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Tuesday, 14 June 2016

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mr M.W. Sutherland) took the chair at 2.00 pm, and read prayers.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CAREER INFORMATION CENTRE

Statement by Minister for Training and Workforce Development

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Training and Workforce Development) [2.01 pm]: Today I rise to inform the house about an innovative training facility that will skill up the next generation of workers in Western Australia's construction industry. The construction industry is critically important to the state's economy. It contributes 11.5 per cent of the gross state product and employs 153 000 workers, which is approximately 11.3 per cent of the state's workforce. The industry provides thousands of entry level employment opportunities for young people each year and currently employs 45 per cent of the state's apprentices.

The Building and Construction Industry Training Fund will soon tender for the construction of a cutting-edge construction career information centre, which will be built in Belmont and is wholly funded by revenue generated from the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund levy. The centre will be an interactive excursion venue for Western Australian school students where they can explore the variety of occupations and career development opportunities available in Western Australia's building and construction industry.

The new centre is unique, with no other industry-specific equivalent in Australia or anywhere else in the world. A variety of curriculum-linked interactive tools, hands-on activities, technologies and information sources will provide learning experiences for students and teachers that highlight the significance of the industry to the state's economy and connect them to the variety of occupations and pathways available to young men and women for developing long-term careers in the construction industry.

Driven and supported by industry stakeholders as a key strategy to enhance workforce development, the new centre is the next stage of the construction training fund's successful schools2skills program, which since 2004 has promoted career opportunities in the construction industry to secondary students and the wider community. Since 2013, this program has engaged more than 1 000 year 11 and 12 students in key industry-specific certificate II qualifications developed by industry and endorsed by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority, enabling students to gain valuable skills, knowledge and work experience in the construction industry while meeting new government requirements for the Western Australian Certificate of Education. It is anticipated that the centre will cater for more than 5 000 students and offer professional development opportunities for more than 400 teachers each year. Construction of the new centre and construction training fund offices is due to commence in the second half of this year. The centre will be open to schools as an excursion venue for students from year 6 to year 12 for the commencement of the 2018 school year. I look forward to updating the house as work progresses on this exciting project.

CONSERVATION AND PARKS COMMISSION — ESTABLISHMENT

Statement by Minister for Environment

MR A.P. JACOB (Ocean Reef — Minister for Environment) [2.04 pm]: I am pleased to announce the appointment of the inaugural Conservation and Parks Commission of Western Australia. The new authority replaced the Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority following changes to the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 late last year and fulfils another 2013 election commitment by the Liberal-National government. Firstly, I would like to thank the outgoing members for their outstanding contribution to conserving the nature of Western Australia. The creation of the Conservation and Parks Commission will provide for greater integration, enabling a holistic approach to managing land and marine areas. This will ensure greater flexibility and focus planning considerations in the one body. This will especially be the case in the coastal and intertidal areas, for which both previous bodies played important roles. Having a single new body will directly benefit traditional owners by streamlining the reserve planning and establishment processes enabling them to liaise with one body over the management of these areas. The commission will also, for the first time, have a formal planning role for the management of regional parks. The Department of Parks and Wildlife will now formally be able to manage these ecologically significant areas in cooperation with landowners. The department will continue to manage all conservation, marine and terrestrial estate.

I am pleased to announce that the new commission will be chaired by Marion Fulker. Marion is greatly experienced in senior executive and board roles and recently retired as chair of the Heritage Council of Western Australia. Professor Chris Doepel, the former deputy chair of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, will be the deputy chair of the commission. The other members of the commission are Ingrid Cumming, Regina Flugge, Kim Colero, Brian Middleton and Ross Dowling. The new membership brings together a blend

of former and new members with a range of knowledge and experience relevant to conserving our natural environment. The appointment of the commission signals a new era for conservation in Western Australia. It will be the vesting body for conservation lands, forest and marine reserves and provide independent advice to the state government on conservation matters. On behalf of the government, I welcome the new commission members and look forward to working with them in managing the environment of this great state.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CARERS STRATEGY

Statement by Minister for Community Services

MR A.J. SIMPSON (Darling Range — Minister for Community Services) [2.06 pm]: It was my pleasure to launch the Western Australian carers strategy last month. The strategy was developed by the Department of Local Government and Communities in partnership with the Carers Advisory Council and Carers WA.

About 320 000 Western Australians provide unpaid personal care, support or assistance to people who need help with daily living. Carers make a difference to the lives of the people they care for and an invaluable social and economic contribution to the state. Although caring is rewarding, it is also difficult. Putting the interests of the people they care for first may put carers at risk of social isolation and poor health and wellbeing. These difficulties can be heightened by a lack of recognition, awareness and support.

The state government has a long history of recognising and supporting carers. WA was the first Australian jurisdiction to introduce carer-specific legislation with the Carers Recognition Act 2004 and WA Carers Charter. The act and charter require carers to be involved in the planning and provision of services that impact on them and the people they care for. The Carers Advisory Council was established in 2005 to monitor compliance with the act and charter by relevant agencies and services, and report on this to the Parliament. Although the state government can provide general leadership, recognising and supporting carers is everyone's responsibility.

Focusing on five priority areas, the strategy will guide the whole community to better recognise and support carers. This includes taking the necessary steps to ensure that carers can build their capacity to provide care and manage the life-care balance; maintain their own wellbeing and pursue life goals; access the same life opportunities as other Western Australians; participate in the community as full and equal citizens; and be recognised and respected as expert partners in care. Recognising and supporting carers is critical to the future of carers and the people they care for, and to overall community wellbeing. I encourage all members of this house to promote the strategy and do what they can to support carers in Western Australia.

KIMBERLEY — VISIT BY MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION

Statement by Minister for Child Protection

MS A.R. MITCHELL (Kingsley — Minister for Child Protection) [2.08 pm]: I rise today to inform the house of a recent trip I took to the Kimberley as part of my role as a lead minister in the regional services reform project. As members may know, in May last year the state government announced a major reform to the way services and infrastructure will be delivered in regional and remote communities. These reforms are being undertaken with a view to enable better economic and social outcomes for Aboriginal people in those communities, with an initial focus of the reform on the Kimberley and Pilbara. In order to gain a further sense of progress on the ground, I visited Kununurra, Derby, Broome and the community of Mowanjum last week, and I am pleased to report to the house that encouraging work is taking place.

Two groups that form a key part of the governance structure of the reform project are the district leadership groups and the strategic regional advisory groups. During this trip I was able to attend a meeting of the Kimberley strategic regional advisory group in Kununurra and the West Kimberley district leadership group in Derby. These meetings are an important forum to bring together Aboriginal leaders, key government agencies and other stakeholders to foster partnerships and provide strategic advice to government.

My area of responsibility in this project is to oversee the redesign of human services to ensure services are delivered in an effective and coordinated manner. With this in mind, it was reassuring to see so many people with common goals sitting around a table, engaged in conversation. Some of the many discussions that took place included how to address alcohol restrictions, how to develop youth leadership, early feedback on the operation of the cashless debit card and the development of an intensive family support model. It is very heartening that there is a common voice—it is recognised that the status quo is not acceptable and we need to work collaboratively to address these big issues.

I was also able to meet with local organisations such as MG Corporation and the Wunan Foundation. It was a great opportunity to hear about the success of the transitional housing program in providing pathways to home ownership and demonstrating measurable improvements in education and employment outcomes of tenants. I look forward to my continued role in this important project.

MINING REHABILITATION FUND — PRO-FORCE MINE SITE*Statement by Minister for Mines and Petroleum*

MR S.K. L'ESTRANGE (Churchlands — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [2.10 pm]: I rise to speak on the Pro-force mine site rehabilitation. The commencement of the mining rehabilitation fund in 2013 has provided a dedicated source of funding to address abandoned mine sites throughout Western Australia. The MRF replaced the old bond system. Since the introduction of the MRF, over \$1 billion worth of bonds have been retired and given back to operators, both mining and prospectors alike.

The implementation of the MRF means that tenement holders will not have to provide bonds in the majority of cases. This, in turn, frees up capital previously held in bonds, which can then be invested into mining, exploration, prospecting and rehabilitation activities. Although benefiting not only the mining industry, the MRF provides the legislative framework for the abandoned mines program and ensures that the taxpayers of Western Australia will not have to pay for the failure of past and present mining operators.

The Pro-force mine site is one of four pilot project sites in the Department of Mines and Petroleum's abandoned mines program. The site was selected following feedback from the Shire of Coolgardie and other stakeholders. The site was previously operated by Pro-force Mining Contractors Pty Ltd between 1996 and 2004; however, the company has since been deregistered. The most prominent public safety concerns at the site are an unsealed shaft and a five-metre deep excavated trench that has been in situ for more than a decade. The processing plant, which the community was also concerned about, was auctioned off by DMP in November 2015 and has since been removed. This site sits adjacent to the Gorge water reservoir, a popular picnic spot with locals and tourists, particularly when the dam is full of water. This makes the site a great candidate for the abandoned mines project, as public safety at the site is of concern to the Shire of Coolgardie. The rehabilitation works at the site will be undertaken after further site assessments and consultation with project stakeholders and the local community. A community engagement event, which will be held in collaboration with the project key stakeholder, the Shire of Coolgardie, is scheduled to take place in the second half of this year.

The Pro-force site is one of five priority sites identified that make up the DMP abandoned mines program. The other sites include Ellendale diamond mine, Black Diamond pit lake, Bulong nickel tailings storage facility and Elverdton tailings. I commend the department for its ongoing work in this area and look forward to announcing the completion of the project later this year.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**ASSET SALES — FREMANTLE PORT****341. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Treasurer:**

I refer to the Treasurer's planned sale of Fremantle port and the recent comments by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission chair, Rod Sims, warning against anti-competitive arrangements in the sale, when he said —

I was very concerned to hear press reports about a possible plan to offer the new owner of the Port of Fremantle the right to develop a new port south of Fremantle in the future.

- (1) Is the Treasurer concerned about the potential impacts of this arrangement on port users and businesses?
- (2) Will the Treasurer today rule out any purchaser of Fremantle port having the opportunity to develop a new Kwinana port?

Dr M.D. NAHAN replied:

(1)–(2) I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. The answer to the final question is absolutely not.

Mr M. McGowan: I am sorry? What is absolutely not?

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The Leader of the Opposition asked a question. He should sit down and let me answer it.

Mr M. McGowan: I can't hear you.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Okay. Rod Sims, the chairman of the ACCC, has a policy—that is correct—to have competition between ports, when possible. Particularly in the eastern seaboard, there are a number of ports that can compete with each other, particularly in Melbourne, which is considering building a second port, competing with the port of Melbourne. In Perth, Western Australia, if the expansion port—the second port—is to be in the outer harbour, which I think is about 23 kilometres away from the inner harbour, it will not be possible to have an effective port, particularly when the outer harbour will be built sometime in the future and will be an overflow port in addition to the existing one. Unless those two ports are operated by the same organisation in the state, which the opposition wants to build for \$5 billion, it will not be built. The way we are going about the port is that a lease will exist in the inner harbour —

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The successful lease company will have first rights to build the outer harbour. The inner harbour will be operated —

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: In the long term, the outer harbour and the inner harbour —

Mr M. McGowan interjected.

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

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The outer harbour and the inner harbour will be operated together, as they were planned for under the previous Labor transport minister. Alannah MacTiernan started the planning for the outer harbour.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: We do not know about that. They were going to be operated together, and that is the only feasible way to operate and build those. Members on the other side want to play on this. How will they fund the outer harbour? If they are going to build —

Mr W.J. Johnston: How are you going to fund it?

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: I have just described how we are going to fund it. When the inner harbour gets towards full capacity, the lease company will have first rights to build, own and operate the outer harbour. It will be a private sector operation.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the first time. Right; quick answer through the Chair.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Of course we will have very effective access and pricing regimes to control the prices at the inner and outer harbour and tie them with the consumer price index.

ASSET SALES — FREMANTLE PORT

342. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Treasurer:

I ask a supplementary question. Is it not the case that the Treasurer is not doing his job protecting the interests of importers and exporters and, I might add, consumers, because he is too busy undermining the Premier?

Dr M.D. NAHAN replied:

Mr Speaker —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, I call you to order for the first time. I have given you a lot of leeway.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: On the contrary, we are starting policies that will fund the outer harbour and we are starting policies that will move livestock to the outer harbour. We are funding to places so that into the future we will have a means to fund the expansion in the outer harbour that will be cost effective and not put additional imposts on shippers and users of the port, like Labor's policies will do.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM — CLOSURE AND REDEVELOPMENT

343. Ms E. EVANGEL to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

Before I ask my question, I would like to acknowledge the leadership group from Newborough Primary School in the Deputy Premier's electorate of Scarborough, and also the deputy principal, teachers and students of Aranmore Catholic Primary School in my electorate of Perth.

I note that the Western Australian Museum's Perth site will close temporarily on 18 June to allow for the world-class development of the new Museum. Can the minister please update the house on the arrangements?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

I thank the member for the question. She is obviously a strong supporter of this project, as are all members on this side of Parliament. As I have said before, the need for a new facility for the Western Australian Museum in the centre of the capital of Western Australia has been recognised for about 20 years or so, but it has never been adequately addressed until being done so by this government. The new development is now becoming a reality and that will require the closure of the current site while the redevelopment occurs over the next three and half years or so. As a result, the WA Museum at its Perth site will be closed after next Saturday; next Saturday will be the last day it will be open to the public in its current form. I am pleased to say that negotiations with the preferred managing contractor, Brookfield Multiplex, and the architects OMA and Hassell are proceeding very well and we hope negotiations will be concluded fairly soon.

As well as the WA Museum being a very important institution for cultural aspects and educational and scientific activities, and a major tourism attraction for Western Australia, it is also very important for economic development. The construction of the new Museum in particular is important for job creation. An estimated 3 300 design and construction workers will be employed over the life of the new Museum project, with an estimated on-site workforce at a peak of around 385 people at any one time during construction. It will be very important for job creation and employment provision in the state, particularly in the construction industry, over the next four years. As part of the new development and the transition, all the permanent WA Museum staff will be relocated to other WA Museum sites in the metropolitan area, or possibly other parts of the state. As well, they will certainly be needed in the development of the new project and also in the management and operation of the other sites, including in Fremantle and Welshpool, and also in Albany, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie–Boulder.

Next Saturday, the last day at the Museum, family open day will be underway. It will include free activities, entertainment and historic building tours. I am also delighted to advise that during the redevelopment, the Museum's 125-year history at the Perth Cultural Centre will continue with a presence at the State Library where the discovery centre will be relocated. There will also be pop-up exhibitions and events around the city. Members who have recently been to the Perth Concert Hall, for example, may have seen the dinosaur and the megafauna skeletons in the foyer.

The redevelopment of the WA Museum, as I said, will result in the closure at the current site while the redevelopment occurs, but that is a very good thing for the state. When the new Museum opens in early 2020, I am sure that everybody will appreciate the investment that has been made by this government to provide a proper museum development for Western Australia.

PERTH FREIGHT LINK — FEDERAL TREASURER'S COMMENTS

344. Ms R. SAFFIOTI to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the confusion over the Perth Freight Link route as highlighted recently by federal Treasurer Scott Morrison.

Mr P.T. Miles interjected.

The SPEAKER: Carry on, member for West Swan. I do not want to hear from you, member for Wanneroo.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I ask —

- (1) Why did the federal Treasurer believe that the project was going under the river?
- (2) Was it a shock to the federal Treasurer to find that he had allocated \$900 million to a project that did not reach the port?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

(1)–(2) I think the member for West Swan would be better suited to ask the question of the federal Treasurer.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.C. NALDER: I think most people know that —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.C. NALDER: I think most people know that I have been away up north for the past 10 days on a charity function and I was not down here in Perth. I think there will be a matter of public interest after question time to discuss this issue once again.

Mr B.S. Wyatt interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Victoria Park!

Mr D.C. NALDER: I find it very interesting because —

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler, I call you to order for the first time. Minister, a quick answer through the Chair.

Mr D.C. NALDER: As I have said, this is a fantastic project. It is the highest rated project from Infrastructure Australia. It will save lives. It will dramatically reduce congestion in the surrounding suburbs. It will improve the values of properties in the surrounding suburbs. It will create 2 400 direct jobs and 10 000 indirect jobs. It will be managed in an environmentally responsible way. I think it is a fantastic project and is extremely important for Western Australia.

PERTH FREIGHT LINK — FEDERAL TREASURER'S COMMENTS

345. Ms R. SAFFIOTI to the Minister for Transport:

I have a supplementary question. Is the minister's support for the Perth Freight Link, particularly stage 2, against the Premier's original wishes, not just another example of his undermining the Premier?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: He does not have to answer it if he does not want to.

TOURISM — "JUST ANOTHER DAY IN WA" CAMPAIGN

346. Mr P.T. MILES to the Minister for Tourism:

Before I ask the question, can I please acknowledge the Hollywood Primary School year 4 and 5 students from Bill Marmion's electorate of Nedlands, and also the teacher, Mr David Lagan, who are in the gallery.

A couple of weeks ago, the Minister for Tourism launched the new tourism campaign for the state. Would the minister please inform the house how the campaign will help to make people aware of the amazing experiences that WA has to offer?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

Last Friday —

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The immaturity is amazing.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Last Friday, I launched the new marketing campaign called "Just Another Day in WA". Probably about 250 to 300 people were there and I have to say that the feedback was very positive. This campaign has a couple of characteristics. Firstly, it is basically in separate modules—separate films, if you like—that will allow the campaign to be varied in different markets. For example, marketing into Asia will probably have a bigger focus on Perth as a destination and marketing into Europe will have a bigger focus on more remote parts of the state—adventure-type holidays and the like.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: No, it is not all about Perth. The quality of the production is extremely good.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Give it a rest, member for Bassendean.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: One of the points of the campaign is that the tourism industry here is worth about \$9 billion a year; the target is to reach \$12 billion a year by 2020 and I am confident that will be achieved. But Western Australia will not be in some sort of race with a place like the Gold Coast. We want quality, high-spending tourists from a whole range of different markets. We do not want mass tourism; we want the high-quality stuff. People in this state often fail to recognise that sometimes I think we have erred by promoting the things that we like, rather than the things that a visitor may particularly like. The destination is important. During the peak of the mining activity, there was not a lot to sell in Perth. We now have 2 000 new hotel rooms coming on by the good work particularly of the former Minister for Tourism. Some physical changes have now been made in Perth. Elizabeth Quay has become the photo feature of Perth.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Yes, members opposite can continue to knock it, but about 30 000 people were at Elizabeth Quay on WA Day. Members opposite dislike it, but 30 000 Western Australians enjoyed it. There is also the new Perth Stadium. In the coming years, a lot of the emphasis will be on improving what is available to visitors in Perth—the Scarborough redevelopment, cycle paths, the stadium, Elizabeth Quay, sinking the rail line, Yagan Square in the heart of the city, the new Western Australian Museum and the new Scitech. Members opposite snigger at all these things, but, for the first time, Perth has some momentum.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Members opposite can snigger because almost everything they criticise turns to gold.

PERTH STADIUM — MEMBERSHIP COSTS

347. Mr P.B. WATSON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the recent surveys done by the Fremantle Dockers and the West Coast Eagles that clearly indicate that members and supporters will be hit by increases in membership fees of up to 50 per cent at the new stadium.

- (1) Will these membership price increases be due to the increased fees charged to the football clubs at the new stadium?
- (2) When the government says that the new stadium will be "fans first", does that mean that fans will be the first ones hit hard in the hip pocket?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Wanneroo, I call you to order for the first time. Carry on, member for Albany.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Shall I start again, Mr Speaker?

The SPEAKER: I think carry on. I think it is a long question.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I continue —

- (3) What is the maximum increase in ordinary members' ticket prices the minister would be prepared to allow?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) The member is referring to surveys that have been conducted by both the Fremantle Football Club and the West Coast Eagles. Those clubs are getting ready to transition into a new 60 000-seat stadium that will provide a fantastic opportunity for them as football clubs to attract new members and new corporate support, and they are working through that process. They are perfectly entitled to do that. They are surveying their members to find out what they would be willing and prepared to pay. That is not something that the state government has any influence over. They are doing their due diligence as they prepare to transition into this new stadium. We are absolutely committed, member, to a fans-first experience, and there has been a commitment by this government from day dot to make sure that there will be reasonably priced tickets for general admission and for mums and dads and their families to be able to walk up and purchase tickets on the day. What that will be when the stadium is actually opened —

Mr P.B. Watson: Minister, what is a “reasonable price”?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Can I finish answering the question?

The SPEAKER: Carry on, minister.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: What that will be when the stadium opens will be up to and subject to the negotiations that have to be completed by the stadium operator with the user groups. I would anticipate that, yes, there may be an increase in prices but, member, they are getting an increase in experience and a far better outcome from attending a game or a function —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I am talking to you now, member for Albany! I have been pretty lenient on you. Let the minister finish the answer.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Really and truly, members opposite are the only people in the state who are not excited about this stadium. Everywhere I go in this state, they cannot wait. When the stadium operator has finalised the negotiations, the operator —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Premier, member for Collie–Preston, member for Albany: I do not want to hear you.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Just now, somebody is going to be asked to have a rest. Do not be upset.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am absolutely positive that the member opposite will be there on the day the stadium opens, with all his constituents who are exceptionally excited about this new stadium. We have stated categorically that this new stadium will be a fans-first experience. We have given the two AFL clubs that will be the users at the stadium the most amazing opportunity to grow their memberships and to continue to contribute to grassroots football right throughout the state. I am very confident that once that operator agreement is signed and the operator can negotiate with the users, there will be clarity for the clubs and their members—of which I am one—about what the membership prices will be, but I expect and continue to expect that that stadium will offer an experience for everyone—mums, dads and kids—and we have made that very clear from day one.

PERTH STADIUM — MEMBERSHIP COSTS

348. Mr P.B. WATSON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I have a supplementary question. When will the minister end the secrecy and release all the financial details —

Several members interjected.

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

Mr P.B. WATSON: When will the minister end the secrecy and release all the financial details relating to the new stadium and how it impacts on taxpayers, football club members and grassroots football?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

That is actually an entirely different question, so the member has two bites of the cherry on that one.

The member was present at the estimates hearings and is very aware that there was a significant amount of information put through this year's state budget in relation to ongoing costs —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

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

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It is an entirely different question, Mr Speaker, but I am prepared to answer it because we have provided a significant amount of information in relation to this as a result of the fact that we have formed a public-private partnership and we are reporting under the national guidelines. There was information in the budget; there was a fact sheet provided in the budget and the member was present during the estimates hearings and had the opportunity to ask these questions. It was the same during the Treasurer's estimates hearings. There is more than enough information out there to demonstrate exactly what this stadium will cost. We have been very clear about the cost of the stadium to the taxpayer.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY 2016–2020

349. Mr M.H. TAYLOR to the Minister for Innovation:

Can the minister please update the house on the recent release of the whole-of-government information and communications technology strategy, and how it will drive innovation and lead to savings within the public sector?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

I thank the member for Bateman for a very good question. I am proud to announce that the Western Australian Barnett government has released the very first ICT strategy in Western Australia's history. The member for Bateman is a strong supporter of innovation, particularly start-ups, and he understands the importance of having a government ICT structure that supports not only better delivery of services in government but also better community access to government services and a move towards more online services. This strategy, which I released a few weeks ago, will reduce costs and increase the efficiency of government services by reducing duplication and waste throughout government, particularly with regard to hardware and software duplication across many departments. The strategy was developed through extensive consultation with peak bodies, including the Australian Information Industry Association and the Australian Computer Society; we have had a lot of input from them. A lot of research was undertaken and the strategy has had a lot of input from everybody, so I am very confident that this strategy will, over the next few years, provide a more comprehensive structure for the delivery of ICT services in government.

