means that the taxi-car operators in these districts will be required to pay the levy on their eligible trips, even though, as annually renewed country taxi-car licensees, they are not eligible for voluntary buyback payments. Consequently, the bill provides for the establishment of an adjustment assistance grant of \$10 000 per licence for eligible taxi-car licensees in these areas.

The grant is in recognition that taxi-car operators within these areas are at a competitive disadvantage due to the current restrictions limiting taxi-car jobs and the larger economies of scale for Perth taxi operators. In addition, there are unrestricted incursions of charter vehicles operating from Perth into these regions. The adjustment assistance grant will support the Mandurah and Murray district taxi-car operators whilst the industry is undergoing reform and will provide a practical injection of cash into these predominantly family-operated businesses. As previously mentioned, after engaging with the regional taxi industry and listening to its views and concerns, the state government's policy was refined so that the levy would not apply outside the defined area. Although not subject to the levy, regional taxis will have greater flexibility and autonomy to regional taxi businesses. The reforms will allow regional operators to compete with new market entrants if or when they arrive in their town. Recently, we have seen Uber expand into the south west region, and although on-demand operators are yet to arrive in more remote areas of Western Australia, it is important that these reforms are passed and in place for the future.

Regional taxi businesses will have easier access to authorisations, based on their own assessment of the local market, rather than the government. As previously mentioned, authorisations will be available for one, three, six or 12 months, providing flexibility for regional events and peak demand during the year. Additionally, the complicated processes for getting an extra or substitute vehicle on the road will be removed. Regional taxi businesses will also be able to operate anywhere they choose, providing them with the option to expand their businesses for the first time. For regional taxis, maximum metered rates will remain, along with the ability for regional operators to offer pre-agreed contract fares. Under the new reforms, they will also be able to set fixed fares between destinations, if advertised.

Although there may be challenges, we will continue to engage with stakeholders and monitor the industry as the reforms are implemented. This bill represents the most significant reforms to the taxi and on-demand industry in the state's history. They are necessary reforms that address both longstanding quality-of-service issues and more recent concerns surrounding fairness and competition—issues that have not been resolved by past governments.

Pursuant to standing order 126(1), I advise that this bill is not a uniform legislation bill. It does not ratify or give effect to an intergovernmental or multilateral agreement to which the government of the state is a party; nor does this bill, by reason of its subject matter, introduce a uniform scheme or uniform laws throughout the commonwealth.

I commend the bill to the house and table the explanatory memorandum.

[See paper 1947.]

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

House adjourned at 5.53 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

ATTORNEY GENERAL — PERSONS RELEASED FROM CUSTODY

1579. Hon Michael Mischin to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the Attorney General's comments in the Legislative Assembly on 16 August 2017, where he accused the Liberal and National parties of having 'joined forces in the Legislative Council to hinder the passage' of the so-called 'No Body, No Parole' Bill and send it off to a committee, a committee which in due course recommended amendments to which he ultimately agreed, and his repeated accusations that the Liberals and the Nationals 'are giving comfort to murderers!', and I ask:

- (a) since being appointed Attorney General, how many murderers has the Attorney General released from custody, and who, when, and for what periods of parole or supervised release;
- (b) which were released in accordance with, and which contrary to, recommendations of the Prisoners' Review Board or Supervised Release Board;
- (c) since being appointed Attorney General, how many persons detained under the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996* held on charges of murder or other unlawful killing has the Attorney General released from custody, and who, when and for what periods;
- (d) which were released in accordance with, and which contrary to, recommendations of the Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board;
- (e) which of the persons released had killed children; and
- (f) which of the persons released were released contrary to the desires of the secondary victims or other next-of-kin?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a) Pursuant to section 25 of the *Sentence Administration Act 2003 (WA)*, only the Governor sitting in Executive Council may grant parole to a life sentenced prisoner, not the Attorney General.