Some of the themes the strategy will concentrate on include an open data portal, so that the data that is available in government departments will be accessible across government departments and by industry and consumers. That will allow start-up industries to actually access data and perhaps come up with innovative solutions that will benefit consumers in Western Australia. An example is the wonderful emergency department app that was released by my department, WA ED; I am sure members all have it on their iPhones.

One thing I want to ensure is that we are not setting up a department that is like the old information and technology department. The delivery of ICT is still the responsibility of each minister, so it is not the role of the Department of Finance to interfere, but it is important that we have a consistent approach to the delivery of ICT services and that we can make great savings.

Governance is a very important aspect of ICT delivery, as recognised by a number of Auditor General's reports over many decades, including a recent one. The new governance structure will be oversighted by a director general's committee that will look at an overall policy around making sure there is consistency in the delivery of ICT. The committee will report through my chief information officer, so I will make sure that there will be consistency across all departments in terms of delivery of service.

I table the document, "Digital WA: Western Australian Government Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy 2016–2020", the very first ICT strategy ever delivered by a government in Western Australia.

[See paper 4215.]

FORRESTFIELD–AIRPORT LINK — FEDERAL TREASURER'S PRESS CONFERENCE

350. Ms R. SAFFIOTI to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to federal Treasurer Scott Morrison's press conference at the Forrestfield–Airport Link project site last Thursday.

- (1) Which state government agency coordinated and organised that event?
- (2) Which state members of Parliament were invited and attended that event?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

(1)–(2) No idea; I was away.

Several members interjected.

FORRESTFIELD–AIRPORT LINK — FEDERAL TREASURER’S PRESS CONFERENCE

351. Ms R. SAFFIOTI to the Minister for Transport:

I ask a supplementary question. Is it the role of the Public Transport Authority to organise Liberal Party campaign events?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

Given that I was out of range, my portfolio was handed off for the week. If they would like to put the question on notice, I will go away and find out and advise accordingly.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: The question is finished.

KIMBERLEY SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION STRATEGY

352. Mr B.J. GRYLLS to the Minister for Environment:

I understand that additional funding has been made available for the government’s Kimberley science and conservation strategy as part of the state budget this year. Can the minister please tell us what this money will help deliver?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

I thank the member for Pilbara for the question. I can confirm that in the 2016–17 budget, the Liberal–National government has committed an extra \$22.1 million in recurrent funding towards the Kimberley science and conservation strategy. This is on top of a commitment that has already exceeded \$80 million. In fact, it brings the total spend under the Kimberley science and conservation strategy through this government now to some \$103 million. The extra \$22.1 million is in recurrent funding, as I have said. It is focused towards management outcomes of the significant expansion of the conservation estate up in the Kimberley which this government is putting in place, particularly towards Kimberley marine and national parks, including Roebuck Bay, Horizontal Falls and the great Kimberley marine park, and also what will be Australia’s largest terrestrial national park, which will sit out over the Mitchell Plateau. As I have said, under this government, the Kimberley science and conservation strategy is a conservation program in excess of \$103 million. The program started as a \$9 million commitment in 2008. The growth in investment, but, importantly, the growth in outcomes that is already being seen through this program underscores the incredible commitment that this government has placed on environment and conservation. It is a commitment not only to expanding our conservation estate and seizing this moment in time and this opportunity to significantly expand our marine parks and national parks in that biodiverse and largely untouched Kimberley region, but also to backing up that commitment with substantial investment not only in the creation but now also in the ongoing management of those national parks.

This program is delivering not only protection of these natural and cultural assets, but also economic opportunity in the Kimberley region, particularly economic opportunity for tourism and economic opportunity for traditional owners. I recently visited the Kimberley region and had the opportunity to meet with the Jawuru board and with Jawuru rangers while I was up there, and with a range of our tourism operators. I was able to see firsthand the benefits that the Kimberley science and conservation strategy is having on Aboriginal employment and Aboriginal jobs in the Kimberley, as well as tourism opportunities. There was a lot of support from tourism operators for what this government is doing in our Kimberley science and conservation strategy. Of course I think the benefits in conservation for the Kimberley are self-evident within the program. If we look at the impact that the Kimberley science and conservation strategy is already having in terms of Aboriginal employment —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr A.P. JACOB: — when we came into government in 2008, some 15 Aboriginal people were engaged in employment for conservation outcomes on country. Today, that number sits at around 200—200 Aboriginal rangers and Aboriginal people are employed delivering conservation outcomes on their own country in the Kimberley region, with spin-off benefits for tourism, and other employment opportunities.

Under this program, our marine park estate within Western Australia will increase from 1.5 million hectares to more than five million hectares, and, as I have said, the creation of what will be Australia’s largest national park over the Mitchell Plateau.

AIR SERVICES — ALBANY

353. Mr P.B. WATSON to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the Albany–Perth air route serviced by Rex airlines and the issues that I brought to the minister's attention in March concerning the removal of passengers' luggage from flights.

- (1) Is the minister aware that on Sunday's flight, passengers who were already on board were required to get off the plane and go through their luggage on the tarmac, after luggage was removed from the plane so that the plane could make weight?
- (2) How is this practice providing an appropriate experience for tourists and visitors to the great southern?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

- (1)–(2) I am really pleased that we have been able to ensure that a continuity of service is delivered to the people of Albany. There have been a number of positive compliments on the service that has been delivered and the fact that it —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you! I think we have all understood what you have said.

Mr P.B. Watson: But he's not answering.

The SPEAKER: He has got a short period to introduce the answer, and then he will answer it, otherwise I will sit him down.

Mr P.B. Watson: That's correct.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for correcting the member for Albany.

Rex airlines has been voted the best regional airline in the world for a number of years. It has been in operation for four months. I do not like to hear of the situations that the member opposite has shared and that occurred on Sunday. Was I aware of it? No, I was not aware of it. We have processes and standards of services that will ensure that the best possible service is delivered to the people of Albany. We are in the situation of the major airlines no longer wanting to deliver services to the smaller regional areas. That is something that we find unacceptable. We have worked very hard to ensure that we get an adequate service level not only for the people of Albany but also for the people of Esperance. There is no question that there have been a couple of hiccups along the way—no question—and they will be reviewed and they will be discussed with the airline. But Rex airlines has a fantastic track record right across Australia. You know what? I really think that it is important and incumbent on anybody who lives in that community that they start to support that service, because they are very fortunate to have one.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

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

AIR SERVICES — ALBANY

354. Mr P.B. WATSON to the Minister for Transport:

I ask a supplementary question. Were these issues taken into account when Rex was awarded the contract by the minister's department?

Mr D.C. NALDER replied:

I cannot believe that the member for Albany wants to do nothing but criticise an airline that delivers a service for his local community. He should be thankful he has one.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you now for the second time. Minister, address the question through the Chair, quickly.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I cannot believe that the member for Albany wants to sit there and simply criticise. I have never heard the member for Albany —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr D.C. NALDER: I have never heard the member for Albany make one compliment about Rex being delivered to Albany and the fact that we have an airline service that is delivering more services for the people of Albany. If there is a breakdown in any aspect, we will take it on board and we will raise that with Rex.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I would suggest that you relax, quickly.

WATER FOR FOOD — MYALUP–WELLINGTON PROJECT

355. Mr M.J. COWPER to the Minister for Water:

I understand that the significant state government investment into the Water for Food Myalup–Wellington project has been supplemented by the federal government to the tune of about \$1 million. Good work! Can the minister please explain what the project is about?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

I thank the member for the question and his interest in the project. The member is correct. Today the commonwealth announced that the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund will provide \$1 million to support the building up of a feasibility study on a project to reduce the salinity in Wellington Dam and to significantly increase productivity in the Myalup and Collie irrigation districts.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: This funding fits very nicely with the work that we have been doing on the Myalup Water for Food project that has been funded by royalties for regions under the Seizing the Opportunity Agriculture initiative. At the end of last year, we went out to tender as part of the Water for Food project and asked for expressions of interest from the private sector to deal with potential solutions to reduce the salinity in Wellington Dam and improve productivity in the Collie and Myalup irrigation districts. As a result, Harvey Water, which has been working extraordinarily hard on a project itself to pipe water under pressure into the Collie irrigation district, formed a partnership with an organisation called Aqua Ferre. They have been working on a much broader project that promises to offer benefits beyond what we could deliver under the Water for Food program. This funding will assist us to build up a feasibility study and business case, and if we can make it work, we can then seek further funding. For those members who are unfamiliar with this area, extraordinary constraints are placed on the growers because of the high salinity of water from Wellington Dam that is provided by Harvey Water.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Collie–Preston, I am not going to put up with this anymore. I call you to order for the second time!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The previous work has not been ignored. It has gone into all the work we have done this far. Unfortunately, when we sent the money back previously, it was because the cost to deliver the water was not appropriate for its purpose. As a result of the involvement of Water for Food, we have a broader project that allows us to add in new elements that could potentially raise opportunities for not only potable water, but also water fit for purpose for agriculture and industry. The delivery of a higher quality water in a pressurised pipeline network from Burekup Weir, which will need to be shifted, through the grid and into the Myalup horticultural precinct, provides significant opportunities for growers if we can further diversify the economy in that part of the state. It is part of the state government's plan to continue to invest in agriculture and we welcome the investment from the commonwealth government in this and a number of other projects that have been announced recently across the entire state.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — COMPLETION AND CLINICAL CLEAN TENDER

356. Mr R.H. COOK to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Perth Children's Hospital, which was first promised in 2014, then programmed to open in December 2015 and then early 2016, and now the latest opening date of late 2016.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the hospital is still on track for practical completion and full handover of the building by August 2016?
- (2) Given statements by the minister that the hospital will start treating patients in October, does this mean that the tender for the clinical clean specifying a 26-week clinical clean will now take only eight or so weeks to complete?
- (3) Will the minister guarantee that the hospital will adhere to its clinical standard time lines rather than be forced to meet this government's political time lines as it required for Fiona Stanley Hospital and Elizabeth Quay?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

- (1)–(3) Yes, I can confirm that the project is on track for the dates that have been announced. A lot of very careful oversight and planning is being undertaken within the Department of Health and the Children and Adolescent Health Service. They are acting very professionally to ensure that the primary aspect of public safety and the quality and care of children who will be receiving treatment at the hospital is

addressed. In relation to the throwaway line of the member for Kwinana about a political time line, the opening of the hospital is not being driven by any political time line at all. Of course, it is well known that the government would have liked the hospital to be completed when it was due towards the end of last year—I think that was the revised date. For reasons beyond the government's control, it has taken longer than we would have liked. However, an outstanding project is being delivered by the builder, John Holland, and all those involved. I have been there now on a number of occasions, including just last week with the Premier when we announced the anticipated dates. The outstanding quality of the project and the nature of the facilities that are being provided at a world-class level is really quite remarkable.

The member seemed to have a strong interest in the clinical clean of the building. As I understand it, the tender that went out for expressions of interest referred to a period of up to 26 weeks being required for the clinical cleaning process to be undertaken. That does not mean it will require all of that time. The other aspect that needs to be appreciated by the member for Kwinana is that the commissioning team now has access to substantial parts of the hospital. The installation of equipment, the familiarisation of the facilities and the commissioning of the hospital is underway. The formal commissioning will start a little later but there is now access to extensive parts of the hospital so that the staff of Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, as it currently is, and the commissioning staff are able to commence installing the information technology equipment and other facilities. Everybody in the public arena will have seen from the vision last week that a large part of the hospital looks very much completed, including the operating theatres. The installation of equipment needs to be completed but the commissioning for all intents and purposes is now underway.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — COMPLETION AND CLINICAL CLEAN TENDER

357. Mr R.H. COOK to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister confirm that the itemised scope of the clinical clean has not been reduced in any way to meet the political time frame of the government, therefore, compromising hygiene standards and patient safety?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

As I said, the safety of patients and the quality of care is paramount to the commissioning team and the government. Certainly, no advice or comment has been provided to me in any way that appropriate clinical standards are being compromised as a result of the timetable that has been set. One of the points made to me is that it was important to finalise a date, albeit, as I said last week, there is some degree of flexibility if required towards the end of the year. However, it is important to note that everybody at the Princess Margaret Hospital site is very keen to make the transition. For a long time now there has been much planning for and expectation about the move. Now that the building is close to completion, people actually want to move. To delay it into next year would be very much a second-best option from the point of view of the staff at Princess Margaret Hospital who, as I said, want to make the move. I can assure the member that the absolute priority of Professor Frank Daly, the head of Perth Children's Hospital, the director general of the Department of Health, Dr David Russell-Wiesz, and all the staff involved in the WA health system is high-standard clinical care and public safety.

TAFE BRANDING

Question on Notice 5445 — Answer Advice

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition) [2.58 pm]: I rise under standing order 80(2) and ask why question on notice 5445 to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development, which was asked on 15 May, remains unanswered.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Training and Workforce Development) [2.58 pm]: That was a question about the costs incurred by campuses for the transitioning arrangements for TAFE. We are currently collating that information and we will table the answer shortly.

ATTORNEY GENERAL — LAW SOCIETY PUBLIC PURPOSES TRUST ACT 1985 — ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Question on Notice 5458 — Answer Advice

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [2.59 pm]: I rise under standing order 80(2) and ask the minister representing the Attorney General in this place why question on notice 5458 about the deliberations of the Allocations Committee for expenditure from the Law Society's public purposes trust has not been answered.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police) [2.59 pm]: I will endeavour to get a response for the member about that question.

HOSPITALS — STAFFING — SECURITY*Question on Notice 4803 — Correction of Answer*

MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Minister for Health) [2.59 pm]: Under standing order 82A, I wish to provide a correction to the answer to question on notice 4803 that was provided by the former Minister for Health in the Legislative Assembly. The WA Country Health Service incorrectly advised that security services were provided by an external contractor at Onslow District Hospital and Newman District Hospital. The correct statement should have read that Onslow hospital and Newman hospital do not employ security staff or have externally contracted security services. Due to the small size of these hospitals, security-related incidents are responded to by WA Police.

HEALTH SERVICES BILL 2016*Returned*

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

HEALTH SERVICES BILL 2016*Assent*

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

NORTHAM HOSPITAL — OBSTETRIC SERVICE*Petition*

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Minister for Water) [3.00 pm]: I have a petition containing 18 signatures that conforms to the standing orders and reads —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament Assembled.

We, the undersigned, are General Practitioners working in the Wheatbelt of Western Australia. We say that the re-establishment of the Obstetrics service at Northam Regional Hospital is a vital and appropriate element in the planned upgrade of the Northam Hospital.

Northam Regional Hospital serves the Local Government areas of Toodyay, Koorda, Mukinbudin, Merredin, Narembeen, Bruce Rock, Quairading, York and Northam. There are about 700 births each year in this area, and at the moment all of those women need to travel to Midland or Perth for delivery and for some of their antenatal visits.

We feel that the health and amenity of our patients in the Wheatbelt is impaired by the lack of an obstetric service at Northam Regional hospital.

We feel that a Salaried Service model is the only viable option for Northam Regional Hospital Obstetric Service at the moment, in view of the fact that there are no local practitioners prepared to provide a full time Obstetric Service to the Northam Regional Hospital.

An appropriate Obstetrics Service requires the infrastructure of Birthing Suites, Theatre and Emergency Department, all of which are available at the Northam Regional Hospital, and it requires 24 hr availability of Midwifery Staff, Obstetric Staff, Anaesthetic Staff and Theatre Staff.

The service should include an Antenatal Clinic and have provision for shared antenatal care with Wheatbelt GPs.

We would support an Obstetric Service at the Northam Regional Hospital by referring our Wheatbelt patients for shared care.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to provide an appropriate Obstetrics Service at Northam Regional Hospital.

[See petition 379.]

Nonconforming Petition

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I also have a petition containing 885 signatures in the same terms, but it does not conform to the standing orders. I intend to bring that to the attention of the Minister for Health, given the widespread community support for the re-establishment of maternity services at Northam.

PAPERS TABLED

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

ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DISQUALIFICATION FOR LIFE) BILL 2016*Notice of Motion to Introduce*

Notice of motion given by **Mr R.F. Johnson**.

STATE TRAINING PROVIDERS — GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT*Notice of Motion*

Mr F.M. Logan gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move —

That this house condemns the Liberal–National government for its mismanagement of the state’s training providers, resulting in significant job losses, fee increases, reduction in student contact hours and the increasing privatisation of the training sector.

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM*Notice of Motion*

Mr R.H. Cook (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move —

That this house reaffirms its support for free, accessible universal health care, and that the house also calls on the commonwealth government to reject any proposal to implement a co-payment for GP and pathology test services or the privatisation of Medicare that would result in increased pressure on hospital emergency departments.

PERTH FREIGHT LINK*Matter of Public Interest*

THE SPEAKER (Mr M.W. Sutherland) informed the Assembly that he was in receipt within the prescribed time of a letter from the Leader of the Opposition seeking to debate a matter of public interest.

[In compliance with standing orders, at least five members rose in their places.]

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition) [3.08 pm]: I move —

That this house condemns the Western Australian and federal Liberal Parties for their rushed and shambolic plans for the Perth Freight Link, which has shown a complete disregard for Western Australia’s needs and priorities.

There are lots of examples of a shambolic, chaotic and dysfunctional government, but there is one example above all—one example par excellence—that shows how shambolic and chaotic this government is; that is, the Perth Freight Link project. I will take members through some of the more recent aspects. The federal Treasurer himself did not even understand the details of this project in the middle of a federal election campaign. The ministers responsible will not even appear in public with the federal Treasurer, I think because the federal Treasurer does not want them there. He does not want to see them. The Premier is not even in contact with the Prime Minister of this country.

Mr C.J. Barnett: I spoke to him on Saturday.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The Premier is not appearing in public with him. The Cottesloe Beach Hotel does not count. Going into the culinary bunker down there on Cottesloe Beach does not count as appearing in public with the Prime Minister. Appearing at Julie Bishop’s campaign launch is not engaging with mainstream Western Australia. It is not getting out there and meeting the public. Appearing at Julie Bishop’s campaign launch with all the Ferraris and Mercedes out the front is not engaging with the general public of Western Australia and being seen with the Prime Minister of this country. We want to see the Premier out there with the Prime Minister of this country and so do our federal colleagues. The only people who do not want to see him out there, it appears, are the Prime Minister and his federal colleagues. A significant issue is going on in this state when the Premier is unable to appear in public with his federal colleagues. I digress.

Mr C.J. Barnett: I did on a Saturday.

Mr M. McGOWAN: He did on Saturday. Was that in Shenton Park? Did the Premier go around to the Treasurer’s house? Did he go around there and catch up with a few people at the Treasurer’s house?

The Perth Freight Link is just one of a number of issues. I was gobsmacked just before to hear the Treasurer of this state, the former head of the Institute of Public Affairs Australia, saying that the first offer to construct the new port in Kwinana would be given to the owner of Fremantle port. That is a prime example of a state Treasurer not applying good economic policy and, I might also add, not communicating with the commonwealth. He misrepresented the head of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, who said in his speech the other week —

“I was very concerned to hear press reports about a possible plan to offer the new owner of the port of Fremantle the right to develop a new port south of Fremantle in the future ...

Back then it was only possible. Today the Treasurer confirmed that he will enter into that arrangement if he gets the opportunity to privatise the port of Fremantle. If the government is going to give first rights to that owner to a new port in Kwinana, therefore eliminating any prospect of competition, that is another reason—in fact, a cast-iron, solid-gold reason—to oppose the privatisation of the port of Fremantle. The ACCC agrees with us on this issue. I digress. We are on the Perth Freight Link proposal.

Mr C.J. Barnett: This is the fourth time you have moved an MPI on this. At least change your speech; make it interesting.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is only \$2 billion. Admittedly, the government has blown the state's debt by \$37 billion, so it is only small bickies for the Premier, but \$2 billion to most people is a large amount of money and is symbolic. It is representative of the way that the government has been governing this state. Earlier today, the Premier was out there commenting about the stadium. It is his second-favourite project after Elizabeth Quay. He said that it is a bit disappointing that the commonwealth government did not give us any money. The state government did not ask the federal government for money, but it is a bit disappointing that the commonwealth government did not give us any money. Why does the commonwealth government give Queensland and other states money for stadia, but Western Australia misses out? That is because this government is so useless and so hopeless that it cannot put a good case to the commonwealth for a contribution towards a stadium, even though other states are successful in getting contributions. It is because the Prime Minister does not want to be seen with the Premier; he is too embarrassed to be seen with him. The Premier's office would be on the phone saying that the Premier has to be there for the announcement of the money for the stadium and the Prime Minister would be saying, "Well, we can't give them the money then. We can't have him near us. We don't want him anywhere near us." That is no doubt the Prime Minister's office's answer.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you! We just want to hear the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr M. McGOWAN: When I was in the Navy, there was an old saying about submarines diving deep to escape detection; that is what the Premier has done. He has dived deep. The Liberal Party has him in deep cover; it has him in a cryogenic storage to keep him away from the Prime Minister.

The state is not getting any money for Perth Stadium. Through the Fremantle port sale, the government is engaging in some of the worst economics anyone, including the ACCC, has ever seen. That is a very significant issue that will have to be teased out with the former IPA chair or president or whatever he was. We also have the Perth Freight Link. We have apparently moved matter of public interest motions about the Perth Freight Link four times. As I have said, it is symbolic because the government is pouring \$2 billion of state and commonwealth money down the drain. Exhibit A, the most recent component of this ongoing saga, is that the federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison, was here last week—I have met him, but the Premier probably has not. He said, and I quote —

“As you know, it has to get under the river ...

His staff later clarified that he did not say that; he said that it would have to go over the river. In any event, the understanding of the federal Treasurer in contributing \$1 billion of commonwealth money towards this state government is that there will be a tunnel under the river. This shambolic dysfunctional project has been struck down by the Supreme Court at one level. The cost is expanding as we go along. It will bowl over part of the Beelihar Wetlands and connect to a port that will reach capacity —

Mr D.C. Nalder: When?

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is 25 years hence, according to the Treasurer. A few years ago, Troy Buswell was saying that it would be in six or seven years.

Ms R. Saffioti: He said 2021.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Troy Buswell was saying 2021, but his third successor, the current Treasurer, says that it is 25 years hence. I trust Troy first, to be honest.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I trust Troy on this issue. He does live in Shenton Park. Was Troy at the meeting? Was he at the meeting at the Treasurer's house that morning in 2014? He rolled up with Dean and the relatively quiet member for Forrestfield. The point I am making is that even in light of all those issues that have come with this project, the commonwealth does not even know what it is contributing money to. This is the latest instalment in this ongoing saga that needs to be teased out. Why does it need to be teased out? It is because of opportunity cost. If we put \$2 billion into a project that does not work, that is \$2 billion we cannot spend on other projects that do work, such as our Metronet proposal. We are saying to this house and the people of Western Australia that this is a shambolic, chaotic, dysfunctional government led by a Premier whose federal colleagues are too embarrassed to be seen with him, and that Labor has an alternative plan to use state and commonwealth resources to meet the long-term needs of the people of Western Australia.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

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

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is the choice that the people of Western Australia have before them. It is just another day in WA of shambles, dysfunction and chaos under the leadership of the current Premier of Western Australia. I say “current” advisedly because who knows, with his colleagues and friends around him, how long he will be there.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan) [3.22 pm]: I rise to talk about the Perth Freight Link—a saga that has more twists and turns than *Days of our Lives*. It is a unifying project. It is unifying the Minister for Transport and the Treasurer—the Treasurer, who has an unhealthy obsession with Roe 8, and the Minister for Transport, who has an obsession with stage 2 of the Perth Freight Link, because Mathias Cormann told him to! That is what the Perth Freight Link project is all about. It is about the Minister for Transport and the Treasurer getting together and undermining the Premier. We know that the Premier does not support stage 2 of the Perth Freight Link—he said so. I refer to an ABC news report in November last year, which states —

... Premier Colin Barnett has confirmed plans to shelve stage two of the controversial Perth Freight Link project, saying the State Government “might see where we’re at in 12 months’ time”.

He conceded the project had encountered fierce community opposition and that it was more expensive and complex than the government had anticipated. The Premier went on to say —

“We’ve also got one eye firmly on the construction of an outer harbour at Cockburn so the decision will ... be influenced by that.”

That is where the Premier was at in November last year. But these two—the Shenton Park dream team—were getting together, obsessed about this Perth Freight Link project, even though the Premier could see it was not a wise expenditure of government money. These two—one who has an unhealthy obsession with Roe 8 and the other because Mathias Cormann told him so—went out and put the state’s entire financial capacity into this project. That is what they have done. Over the last three weeks, we have seen more chaos and dysfunction over this project.

Mr C.J. Barnett: And shambolic—don’t forget that!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: And it is shambolic! I thank the Premier; I missed that. I thank the Premier very much for his advice. I always welcome the Premier’s advice.

What have we seen over the past few weeks? The federal Treasurer went through the issue and found it a bit complicated. He was not quite sure where the project was ending. He must have thought that, because he was putting \$1 billion worth of commonwealth funding into this project, surely it must get to the port! I am not a big fan of the federal Treasurer, but I fully agree with him on that: he should assume that if the commonwealth is putting \$1 billion into this project, it should get to the port; but it does not.

We saw, through information obtained under the Administrative Appeals Tribunal process, that the Western Australian state government and the federal government were trying to withhold from the public freedom of information documents requested by Hon Alannah MacTiernan that showed serious consideration of the project commenced only in March 2014, which I will go through. We saw the Matusik report, which came about because the head of Main Roads Western Australia knew someone in Queensland—I will also go through that. We saw that the government has no figures on placarded loads that will continue on so-called suburban streets and that it is reducing the subsidy on freight on rail. That is important. This government, which claims to be so concerned about trucks on roads, is reducing the subsidy for putting freight on rail from 31 December. That is not good policy. Let me go through this. The Leader of the Opposition has already outlined this.

The federal Treasurer was the headkicker and he was coming over to make a point about the Perth Freight Link. Members in this place saw him when he came to Western Australia and dug in over the divisive Perth Freight Link. He talked about an expected cost blowout and tried to compare that project with Melbourne’s East West Link. But the federal Treasurer failed to acknowledge the report of the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office that severely criticised the former Victorian Liberal government for entering into risky contracts before an election. The Auditor-General said that the government was poorly advised and had rushed the contract signing and created financial risk for Victorian taxpayers. That is what the Victorian Auditor-General said about the former Victorian Liberal government. This is the example that the federal Treasurer gave, even though the Victorian Auditor-General severely criticised the former Victorian Liberal government for rushing into the signing of the contract. That is the first point.

The second point is that the federal Treasurer did not know that the Perth Freight Link project ended a few kilometres from the port; he thought it had to go under the river, because surely he would expect that, if he was putting in \$1 billion, the project might end up at the port. That is what he was thinking.

Mr P. Papalia: You would think so!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Yes, you would. I refer to the second point. Members will remember this government saying that this project had been developed over years. Evidence given by a Main Roads officer in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal case reads —

On or around 19 March 2014, the Government of Western Australia ... through its agency Main Roads Western Australia ... provided some initial project information about the proposed Roe 8 extension ...

Information on Roe 8 and High Street was given to the federal government. That is what the state government did. In March 2014, this project started developing and it was funded in the federal budget about a month later, but it did not appear in the state budget. The Minister for Transport said that it had been programmed for years, but evidence from federal and state public officers shows that this \$2 billion project was dreamt up in March 2014, which was a few weeks before the announcement of the Perth Freight Link project. A \$2 billion project was dreamt up in a few weeks! The reason the government gave for not disclosing the information and trying to keep it secret—this is my favourite—is that it contained confidential information used in the preparation of the 2014 state budget. Hang on—the project was not in the 2014 state budget! Again, there was secrecy and the government was withholding the information.

I will briefly go on to the Matusik report. How was this report dreamt up? Why did the government dream up the Matusik report? Why did it think it had to go through some consultants? It is because the Minister for Transport was sitting around with a few property people, including Nigel Satterley from Satterley Property Group—he was a good guy then! The Treasurer does not like him, but the Minister for Transport sat around the table with him.

Mr D.C. Nalder: Tell the whole story.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The minister can get up and speak. It states here that the minister sat around at a meeting with the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia and that Nigel Satterley was at the meeting.

Mr D.C. Nalder: And so was the Property Council of Australia.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I am not saying that the Property Council of Australia was not there; I am saying that Nigel was there. The Treasurer is claiming some incredible things about that developer, yet the Minister for Transport was sitting around a table with him. Is Nigel Satterley good or is he bad? I am pretty confused about the Liberal Party's view of him these days! The minister said that he had to do a report. The opposition wondered how he chose Matusik and where he came from. In the estimates hearing the head of Main Roads Western Australia answered —

From my work in Queensland, where I used to work in the property industry, ...

He chose Matusik; that is what he did. What sort of government is the Premier running? The reality for everyone else in the Liberal Party is that the Minister for Transport's obsession with the Perth Freight Link means that other projects are not getting funded. The rail line from Thornlie that the member for Southern River has been arguing for is right at the back of the queue. Where are the Wanneroo bypasses that the member for Wanneroo and the federal member for Cowan have been arguing for? Where is the much-needed Armadale Road bridge over the freeway to ensure that congestion does not become a major problem over the coming years? Where is that? Because the Minister for Transport has sunk all that money into the Perth Freight Link project, no-one else has funding to complete their projects.

As I said, what is so incredible about this project is that it is a symbol of the leadership tensions on the other side. The Treasurer and the Minister for Transport are plotting against not only each other, but also the Premier, in unison. The member for Forrestfield, the consigliere—everyone knows what that is—is the adviser bringing the families together! My personal favourite is the role of the former candidate for West Swan, Natasha Cheung. We should remember that this was a candidate the Premier put forward to launch the 2013 campaign. Her speech was all about why she left the Labor Party to join the Liberal Party. It was all about why the Labor Party was bad. There she was, organising a meeting in Shenton Park. She gave a speech describing why she left the Premier and why she is now moving on to another leader. She also gave a speech like that in Shenton Park. That is another example of complete dysfunction in the government, and Perth Freight Link is a symbol of the chaos and division in the government.

MR D.C. NALDER (Alfred Cove — Minister for Transport) [3.29 pm]: I am thrilled to have an opportunity to extol the virtues of the Perth Freight Link project for the fourth time. Let me start with some of the misleading information given by the Leader of the Opposition. He likes to trash this project, yet at the same time he wants to replicate Infrastructure Australia here in Western Australia. Infrastructure Australia rates this project as the number one project that has not yet started in Australia. If we want to replicate the model in Canberra, surely we would look at what Infrastructure Australia is saying and how it assesses projects; it rates this project as its number one project in Australia that is yet to commence.

Mr P. Papalia: It's the only one they've looked at.

Mr D.C. NALDER: No, it is not the only one it has looked at. It is strange how this project gets the sign-off as a very good project from Infrastructure Australia, yet members opposite sit in here and try to trash the project.

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

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

Mr D.C. NALDER: As I have said in the past, this project will save lives. All of a sudden, it is silent on the other side. Members opposite talk about a shambolic project and we are talking about a project that will save lives. It will save lives for a number of reasons. The first reason is that we will remove the need for trucks to stop at a significant number of traffic lights.

Ms R. Saffioti: How many?

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan.

Mr D.C. NALDER: It will be 16. Members opposite would like us to think that this is a shambolic project, yet it will save lives. The intersection of North Lake Road and Leach Highway is the number 11 black spot in the state. We know that the number of incidents that involve trucks on Leach Highway is double the metropolitan average. We know that one of the biggest problems we have with trucks on our roads is that a number of inexperienced drivers, in particular, will often pull in front of a truck when a set of lights is changing. Any situation that involves a heavy vehicle that has to pull up quickly can be catastrophic. This is a great opportunity to build a project that will dramatically save lives. It will also dramatically reduce the congestion on South Street.

We have two key hospitals—Fiona Stanley Hospital and St John of God Murdoch Hospital—in that precinct. We know that the intersection of South Street and Murdoch Drive is congested. It is anticipated that it will fail in the next five years. We have looked at a lot of different models of what can be done at that intersection. It is very difficult, with the amount of traffic that is expected to flow through that area. It is anticipated that 35 000 people will be working in the Murdoch precinct and there will be 115 000 daily visitors. With the completion of Roe 8 by 2021, we will see 23 800 vehicles come in from the south entrance each day. We are looking at a 30 per cent reduction of vehicles on South Street. We know that that will provide better and easier access to two of our key principal hospitals.

We have talked about the job creations from this project. Those opposite have a manifest full of motherhood statements about the creation of jobs in Western Australia. There is nothing tangible in it. They want to create jobs by creating more services within the government. They are not real jobs that will improve productivity. If we look through the manifest that the Leader of the Opposition has put forward, we see very little that demonstrates anything tangible.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Butler, I do not want to hear you.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Yet the Labor Party wants to take away a project that would deliver 2 400 direct jobs and 10 000 indirect jobs. I do not know what it will replace it with.

It is really interesting that the Labor Party has had this Metronet plan for a long time.

Mr F.A. Alban: A fantasy.

Mr D.C. NALDER: It is a fantasy. The Labor Party talks about it costing a couple of billion dollars. Its number one project is completing the Forrestfield–Airport Link project—a \$2 billion project. If that is going to cost \$2 billion, what is the rest of the money being spent on? The Labor Party talks about removing level crossings. It has gone very quiet on that. There are over 100 of them. At an average cost of \$50 million, we are talking about \$5 billion. The Metronet plan refers to running a line to Ellenbrook off the Midland line at Bayswater. I have checked this out.

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

Mr D.C. NALDER: There is no capacity on the Midland line —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland, I call you to order for the first time. Member for West Swan, I do not want to hear from you.

Mr D.C. NALDER: There is no capacity on the Midland line to deliver the frequency of services required by 2031 across all three lines when we look at the Forrestfield–Airport Link, the Midland line and then a line to Ellenbrook unless we duplicate the line all the way to the CBD.

Mr B.S. Wyatt interjected.

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

Mr D.C. NALDER: Mr Speaker —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the first time, is it?

Mr P.C. Tinley: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Willagee.

Mr D.C. NALDER: It is interesting to look at this a little closer. We know that the cost of the Cockburn–Thornlie line will be in the vicinity of \$350 million to \$500 million. I have been informed that because of the difficulties and the lack of space that is available on the Midland line, this is likely to cost more than double. That is before we do something with Perth central station.

Members opposite talk about the cost of Metronet, and I can assure members that it is full of flawed assumptions. What is even more interesting about this is that the Labor Party’s plan to deliver a rail line to Ellenbrook involves level crossings, not grade separating.

Mr W.J. Johnston: How do you know what we’re going to do?

Mr D.C. NALDER: It is funny what I know. The Labor Party is running a whole line about removing level crossings, yet it plans to build new lines with level crossings. Members opposite talk about our “shambolic plans”. We are just getting started. The Labor Party will come under more and more scrutiny over the next six to nine months over its so-called transport plan.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Let us look at Labor’s plan. It just said that the Perth Freight Link was a shambolic plan because we are not building the last mile. If I follow that logic through, does the fact that we are building the Aubin Grove train station on the Mandurah line mean that the Mandurah line was a shambolic project when Labor completed it? I am following the same logic of the opposition. I have explained to members opposite a number of times that the modelling shows us that minor capital works at the intersection of Canning Highway and Stirling Highway will mean that the traffic flow across the bridge will be better by 2026 than it is today.

We know that work still needs to be done across the river; we have acknowledged that. We have said that the work will cost in the order of half a billion dollars. If we can utilise minor capital works money now to ensure that the traffic flow will be better than today for the next 10 years, then I believe, as a responsible government, we would be far better to shift that money into other projects like public transport rather than spending the half a billion dollars right now.

It is really interesting that members opposite are calling it shambolic but, at the same time, they argue that the Aubin Grove train station was not required when the Mandurah line was built and we are building it now. Members opposite cannot follow the same logic through on the Perth Freight Link.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

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

Mr D.C. NALDER: The Leader of the Opposition wants to talk about the economics of the Perth Freight Link; let us have a little look. We had to submit the projects to Infrastructure Australia. We undertake benefit–cost ratios. This project is more interesting because it did pose a challenge. It posed a challenge because we have considered the introduction of a freight charge. We have spent well over a year working with the transport industry on a value-capture method.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.C. NALDER: We have worked with the transport industry for well over a year to look at whether we could identify a win–win situation with industry by establishing a charge for the industry to contribute to the construction of the infrastructure project and, in return, industry would pocket productivity benefits through the creation of that infrastructure. We have worked with the transport industry across three measures: fuel, maintenance and time saved. We have applied that right across the total project, which includes not only Roe 8 and the Fremantle tunnel, but all the way through to Muchea. The economic benefits or the productivity gains for the transport industry are extremely large. We know that productivity measures can be taken into consideration and this is one thing that we continue to work through and it has not been finalised. It is interesting that we have not done anything like this in this state’s history to work with industry to consider productivity gains or the additional profit that will be generated and looked for industry to contribute to the cost of the infrastructure. We have the potential to fully cover the cost of this state’s contribution to these infrastructure projects.

If members opposite want to look at economics, can they give me another project in Western Australia in which we may be able to generate productivity gains and additional profit to industry, and be able to make a freight charge that will cover the state's cost of the infrastructure? Can members opposite give me another one? If they want to talk about economics, they have to understand what the impact or the cost will be to the state and what the benefits to industry will be. Any assessment of this—the reports are there, available online with Main Roads—shows it is a fantastic project economically if we look at the benefits and the productivity gains.

Mr F.M. Logan: What a load of rubbish.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Mr Speaker, the member for Cockburn would like to put on record that this is a load of rubbish.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr D.C. NALDER: I would like the member for Cockburn to go out and talk to the truckie industry and ask why it is so supportive of the project.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.C. NALDER: It is really interesting that truckies would support this project if we are turning around and establishing Western Australia's first freight charge.

When we talk about the outer harbour—I have raised this before in this house—members opposite float between the outer harbour and the inner harbour as though one minute it is an overflow and the next minute they are shifting the whole lot. Members opposite reference a 2002 report in which the port's capacity would be reached by 2021–22. It is really interesting, and what members opposite seem to forget, that if we look at the report, the assumption was that we would be at around 950 000 twenty-foot equivalent unit containers by 2016. We are actually at 740 000 containers so we are some 200 000 containers, or about 25 per cent, less than what was anticipated in the report. Members opposite talk about reaching capacity in a few years, yet the modelling back then had us at a much higher number and stronger growth than what we experienced. We have experienced strong growth, but we are at 740 000 containers a year, not 900 000 containers.

With technology and further productivity for improvements over the wharf, we advised that the capacity is significantly more and it will buy us space. It is really interesting that, if we take that into consideration, I have not heard or had it confirmed by members opposite whether they will close the Fremantle port altogether and relocate it or use it as an overflow port. They do not want to admit to anything at the moment because there is a lack of substance in their arguments—an absolute lack of substance. It is really interesting that members opposite talk about capacity and shifting it all to the outer harbour, and therefore this project is a waste of time. If we look at this project's benefit–cost ratio—again, I am repeating what has been said before in this house —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.C. NALDER: Members opposite can see all the reports that reference this on the Main Roads website.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn!

Mr D.C. NALDER: We have advised members opposite that 86 per cent of the benefit of the benefit–cost ratio is not truck movements. We have identified that there will be huge productivity gains for the trucking industry —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan.

Mr D.C. NALDER: There will be huge productivity gains for the freight movement but 86 per cent of the benefit of the benefit–cost ratio will be for vehicles other than trucks. That includes commercial vehicles, which is tradies and all those people—basically, all vehicles under 4.5 tonnes. It is for utes and it will involve private vehicles. When this issue was raised in this house last time as a matter of public interest, I tabled the road modelling that showed all the traffic numbers across all roads.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Members opposite would like to think it is wrong.

Mr W.J. Johnston: The minister said it was wrong!

Mr D.C. NALDER: No, I did not say it was wrong. I have tabled the traffic modelling from Main Roads.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.C. NALDER: Members opposite will have time to speak later. I have tabled the traffic modelling from Main Roads that shows the levels of traffic in both 2021 and 2031. It shows the figures separated from heavy vehicles. Members opposite reference that the road modelling that does not show the regulatory effect of mandating which roads trucks leaving the port must take. The regional operational model modelling under Main Roads does not make that adjustment. Members opposite challenge some of the figures around the truck numbers in different reports but, if they look at the total volumes, trucks account for a marginal amount; we are talking 5 000 to 6 000 versus 45 000 to 50 000 other vehicles. If we have a cost–benefit ratio in the order of 2.5 or 2.6, and 86 per cent of it is for vehicles alone, if members opposite were to remove the total port—which I do not think they are saying they will do—so no trucks went down there, then I am sure members opposite would replace it with high density residential living. That would add more vehicles down there; I am sure they would. Maybe I am dreaming and members opposite will make it a nice grassy park. Economically, this is a very sensible project and a very responsible investment. I do not know of another project in Western Australia that would stack up better than this project. We must acknowledge the fact that the freight charge can generate a revenue stream that will fund the state’s contribution, and also acknowledge the lives that will be saved, the jobs that will be created at a time when they are needed, and the improvement in amenity.

The opposition wants to criticise the Matusik Property Insights report. The findings of this report are endorsed by the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia and the Property Council of Australia.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.C. NALDER: I will get that in writing for members opposite.

The findings of this report —

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr D.C. NALDER: The findings of the Matusik report have been endorsed by the Property Council of Australia and REIWA. I will go and get that endorsement to demonstrate that to members opposite. Members opposite hate this concept —

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler, if you keep shouting out, you are going to be having a rest.

Mr D.C. NALDER: In that report Matusik found that there would be a reduction in fatalities in the order of 70 per cent. It also said that over 10 years, property values would increase relative to all other property values in the order of 50 per cent.

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Willagee, I call you to order for the second time. I suggest you put your name down to speak.

Mr D.C. NALDER: The report also found that sales activity would increase by 40 to 50 per cent over a 10-year period. If we model the property increases, it is a relative thing. Additional stamp duty will be generated for the state to help contribute to that.

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

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

Mr D.C. NALDER: I find it absolutely amazing; we want to construct a project that is going to improve local amenity, save lives, create jobs and actually generate a revenue stream that will fund the state’s contribution, yet the opposition wants to kill it off. I find that amazing.

A funny thing happened the other day. The federal Leader of the Opposition said that a future federal Labor government would redirect that money, but that it would continue to fund the upgrade of High Street. That is where things get really interesting, because I was criticised a little while ago for stage 2; members opposite said I had an obsession with it. What is really interesting about stage 2 is that I wanted to look at an alternative to High Street. The former Labor Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Alannah MacTiernan, sold off the Fremantle eastern bypass, which I still believe was an absolute disgrace, and I cannot believe the member for Fremantle does not stand up for the people of South Fremantle, who have to put up with trucks coming down Hampton Road. She commenced the planning for High Street, so Bill Shorten, the federal Leader of the Opposition, is going to go back to that project. We have had all the Palmyra residents coming in to complain

about the Perth Freight Link project, and that was the route that went down High Street and Leach Highway, beside the Palmyra residents. If we were to revert to this project, it would mean a double trench through Royal Fremantle Golf Club. There would be massive numbers of trucks. All the trucks are now going down behind the Palmyra residents.

Ms S.F. McGurk: No, they don't.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Well, where do they go?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.C. NALDER: These trucks are going to turn left onto High Street and then disappear. They are going to jump over past Fremantle Cemetery and the residents of Palmyra and are just going to disappear. This is absolutely ludicrous. The opposition is criticising us for taking the time to analyse all the options and come up with a solution that actually reduces the impact on the local suburbs around the area, including Palmyra and Melville et cetera.

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Fremantle!

Mr D.C. NALDER: Perhaps the member for Fremantle would like to get up and talk.

I want to also touch briefly on the Beeliar wetlands, which, again, the Leader of the Opposition wanted to jump into. The original plan goes —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells!

Mr D.C. NALDER: The Leader of the Opposition made the assertion that we are bulldozing the Beeliar wetlands and digging it all up. As I have said numerous times, we have redirected that route north to avoid Bibra Lake. There are six hectares of wetland area —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells, I call you to order for the first time, and member for Wanneroo, I call you to order for the second time. Thank you.

Mr D.C. NALDER: There are six hectares of wetlands. It is —

Mr C.J. Tallentire interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr D.C. NALDER: There are six hectares of wetlands that will be impacted at Dog Swamp and Horse Paddock Swamp. We are going to put a bridge over the top of them. There are 30 hectares of virgin bush, 60 hectares of degraded bush and another 100 hectares of sand, so we are purchasing 430 hectares of coastal plain as an offset. This will save in excess of 400 000 tonnes of carbon emissions, yet members opposite —

Mr C.J. Tallentire interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells, do you want to go home early today? Carry on.

Mr D.C. NALDER: Members opposite want to turn straight out to Cockburn Sound and build the outer harbour. The last time I spoke on this, I tabled a strategic environmental assessment undertaken by Alannah MacTiernan. That assessment revealed that, of the four options, whether they were land-backed or island-based, around 400 hectares of Cockburn Sound would be impacted. The six hectares of wetlands that we will be bridging over represents 0.5 per cent of the Beeliar wetland area. That area of 400 hectares represents about 30 per cent of the northern shelf of the Cockburn Sound area. Eventually, when it is the right time, we also want to move to the outer harbour, but we acknowledge that there is an environmentally sensitive issue there that needs to be thought through carefully.

As I have said, this is a responsible project and a great project for Western Australia; it will save lives, dramatically reduce congestion, deliver jobs at a time when Western Australia needs them, create huge productivity gains for industry, and create huge benefits for the local community. This is a project that everyone will look back on and wonder why we did not do it sooner.