However, the following provides the details of each life-sentenced murderer who has been released to parole by order of the Executive Council from 2014 until present:

Offender	Offence	Release On Parole	Parole Duration (Years)
Bender, John Allan	Murder	1/04/2014	5
Venter, Jacob Palmer	Murder	1/04/2014	2
Pitts, Marcus David	Wilful Murder	12/04/2014	3
Colbung, Scott Sheldon	Murder	22/04/2014	2
Walker, Shiralee Jane	Murder	22/04/2014	3
Dutton, Brian Warren	Wilful Murder	6/05/2014	3
Thompson, Christopher Miles	Wilful Murder	6/05/2014	3
Smith, Eric John	Wilful Murder	6/05/2014	3
Fry, Kevin Roy	Wilful Murder	16/06/2014	5
Cooke, Guy John	Wilful Murder	9/09/2014	3
Dowling, Leslie Margaret	Wilful Murder	18/09/2014	2
Seiffert, Jason Andrew	Murder	19/12/2014	3
Buswell, Terry John	Murder	20/04/2015	2
Tiet, Giang	Murder	22/04/2015	3
Smith, Eric John	Wilful Murder	30/04/2015	3
Bishop, Derryn Ruby	Murder	2/07/2015	2
Williams, Wayne John	Wilful Murder	26/07/2015	5
Hall, Evan Leon	Wilful Murder	27/07/2015	3
Salehi, Kamal Ali	Wilful Murder	28/07/2015	2
Axford, Murray Phillip	Wilful Murder	24/08/2015	3

Walley, Peter Dean	Murder	29/10/2015	5
Ogilvie, Aaron Fabien	Murder	16/11/2015	5
Birks, Douglas	Murder	30/12/2015	3
Seel, Kurt Russell	Wilful Murder	30/12/2015	5
Thompsett, Benjamin Stephen	Murder	19/01/2016	3
Aksenov, Corey David Walter	Murder	25/01/2016	3
Cooley, Timothy	Wilful Murder	7/06/2016	5
Campbell, David Gordon	Wilful Murder	13/06/2016	5
Wood, Steven Bradley	Murder	23/08/2016	3
Fuller, Kelly Renae	Murder	22/09/2017	5
Garrett, Robert	Wilful murder	27/11/2017	5
Eastwell, Eric	Wilful murder	25/10/2017	3
Griffin, Mark William	Wilful murder	18/12/2017	5
Krakouer, Jeremy Troy	Murder	4/08/2017	3
Carmona Martinez, Raul	Murder	5/04/2018	2
Alikhani, Mojtaba	Wilful murder	16/04/2018	5
Green, Laurence Angus	1x Murder, 1x wilful murder	21/05/2018	5
Greer, Arthur Boycott	Murder	12/06/2018	2

Data January 2014 – Present

Data prior to 2014 for Life and Indefinite Term prisoners is not electronically available and cannot be readily provided.

- (b) All were released in accordance with recommendations of the Prisoners Review Board.
- (c) Pursuant to section 35 of the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996* (WA), only the Governor sitting in Executive Council may release a mentally impaired accused who has become the subject of a Custody Order made under Parts 3 or 4 of that Act, and not the Attorney General.

However, 11 persons detained by a Custody Order following allegations of dangerous driving causing death, murder or other unlawful killings were released by order of the Executive Council since January 2014. The following provides the requested details of each accused:

Mentally Impaired Accused	Alleged Offence	Date Conditionally or Unconditionally Released From Custody	Duration of Release Order
Accused A	2x Wilful murder	21/06/2017	Indefinite
Accused B	Manslaughter	22/09/2017	Indefinite
Accused C	Manslaughter	25/10/2017	Indefinite
Accused D	Wilful murder	27/11/2017	Indefinite
Accused E	Wilful murder	30/1/2018	Indefinite
Accused F	Dangerous driving causing death	10/05/2016	Indefinite
Accused G	Wilful murder	12/02/2016	Indefinite
Accused H	Wilful murder	5/08/2014	Indefinite
Accused I	Murder	12/08/2014	Indefinite
Accused J	Wilful murder x2	21/01/2015	Indefinite
Accused K	Murder	10/07/2015	Indefinite

Data – January 2014 – Present

Data prior to 2014 is not electronically available and cannot be readily provided.

- (d) All were released pursuant to recommendations of the Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board.
- (e) Two persons, who were released between 1 January 2008 to date via a Conditional Release Order or Unconditional Release Order, allegedly caused the death of children:

Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board

Person Released
Accused B
Accused J

The following persons who were released between 1 January 2014 to date via a Parole Order caused the death of children:

Prisoners Review Board

Person Released
Fuller, Kelly Renae
Greer, Arthur Boycott
Tiet, Giang
Bishop, Derryn Ruby

- (f) The Prisoners Review Board and Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board do not release details derived from submissions made by secondary victims or other next-of-kin.