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park) [3.57 pm]: I will make a few comments. Is it any wonder that the state's finances are where they are? The Minister for Transport's problem is that his credibility is zilch. He is going to have to release all these documents that apparently put forward the economic case for the Perth Freight Link in its entirety. He must provide to this place assumptions, not summaries, of the \$2 billion project committed to by the Liberal Party, state and federal, before Infrastructure Australia got anywhere near it. Again, today the

minister based fatality figures on a report by a Queensland real estate agent that did not even make the effort to come across to Western Australia. If the Minister for Transport is going to rely on reports like that, people are going to become suspicious. He stood here and said that fatality figures were based on —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

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

Mr B.S. WYATT: Those fatality figures are based on the report of a Queensland real estate agent. Then, highlighting the fact that the dysfunction in the Liberal Party permeates to Canberra, Scott Morrison, the federal Treasurer, has said that he thinks the Perth Freight Link will go under the Swan River all the way to the port. I would have liked to have been there when he jumped back into the car and got on the phone, “Dean, what are we committed to? What are we funding? This thing is not even getting to the port! I just humiliated myself in the media, and you’re not even getting us to the port! What’s going on?”

A reasonable person might describe the way in which this government has committed to this multibillion-dollar project as crazy, as off the wall, or as ridiculous. I can only assume that the report in *The West Australian* of 2 June this year about a meeting between the Treasurer and the Minister for Transport was in respect of the Perth Freight Link. The Treasurer is quoted in that report as saying that they came to meet him—I am referring to the member for Forrestfield up the back, and the Minister for Transport —

“Then both of them, but particularly Dean, made some suggestions to me,” Dr Nahan said.

“I thought they were slightly off-the-wall and ridiculous, and the meeting ended pretty quickly thereafter.”

I can only assume they were talking about the Perth Freight Link, because it could not have been anything else. However, I am intrigued about the role of the member for Forrestfield, “Mr Decline to Comment”. The consigliere, Tom Hagen from Forrestfield—I like the reference to *The Godfather*—clearly gave Mr Nalder, the minister, a call and said, “Hey, Johnny Fontane, I can get you into a little movie. Let’s sort out a meeting with Mr Jack Woltz down the front here, the Treasurer, and get Johnny Fontane into that movie, because Tom Hagen, the consigliere, knows what’s going on.” I am sure Dr Nahan knows what happened to Jack Woltz. He ended up with a horse’s head in his bed! That is what happened! I know that the wily old operator from Cottesloe is all over the Treasurer and the Minister for Transport like a rash! If I were to put my money on anyone, it would be on the wily old operator from Cottesloe. The Treasurer and the Minister for Transport will be bumbling around for a while yet, and, meanwhile, “Mr Decline to Comment” up the back here from Forrestfield —

Mr B.J. Grylls interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: Let me give the member for Pilbara a piece of advice, as someone who knows how to stuff up a leadership challenge! Dean and Mike actually have a challenge. I think the Violet Grove disagreement, outside the home of Dr Nahan in Shenton Park, has got a way to run yet. I loved the interview, with Dan Emerson standing by the Sulo bin. I particularly loved this bit from Dr Nahan —

I don’t know if there’s two, you can assess that.

That was followed closely by —

... as you say there are two versions, one is false, and that’s not mine.

I think that might be Dean—Johnny Fontane—looking for his premier role in that war movie, where he goes over the trench and cleans up the member for Cottesloe. As I have said, I think the member for Cottesloe is all over the Treasurer and the Minister for Transport like a rash. The Violet Grove disagreement has got a way to run yet, and I think we all know that.

I want to bring it back to the nightmare that is the Perth Freight Link. We have watched the government commit to a \$2 billion spend on a piece of infrastructure, a couple of weeks before the federal budget was delivered, because it was desperate for something to commit to. We have watched the government run to a Queensland real estate agent to justify the safety concerns. We have watched a ham-fisted, clumsy minister who cannot make the case for this project. If the Premier, when he sat in this seat, had watched the government of the day behave in that way, he would have said, “I don’t think that’s the way government should be spending \$2 billion.” Is it any wonder that people outside of this place are sceptical? I listened intently to what the Minister for Transport said. I did not understand a word he said. When the minister is spending \$2 billion on a project and he cannot make a coherent argument for that project, and when he has to rely on a Queensland real estate agent for advice on that project, I guess we will be back in this place having to solve this problem after the March election.

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Treasurer) [4.04 pm]: I would like to make some comments on this motion. Members opposite say I have an obsession with Roe 8. Well, I do. Roe 8 has been in the planning for 50 years. Members opposite say it was rushed. The last I heard, 50 years is not a rush. The former Labor government set aside the land for it. When we first came into government in 2008, we allocated \$20 million to the planning of

Roe 8. Over the following four years, we undertook the most extensive planning ever undertaken for a road project—route, design, community assessment and environmental assessment. However, 30 years before that, the Department of Health bought land at the corner of where Roe 8 was going to be built. That is because it expected Roe 8 to be built on that site. The previous Labor government then decided, quite rightly, to build Fiona Stanley Hospital on that site. St John of God Murdoch Hospital, and Murdoch University, also expanded their facilities. That means that 55 000 people will go past that site on South Street. All the modelling shows that by 2021, there will be gridlock on South Street, and all the people in my electorate know that. I will tell members opposite what will happen. If we do not build Roe 8, people will die. When people are injured and are flown to Jandakot Airport by the Royal Flying Doctor Service —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, I call you to order for the second time.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: — and the ambulance tries to take them to Fiona Stanley Hospital, they will be caught in a gridlock among trucks and cars on South Street. Members opposite are saying that we should rip all the money away from that project, even though it is 80 per cent funded by the commonwealth, that the remainder will be funded by a freight charge, and that we should put that money somewhere else. That will leave injured people in an ambulance stuck in traffic—people from the areas of members opposite, as well as from my area. Members opposite say I have an obsession with this. Life and death is at stake here. We have been planning for this for 50 years. We planned for the road. We planned for the hospital. We built the hospital. Now we have to build the road. The reason it has taken us five years to do it is because we had a Labor government in Canberra—the Rudd and Gillard government—that refused to meet its commitment to fund 50 per cent of Roe 8, as it had funded the rest of it. We then got a sensible government in Canberra, and almost immediately it agreed to fund Roe 8. That is because the federal government knows this is a serious issue of life and death. Members opposite might laugh at these issues. They might say it is not an issue that we have to address. However, if people in my electorate are sick and go by ambulance to Fiona Stanley Hospital or St John of God, they will not be able to get access because the opposition has stopped the building of Roe 8. That is a disgrace. Members opposite have been sitting here for eight years, bagging this project, when they have no alternative, just to placate a few nimbys who live alongside Roe 8. This is an issue of life and death. Members opposite are a disgrace.

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle) [4.07 pm]: People know that the Perth Freight Link is a dud. When we speak to people in the community, they know that this project is a dud. They know that for a range of reasons.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Treasurer, I call you to order for the second time.

Ms S.F. McGURK: People know that spending over \$2.5 billion on a road to a 120-year-old port that is reaching capacity does not make sense. They know it is a poor plan because of the failed and very flimsy environmental approvals that were successfully challenged. They know it is a dud because we have had three versions of stage 2, yet we still do not know the route for the second stage of the Perth Freight Link. They know it is a dud because they are talking about tripling the current number of containers to the port of Fremantle to 2.1 million a year. They know that that has to mean more trucks on all our roads around Leach Highway. I notice that the Mayor of Melville is sitting in the gallery today. I do not know whether the mayor understands this, but the City of Melville has been sold a pup. The people of Melville have been sold a pup. It is poor governance to move one community's problem onto another by putting in a \$2.5 billion road to Fremantle port that will triple the number of containers in and out of Fremantle port to over two million a year. It will mean more trucks along Leach Highway and to the northern suburbs. People do not realise that yet, but when they do, they will be angry. They do not realise that the tunnel will not permit placard loads or dangerous goods, and that those dangerous goods will continue to have to go along Leach Highway and around the corner of Stirling Highway and High Street, which the Minister for Transport has talked about a lot. What he fails to understand is that that upgrade, which is still necessary, starts at Carrington Street so that it does not impact the people of Palmyra. It goes along the golf course —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

Ms S.F. McGURK: That is right, and it will be necessary regardless of whether the freight link is built. That is a dangerous —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! We have one minute to go.

Ms S.F. McGURK: That is a dangerous corner, but because so much money is being sunk into the freight link, that intersection is being ignored and it will continue to be a dangerous corner. People know that this is a dud. The Perth Freight Link is a failed project.

Division

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (20)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr M.P. Murray	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr P. Papalia	Mr P.C. Tinley
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr F.M. Logan	Ms M.M. Quirk	Mr P.B. Watson
Ms J. Farrer	Mr M. McGowan	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Ms J.M. Freeman	Ms S.F. McGurk	Ms R. Saffioti	Mr D.A. Templeman (<i>Teller</i>)

Noes (34)

Mr P. Abetz	Ms E. Evangel	Mr R.F. Johnson	Dr M.D. Nahan
Mr F.A. Alban	Mr J.M. Francis	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Mr D.C. Nalder
Mr C.J. Barnett	Mrs G.J. Godfrey	Mr R.S. Love	Mr J. Norberger
Mr I.M. Britza	Mr B.J. Grylls	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mr A.J. Simpson
Mr G.M. Castrilli	Dr K.D. Hames	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr M.H. Taylor
Mr V.A. Catania	Mrs L.M. Harvey	Ms L. Mettam	Mr T.K. Waldron
Mr M.J. Cowper	Mr C.D. Hatton	Mr P.T. Miles	Mr A. Krsticevic (<i>Teller</i>)
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr A.P. Jacob	Ms A.R. Mitchell	
Mr J.H.D. Day	Dr G.G. Jacobs	Mr N.W. Morton	

Pair

Mr J.R. Quigley

Ms W.M. Duncan

Question thus negatived.

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2016–17) BILL 2016
APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2016–17) BILL 2016

Estimates Committees A and B Reports and Minutes — Presentation

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands) [4.17 pm]: On behalf of the Deputy Speaker, I present to the Legislative Assembly the reports and minutes of Estimates Committees A and B.

[See papers 4216 and 4217.]

Estimates Committee A Report — Adoption

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): The question is —

That the report of Estimates Committee A be adopted.

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands) [4.17 pm]: As members are aware, the estimates committees were held from 24 May to 26 May. On each of those days we had two committees sitting—committee A and committee B—from 9.00 am to 10.00 pm. It was quite a timetabling challenge for the staff and I would like to thank them for their contribution, particularly the clerks, parliamentary officers Lachlan Gregory, Rachel Wells and Denis Hippolyte, and all the Legislative Assembly Office staff, as well as Jaclyn Berry and Jeanette Bourke, who put a great deal of effort into making sure that everything ran smoothly. I thank the Deputy Speaker and the Acting Speakers involved, the members for Southern River, Forrestfield, Mirrabooka and Morley, for their contributions, and in particular the members for Geraldton and Murray–Wellington who stepped in to help out. It is quite a demand on members' time, particularly when they are also required to sit on the estimates committees.

Members may be interested to know that a total of 485 opposition questions and 165 government questions were asked. In Estimates Committee A, 250 opposition questions, 81 government questions and 906 follow-up questions were allocated. During Estimates Committee B, 235 opposition questions, 85 government questions and 859 follow-on questions were allocated. The interesting aspect is that during Estimates Committee A, 93 supplementary information requests were made and all have been answered. During Estimates Committee B, 96 supplementary information requests were made and all have been answered. I thank members for their cooperation, and I commend these reports to the house.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [4.19 pm]: I think, being opposition Whip, it is important I make a contribution to the debate on the estimates committee reports each year. I think I might be the longest serving opposition Whip in the history of the Western Australian Parliament—I am not sure; I might check that out—because I have been Whip for eight years.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Certainly the best!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Absolutely!

I acknowledge the contributions of opposition members; I am sure that if the government Whip makes a contribution, he will acknowledge his members. I also acknowledge members who make themselves available at short notice if there is a need to be transferred into a committee hearing due to the absence or illness of others. Madam Acting Speaker, are we debating Estimates Committees A and B concurrently?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman): The question at the moment is that the report of estimates A be adopted.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: That is good; okay.

The ACTING SPEAKER: We have not got to the question that estimates B be adopted, but —

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I will make my comments on committee A, and I will hold off making my comments about committee B until we deal with that motion.

Having been opposition Whip and taken part in the estimates process for the past 15 or 16 years, I want to make a couple of observations. The first is that there was a cabinet reshuffle earlier this year that resulted in existing ministers taking on new responsibilities and shedding a portfolio or two, and the addition of new ministers—namely the Ministers for Child Protection and Disability Services. The Deputy Premier also became Minister for Women's Interests. One of the things that concerns me somewhat is that in some committee A hearings large divisions were able to be allocated only, effectively, three hours. I want to refer, first of all, to the fire and emergency services division that was held on Tuesday in committee A. The Minister for Emergency Services also had responsibility for the State Emergency Management Committee, the secretariat of fisheries, Corrective Services and the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services. One of the disappointing things is that quite often in estimates hearings we find that time goes so quickly that we have to start to ration the time, and I do not think we give proper and due regard to some important portfolio areas. Using that example, I think that is why it is important to understand, from a procedural perspective, that ministers are briefed, if you like, or encouraged to ensure that they allow the acceptance of supplementary information. Quite often, particularly a member of the opposition will request supplementary information. On a number of occasions in a number of the division hearings I attended I did not want the minister to give me a waffling answer, so I simply put my question on record and asked for a supplementary answer because I wanted to save time. Indeed, some of the requests for answers, particularly of a supplementary nature, required, if they were recited verbatim by the minister, significant time. The aim of estimates should never be to try to play out the time.

I will give credit to this year's process in that the member for Maylands, who read the report on behalf of the Deputy Speaker, highlighted that the opposition was able to ask a significant number of questions. I acknowledge that. Whether the answers were to the point or what we were after is up for assessment by others. The point is that three hours is not long enough for divisions in which a minister is handling significant portfolios. Given the bushfire disasters et cetera that have occurred in fire and emergency services in the last financial year, the issues around Corrective Services and the burgeoning prison muster, and issues related to the reasons behind increased incarcerations, and of course given that the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services plays a significant role, I do not think three hours was long enough for that particular portfolio area. Included in that was the issue of fisheries. An important fisheries bill on the management of our state's fisheries will be debated in this place later this week. Five significant divisions had to be shared over a three-hour period.

Hopefully, I might be answering some questions next year during estimates hearings rather than asking them. I would not like to be too presumptuous —

Mr R.F. Johnson: I think you probably will.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I thank the member for Hillarys for his confidence!

I think it is important for the minister to understand why supplementary questions are asked, particularly if they are asked early on. If I am fortunate enough to be answering questions next year, members will not find me being verbose. I could never be accused of that! It would hurt me if I was ever accused of being someone who was overly verbose in this place and I think that would be an attack on my character; I am sure I would be appropriately aghast!

Let us look at the divisions handled by the Premier on the Tuesday between 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm, for which an extra hour had been allotted. Given that the Premier, of course, is the premier minister of the cabinet, it was appropriate for a minimum of four hours to be allocated to the portfolios the Premier has responsibility for. Bear in mind that the Premier's portfolios changed very recently before the estimates hearings, after which he took on the important portfolio of WA tourism. One of the problems with not having a minister in this place, particularly a minister with an important portfolio, is that we are left to the determination of the parliamentary secretary or indeed the nominated government member who is to act on behalf of the minister in the other place.

After the dinner break on the first Tuesday of the estimates committee hearings, the member for Joondalup as parliamentary secretary represented the Minister for Planning. The member for West Swan may comment on that, but again, sometimes the heads of the parliamentary secretaries, the want-to-be ministers, expand rapidly during the estimates hearings and they see it as their opportunity potentially to demonstrate their knowledge of the portfolio when they should defer to the relevant public servant, who is in the best place to provide the answer to a question from a committee member. We had a few examples in which the parliamentary secretaries or those representing the minister in the other place during the estimates committee hearings were perhaps of the view that they could stonewall in some cases when questions were asked. I must admit that I was not in any hearings in Estimates Committee A when there were any lively exchanges. That is because of my nature. I am not an adversarial person. I am a lover, not a fighter. I did not see any fireworks.

Ms L.L. Baker: Didn't you get thrown out last year?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes, I did. There was a rush of blood to the head. I was obviously not well that evening a few years back. Perhaps I was tired and emotional, and I was kicked out by one of my own party members. The member for Albany was in the chair and he threw me out. However, I might say that I got the front page of the *Mandurah Mail*. Some might say that was my intention, but I could not possibly make a comment on that at all!

Mr P.B. Watson: The headline was in the paper before I even threw you out.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: That is not true. I will leave the important elements of the Treasury division in Estimates Committee A on Wednesday to the members for Victoria Park and West Swan to comment on, and indeed I will leave the divisions for WA Health, the Department of Culture and the Arts and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to the member for Kwinana, if he wishes to comment.

Mr W.J. Johnston: There is no minister here.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: That is dangerous. We know what happened last time the government did not have anyone in the chairs on the other side. Oh dear! The member for Hillarys is salivating. I would hate to be the cause of another going home early. It has happened the first time this millennium; it could happen again. I will make a foghorn noise! I do not know how Hansard will write that. Where is the Leader of the House? Watch out! There is no-one here. The member for Belmont may not know how precarious the situation is.

Ms R. Saffioti: Offer her something.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I will offer her something. We can offer her anything. There will be plenty on offer. I will leave that to my learned friends. There is still no minister in the house. Goodness gracious! I might sit down.

Mr R.F. Johnson: They're going against the rules, you know? They are supposed to have a minister in the house.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Exactly. I think it demonstrates the chaos and confusion of this government. We seek him here, we seek him there. There is the Leader of the House. Did the Leader of the House hear my very good impression of a foghorn?

Mr J.H.D. Day: Unfortunately, I missed it. But it does not sound like I missed much.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I could always give the Leader of the House another rendition if there is a chance.

I want to go back to speaking about Estimates Committee A on Thursday. I do not know whether the member for Gosnells wants to do this, but in the section relating to the Minister for Environment we were expected to deal with eight divisions. They are all very important. One of the sad things—I have seen this happen on numerous occasions now because I have sat in on the environmental portfolio in opposition and as the minister, of course—is that we never get to some of the important areas. For example, we quite often do not do the Perth Zoological Parks Authority or the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, although we had an interesting interchange about the proposed chairlift and the Kings Park Board was apparently very impressed with my comments. Is that right, member for Gosnells?

Mr C.J. Tallentire: The Friends of Kings Park.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: That is right. The board may have felt otherwise, but the Friends of Kings Park were very conscious. We were expected to deal with eight divisions in three hours. This was an example of our problem. Some negotiation allowed us more time because last year the Department of Sport and Recreation had one hour. Given the importance of the stadium project and others, we had to negotiate to extend the Department of Sport and Recreation division to at least an hour and a half. Given the nature of the projects related to that, particularly the stadium and others, that really was not a lot of time. We also had to negotiate to make sure that the Water Corporation and the Department of Water divisions were given appropriate time.

Next year, whomever may be looking at this, I think we need to—it will be up to what the new government after the next election decides to allocate to portfolio areas—note that when questions are asked and requests are made for supplementary information, there is an understanding that that is so that we do not eat into the limited time available to the committee. Indeed, when a parliamentary secretary is representing the minister from the other place, the parliamentary secretary is not expected to answer particularly technical questions. Therefore, it is appropriate that the director general or the appropriate public servant who is accompanying the minister, and indeed who is there to assist in answering questions, is given that opportunity so that questions are answered appropriately.

I want to finish by thanking members of the opposition. When appropriate we were also able to accommodate other members of the house who needed to ask important questions and have those questions asked. I want to thank the members of the committee and, of course, my very hardworking assistant or deputy opposition Whip, who receives no remuneration for her role, but she gets a lot of appreciation from me.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan) [4.39 pm]: I have a few comments on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016 and Appropriation (Capital 2016–17) Bill 2016. I sat through many of the hearings in Estimates Committee A. I was there for the divisions for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority, the Department of Planning and the Department of Sport and Recreation with my colleague the member for Albany. This was the first time that we did not have the Minister for Planning in this place and we had the member for Joondalup doing a representative role, which I thought he did pretty well. He was not too bad at trying to keep—what is the word?—the crease.

Mr B.S. WYATT: Nightwatchman?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No, he was trying to occupy the crease. I was disappointed that the Minister for Culture and the Arts did not retain the planning portfolio. There were a lot of questions to be asked about his involvement in the opening of the BHP Billiton Water Park at Elizabeth Quay that, unfortunately, we did not get to ask directly in this place. As I said, I thought that the parliamentary secretary did a pretty good job of dealing with the issues promptly and not trying to occupy the crease by any stretch of the imagination.

I also thank the chairs, and in particular I note the Deputy Speaker, the member for Kalgoorlie, who I thought did a pretty good job and was very fair in allocating questions. Now that she is no longer running for Parliament, I can say these things! I genuinely think that in my time in this place she always seemed to be very fair in that role.

I want to continue my point about members occupying the crease. We saw a couple of instances—the Department of Sport and Recreation was probably the worst—in which ministers basically avoided questions at all costs. Even worse, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, in a sense, brought in two bodyguards—the member for Pilbara and the member for North West Central. What happened there was actually quite patronising of the minister. We were trying to ask some pretty straightforward questions, such as the cost of the stadium, and we had these crazy interjections from these two characters on our left saying how dare we question the minister! It was quite patronising that the minister thought she would require these two D-grade bodyguards in the chamber. I was perplexed at why these members would do that.

Mr P.B. Watson: If you're going to have bodyguards, you wouldn't take those two!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Exactly, member for Albany! I have seen some dodgy bouncers in my time, but those two would be the dodgiest!

In occupying the crease, some of those dorothies were completely over the top and not necessary. Ultimately, the role of the estimates hearing is to get factual information on the budget. It should not be something that ministers fear and so do not want to answer questions. I was surprised about some of the answers we received. I listened to the report by the member for Maylands, and I think there may have been a mix-up somewhere, because the answers came back a week earlier than normal. They should have come back last Friday, 10 June—that has always been process—but they came back a week earlier. Although I noted that the member for Maylands said that every question was answered, in many instances the answer was: we have not had time to prepare the answer so we will table the information later. I think there was a stuff-up on the government side and it got the dates wrong. Supplementary information normally comes back the Friday before we come back to Parliament, but it came back a week before that. That being said, many of my questions did not have answers provided, because the departments did not have time to prepare them. I have five or six responses in which departments have said that they did not have time to prepare the answers and they will table them when they are ready, which is not ideal with supplementary information. I will go through that in more detail during the third reading stage.

As I said, I found this the most productive of all the estimates hearings I have attended. They always land on my birthday, and maybe one birthday, while my children are here eating my favourite Miss Maud's green princess cake, we will find out the true cost of Perth Stadium. I have sat here on a number of my birthdays trying to find out the full cost of the stadium, yet the taxpayers of Western Australia still do not have the magic number that

the opposition has been striving to get, budget process after budget process. The minister said she had prepared a fact sheet, but she did not seem to know what was in the fact sheet. She was quite belittled by her answers—I am trying to expose my Treasury background! It was a frustrating process, but I congratulate the chairs, in particular the Deputy Speaker, the member for Kalgoolie, who did a very good job when I was in the chamber and she was managing affairs.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington) [4.43 pm]: I join my Labor colleagues in congratulating and thanking staff of the Assembly for working so hard. I imagine it is not their favourite week, being here late each night. People might not realise that there is more work in an estimates week than in a normal sitting week because, of course, we are sitting from nine in the morning until 10 o'clock at night Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, so chamber staff have to be here more than they would on an ordinary sitting day. We all know that committee staff also come over to help the chamber staff. We thank them and appreciate the dedicated service they give to us for the week. Equally to the staff of Parliament House are the security staff and dining room staff, who have to service a small group of people. Sometimes there are only about 15 of us in the building, but they still need to make the services of the building available to us because they do not know what we are going to need while we are here. With those thank-yous, I move on to some of the information that we look at.

The purpose of the estimates hearings is to try to delve into the budget and get more information. People outside the chamber do not realise that it is the only time that members can ask follow-up questions on specific information. In this chamber we have the set piece of question time with six questions for the opposition each day the Parliament is sitting, but that is the theatre of Parliament more than trying to extract information. Members can get questions in the other chamber if they are lucky enough to find a member who will use one of their questions to ask a minister in our chamber information, but, again, we cannot follow up on that question. Of course, written questions take a month to answer and if members want to ask a follow-up question, it is a month later. The estimates hearings are the only chance members get to ask for information and then to follow up on that. I know that government members feign anger because the opposition is asking follow-up questions, but, of course, that is the purpose of the estimates process. If the government wanted a shorter estimates process, the minister could simply answer the questions, which would be a bit shocking!

I want to draw members' attention to a couple of things that we found out through the estimates process in Estimates Committee A. The first goes to the Water Corporation's handling of the Minnivale Reservoir incident in which workers were exposed to asbestos. Last year, the minister dined out extensively in the media criticising the member for Bassendean for drawing the community's attention to what happened at Minnivale. I never understood why the behaviour of the member for Bassendean was questioned because, quite frankly, he was doing exactly what a member of Parliament should do on finding that an agency has potentially exposed people to deadly asbestos: he raised it in the public. In fact, I was surprised that a couple of journalists commented to me outside the chamber that what the member for Bassendean had done was a bit unfair. That surprised me because it seemed to be exactly what a member should do. On the particular day last October, I also asked the Minister for Water a question and a follow-up supplementary question. My question was driving at the timing between the minister finding out about the Minnivale matter and its being referred to WorkSafe. I asked those questions again in committee A, and, funnily enough, the minister was not able to answer them. As members know, there is a process by which we can seek supplementary information. The member for West Swan referred to the fact that we got these answers back on 3 June—just a week after the committee hearings. I refer to some information I got back on the Minnivale question—supplementary information A87 and A88. The supplementary information states —

Question: Mr Johnson asked when did the Water Corp first realise that the material at Minnivale may contain asbestos? We know the date of the incident at Minnivale. When did the Water Corp first form an expectation that it might have included asbestos? From that date, when was Worksafe advised?

The answer we received states —

On 11 September 2014, —

I think that should be 2015, but the answer is delivered as 2014 —

an environmental consultant visited the Minnivale Reservoir site as part of an inspection program and took samples of the fascia panels and mastic. Samples confirmed the presence of asbestos and the Water Corporation's Asbestos Asset Register was updated on 10 October 2014 to include Minnivale Reservoir.

Worksafe was advised on 16 October 2015.

Again, I note that the first two dates in the answer is 2014. Of course, if it was 2014, that is an absolute outrage. If people at the Water Corporation do not resign for not having advised WorkSafe for over a year, there is no accountability in health and safety in this state. If it is 2015, as I suspect, why it would take nearly a week to advise that WorkSafe needs to be further investigated because, again, that is a breach of the law because an

employer has an obligation to advise WorkSafe as soon as practicable after discovering something like this terrible situation. In any event, at least we now know that it took the Water Corporation at least a week and perhaps a year and a week, depending on whether those dates are correct.

The other question I asked, supplementary information A88, was: when was the first occasion that the minister's office was advised of the issue at Minnivale? The answer stated —

On 12 October 2015 the Minister and staff were verbally informed that there may have been an asbestos related issue at Minnivale reservoir. This was confirmed in writing on 15 October 2015.

Let us get this straight. The minister was advised before WorkSafe. Let us think about this. What sort of executive is running the Water Corporation that they thought it was more important to tell the minister about an asbestos problem than to tell WorkSafe? What sort of ridiculous thoughts are in the minister's mind if she thought it acceptable and defended her conduct in this chamber when she took four days to sort out the media strategy rather than dealing with the health and safety of workers? If the minister does not come into this chamber and explain why she deceived the people of Western Australia, we have a serious problem. A media strategy was more important than saving workers' lives. We had the nonsense of the Treasurer in the matter of public interest today saying that if we do not build Roe 8, we will kill people. Here we have the Water Corporation exposing people to asbestos and it dealt with the media strategy before it talked to WorkSafe. It is a disgrace. I want to hear from the chief executive of the Water Corporation why she allowed her organisation to deal with the media strategy before she dealt with WorkSafe. I want to ask the chief executive of the Water Corporation: Where is the WorkSafe final report? Why has it not been published? We have been going for months now and we do not know the answer to any of these questions.

The minister needs to get off her proverbial and do her job. Her job is not to run the Water Corporation; her job is to make sure that the Water Corporation is being run properly. If the board of the Water Corporation is not holding its chief executive to account, its members should all quit; they should all resign today. What has happened is an outrage. This is not a bad reflection on the member for Bassendean; it is a disgrace that people are sitting down at the Water Corporation drawing a salary. As I said, it is not the minister's job to run the Water Corporation. I am not saying that she should resign; I am saying that she should do her damn job because she has not up until now. Up until now, she has done nothing but run a spin strategy. People were exposed to asbestos—a deadly carcinogen that leads to the terrible death of workers. We are talking about the third wave of asbestosis and mesothelioma now. This is a primary exposure and it took the Water Corporation four days after telling the minister about the problem before it thought to do its job—its lawful requirement to tell WorkSafe. It is a disgrace. How anybody at the Water Corporation can keep their job after this display is beyond me. If the minister does her job from now, she should keep it. The fact is that she has not been prepared to do her job for one day between 12 October 2015 and today. She should hang her head in shame. She is getting paid an awful lot of money and she is not doing her job. This is a disgrace. This is what we call a cover-up. To deal with the media strategy before putting the interests of working people first is a disgrace. It is a cover-up. It was wrong then and it is wrong now. Somebody has to be held accountable for this and it should be the chief executive officer of the Water Corporation. It is absolutely outrageous that the chief executive of the Water Corporation should tell the minister's office but not tell WorkSafe. That is a breach of the law, quite frankly, and she cannot keep her job after that. How can she possibly keep her job when she broke the law? I would like to know that. What the heck was the minister doing? She came into this place on 22 October 2015, I think, and criticised the member for Bassendean for exposing the cover-up and the fact that the government was not doing its job and that the Water Corporation was derelict in its simple responsibility to workers. Somehow the member for Bassendean has to apologise. Oh my God; where are we in this world when the person who exposes the truth gets criticised and the minister who does nothing gets protected? Why can the chief executive officer of the Water Corporation deal with the media issues with the minister's office but cannot even get on the phone to ring WorkSafe, which she is legally required to do? It is an absolute and utter outrage and the government needs to fix this problem and fix it straight away.

I want to move on to a couple of other things that we found out in Estimates Committee A. We dealt with the Department of Parks and Wildlife. Of all the ministers in the chamber, the Minister for Environment is the one who does the least amount of work, and everybody understands that. I always love the fact that the minister likes cutting ribbons but he does not like doing any work. We saw that when the minister admitted that he had given environmental approvals that he knew were invalid, but we will leave that aside because that is not what we are on about today. The minister likes to talk to the public about prescribed burning. I asked the minister a very simple question. Members can read *Hansard* if they want to have a look. It was very amusing. He talked about prescribed burning. I asked him what he had achieved compared with his targets. He gave a long answer. I kept asking him what he had achieved. I did not ask about any of that; I asked him what he achieved. He went on and gave another long answer. I took a point of order. We ended up getting the information I asked for. He is happy to put out so many media releases about prescribed burning. The Treasurer loves talking about prescribed burning. When he was a backbencher, he once spent half an hour in this chamber talking about the need for

prescribed burning. All I was asking the Minister for Environment was what he has achieved. Again, through supplementary information A76, I finally have the answer to my question, which states —

Mr W.J. Johnston requested the annual total, the annual achieved and the underachievement for the last six years of the controlled burn program.

The minister became the Minister for Environment after the election in 2013. In 2012–13, there was a prescribed burning target of 200 000 hectares and the achievement was 23 468 hectares, so less than 12 per cent of the target was achieved. In 2013–14, the target again was 200 000 hectares and the achievement was 78 234 hectares, or 39 per cent. In 2014–15, the target was 200 000 hectares and 147 082 hectares was achieved, or 73.5 per cent. Never once has the government got anywhere near its target. Indeed, if we go back over the answers for 2009–10, 2010–11 and 2011–12, there is only one year, 2009–10, when the target was achieved. For six years the government had a 1.2 million-hectare target and it has achieved 700 000 hectares of that, which is barely half the target. I am sure there are many reasons for the government not being able to achieve the targets, but the question is: why is the government happy to run around and put out media releases when it is not prepared to show what has been achieved?

I want to finish because a couple of other members want to speak. My final question is about the biodiversity audit database. Apparently, it is the only database in the world that cannot output an ASCII file. I cannot believe that all this money was spent on a database that is unique. In the entire world, every other database can output an ASCII file, but the government of Western Australia has apparently bought a database that cannot.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [5.00 pm]: I want to make a few comments about the Estimates Committee A report. In my time in Parliament I have seen the estimates committee go through a range of iterations. I have had different feelings of bitter disappointment with the process, and in other years it has been quite a forthright and useful exchange of information. The early days, which would be 2009 and 2010, will be known as the years of the horror chairing, when different interpretations by different chairs were made around the way estimates was run and whether someone could have a supplementary or follow-up question. There were different interpretations of these things and also different interpretations about how much opportunity the lead questioner from the opposition had to ask questions. In the following years, there was significant improvement amongst the chairpeople and they had a consistent understanding about the way estimates would work. I want to take the first few minutes of my speech this afternoon to commend the way in which the meetings of Estimates Committee A were chaired. I thought they were done in good spirit and with genuine commitment to the democratic process. There were not the usual churlish or sniping responses from the Chair about persistent questioning. There was an appreciation that the estimates committee hearings are an opportunity for opposition members to delve into the detail of the budget papers and build up a better understanding of the way programs work, their effectiveness and the resources allocated to them. In a lot of respects, it is as much in the government's interest that the information be forthcoming and government members conduct themselves in an open and accountable fashion as it is for opposition members because the more information we have, the better we can be in providing a constructive role as Her Majesty's opposition.

From that point of view, Estimates Committee A was chaired and managed very well. I put on record my appreciation of the staff—not only the chamber staff, but also the staff throughout the building—who put on a fairly logistically significant event. A whole range of public servants came into this place to facilitate a process. If we think about the size of the Department of Health's budget, there are no fewer than a dozen advisers who all command significant salaries and, of course, we know that the director general of Health conducts a very significant salary. We harness a great bank of public sector resources to undertake the estimates committee process. For that reason, if we are going to undertake the estimates committee process, it is important that we do it properly and that it serves a purpose to make sure that democracy is not only seen to be done, but also is done. That takes me to my next point about the effectiveness of the estimates process in providing the opposition with enough time to cross-examine the government.

In the years after 2009 and 2010 when we had that difficulty, perhaps, with the chairing and so on—I will not reflect on that because all the Chairs, particularly you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr I.M. Britza), are extremely good and fair—there was a great opportunity to go into a number of questions in great detail. We were able to get off Broadway, if you like, in the health issues that we discussed. We did not focus on just those health issues that would serve as our key message for the day or the basis of a media release; the members of Parliament assembled were allowed to indulge in cross-examining in greater detail areas of the health budget that were, of course, important but perhaps did not attract the same level of media interest because they were not of great moment at that time. Nevertheless, the information we discovered was extremely important. I was surprised at how little opportunity there was to get beyond more than about half a dozen questions about health. It is true that for the questions we did ask, we were allowed to drill into some of the detail, but we found that the whole process was over and done with in the blink of an eye. As the Treasurer and certainly the shadow Treasurer have pointed out on many occasions, Health now accounts for 30 per cent of the budget. For that reason, I found that having just two and a half hours of the entire estimates committee period to spend on the Department of Health's

budget was manifestly inadequate to get into the detail of the subject matter. Although we are used to the minister perhaps spending a little more time at the crease answering questions at a fairly leisurely pace and getting frustrated with that, we found ourselves getting frustrated with the public servants who were providing very useful information because we were conscious of the fact that we were going to be denied the opportunity to spend any time on the portfolio. The Minister for Health also undertook the estimates committee hearing for the Department of Culture and the Arts, of course, and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs between two o'clock and six o'clock. Quite frankly, that was just not enough time to undertake a proper examination of the Health budget. I came away from the estimates process with a sense of if we are going to do estimates, we should do it properly and allow for a proper dig, or extensive cross-examination of the minister and the public servants to make sure that we have a better understanding of the way the budget has come together. It is not because we are trying to find some sort of "gotcha!" moment on the government; that rarely happens nowadays. It is so that we can make sure we are discharging our responsibilities as members of Parliament to hold the government to account. If we are not going to do it properly—if we are going to spend just two and a half hours on 30 per cent of the budget—let us give it away and reinvent the estimates committee process. Perhaps we should have a joint sitting of estimates for the lower house and upper house in which we can send people away to undertake a proper cross-examination of the budget, utilise the services of more members of Parliament, spend more time on a particular budget area and properly go about our responsibilities as MPs. If we are saying that a two-and-a-half-hour dig into the health budget is a proper exercise of the Parliament, we are kidding ourselves. I do not mind if, at the end of the day, we decide that it is not working and we can find some other way of doing it, but let us not kid ourselves in thinking that such a small period of time on a single portfolio is an adequate way of discharging our responsibilities to the taxpayers. I, for one, was quite amazed at how little time we dedicated to that area. As the process went on, the member for Midland, as the shadow Minister for Culture and the Arts, was given complete rein over the time allocated for the culture and arts budget because it was obvious even to government members that there just would not be enough time for any level of questioning. I found that to be a disappointing aspect of this year's budget estimates hearings.

I must say, I am used to the situation in which we ask the health minister about a particular aspect of mental health hospital infrastructure and the Minister for Health says, "No, no, I don't deal with that; you need to ask the Minister for Mental Health." We then wait with great anticipation for the mental health portfolio discussion, and the Minister for Mental Health says, "Oh, sorry, that's mental health infrastructure; you'll have to go back to the Minister for Health for that particular answer." I am used to that, but I am very grateful to the Minister for Disability Services, who actually offered me the best answer I got to a question about a mental health program in a tertiary hospital—an eating disorder program; she just happened to know a bit about it, and answered the question in her section of the estimates process.

That was very pleasing, but again, I think we sell ourselves short in the estimates process. We assemble an awful lot of public sector resources in the number of staff we bring in here and the hours that we keep them in this place. We use up an awful amount of resources in bringing committee staff across to assist in putting together the estimates program for our benefit. In that sense, it is an indulgence of the Parliament, so I think we have an obligation to do it properly and make sure it is done properly, even if that means more work for the opposition and the government because we all have to apply ourselves to the detail of the budget. That ultimately is for the good of democracy rather than what might be seen to be simply a claim by the opposition to spend more time in front of the government. It is a very, very worthwhile exercise, and not just for opposition members, although it does mean that we get to become much more acquainted with the budget and the way it works; it is also an invaluable process for members of the government backbench, because they are forced to familiarise themselves with the detail of the budget and, from that point of view, it is a good learning exercise for them. It is also an important part of stress-testing the government's budget to make sure it has done the thinking necessary to make it a good budget.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Maybe we should have rolling estimates that go on for three or four months, agency by agency.

Mr R.H. COOK: Yes, and obviously we are all under pressure, because it is an appropriation bill, to get the process over and done with, but I think we sell ourselves short by forcing it through in such a short time. It is an invaluable opportunity for all members of Parliament to be involved in that process.

From that point of view, I just wanted to put on record my appreciation of the public servants who joined us and also to the government ministers who, much more so than on previous occasions, were happy to come forward with supplementary answers to questions and even to assist members in compiling the questions to be answered to make sure they were put together in a competent way. I found it to be a good process, but was just incredibly frustrated with the time limitations that we impose on ourselves.

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [5.14 pm]: I rise to add my voice to the views that members have expressed on the operation of Estimates Committee A. Let me begin by saying that I was very concerned that my portfolio area had only three hours, from 2.00 pm until 5.00 pm, to go through eight divisions. Admittedly, some

of those divisions were in the heritage portfolio, but it meant that there was a very significant time constraint on us and therefore it was not particularly helpful when we had government members asking lengthy questions that had apparently been prepared by the agency and the minister was able to give a long answer that really could have been the subject of an exchange of papers. I do not think that is a good use of our time, especially when something like eight divisions are compacted into a three-hour period.

I will return to this matter in subsequent debate around the budget, but I was concerned that there was, on the part of some public servants, a lack of knowledge of their portfolios. We invite them here because they add to the detail; they have the capacity to be across the whole detail of a portfolio area in a manner that is way beyond the level of detail in which a minister may be able to report to us. Unfortunately, in my area it was very disappointing to see the director general of the Department of Environment Regulation make a thousandfold error on the state's greenhouse gas emissions. We ask that the public service be expert; we really expect the public service to have those sorts of very basic facts and figures accurately in their minds, and if they are challenged, that they accept that they might have to go back, but in this case, when the director general of the Department of Environment Regulation told me that the state's greenhouse gas emissions were 86 000 million tonnes, it was a very serious error that he seemed to be quite oblivious to. What is more, the minister was oblivious to it as well. I went back and said, "Look, are you sure you've got that figure right? I think you're barking up the wrong tree there." I went back again and again and again—six times—and on six occasions he maintained that the figure he had in front of him was 86 000 million tonnes of CO₂. That is ridiculous. It just shows that he had not followed at all any of the global discussion on greenhouse gas emissions, which shows of course that the government is not resourcing that agency to have the necessary expertise. I am concerned that we do not always have the experts in front of us. We expect the public service to come and support the minister and to back up the minister with accurate detail, but just going on that one example—I could turn to some other examples in that portfolio as well—when the public service gets it wrong, we see an erosion of expertise within the agencies, and that is very serious for us. It means we do not have a good basis for decision-making.

Question put and passed.

Estimates Committee B Report — Adoption

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.M. Britza): The question is —

That the report of Estimates Committee B be adopted.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [5.17 pm]: I will be very brief. I do not wish to hold things up because we want to get onto the substantive third reading debate at 5.30 pm; there are some members who will not be able to be here after the dinner break.

Estimates Committee B was, of course, conducted in the other place. Very briefly, the comments I would like to make relate also to timing, particularly with regard to the time allocated to the regional development portfolio. This is a difficult one because there are essentially 14 divisions dealt with under the regional development portfolio. There are 12 divisions for the broader regional development area and nine relating to the nine development commissions. Division 22 is allocated to the lands portfolio and division 23 to the Western Australian Land Information Authority. I have sat on this committee a number of times. I believe that not enough time is given to the regional development commissions. That means that, unfortunately, we have to rush through and deal with the development commissions in a very brief and fleeting way.

Another issue is Minister Harvey's portfolio area of Women's Interests. This issue arose in Estimates Committee B on Tuesday, 24 May. We have found on numerous occasions that our capacity to ask questions of the Minister for Women's Interests is not accommodated by the estimates committee process. That is bad. This issue has been highlighted to government on numerous occasions not only by the member for Girrawheen when she was the shadow Minister for Women's Interests, but also now by the member for Fremantle as the shadow minister. It is very frustrating when important issues associated with the status of women and women's interests cannot be answered by the minister responsible. That is a grave problem, and the government needs to address that in some way. I suggest that, at the very least, women's interests should be dealt with in the same way as we deal with off-budget agencies such as WA Treasury Corporation and the Insurance Commission of Western Australia. If no division can be found within which members of this place have the capacity to ask questions in estimates of the Minister for Women's Interests, we should create that capacity. In the past, we have been told that question time gives us the opportunity to ask questions of the Minister for Women's Interests. That is all very well. However, if members have questions about women's interests, they should have the right during budget estimates to ask those questions of the minister responsible. The current minister responsible is Minister Harvey, yet for the last eight years we have not been able to have a question related to women's interests answered by the minister. That is a slight on the estimates committee process.

I want to refer also to the divisions under the portfolios of the Attorney General. Given that the Attorney General is in the other place, Minister Harvey was the responsible minister for those divisions. I reiterate the comments that I made about Estimates Committee A. A minister representing should not try to stonewall. If a public servant is available who is able to answer the question, the question should be referred to that person to answer.

MS J.M. FREEMAN (Mirrabooka) [5.23 pm]: I want to speak briefly about Estimates Committee B and the Attorney General's portfolio of Commerce. I have carriage of that shadow portfolio responsibility. I congratulate the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Commerce for his efforts during the estimates committee process. I also congratulate the 10 advisers from the Department of Commerce who came to answer questions. That goes to show the broad scope that is covered by Commerce. Commerce deals with, for example, the buying of goods and ensuring the safety of goods; safety in our workplaces; the capacity of our workplaces to provide fairness and equity; energy safety; the regulation and delivery of building services; and tenancy disputes and advice. If we think about it, Commerce probably covers the areas of greatest concern in our community. Therefore, it should be of great concern that the Department of Commerce is suffering serious cuts to its staffing. That came out during the estimates committee process, not only on the day, but also through supplementary information. It was evident during the debate on the Commerce division that a group of dedicated officers are suffering from the loss of positions, particularly in labour relations.

It is also of great concern that although the parliamentary secretary did a good job and often referred the question to an adviser so that we could get a direct answer, we did not have the capacity to hold the Attorney General and Minister for Commerce responsible, because that minister is in the other place. I therefore concur with the suggestion by the member for Kwinana that instead of the Legislative Assembly holding its estimates committees in this place and the Legislative Council holding its estimates committee in the other place, we should think about how we can best conduct the estimates committee process to the benefit of the people we represent. We should think about how we can make the best use of budgetary resources and conduct budget estimates in more of an across-house situation, perhaps by way of a joint standing committee that is held over a longer period of time, such as the Premier has suggested.

The member for Mandurah talked about women's interests. There has been no action by this government on the gender pay gap. We were unable to question the Minister for Women's Interests about her advocacy around this very important issue to women, not only during their working lives and in being able to support their families, but also for their retirement incomes. It is interesting that the Minister for Women's Interests is separate from the Minister for Community Services, yet the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests was able to represent women's interests through his Treasury portfolio. I see that I am going to get the wind-up. In terms of the Attorney General's division during the estimates committee hearing, I suggest that we all look very closely at the appalling cuts to legal aid and what that means for justice and equity in the communities that we represent. I would like to thank all of the officers and the parliamentary secretary for the running of Estimates Committee B.

Question put and passed.