PREMIER — HUAWEI — VERBAL OR WRITTEN BRIEFINGS

1583. Hon Peter Collier to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) On what dates did the Premier receive verbal or written briefings on Huawei?
- (2) On what dates did the Premier receive verbal or written briefings on the Radio System Replacement project?
- (3) On what dates did the Premier receive verbal or written briefings on the Automatic Train Control project?
- (4) On what dates did the Premier receive verbal or written briefings on the Public Safety Mobile Broadband Capacity?
- (5) On what dates did the Premier receive verbal or written briefings from any national security agency regarding (1) to (4)?
- (6) For (1) to (5), who was in attendance at the briefing?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (1)–(6) The Premier received written briefings from Office of State Security & Emergency Coordination dated 28 June 2018 and 2 July 2018 regarding the PTA/Huawei project.

The Premier was verbally briefed at a Security and Emergency Committee of Cabinet meeting.

The Premier also received separate written briefings on the Public Safety Mobile Broadband on 10 April 2018, 3 July 2018, 10 July 2018 and 13 September 2018.

The Premier receives a CIBN on the Huawei issue, prepared for Parliament, which is updated regularly.

Beyond this, relevant issues would have been discussed at regular meetings with the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

TRANSPORT — DUKE STREET FOOTBRIDGE — TOODYAY

1584. Hon Martin Aldridge to the minister representing the Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands:

I refer to the Duke Street footbridge in Toodyay, and I ask:

- (a) who has control and responsibility for the footbridge;
- (b) on what date, on what grounds and by whom was the footbridge closed;
- (c) on what date did the Public Transport Authority last formally assess the condition of the footbridge;
- (d) will the Minister please provide a copy of the assessment report identified in ;
- (e) is the Minister committed to the retention of the footbridge and its repair to ensure safe access across the railway line between north and south Toodyay; and
- (f) will the Minister meet with the Shire of Toodyay to discuss local concern in relation to the extended closure and uncertain future of the footbridge and, if so, when?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

- (a) Section 103 of the Public Works Act 1902 places control of such pedestrian crossings with the relevant local authority, in this case the Shire of Toodyay. The Public Transport Authority (PTA) has been maintaining the Toodyay footbridge on behalf of the Shire in recent years.
- (b) The PTA closed the footbridge on 29 May 2018 following an inspection undertaken on the same day by Arc Infrastructure identifying safety issues and structural defects.
- (c)–(d) An inspection was undertaken by PTA engineers on 1 June 2018 and a further inspection by independent third-party bridge engineers on 5 July 2018. Additionally, the PTA is engaging the services of suitably qualified engineers to undertake further investigative assessment. Upon completion of this work, relevant documentation can be made available, including an estimated cost of repair which is currently not available.
- (e)–(f) The Minister and her office is happy to engage with the local member and Shire to reach a solution.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — ACCESS — COMPLAINTS SERVICE**1585. Hon Alison Xamon to the minister representing the Minister for Corrective Services:**

I refer to ACCESS, the Department's complaints service, and I ask, for each of the years 2012 to 2018, please advise:

- (a) the number of complaints made to ACCESS;
- (b) the number of staff in the ACCESS unit;
- (c) the number of phone calls made to ACCESS; and
- (d) the number of phone calls answered?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

The Department of Justice advises:

2012:

- (a) 2604 complaints (4790 matters).
- (b) 4 FTE.
- (c) Records not available.
- (d) 3328

2013:

- (a) 3200 complaints (6268 matters).
- (b) 4 FTE.
- (c) Records not available.
- (d) 4277

2014:

- (a) 3623 complaints (5194 matters).
- (b) 4 FTE.
- (c) Records not available.
- (d) 3461

2015:

- (a) 3701 complaints (5032 matters).
- (b) 4 FTE
- (c) Records not available.
- (d) 3592

2016:

- (a) 5667 complaints (6551 matters).
- (b) 3 FTE.
- (c) Records not available.
- (d) 4936

2017:

- (a) 3248 complaints (3654 matters).
- (b) 2 FTE
- (c) Records not available.
- (d) 2601

2018:

As at Friday 31 August 2018

- (a) 2875 complaints (3200 matters).
- (b) 2 FTE
- (c) Records not available.
- (d) 2406

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — “2018 INSPECTION OF ALBANY REGIONAL PRISON” REPORT

1586. Hon Alison Xamon to the minister representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services report 118, *Inspection of Albany Regional Prison*, and to the fact that more than 80 percent of prisoners in Albany are from outside the local area, and I ask:

- (a) why is skype not available to prisoners on weekends or late afternoons to facilitate contact with working partners and children;
- (b) will the prison extend skype access for prisoners;
- (c) if yes to (b):
 - (i) when; and
 - (ii) please advise any additional times skype will be available to prisoners;
- (d) if no to (b), why not;
- (e) given many people in Western Australia no longer have access to land lines, will the Minister consider subsidising prisoners' calls to mobiles;
- (f) if no to (e), why not;
- (g) given the high numbers of foreign nationals in Albany prison, will the prison introduce a more practical approach for money to be transferred into prisoners' phone accounts;
- (h) if yes to (g), when; and
- (i) if no to (g), why not?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

The Department of Justice advises:

- (a) Skype visits at Albany Regional Prison are dependent on the availability of suitably skilled staff. There are currently two Vocational Prison Officers who manage Skype visits. These VSOs are also responsible for other operational duties and their roster means that Skype visits are unavailable after 4pm on weekdays and on weekends.
- (b) The Department is considering options to extend prisoner access to Skype visits.
- (c) There are bandwidth constraints limiting the number of Skype units that are able to operate at Albany Regional Prison. The Department is in the process of procuring consolidated network services that will enable the prison to operate multiple Skype units.
- (d) N/A
- (e) The Prisoner Telephone System (PTS) charging service is being reviewed to make call charges equitable across all custodial environments for local, national and international calls as well as fixed mobile charges.
- (f) N/A
- (g) There are no plans in place to amend the current process of transferring money into prisoner phone accounts.
- (h) N/A
- (i) The review of the PTS charging service is expected to bring about flat rate call charges that are expected to simplify account administration processes.

SHARKS — HAZARD MITIGATION — DRUM LINES

1587. Hon Colin de Grussa to the minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

Will the Minister please table all correspondence received from New South Wales in regards to smart drum lines?

Hon Alannah MacTiernan replied:

Yes. I assume the reference to “New South Wales” is intended to be a reference to the “New South Wales Minister.”

[See tabled paper no 1944.]

MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT — STAFF

1590. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to question on notice No. 1406, directed to the Minister for Regional Development, and I ask with respect to the office of the Minister for Regional Development:

- (a) for each staff member employed, or formerly employed, in that office please detail their:
 - (i) name;
 - (ii) position;
 - (iii) commencement date;
 - (iv) conclusion date (if applicable);
 - (v) level of employment;
 - (vi) employment tenure including department seconded from (if applicable); and
 - (vii) reason for departure from the office; and
- (b) has any staff member been terminated or have the Department of Premier and Cabinet Human Resources been requested to manage the departure of a staff member on the Premier’s or the Ministers behalf?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a) (i)–(vii) As is practise in this place, information relating to staff in ministerial offices can be found in the “Ministerial Resourcing Report” tabled in Parliament every quarter as part of this government’s ongoing commitment to accountability and transparency.
- (b) No.

MINES AND PETROLEUM — ONSHORE GAS INDUSTRY

1591. Hon Martin Aldridge to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the State Government regulation of the onshore gas industry, and I ask:

- (a) would the Minister provide a list of all approved exploration permits issued for onshore gas in the State since March 2017, including the date of approval and approximate location; and
- (b) would the Minister provide a list of all approved production and extractive licences for onshore gas in the State since March 2017, including the date of approval and approximate location?

Hon Alannah MacTiernan replied:

- (a) Two Exploration Permits have been granted since March 2017 for onshore gas in the State, as follows:
 - (1) Exploration Permit 496, granted on 9 October 2017 to Bunbury Energy Pty Ltd, and located 170km South of Perth / immediately South of Bunbury.
 - (2) Exploration Permit 498, granted on 6 February 2018 to Southern Sky Energy Pty Ltd, and located 150km North of Perth / 80km East of Dongara.
 - (b) No production and extractive licences were approved for onshore gas in the State after March 2017.
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