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2016–17) BILL 2016

Third Reading

MR A.P. JACOB (Ocean Reef — Minister for Environment) [5.30 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park) [5.30 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the third reading of the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016. In the 15 minutes that I have to talk I cannot revisit everything I have gone through in the budget since it was first tabled, but I want to make one particular point and some comments around the space of Aboriginal affairs in particular. During the second reading debate, I went through at some length about the Treasurer's argument during his budget speech around the value of the state's public sector asset base. I listened with interest to the Deputy Premier when she ran a similar line on 6PR radio during the parliamentary recess that we just had. I made the point during the second reading debate that the Treasurer focused very much on the increase in the asset base but not net state worth. Net worth is still a part of the budget and was actually a measure of the government's financial performance up until the former Treasurer Troy Buswell removed effectively measurements of the asset base, if you like, as a financial strategy of governance. I went through in some detail unpicking, if you like, the Treasurer's comment that the public sector asset base had increased by 55 per cent since 2008. I was curious about that of course because the Treasurer did not refer to liabilities as well. The Deputy Premier said on 6PR radio —

... I think people need to understand we have got \$190 billion worth of government owned assets and leveraged against that is \$28 billion of debt.

The problem there, and I know the Treasurer would know this, is that the Deputy Premier is somewhat confused because she is comparing a gross asset position with a net debt position. She has taken assets on both sides by way of comparison. Of course, if the Deputy Premier was being sensible and logical in the comparison she made she would have said that we have \$190 billion in assets but borrowings of \$54 billion. That is just the debt borrowings, but what we have done in this state for a long period, indeed up until the changes made by Troy Buswell, is that we used to measure net worth. For those who perhaps are not following, that is total assets minus total liabilities. If the Deputy Premier perhaps understood this issue, she would have said \$190 billion of

government owned assets and leveraged against that is \$77 billion worth of borrowings, not \$28 billion of net worth debt. She got herself confused, which I understand because the Treasurer did not go through, interestingly, the liability side of the balance sheet when he made his case around why we need to sell assets because our asset base has grown. During the second reading debate I made that point that the liabilities have grown extraordinarily. Yes, they have grown by not just 55 per cent, but by 146 per cent. That means that during the Liberal–National government asset investment program that has seen \$51 billion spent over its lifetime, the net position has increased by only \$8 billion. I know that the Deputy Premier would have made that point had she understood it and she would not have been trying to mislead the listeners of 6PR on the position of total assets, because in Western Australia, as the budget shows, we always look at the net worth as we look at the net debt when it comes to understanding the position of the balance sheet of the state. We cannot look at one side of the balance sheet while ignoring the other. Although that has been the longstanding practice of the Premier, and I note that the Deputy Premier is perhaps following a similar vein, we cannot compare a gross position with a net position. It is simply inaccurate because it effectively drags in some of the assets that make up the total asset position to compare that net position. As I said, I assumed the Deputy Premier was confused and did not understand the operations of the state balance sheet as opposed to deliberately trying to mislead the listeners of 6PR.

In my last 10 minutes I want to make a couple of points about Aboriginal affairs, specifically in reference to *Four Corners* last week. *Four Corners* has been going through what can no doubt be described as an outstanding series of investigative reports on a range of areas. I want to make one point about Aboriginal affairs. For those who watched the program, *Four Corners* talked about a range of Aboriginal communities and organisations that have been ripped off by crooks who have taken money or made decisions for their own benefit to the detriment of the Aboriginal community. Warmun community was discussed and I have raised in this place the problems with, for example, the Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation in the Pilbara and Gumala Aboriginal Corporation in the Kimberley. I have seen that *Four Corners* report, and I have said this figuratively, colleagues, many times. This is about vulnerable Aboriginal communities being ripped off by non-Aboriginal people, but also by Aboriginal people who have come from positions of poverty but do not have the functional corporate literacy to take on these positions. In the last 10 years in particular we have seen extraordinary growth in the wealth of Aboriginal communities and organisations, usually by way of agreements struck through the native title process or outside that process with mining companies that generate lots of revenue into those corporations. Of the two examples I mentioned, perhaps the starkest example of late has been the Gumala Aboriginal Corporation and WDLAC. I hope I am wrong, but it seems that Western Australia has not been able to create outside of Perth the depth of Aboriginal people with the functional corporate literacy required to take on those responsibilities. This is a failure of our system. What I mean by that is if we take an Aboriginal person who may never have had a full-time job, who may at the very least have done the one-day Australian Institute of Company Directors' course for Indigenous people, and we stick them on the board of a company or an organisation, regardless of whether it is an Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations company or an Australian Securities and Investments Commission company, it is unreasonable to then expect them to be able to cross-examine the chief executive officer and challenge the position of other directors. We have created a system that expects Aboriginal people to take on those corporate roles when they do not have the functional corporate literacy to do so. We leave them in an incredibly vulnerable situation. Time and again I have come across independent directors who, by and large, have come on to Aboriginal corporations, usually from a non-Aboriginal background but with extensive corporate experience, because they want to provide that experience. Within a year or two they find themselves effectively traumatised by the process and leave. The number of Aboriginal corporations that started out with significant numbers of independent directors has shrunk until there is almost none or none. That is a problem because now Aboriginal people may not, for whatever reasons, be they cultural, relationship, or illiteracy reasons—and by illiteracy I do not mean the ability to read and write but the ability to scrutinise a balance sheet, ask questions around finances and strategy, and ask questions of the CEO who inevitably in these large corporations is white—challenge them on the decisions made in respect of the money coming into that Aboriginal organisation. I have commented publicly before, both in and outside this place, that I think the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations as an organisation is hopeless. I think the current registrar has been compromised by his relationship with one person in particular that has resulted in an ongoing review into Gumala Aboriginal Corporation.

ORIC aside, independent directors need to have a much more prominent role in Aboriginal corporations, particularly in regional and remote areas. I am not at all saying that Aboriginal people are incapable. I know I will probably get push back from family members about this, but the reality is that we have not been able to create the depth of functional corporate experience needed. What keeps me awake at night and terrifies me is that we have come out of the most extraordinary period of wealth creation probably in my lifetime in terms of what has happened with commodity prices, and I worry that the wealth that has been given or bargained for by way of native title or the corporate responsibility of corporations will not be utilised so that when I am dead in the ground, that wealth is growing and being well utilised.

So, what do we need to do to, I guess, to get to the point that we create that depth of Aboriginal skill base? I chair Clontarf Aboriginal College and I see kids come through there from all over Western Australia, the Northern Territory and South Australia, and the smart kids move into different jobs. I think the corporates of WA need to take on more Aboriginal people who have come out of universities or TAFEs or wherever their further education has been, and take them into the board setting as an observer so that they spend a year or two watching how boards operate. That will give Aboriginal people skills and confidence in that scenario. They will have seen how an effective board, chair and chief executive officer operate and will know what the roles are. That way, the skill base will start to be created that can really be generated only through practical experience and watching how effective boards operate. They will then, hopefully, move into Aboriginal organisations and take on similar responsibilities. I hope, and would like to think, the corporates of WA would be willing to do that. We need to make positive, proactive decisions in this place to improve the Aboriginal skill base, and by that I mean the functional corporate literacy that not everybody has—Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal; that is just the reality. But we are not going to get it by simply dropping somebody in who perhaps cannot read a balance sheet, does not know finances or does not know the appropriate relationship between a director and a CEO so they can cross-examine them. Without that, that person and organisation are being set up to fail. We will then see more of these sorts of *Four Corners* stories that we see time and again. I made the point earlier on that, by and large, there are lots and lots of situations—I have seen them—in which non-Aboriginal people have ripped off a community or organisation, disappear, change names and pop up somewhere else. But we also get Aboriginal people who do the same—rip off their own community. That is generally not because of any ill intent, but if a person who has grown up in abject poverty, surrounded by people without full-time jobs, suddenly finds themselves in a situation of being manipulated by a CEO to make decisions, they are vulnerable to being captured by a person of ill intent with the skills, knowledge and functional corporate literacy to take that on. I hope the mainstream corporations—the Australian Securities and Investments Commission companies in Perth and throughout Western Australia—are able to think about that and bring people in with observer status. They do not need to be on the board, but to be there with observer status—perhaps over set periods of time—to create that skill base. It worries me that we are not doing that. I think the Aboriginal people in the south west of Western Australia have that skill base. The Premier is not in this place at the moment, but as we set up the final settlement with the Noongar people, this is an important consideration that I hope the government is taking very, very seriously. If we do not, we will be watching that *Four Corners* program again with different company names and names of individuals in another two years' time. What is different now, I think, compared with any other time in my life that I have watched this happen is that there has been such huge wealth created for Aboriginal groups and organisations. I am not convinced that we have been able to create, in many of those organisations outside the metropolitan area, the skill base within my community—the Aboriginal community—to ensure that people know how to make decisions on how to spend money, how to invest money and, importantly, how to cross-examine the chief executive officers about balance sheets so that they know they are operating a functional and appropriate corporation for the benefit of the community. That is a comment purely around the financial and strategic management of organisations, not the cultural community priorities; of course, Aboriginal people are the only people to make those decisions and provide that advice.

I hope we are able to do this because we in this place ultimately rely on the business community in corporate Australia to take up its responsibilities as well. A never-ending supply of independent directors—people with goodwill—want to come on to Aboriginal corporations, but I have also seen the backend when they leave the corporation, traumatised by the process and terribly stressed that they have been unable to have any influence on sometimes closed-shop Aboriginal corporations or organisations. When ORIC eventually catches up with those organisations, they are put under review or administrators are appointed. That is not a sustainable way to go into the future, and it is the responsibility of us in this place to get it right.

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean) [5.45 pm]: I will make a few comments about the worst budget in the state's history—massive debt and massive deficit. With a budget like this, it is hard to know where to start, because once we do we just cannot stop! I have only 15 minutes, so I will try to keep to a few issues and one that is of particular interest to my local community.

A central part of the budget speech was the government's \$15 million commitment to a methamphetamine strategy. I think the Treasurer's speech described the methamphetamine issue in Perth as "growing pains". I think the Treasurer said that over the last eight years Perth has grown a bit and we have had some growing pains. That was the introduction to the Treasurer's meth strategy. I thought that was a fairly understated way of talking about some of the really serious difficulties that Western Australian communities are having with the methamphetamine issue and drugs in general.

I raise one issue that affects the people of Eden Hill in my electorate. In recent weeks, I have had a number of contacts from people who live around Jubilee Reserve in Eden Hill. Tim Hammond, the federal Labor candidate for Perth in the upcoming election, has also been approached about antisocial behaviour and drug use around Jubilee Reserve. Tim and I decided to have a public meeting at Jubilee Reserve. We did not spend a lot of money on it—we put a few leaflets and Facebook posts out—and more than 30 people who are concerned about

the state of Jubilee Reserve and the drug problem that surrounds it showed up on Sunday. Within two minutes of being there, half a dozen people told me where the drugs are coming from. People have been selling drugs from one of the houses that face onto Jubilee Reserve for well over 12 months. People said that they had been watching taxis pull up, people jump out, run in, buy whatever they need and run out again. Half a dozen people said to me that they had contacted the local police, only to be told various things such as, “Oh, well, we’re looking at it. There’s not much we can do. We’re doing the best we can. Don’t worry; it’s all under control”, but in more than 12 months nothing has happened. A junior football club, a junior soccer club and a cricket club all play on Jubilee Reserve. Before each game commences, the parents walk around the oval to make sure that there are no needles in the park. If the game is first-up in the morning, parents inevitably find needles. That is an appalling situation for sporting clubs in Eden Hill in my electorate to find themselves. I was there at two o’clock on a Sunday afternoon so a number of pitches were being used and the sporting clubs said that they are absolutely fed up with it. Anyway, we had the meeting and 30-odd people showed up. After the meeting they asked me to come for a walk and within a few minutes of going for a walk—there are bits of remnant bush around that park—I saw half a dozen needles at the cricket pavilion and on the verandah. Clearly, people had been using the verandah to take drugs. Packages and syringes were stuck under the doors of the cricket pavilion. People did a search of the oval before the match started, but around the oval, in the remnant bush and behind buildings, there was clearly evidence of drug use, and, importantly, there were syringes.

That group of residents have decided they have had enough. They formed the Jubilee Action Group at the end of the meeting and I will work with those residents, along with Tim Hammond, to see whether we can push this issue along. It is not good enough that the community’s really lovely and beautiful-looking reserve—it still looks fantastic—is now a dangerous park for people playing sport because of the amount of drugs that are being sold under everybody’s noses. It is simply not safe for people to use that park to walk their dogs or play with their kids; they are worried that they will step on a needle or that the people taking the drugs that they have bought from the house across the road will consume them at the park and be in such a state that they pose a threat.

By coincidence, I had a meeting arranged with the new officer in charge at Kiara Police Station. I was scheduled to meet him on Monday. Unfortunately, he cancelled that meeting due to unforeseen circumstances, so I will apparently catch up with him next week. I want to know from him and the Minister for Police what will be done to clean up Jubilee Reserve in Eden Hill. I know these problems are difficult, but it is simply not acceptable at a significant community resource; a recreational area in Eden Hill used by football, cricket and soccer clubs and people walking their dogs. People now live in constant fear of being harassed by someone under the influence of drugs or are concerned that their kids will stand on a syringe, and we all know the serious consequences of that. To those members on the government side of the house, I am expecting some answers on this issue and so is the community.

I also wanted to raise the latest chapter in the debacle that is the Bennett Brook Disability Justice Centre, which opened halfway through last year on Lord Street on the border of Lockridge and Caversham. It was supposed to house 10 individuals being held under a custodial order because they have been charged with criminal offences but have been found unfit to plead because of an intellectual disability. That facility can house 10 of those individuals. As I have always said, I support the idea that there should be facilities so that those people in that cohort are not held in a mainstream prison, but I have spoken many times about why the government threw away the rule book when it located that centre. Its own guidelines said not to place it close to schools or residential areas. The government placed that centre 400 metres down the road —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.M. Britza): Members! I need you to keep it down a bit.

Mr D.J. KELLY: The government placed that centre 400 metres from Lockridge Primary School and directly across the road from residents. I have spoken about that many times. The centre opened in August. It is now empty because the government has had to take away the two people who were housed there because the security arrangements at that centre have proved themselves to be hopelessly inadequate. I was told by the chief executive officer of the Disability Services Commission that the people who would be held in that centre were such that they were not capable of organising an escape. The truth is since that centre was opened in August last year, there have been two escapes. On New Year’s Eve two of the three people being held in the centre simply climbed the fences and ran away. One came back within 24 hours and the other one, I think, came back after seven days. After those two individuals escaped, we received further assurances that the security arrangements at the centre would be upgraded.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Excuse me, member. There are five conversations going on and it is extremely distracting. If members cannot hold their conversations, I ask them to leave.

Mr D.J. KELLY: After being given assurances that the centre would be upgraded, on 8 May, Mother’s Day, only two people were being held in the centre and one of them climbed the fence and got out and was out for four hours. The centre is now closed. We understand that both people who were housed there have been moved back into the mainstream prison. The government is spending \$640 000 on upgrading the security of the centre. This centre cost \$8.5 million in the first place. The government is now spending \$640 000 to double the size of

one of the fences. The internal fence will go from, I think, 2.1 metres to 4.5 metres and the external fence is around three metres. This centre has been an absolute disaster. The government has completely disregarded the community concerns about its location. The security arrangements have been completely and woefully inadequate. It has never had more than three people in it and even with that number of people being held there, the security arrangements were still inadequate. It costs \$2 million a year to run. It is an ongoing disaster. If we wanted to make some savings in the budget, we would relook at this facility.

While I have a few more minutes, I will say that the government put up water prices by 4.5 per cent in the budget. Every year that this government has been elected, it has put up water prices by more than the rate of inflation. We have seen a record number of people paying penalty interest or having their water reduced to a trickle because they cannot pay their bills. We recently saw a record number of notices threatening people that they would have their water cut off because they were behind in paying their bills. Ironically, the minister said that the record number of notices being sent out is because we have now gone to two-monthly billing. Two-monthly billing was supposed to make it easier for people to pay their bills, but in actual fact two-monthly bills has meant that a record number of people are now behind in their bills. This government is using the Water Corporation as a cash cow to fund its problems elsewhere in the budget. It is putting up the price of water every budget by greater than the rate of inflation and taking ever-increasing dividends out of the Water Corporation to plug its budgetary holes elsewhere.

In my final minute I wanted to give a plug for a pizza parlour in Fremantle. Water has been running outside the shop for five hours. When I spoke to them about an hour ago, the water was one metre from the front of their shop. It has taken at least five hours to get the water turned off. I hope when I finish speaking and head out and give them a call, I find out that the water has not entered the shop. We have been told by this government that we can cut the capital expenditure of the Water Corporation and we are not doing any harm because all the hard work has been done. The experience of that pizza shop in Fremantle tells us that something else is going on. Five hours to have a truck come out and turn the water off at a burst water main is appalling and I hope that the minister gets off whatever else she is doing and fixes that problem.

[Member's time expired.]

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn) [7.00 pm]: My contribution to the debate tonight on the consideration of the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016 goes to two of the areas in which I was involved during the estimates committee hearings and relates to my responsibilities as shadow Minister for Housing; Training and Workforce Development. When we received the information from the estimates committee hearings and the budget papers for the Housing Authority, which was division 69 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, a number of things were missing. One thing that was missing was any reference to what the government intends to do about the Auditor General's report that was handed down in May, entitled "Fitting and Maintaining Safety Devices in Public Housing—Follow-up". This was a follow-up audit to a previous audit that had been undertaken. The Auditor General basically put in his audit report that he could not state that Housing Authority housing in Western Australia is safe. He could not give a guarantee, after the audit that he had undertaken, that properties belonging to the government of Western Australia and that are rented out to 36 000 tenants across Western Australia are in fact in a safe condition that will protect the tenants, for whom the Minister for Housing is responsible. The Auditor General pointed out in the report —

Housing recognises that it cannot give assurance that each property has working electrical safety devices. In April 2016, it commenced a \$26 million, 3-year, electrical safety device inspection and testing program ...

So in April this year the Housing Authority began a program that was around when I was the housing minister in 2005 and allocated \$12 million towards it! Over that period, nothing had been done, yet the money that the Department of Housing kept coming back to the government asking for as a follow-up kept growing. What happened to the previous money that had been allocated under previous budgets, nobody knows; it disappeared into the black hole of the Department of Housing never to be seen again. Now it was back, prior to the budget coming out, seeking a further \$26 million. Whilst there was a very, very brief budgetary line item referring to the Housing Authority's allocation of that money, there was no explanation of that allocation and it certainly did not go to the Auditor General's report, which, as you would know, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr N.W. Morton), absolutely condemned both the Housing Authority itself and the minister for failing to follow up on what is a scandal. If a private landlord was treating their tenants in the same way—if they had multiple tenants and placed them in an unsafe environment because of the residual current devices—we would not have heard the end of it; people would have been going ballistic about the whole thing. This happens to be the largest landlord in the whole of Western Australia called the government of Western Australia. Meanwhile, the budget papers do not say a peep about this scandal. It could have been in the issues affecting the agency, which is the obvious place for something like this to be incorporated into the budget papers.

The second issue I wish to raise about the Housing Authority is a press release put out by both the Treasurer and the Minister for Housing about funding for the 164 remote Aboriginal communities in the next financial year. In the press release, the Treasurer and Minister for Housing indicated that there would be a further allocation of \$25.6 million to deliver what was the MUNS funding from the commonwealth government—that is, the municipal and essential services funding for remote communities—to provide such things as diesel for generators, maintenance of electrical devices and maintenance of sewerage and water services. Things like that were funded by the commonwealth for the last 40 years under an agreement between the commonwealth and the states. A couple of things came out of this. The first is that the \$25.6 million that the Treasurer and the Minister for Housing are so happy about because that funding is continuing is really only a part of the \$90 million that was thrown at the government of Western Australia by the commonwealth when it said that it was not going to be part of this agreement anymore. This happened under Tony Abbott's prime ministership. The commonwealth said that the state government could take over and fund all the essential services for remote communities itself and it gave the state government \$90 million to get on with it. The \$25.6 million allocated under this line item in the budget papers reflects that agreement. What did we hear from the government when that agreement was basically torn up by the Abbott government and the states were told to get on with it? It said, "This is terrible, but what can we do? The commonwealth has walked away from the agreement." The response from the Premier was that a significant number of those communities should not even be in existence anyway because there are no jobs for people out there, there is no life for people out there and the communities are too small, are not effective, are not efficient and should be closed down. We then went into that long, tortuous debate about the closure of remote communities. What did not happen at the time—here we are in the middle of a federal election and it is still not happening—was a demand by the Western Australian government that the commonwealth reinstate that funding. It should have said, "Give us the money back that you have taken off us", or it should fight for the continuation of that funding. The former Minister for Housing shakes his head. I bet he never fought for that funding. I bet he never took the fight up to the commonwealth government and threatened the commonwealth government or the federal minister.

Mr W.R. Marmion: How do you threaten them?

Mr F.M. LOGAN: By sparking them up in a meeting and giving it to them.

Mr W.R. Marmion interjected.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: Member for Nedlands, there are plenty of agreements between the commonwealth and the state and when the state says that it will start walking away from them, the commonwealth will start listening. We cannot sit there and just ask, "What can we do?" The state government, whether Liberal or Labor, should fight for its state. We just have to give it to them. The state government just copped a \$25 million cut to a critical part of its budget and is wondering what it can do, so it comes home and kicks the dog; that is, it wants to close Aboriginal communities because the state government does not have the funding anymore. That is ridiculous. We are in the middle of a federal election. I do not hear the Minister for Housing demanding that the commonwealth reinstate that money as part of the election campaign. He has not been putting pressure on the Prime Minister, who is in this state today, and demanding that that money be given back to the state because it is funding for essential services for Aboriginal people. No, I do not hear him saying that.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Maybe the minister needs to pay \$10 000 to talk to the Prime Minister and make demands.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: That could be it, member for Cannington. It could be that the Prime Minister of Australia does not want to talk to anybody at all from the Western Australian government. He certainly does not want to talk to or be seen with the Premier. I do not know. All I know is that the situation for Aboriginal people in remote communities, although it continues because the funding has been allocated for this year, will be a different story next year. That funding will not be there in 2017–18. The chickens will really come home to roost for those Aboriginal communities then. It will be a case of either the state finding funding or those organisations will be closing. I do not know.

The 2016–17 budget reflects a continuation of the dismal state of vocational education and training that has existed since 2009. Since 2009 there has been a succession of budget cuts, job losses, student and curriculum hour cuts and there has been a reduction of funding to the colleges. Since 2009 that has been a continual process in every single Liberal–National government budget. This year is no different. In this budget, in both the capital and the appropriation, a further 230 TAFE jobs will go. I cannot get an extension, can I?

Several members interjected.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: I had to try!

This year, 230 jobs will go from both TAFE colleges and administration. A further round of funding cuts will be made to the colleges themselves. I questioned the minister on one of the line items. I asked why maintenance and capital works for colleges had been significantly cut in this year's budget and the minister said that that was all part of the budgetary review process and that costs had to be curbed. Another way of curbing those costs is by cutting back on maintenance and capital works for individual colleges.

Student fees are increasing yet again, but the minister argues that the government is capping that increase in fees this year at four per cent. When I asked a question on that line item about why course costs are going up by four per cent given that CPI in Perth is only 1.6 per cent, I was told that fees have to rise. Nonsense, which somehow related to a commonwealth agreement, was provided to the house that a target was set that 25 per cent of fees should be funded by students. There is no commonwealth agreement on any such budgetary matter whatsoever. The minister could not point that out or even take me to any reference; it was simply a case of “We are putting up student fees.” For those certificate IV and diploma students who have already had a 520 per cent increase, there will be a further four per cent increase. For many, many students, courses that will result in a diploma outcome will become more and more difficult to achieve because of the costs involved, some of which in vocational education, as I have indicated in the house before, cost more than courses at universities such as the University of Western Australia. The course costs of a vocational education and training course are more than a university course. That is a ridiculous outcome. Decisions should have been made to reverse that.

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands) [7.15 pm]: I rise to contribute to the third reading debate on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016, which I understand is about the services the government has to offer. It is a recurrent budget that comes up—it is not capital related—so I want to talk about some of the specifics around services and how this budget affects people in my electorate. I wanted to start by mentioning education, because it is probably one of the central issues for people in my electorate. I have a lot of young families living in my electorate and a lot of them are interested in how and where children are being educated and about the facilities around education. I start by mentioning that I am very pleased that two schools in my electorate have received significant funding in recent years. In fact, in 2014–15, Hillcrest Primary School had big works done on its administration. I know that is capital works, but it is about making the school and the services offered at the school more effective, and that is what drove Hillcrest to approach the government for that funding. I am very pleased to have had a hand in helping that get released and helping Hillcrest get into a higher priority area so that work could be done. Indeed, it should just about be finished now. Also Inglewood Primary School has been given a significant boost in this year’s budget with money for work to try to cope with the additional children attending the school. A range of services are required urgently at Inglewood Primary School.

It is very interesting that John Forrest Secondary College is a significant stopover point for the Speaker, who is not in the chair tonight; the Acting Speaker (Mr N. W. Morton) is. The Speaker spends a lot of time popping into John Forrest Secondary College, although it is not in his electorate, talking about the kinds of things that that school requires so that it can meet the demands of that school’s growing population. There is a growing demographic in that area. My electorate includes a component of Morley, Embleton and Bedford and, indeed, a bit of Bayswater and Inglewood, which are areas that feed into John Forrest Secondary College, and the population of those areas is said to increase by 10 000 people in the next 10 years. The City of Bayswater has done a lot of work on a structure plan for that region precisely because the government was willing to support investment in Morley so that it could become a major regional site for metropolitan growth, so it is important to make sure that the school in the middle Morley is well serviced. Despite the 10 000 people coming to Morley and the 8 000 people coming to Bayswater over the next 10 years, and despite the fact that John Forrest Secondary College is a specialist school in three areas—tennis, cricket and music—that school has suffered badly from neglect over the last eight years. I am completely aware that the principal has approached the Department of Education on a number of occasions seeking some resolution to what I would think are extremely grave problems with asbestos on that school site. A bid goes in every year asking, “Could you please do something to remove the asbestos?” I should tell members that it is in a building separate from the main buildings in the school. It is a very, very old building; it is kind of a little extended shed that is part of the trade training section of John Forrest Secondary College. The Acting Speaker (Mr N.W. Morton) was a teacher by profession and would relate to the fact that when there are kids training in trades and are learning how to use their tools, they are not as safe or as careful as they might be. To put a whole group of trade trainees in an asbestos shed at the back of John Forrest and let them be subject to the risks of putting a hammer or paint brush or something through the wall where it is all asbestos is more than severe cause for concern. Despite that, the risk continues to be ignored by the department and comes out as being a moderate risk. I cannot imagine how any parent at that school can look at that site and the asbestos in that building and look at the fact that the children are in that building learning a trade where it is likely an accident might happen. If a window or a wall gets broken, that is direct exposure to asbestos. That is a severe risk. My colleague, Labor’s candidate for the electorate of Perth replacing Alannah MacTiernan, has been out there. He is a barrister and his speciality is in asbestos victims and asbestosis. He has been out to the site and had a look at where the asbestos is at the college and at the risk. I said he is a barrister—he is not an expert assessor in asbestosis risk—but given that he has successfully prosecuted many of the cases against the likes of James Hardie and others in Western Australia and Australia for asbestosis conditions, I am more inclined to take his view about what a risk is and what is not than I am about a department that is stretched for funds and continues to bounce John Forrest Secondary College down the priority list, claiming that it is only a moderate risk. If that is a moderate risk, heaven help us if we come across what a severe risk is. I assume it means that a person sleeps in an asbestos bed with asbestos sheets and eats asbestos. I seriously do not know what can be more dangerous than this. Despite that, there has been a continual and ongoing rejection of the reality that this is a very dangerous safety hazard for the children who attend that school.

I also want to mention that it was interesting to see in the budget papers that Wembley Primary School got an extra \$3.5 million in funding. I happen to know that Wembley Primary School did not put in a bid for any funding and—this is hearsay—I have been told by people related to the school that it got a phone call the week before the budget, asking whether it wants \$3.5 million; it had not applied for any additional funding. When we look at its school population projections, it is a very tiny increase in the number of children going to Wembley Primary School next year, and an even tinier increase the following year. The third year—you know what? It is a decrease.

Mr P.B. Watson: It is a Liberal safe seat?

Ms L.L. BAKER: It is in the electorate of the member for Churchlands, surprisingly enough. It managed to now have \$3.5 million, much to the gratitude of the school. Of course they are not throwing money out the window and sending it back, and neither should they, but it is somewhat of a mystery to all those involved that they should receive a \$3.5 million windfall, with no application having gone in and no request for extra facilities, because it was very aware that its population was in decline over the out years. That is a fairly clear case of funds not being put in the correct place, when we have John Forrest down the road having children go to school to learn trades in an asbestos shed. That is not okay, and I think every Western Australian would agree with me that that is not fair.

I want to draw attention to another issue that has come to my attention. I am very aware that the Western Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People, since his new appointment at the end of last year, has been working very hard to bring more of a focus on Aboriginal children into the commissioner's office. It has done amazing work in the past; I am not undercutting any of the wonderful exemplary work that has been done to consult with Aboriginal children. Indeed, it has done more consultation with Aboriginal children than ever before in this state. What I am aware of is that the commissioner has had an application pending, until recently, to allow him to employ a specialist in Aboriginal children to work in the commission, which is urgently needed. That has been pending for some time, because we had a salary freeze that was brought into this state, some would say, through the budget crisis that the government found itself in. That has been lifted now. I hope that that position is very quickly making its way off the Attorney General's desk and into the advertising columns of the newspaper as a matter of priority. It is simply not okay for any government anywhere to use poor budget management as an excuse to not adequately staff child protection or the positive growth and development of children in our state. I have yet to check with the commissioner, but I am relieved to think that that position will have come off the "We can't fill it now, because we've got no money" list and we will see an advert in the newspaper fairly soon.

The final issue that I want to raise in relation to services is on the funding that the government puts into RSPCA WA. In particular, puppy farming is one of the areas which the RSPCA has targeted to do some work on. Given what the RSPCA has been through in the last couple of years, most members here would understand that the Western Australian government gives the RSPCA \$500 000 annually, which is six per cent of its operating costs for any given year. Remember, that is six per cent. Today we had Dennis come to Parliament, and I want to read Dennis's letter, because he delivered it to the Leader of the Opposition today. It states —

Sorry you had to wait for me Mr McGowan but my legs are sore and I take time to warm up.

Thanks for inviting me. It's a long way from a puppy farm to Parliament House. But I was determined to get here and stand with you if we can help each other to stop puppy farms.

I'm not a political animal but I want to tell you that your plan will work. It's really important because puppy farms are awful.

Mine was very crowded and dirty. I was in a very small space with 57 other dogs. I didn't sleep much and I was always hungry. I didn't get to run around outside or even go for a walk. I was always frightened.

My Mum wasn't very well. She had a lot of us to feed.

The only good thing for me is I really love other dogs. I was lucky because most of us in puppy mills are lonely in separate cages.

I had a very scary start with humans. Our breeder used to get angry and shout at us all the time.

I love my life now but bad memories come back when I get stressed. I have bad hips too because I was in-bred. They can't be fixed.

I would like more people to be like you, to understand what dogs need, especially dogs like me.

Can you please get everyone who is a politician to support your plans for ending puppy farms? I can't see why they wouldn't.

The first thing we need is all breeders to be registered, mine wasn't.

That letter is from Dennis, from a puppy farm; he is fortunate to be owned by the president of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Mr P.B. Watson: It can talk.

Ms L.L. BAKER: He can not only talk, but also write. Lynne Bradshaw, the president of the RSPCA, brought him to Parliament today to tell his story and highlight the call that the RSPCA continues to make for appropriate resourcing of investigations into the supply chain that supports puppy farming and to stop the heinous practice of intensive puppy breeding for what is basically a quick turnover in an unregulated market that is very cruel and runs to the detriment of animal welfare in every respect.

We cannot see any more commitment in this budget to the RSPCA. Indeed, I think we could say it is a negative commitment because the RSPCA grant of \$500 000 a year is not indexed. That will never meet the costs of administering the components of animal welfare in this state delegated to the RSPCA let alone allow it to look at any other animal welfare issues around the state. It is simply not possible for the RSPCA to administer the act.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [7.30 pm]: It is very hard to speak after a dog whisperer has spoken!

I have great pleasure in speaking on the third reading of the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016. During the Assembly estimates hearings, I was sitting in on the Minister for Regional Development's session. We have heard where the big amounts of royalties for regions money have gone. Some people say some of it has been spent on things that are not very productive and some say it is being spent in a way that will keep the Nationals in government. However, just recently I was at the Gardner River sports day and I was talking to one of the ambulance drivers from Wellstead who said that as volunteers, they are called out at any time of the day or night to attend accidents anywhere between Wellstead and maybe Ravensthorpe or areas very close to Albany. In between those towns, they have to put up with gaps in phone reception and therefore they want a satellite phone service. If at three o'clock in the morning there is an accident on South Western Highway and the ambulance is called out to take a critically ill patient to Albany, the patient is put in the back of the ambulance with a paramedic while another drives. The paramedics are limited in their capacity to treat patients, so when necessary they have to talk to people by phone either in Albany Regional Hospital or Perth. Unfortunately, there are a lot of black spots between Wellstead and Jerramungup, Jerramungup and Esperance and back to Albany. If something happens to a patient when an ambulance is being driven at any time of the day or night, there is no way for the paramedics to find out what they should do. They can triage their patient but if something serious happens, they might have to drive very quickly on that terribly dangerous road or make a split-second decision to stop by the roadside. If they had satellite phone service, it would be much easier for the paramedic in the back of the ambulance. They do not want the phone at the front of the ambulance; it should be at the back where the paramedic is sitting beside the patient. If we cannot provide that service for our emergency services in this day and age, there is something wrong.

Just the other day one of our firefighters was fighting a fire on Pfeiffer Road, Many Peaks. When they reached the fire, they saw that it was a lot worse than they thought it would be. They could not contact anyone else to attend because although they had two-way radios, the people with the two-way radios were both at the fire, so there was no way they could get extra people to help unless they went 10 minutes back up the road to use their phone. When one of the firefighters was getting out of his truck—his son was standing probably 10 metres to his left—a road train cleaned up the truck and knocked the firefighter down the road about 30 or 40 metres and the truck driver became trapped in his truck. Another fire unit was there but they could not get any phone reception. The son of the firefighter who was knocked over had to go and see how his dad was, get back and take action to prevent another similar incident happening with a road train coming through. The other driver had to go 10 minutes up the road so they could ring for an ambulance. This was in 2016. That 10 minutes could have been a matter of life or death. I was talking to the firefighter who was knocked over and he will be okay. He said that he is the luckiest guy in the world as he lay in a hospital bed flat on his back. He had bleeding on the brain, a broken collar bone and a broken hip and I think both legs were broken, but he reckoned that he was the luckiest guy in the world because his son, who was standing very close to the spot where the road train came by, was not harmed at all apart from being emotionally affected. He suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder because he had seen his father knocked up the road. His father has recovered. Although he is still lying on his back, the bleeding on his brain has stopped, but he considers himself to be one of the luckiest people in the world. That incident could have been a lot worse. If he had been more seriously hurt, the fact that someone might have had to go up the road to get phone reception could have meant that he did not survive. What should we do? We should be providing satellite phones to ambulances so that in situations like that good decisions can be made. We also have to get Telstra—I know it is not a state government issue but it can apply for them—to get the towers working full time. Just because people live in regional areas does not mean they cannot have the same sort of services as people have in the city. In my opinion, we need to see that royalties for regions funding go to the right places. It is no good building tall buildings. It should go towards ensuring that people in country areas are safe. As I said, the other day I drove to a sports carnival at Gardner and every time a truck passed us, we could see the truck driver's tension. If a truck driver has to veer further to the left, they are at risk because the shoulder

of the road slopes downwards. I cannot imagine how uneasy it must make the truck drivers feel. I was there with Hon Darren West, who drives trucks, and he said he would not like to drive trucks on these roads. I must have passed probably 20 trucks from Albany to Gardner or through to Jerramungup and the roads are downright dangerous. The government has allocated some money. I think three or four trucks have rolled over on the road just outside Many Peaks. Thank goodness there have been no fatalities. We want tourists to get in their car and come down from Perth but the roads are very, very dangerous. Even country drivers who are used to those roads think that if a truck comes, they will move a bit to the left, but if they do that, they will roll their car because the road slopes down sharply. Many people have done that and it is really important that these sorts of problems in regional areas are looked at. As I say, royalties for regions is a tremendous scheme, which I have supported throughout but we have to use that funding to make our roads safer. If we want people to live in regional areas, we have to make it safe for them.

Today I asked the Minister for Transport about Rex airlines. I am not having a crack at Rex airlines; I am having a crack at a policy that was passed by the Department of Transport without any consultation with the people in Albany. I was not consulted, and I know that the federal member and the City of Albany were not consulted either. They put in this thing to Rex airlines. The minister says that I am always having a crack at Rex. I catch a plane to Perth on a Sunday night. As I am walking to the plane, the pilot—who should be in the cockpit—is putting luggage on and taking luggage off. I asked him what he was doing. He said that people could not have the luggage that was there; it would go on Monday morning's plane. Another bloke said he would need his luggage because he was flying on to Sydney. He was asked how much his luggage weighed and he said 20 kilos. Two cases had to be taken off. That was out on the tarmac; not inside the terminal. The pilot said, "Take that one off and that one off." I was thinking, "Where is my camera?" People who were already on the plane and looking out the window saw their luggage on the tarmac. People were hopping off the very small plane and saying, "I need it tomorrow; I've got a job in Perth; I'm going to a conference." They were told, "You'll have to take out the things you'll need tonight and we'll get it to you tomorrow." Luckily enough, I got to the airport early and my luggage was right in the corner, so I stood there to make sure my luggage did not come off! A young girl sitting across the aisle from me said, "This is the first time I've ever been on Rex." Everyone is saying that we are very lucky to have an airline. The young girl asked me what she was going to do; she had no luggage. She said that she had never been to Perth for a conference before. She said, "Now I'm going to a conference but when I get to my hotel I've got no clothes to get changed into!" Some people did not even know their luggage was not on the plane. By the time this young girl got to the airport, the pilot said, "That's it! This here is not going; this is going." The way it was handled was like Uganda Airlines. People did not know what was going on.

Mr R.H. Cook: That would never happen in Uganda!

Mr P.B. WATSON: They would probably shoot you if you did it there!

Rex airlines provides a good service. I told the Minister for Transport probably three months ago that it was an issue. I think I have it here; I said it in Parliament on 17 March, so it is longer than that. The minister said, "Yes, I will fix this issue." Has he fixed it? I asked the minister today and out came the big —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: He spat the dummy and said, "You're lucky to have an airline", which is great for me because it will be make a great headline in the local paper tomorrow. He keeps on giving! Why should we be lucky to have an airline that leaves luggage on the tarmac? Tourists from overseas and people travelling to Perth for work are on their hands and knees on the tarmac, right next to the propeller, taking things that they might need out of their luggage. People are told if they have big cases that can fit under the seat that that is all right. The weight is either in there or it is inside the plane. I do not know if he got confused. As the member for Albany, I am absolutely disgusted with the minister's attitude today when he said, "You're lucky to have an airline." The government should have done due diligence at the start. If Rex had put in its promos, "If we've got a full plane and the weight is too high, we're going to leave your luggage behind", people might not fly with them. I know it has happened in Esperance. Dr Jacobs, the member for Eyre, would know that. I think he mentioned that it has happened a few times down there. This is not a regular occurrence; it does not happen every week but it should not happen at all. People pay but they do not get a refund. If their luggage does not go on the plane, they do not get a refund. There is no insurance or anything like that. People just get their luggage the next day. In this day and age I cannot believe it.

I will also refer to the football stadium. The Premier said today that everyone will be able to go; there will be proper costs. Football clubs want to retain their members at what will be a 60 000-seat stadium. They have to whack extra money on. I know they are getting very nervous. In a 60 000-seat stadium, a lot of people will say, "I'm not going to pay that cost. I will just go along and hope to get a seat." We know there will be corporate boxes, a bit like the club at Etihad Stadium where people probably pay \$10 000 —

Mr W.J. Johnston: In stadium memberships.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes; the Medallion Club at Etihad. It will put people off football. I think it is a great stadium, but it is no good having a great stadium like that if the main people using it will be unhappy. I have been approached by the West Coast Eagles and the Fremantle Dockers and they are not happy. This government has built the stadium and now it is looking at things going wrong and saying, “We have to try to work it out.” The government rushed in. It should have had all this done before it went in. What it has done now is a complete stuff-up.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [7.46 pm]: I rise to make some brief comments about the recurrent aspects of the health budget. Health consumes 30 per cent of the overall state budget. What happens in the context of recurrent funding for health is significant in terms of its impact upon the government’s finances. It is obviously significant because it also impacts upon the level and type of services that people receive. Part of our responsibility as members of Parliament is to cross-examine the government and stress test its budget to try to find out whether the government is performing its functions in the area of health to an appropriate level of standard and efficiency. That process is not always easy. The health budget is very large and complex and from time to time I guess one could be forgiven for not understanding every nuance within it. There have been some changes recently in the health budget that should provide more transparency and should allow any person looking at it to understand at a glance what this government is doing in terms of the efficiency and effectiveness of the health portfolio. Over the last three or so years we have seen this continual process of the government revising its matrix, language and benchmarks, and a whole range of different aspects of the health budget in a constant slippery, sliding sort of approach to make sure that it absolves itself of any level of accountability or transparency.

I want to take members back to the 2013–14 health budget. That budget refers to the transition that health has made from block funding for hospitals to activity-based funding for hospitals, which started in 2010. It was an important initiative on the way to creating a more accountable and transparent health system. In its 2013–14 budget, the government said the state is well positioned for the commencement of the national health reform funding that was to commence in July 2014. This was to more closely align the state’s ABF framework with the national ABF framework. Once and for all Western Australia was going to be benchmarked or pegged against similar operations in hospitals operating in other states. In that year, the government was fairly transparent. It said —

In the 2013–14 financial year, the Government has purchased 782,489 units of weighted hospital activity at the State Transitioning Price of \$5,319 from WA Health.

It is stated on the next page —

In 2013–14, the State Transitioning Price will be \$167 higher than the PAC.

That is the projected average cost. The PAC was the national efficient price—that is, the price that we expect WA hospitals to be pegged at in terms of overall performance against hospitals in other states. That was not a bad start, but from there we have seen this use of language year after year in an attempt to try to hide the government’s lack of performance in health. The 2014–15 budget papers state that the price determined for activity was \$5 540 per weighted average unit, inclusive of an agreed community service subsidy, which was estimated at around \$320.2 million in 2014–15. In this particular year, there is no confession about the difference between what is going on with the weighted average unit price in Western Australia and the national efficient price. At this stage, the government is already starting to say that this is information it is uncomfortable with regarding what it is doing in health care and it would rather not have that information made too easily available to WA taxpayers and, I suspect, to the opposition.

In 2015–16, the government’s language got even more slippery. The 2015–16 budget papers state that the price determined for the 2015–16 activity was \$5 587 for each health weighted average unit and this price was inclusive of a community service subsidy component of \$464 per weighted average unit. So now the government is looking at it from the other direction. Now the government is saying what the community service subsidy is, but it is not saying what the national price is. Again, the government is inviting the reader to try to delve in and recalculate to provide a year-on-year comparison between what is going on nationally and what is going on in this state. What you will notice there, Mr Acting Speaker, is that in 2013–14 the weighted average unit price was \$5 319; in 2015–16, it was \$5 587. In Western Australia, the cost per weighted average unit price for hospital activity is continuing to rise, but something else has been going on at the same time; that is, the national efficient price has continued to fall. In a debate in this place previously, the Treasurer said that it was not fair to look at the difference between the weighted average unit price and the national efficient price because the national efficient price is actually falling. But that is the point: the national efficient price is an average of what it costs to deliver hospital care to patients across the country. If the national efficient price is reducing, it means that governments in other states are achieving efficiencies against Western Australia, which is building in greater inefficiencies. While the national efficient price or, in some states, the price of delivering health care is continuing to go down, in Western Australia it continues to go up. It is also significant that although the price is increasing in Western Australia and decreasing in other states, the Department of Health has continued to say in

each year that the community service subsidy it receives from the Department of Treasury is part of an agreement with that department to see a convergence between the weighted average unit cost in Western Australia and the national efficient price. This was originally predicted to converge in 2017–18, when we would be pegged level with the other states. In the last budget, that convergence was abandoned or pushed out to 2020–21. But of course we have seen a continuing divergence between the weighted average unit cost and the national efficient price. As I say, while other states continue to become more efficient, Western Australia is becoming more inefficient. Although there is an agreement between the Department of Health and the Department of Treasury—the minister happily sits to the Minister for Health’s left—that there would be a convergence, in 2015–16 the difference was 12 per cent and in the 2016–17 budget the difference is almost 18 per cent.

The director general of Health provides a valiant defence of Western Australia’s price on the basis that 48 per cent of it is made up of the outcomes from enterprise bargaining agreements. One enterprise bargaining agreement was between the Australian Medical Association and the Minister for Health; the other enterprise bargaining agreement that had a significant impact on it was between the director general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Australian Nursing Federation—an extraordinary deal struck in the caretaker period of the last election. This government, unlike any other government in the Westminster system—so, throughout almost the entire history of Western democracy—went about making new budgetary decisions in the middle of the caretaker period. Apart from that aspect, there is also a built-in component of about four or five per cent that is due to Western Australia’s diverse and dispersed population. A significant chunk of the health budget can still be solely based upon the inefficiency being driven by this government and its inability to manage its health budget.

In 2016–17 the slippery language continues. In this budget, the government has given up on the national efficient price and any pretensions that we might one day converge towards it. It is a bold new declaration by the government to say that it has failed but will continue on nevertheless. The language has changed. No longer does the government talk about the national emergency access target or the national elective surgery target. It has invented a whole new language in this particular budget with terms such as the “Western Australian emergency access target” and the “Western Australian elective services target”; it is almost an act of recession. This state department is now giving up any sort of aspiration to create a level of efficiency in the state health system that might come some way to meeting the efficiencies gained in other states. In addition, no longer can this stuff be found in the Department of Health section in budget paper No 2; it is now hidden in budget paper No 3 as part of an effort to try to hide what is essentially a fiscal cliff that the Department of Health continues to fall down. It takes someone to hunt for this information in budget paper No 3. Unfortunately, it was an element of the budget that eluded the media on the day, because it was of course looking, as it usually does, at budget paper No 2 to find out these things, but of course, it has now slipped into budget paper No 3 with a whole new language and set of parameters around the health budget. It is extraordinary that we have a government that once talked so proudly about the fact that it had shifted to activity-based funding in 2010 and then touted the fact that it was participating in the National Health Reform Agreement process around pegging hospitals against each other and benchmarking them against the national efficient price. We roll forward now to the 2016–17 budget in which essentially the government has thrown up the red flag in health around any sorts of thoughts that it could control the health budget and create efficiencies in the health system that departments and governments across this country have achieved.

Remember, if we are 18 per cent above the national efficient price and the national efficient price is an average of what health systems around Australia are achieving, it is also fair to say that there are potentially state governments that are 20 per cent under the national efficient price. There are huge gains in efficiency and driving better value for taxpayers to be made in the health system, but this government has fundamentally failed that challenge. The agreement struck between the previous Minister for Health and the previous Treasurers is all now but a distant memory, as this minister finally throws up the red flag and says that WA is not up to meeting the challenges that were set for it by the national efficient price, the Treasurer and the Department of Treasury. In Western Australia, we are now going to go it alone, ignore the efficiencies that have been gained globally through new ways of doing health and simply accept that we are going to do it in the old-fashioned way and continue to rack up millions and billions at the taxpayer’s expense.

MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition) [8.00 pm]: I intend to comment tonight on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016, and tomorrow on the Appropriation (Capital 2016–17) Bill 2016. Debate on the recurrent bill provides an opportunity to talk more broadly about the budget that has just been brought down. I have regularly seen the comment that this is the worst budget in history. I saw it written, and I heard it broadly explained as that in the media, and I can understand why. With the worst set of debt and deficit figures in the history of Western Australia, by a country mile, is it any wonder that this has been described as the worst budget in history? Our debt levels are heading towards \$40 billion in the forward estimates—in a couple of years, in fact—and our deficit in the coming financial year is \$3.9 billion. As I said in my second reading contribution, when this government came to office, the state’s net debt was \$3.6 billion.

Therefore, the deficit in one year is greater than the entirety of the state's debt accumulated over the previous 108 years. Think about that. That is the legacy of this government, and it will take many terms of government to eradicate it. There is no short-term fix. I get asked questions by journalists as though we can fix this problem in a couple of budgets. It cannot be fixed overnight; it will take a significant period of time to fix what this Liberal–National government has foisted on the people of Western Australia. If Labor is elected, a lot of budget repair by the Treasurer will be necessary over the course of a future Labor government.

This level of debt and deficit, and the government's lack of any plan to deal with it over the past six years, will probably result in a further downgrade by Standard and Poor's. We have already had two downgrades by Moody's, and one by Standard and Poor's, and we will probably see another downgrade by Standard and Poor's in the future, which will mean that we have the worst rating by both credit rating agencies of any government in this country. Bear in mind that just eight years ago we had the best; we were the gold standard. The Liberal–National Party has taken us from the best regarded economically and financially managed government in Australia to the worst, in just eight years.

It does not stop there. The figures in budget paper No 3 for next year show that the unemployment rate is expected to hit 6.75 per cent. That will mean about 100 000 Western Australians out of work. That does not include all those people now working far fewer hours, who are still counted as employed. There has been a huge transfer of people from full-time to part-time employment, who are still regarded as employed for the purposes of unemployment statistics. A 6.75 per cent unemployment rate will translate into the highest number of unemployed Western Australians in the history of this state. That will happen in the next financial year as well. The real tragedy of the financial management over the last eight years—the debt and deficit and the unemployment rate—is the simple outcome that there is limited capacity for the state to spend to deal with the unemployment situation confronting it. Conventional economics provides that during the good times we drive up the surpluses and drive down the debt, so that in the bad times we have the capacity to spend to create demand in the economy, through capital works and other aspects of government spending. This government has done the opposite. During the good times it has racked up debt and deficit. At a time of the greatest inflow of money into the state Treasury in the history of the state, the government racked up the greatest debt and deficits in its history, so that now, when it has turned around, we have limited capacity to spend, and so our unemployment rate will be much worse than it otherwise would have been.

We now have a domestic economy in recession, as has been the case for the past three or four years. We see it in retail in particular, in the shopping centres and main streets. The loss of confidence in the economy over the course of this government is visible everywhere. We do not need to look at the statistics. We hear it from people concerned about their jobs and their employment prospects, we hear it from people who are now working far fewer hours, and we see it in the broader economy when we walk down main streets and around shopping centres. It is tragic; I hate to see those things; I hate to see people lose their businesses and their savings. I hate to see people lose their jobs, and the limited prospects they currently have for re-employment.

That is what is going on today in Western Australia, and the government has no plan to deal with it. It does not have a plan for jobs. We are the opposition. I have 12 staff, and I have a plan for jobs—all sorts of initiatives and ideas to broaden and diversify the economy. The government does not have a plan for jobs, and it shows. The people of Western Australia have little confidence in the government's capacity to deal with the situation it has created, and I do not blame them. Every time an issue arises, the Premier organises a press conference at Elizabeth Quay, although more recently, in the light of recent events, he has gone somewhere else. These days, it is Perth Stadium. Anytime there is an issue, the Premier is wandering around over there at the stadium, saying "Look at that; here's a stadium. Ignore the unemployment rate, ignore the deficit, ignore the debt. Look, there's a stadium." That is the answer. Sure, we did not ask the commonwealth for any support. Why would we do that? Every other state did.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Did you?

Mr M. McGOWAN: We are not in government, my friend. I do not know if the Treasurer notices, but we are not in government.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Ask Shorten what he's going to do.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Here is the Treasurer. I am glad he has intervened. Maybe he can explain to us exactly what happened there, in the Shenton Park arrangement—the Shenton Park imbroglio, back in the spring of 2014, when suddenly two shady characters arrived at his front door. He opened the door, and suddenly there they were, wearing their hats and overcoats, coming in to discuss things he will not reveal. When asked the essential questions, about his good friend and colleague, the member for Alfred Cove —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr M.J. Cowper): Member, is this a statement on the —

Mr M. McGOWAN: He interrupted me, Mr Acting Speaker, so I will just finish this. I think it is amusing. When asked about whether he raised the leadership issue, the Treasurer said, "I'm not going to comment on that."

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thanks, member. Moving along.

Mr M. McGOWAN: He interrupted me.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Did the member for Cannington talk to you about leadership?

Mr M. McGOWAN: There he goes again, so I have another opportunity.

What did the member for Forrestfield have to say? What was his role in these events? Where is he? He has disappeared from public view.

The ACTING SPEAKER: He was in the Speaker's chair a moment ago, until I got here.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Well, he is not now.

The ACTING SPEAKER: That is why I am encouraging you, member —

Mr M. McGOWAN: I keep getting interrupted, Mr Acting Speaker.

There was Scott Morrison commenting on a state government project in the member for Forrestfield's electorate and the member for Forrestfield was nowhere to be seen. Why would that be? Why did he just disappear? Could it be that he does not want to be asked about his role in arriving at the Treasurer's front door in the overcoat and big hat? Could it be that he does not want to comment on that? I can tell members from experience that he is not going to get away with hiding forever. One day, one of the journalists will get him on it and he will have to answer to a degree. I hope he will have to answer the questions.

I go back to the domestic economy in recession. What is the government's answer? It is a privatisation plan when the market is at its worst. I will talk about this also during the third reading of the Appropriation (Capital 2016–17) Bill 2016. The plan is that if the government is re-elected, it will consider privatising these assets. That is the government's plan. The Premier's part of the plan is to say, "Elect me, we'll consider privatising these assets subject to a bunch of conditions and then I'm going to retire." That is the government's plan. It is a breathtaking plan. I can see the people of Western Australia taking in their breath rather rapidly when that plan is explained to them. I will talk about that issue tomorrow.

What else did we see in the budget? We did not see increases in taxes, despite the fact that over the course of this government there have been 11 different tax increases, whether it be to stamp duty, land tax or payroll tax or increases in stamp duty on specific aspects of property transactions and the like—11 different sets of tax increases—or the withdrawal of tax cuts that were already scheduled. Eleven! We saw that land tax finally cut through with the general public. As far as I am aware, Liberal Party branches are not too happy about that. I was walking around the Gidgegannup show and a bloke stopped me and pulled his land tax bill out of his back pocket. He said, "I was hoping to see you", and he showed me it. In the Christmas holidays I was sitting in a spa and a Liberal Party member accosted me about the land tax increases.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: He did! He was absolutely outraged about these land taxes. I am not joking. It was quite confronting. I had to tell him that it was his own party that did it.

New tax increases have been limited in light of the massive tax increases that have been put in place over the course of the last eight years, whereby the government taxed and spent. The domestic economy is now in recession. We now have debt and deficit beyond anything possibly imaginable a few years ago and now we have limited capacity for government at a state level to spend to deal with the economic situation confronting the state. It is a very poor record and the people of the state are the ones who are enduring it. During my budget reply I talked about a commission inquiry into some of the financial decisions that were made and about ensuring that there is transparency and accountability in public spending. It rolls on. We still do not know the exact cost of the stadium deal. On Sunday it was announced that there will be a Socceroos game in Perth. The government would not reveal what the cost of that is. It rolls on and on and on. The taxpayers, who provide the money for the government to spend, do not know how much the government is spending on various deals. Every single day the government has these commercial-in-confidence arrangements. Not revealing the cost of the Socceroos playing in Western Australia: I mean, honestly. The culture of this government and its addiction to secrecy is extraordinary. The default position for the government is that it just does not tell; it does not tell anything. That has to change. If we are elected, we will reveal the cost of these deals, because taxpayers have a right to know. Transparency and accountability mean something. Taxpayers will find out if Labor is elected.

MS J. FARRER (Kimberley) [8.15 pm]: I would like to use this opportunity during the third reading debate on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016 and the Barnett government's budget to highlight a number of important budget-related issues that remain major concerns and priorities for the people living in the Kimberley. The 2016 state budget has been described by many commentators as the worst state budget to be handed down by a Western Australian government in our history. The city-centric focus of this government forgets that there are so many issues that must be dealt with in regional and remote parts of the state. I have on numerous occasions in this Parliament highlighted the serious issues impacting on the people living in our larger regional towns in the Kimberley and in the communities, including very remote communities, of my electorate. These

issues impact on the day-to-day lives of children, families and older people, yet this government still does not understand the complex nature of so many of these issues and that the ongoing bandaied solutions by this government will not address these concerns.

I refer to the budget handed down by this Barnett government. There is a need for a comprehensive mental health strategy to be delivered across the Kimberley whereby people have immediate access to mental health services as close to where they live as possible, where they can be treated and can continue to be supported by their families in their local communities. Embedded in this mental health strategy must be a clearly articulated plan to address the absolutely appalling suicide rates amongst young people in the Kimberley. We have talked about the high number of suicides that have happened right across the Kimberley.

Some amazing programs have been developed focusing on working with our young people, but they need more funding and support so that they can do more. One is the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Leadership program, known as KAYLP, which is funded through philanthropic funding including donations from some of the big foundations, but it does not receive any state help. This program is all about building the self-esteem of young Aboriginal men and women and developing their leadership skills. This group is doing important work, but receives no state support. The Kimberley Empowerment, Healing and Leadership program focuses on the social and emotional wellbeing of Kimberley Aboriginal people, but its funding allows only two sessions to be delivered a year. Two sessions a year is a lot, but it really is not a lot for the people up there. More funding from this government would help expand what that program can deliver. This program is unique because it teaches participants to look within themselves to recognise the issues that are affecting their lives. The program utilises a sense of spiritual healing and acknowledgment to assist the person to address the issues and challenges they face from within. It is referred to by my people as liyan, which means “your spirit from within”. One of the programs that deserves funding support from government is Kimberley Girl. This program is designed to assist young Aboriginal women to build confidence, self-esteem and resilience and to provide them with a capacity to mix with other young people in their peer group and the wider community. Because of this program we have seen many young Aboriginal girls and young women now encouraged and confident to go on to further education and university, seek employment and follow successful career paths. I know of one young woman who participated in this program and is now a successful model in Perth, so she has come a long way from the shy young girl from One Arm Point she was before she participated in this program. She is now a wonderfully confident, articulate and proud young Aboriginal woman from the Kimberley. It is these things that we look to when Aboriginal people design these programs to suit their people. However, they also need funding so that more young women and men are encouraged to find that confidence and self-esteem so that they can grow and learn to know who they are.

A couple of weeks ago we heard about the rehabilitation program in Carnarvon that helps young people with drug problems. We do not have anything like that in the Kimberley. In East Kimberley there are a lot of needs. Some of the things I talk about here are mainly about West Kimberley, in the Broome area. In East Kimberley there is no headspace program or Kimberley empowerment, healing and leadership program for our people, but if we were able to get funding for more of these programs to be set up, it would greatly benefit our young people. We want to make sure that their health and wellbeing is being cared for and that they are helped to respect themselves. These programs are needed because young people need to be able to look inside, to their spirit, to understand who they are and to understand themselves better so that we do not have any more suicides. These preventive programs are very effective.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan) [8.23 pm]: I rise to contribute to the third reading debate on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016, which of course has seen significant expenditure in the recurrent, or the operating, side of the budget. Basically, it shows a record deficit of \$3.9 billion and a recurrent cash flow deficit. That all means that the state government is borrowing to fund recurrent costs and that for the second time in three years the government is having to borrow to fund recurrent costs. For three years in a row, the cash flow statement for operating activities is negative. I liken that to borrowing or extending a mortgage to put milk in the fridge. That is where this Liberal government and Treasurer have taken the state.

It has been informative again, because once again the government has tried to ignore some of the costs that it has incurred. The classic is the cost of Perth Stadium. As I say, with each budget we learn a bit more about the stadium. I am now at the point at which soft media stunts that refer to the width of the chairs or the fact that people will have drink holders are not enough. The government has to inform the public of the total costs of the stadium. The Treasurer has said, “Did we ask for money for the stadium?” We still do not know the full cost. The government has never come clean on the full cost of the stadium. Through the estimates process, I asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation three times what the total obligation of taxpayers for this stadium. She would not answer that question. I will go through the total costs in more detail in the debate on the capital bill, but I want to talk about the operating costs.

After hiding them for three years, we now see some, not all, of the operating costs of the stadium. Page 132 of the *Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, the government’s own book, shows that Perth Stadium has the following

impact on the state's finances: \$900 000 in 2015–16, \$6.4 million in 2016–17, \$39.7 million in 2017–18, \$66.5 million in 2018–19 and \$65.5 million in 2019–20. That is the operating impact. Now a portion of that is expected to be recovered through the Perth Stadium contract—through the operator.

I want to make it very clear in this place that this budget shows us that the following costs are incurred in the budget because of the stadium: the pre-operating costs in 2015–16 are \$886 000, \$6.4 million in 2016–17 and \$5.9 million in 2017–18. That is a significant amount. Depreciation is \$10.6 million in 2017–18, \$21.3 million in 2018–19 and \$22.3 million in 2019–20. The finance lease charges are \$16.4 million in 2017–18, \$32.2 million in 2018–19 and \$31.4 million in 2019–20. That is an annual cost to the budget of over \$50 million. That is what the stadium is going to cost taxpayers at the very minimum. Then the supplies and services start at \$6.7 million in 2017–18, go to \$13 million in 2018–19 and then to \$12.8 million in 2019–20. It is assumed, we understand, that that component will have enough revenue to cover that cost over 10 years. I am not going to even talk about that component, but there will be over a \$50 million impact.

When the Labor opposition highlighted this in the budget, what did the Treasurer do? He rang journalists and tried to attack the opposition by saying that its numbers were wrong. I want to read what the Treasurer said about me in media commentary at the time. He is quoted as saying —

“She concocted a story of \$50 million, which is false and she also said it relates to the finance and operating costs. She knows that's not true ...

I will read from the government's own budget papers —

A total of \$179 million will be spent from 2015–16 to 2019–20 to meet the cost of operating the Perth Stadium.

The Treasurer said that I was concocting a story when I actually read it from the budget papers. Let us go through it. Over the next four years, \$13.2 million for the one-off payments, \$80 million for the finance lease charges and \$53.2 million for depreciation expenses.

The same article stated —

Dr Nahan said all operating costs would be covered by operating revenue from the stadium.

That is absolutely false. Yet again the Treasurer has tried to bully his way out of an argument. He does it all the time. He attacks third parties and tries to bully journalists. I see it all the time. When people do not agree with this Treasurer, he tries to bully them. But the budget papers are the budget papers and the facts are the facts. The Treasurer said that all operating costs would be covered by operating revenue. That is false. That is untrue. The cost to the budget will be over \$50 million per annum. His budget papers say that. He does not understand the finances of the stadium. We saw that in estimates. Richard Mann understands them, but the Treasurer does not understand them. The Treasurer says that we concocted a story when we read it in the budget papers. I will keep telling the public that the stadium will cost it over \$50 million per annum at least. These are the other components. The public transport subsidy is \$7 million per annum. Under the current situation, all the users cover the public transport costs. As a football goer, my membership ticket covers public transport costs. If I choose to use public transport, it is covered. If I do not, I am paying anyway, but that is a good thing because it encourages people to catch public transport. Taxpayers are not covering my costs to the footy each week. Under the government's proposal, taxpayers will be covering 50 per cent of the stadium users' costs. A new cost of \$7 million appears in the budget papers. While the government is cutting services in other areas, it is bringing in a cost of \$7 million per annum. In 2018–19 it is \$21 million, plus \$32 million, which equals \$53 million, plus \$7 million. I have the figures up to \$60 million. I think the Treasurer was right; I was wrong quoting \$50 million; it is actually \$60 million.

I refer now to the other key point; namely, the agreement with the West Australian Football Commission. I keep hearing how completed the stadium arrangements are, but only cricket has signed up to use it. No other users are signed up yet so WA football has not signed up. It is seeking an agreement to ensure that it cannot be \$15 million per annum worse off. The Treasurer's budget indicates that that is the agreement but he has kept secret the amount and how the government will pay for it. We know the figure is \$15 million and the government is saying the Australian Football League will chip in. Honestly, its record of negotiating to get funding from anyone else, particularly other tiers of government or other associations, is abysmal. I do not think the government's idea that someone else will pay for its guarantee will happen. That is a potential \$15 million exposure. The day after the story was out, there was the Treasurer ringing journalists putting out untruths in the public arena. Not only I understand budget papers; journalists can read budget papers too, and the number is the number.

I want to quickly touch on the concept of depreciation, which the Treasurer said is not a cost to the budget. He said it was not a cost. We got some answers back yesterday about the operating costs of public transport—the cost-recovery model whereby a certain percentage of the cost is recovered. When costs are determined around cost recovery they include depreciation.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Look at page 25 of the budget papers.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I had it marked, member for Cannington. On page 205 it shows depreciation and amortisation of \$1.4 billion for 2016–17. The idea that appreciation is not a cost to the budget comes from a Treasurer, who I think has spent more time having secret meetings on a Saturday afternoon as backbenchers rock up, escorting prospective leaders to his house than understanding the budget papers. It is an embarrassment that we have a Treasurer who said that depreciation is not a cost. I have heard many comments from people across industry about a Treasurer who does not accept that depreciation is a cost, who does not understand the finances attached to the stadium and does not understand that taxpayers will be exposed to costs of more than \$60 million per annum as a result of this stadium. Yes, for that amount of money we want bigger seats, a cup holder and a few TVs. But, honestly, the government has to be transparent. As I said, I do not think we know the total cost yet. The Minister for Sport and Recreation has no idea and the Treasurer constantly does not tell the truth. His performance today on Roe 8 was comic. I have never heard of a road that can do so many things. It reminded me of one of those late Demtel shopping commercials, when a crazy person tells us what a new vacuum cleaner can do. That is a little like what the Treasurer said about Roe 8—the idea that Roe 8 will cure every transport ill in WA.

The former Minister for Planning is here. I am sad that he does not have Planning any more because he did a great job covering up all the issues at Elizabeth Quay, but now it is all coming undone. His office was talking to the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority about getting the water park open. Honestly, he is the Steven Bradbury of politics.

Mr J.H.D. Day: What are you alleging?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I am alleging that you rushed the opening of the water park. I have said it 100 times and I will say it another 100 times.

Mr J.H.D. Day: You are plain wrong; you are absolutely wrong.

Mr P. Papalia: A well-planned activity, yes!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Yes. We know you rushed it. We know that right up to the day before the opening the Department of Health had concerns about the water quality and said that it should not be opened without a proper test to show there were no bacteria. The negative test was not provided before the water park was opened. That was always our point and it has been proven. A negative test was not provided before the park was opened. That was critical.

Mr J.H.D. Day: You are questioning the decision of the executive director of public health.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Of course I am. I am questioning the way the government handled it. I have questioned it from day one, in case the Leader of the House was not here. I have questioned it dozens of times.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr J.H.D. Day interjected.

Point of Order

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The Treasurer and the Leader of the House are both incessantly interjecting and are not being called to order.

THE ACTING SPEAKER (Mr M.J. Cowper): Members, as was pointed out when the previous speaker was up, when you engage across the floor, you have to expect a little bit. If the member would like to come back to the substantive debate, namely, that the bill be read a third time, we will go with it.

Debate Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The minister signed off on Zumba and hula-hoop classes, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars, and allowed the water park to open without a test showing negative bacteria.

Mr J.H.D. Day: Who gave the approval?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: That is what you did; you rushed it. We heard today that an hour and a half before the water park was due to open, there was communication; people were ringing the health department urging it to get that document over. That is what happened; we know that.

Mr J.H.D. Day: You are questioning the professionalism of the executive director of public health.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No; I am questioning the politicisation of your public service and the way you handled this project.

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [8.37 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to this third reading debate on the state budget, a budget of debt and deficit and a reduction in funding for one of the few projects the Barnett government was looking at funding in my area. It was for the grade separation of Nicholson Road and a freight line but soon to be a passenger train line as well as a freight line. This is a big grade separation. The

word was that it would cost \$36 million to create six lanes of traffic eventually over four railway tracks. However, the government has seen fit to reduce that allocation by \$8.6 million to \$27.4 million. It is a very substantial reduction, which seems to be a clawback and suggests that the government does not really care about funding this project properly. I am very concerned about that because so far I have seen no commencement of works, just some signs saying that the works are expected to be completed late 2017. That is all we have seen. We have seen no actual shovel work, just signage that this project might be completed by the end of 2017, yet the government has seen fit to reduce its overall budget by \$8.6 million. The signs indicate that the project is part of the Bigger Picture. It is a building our future project because \$18 million will come from the federal government. What has gone on with the clawing back of this money? I think it suggests that the government is taking neither this project nor the possibility of extending the railway line through to Cockburn and to the Mandurah line seriously.

I noticed during the Minister for Transport's speech earlier today that he said the cost of extending the Thornlie line through to the Mandurah line is now going to be somewhere between \$350 million and, I think, \$500 million. That was news to me; it was the news of the day for me that he said that that project could actually go up to \$500 million. That is astounding news because it means that the government's initial budgeting had not been done properly. I would have thought it was possible to get a very tight assessment of what the cost would be because there is no land acquisition involved; the easement is already there. It is simply about construction costs, and I am unaware that those have increased dramatically in recent times. For the transport minister to now say that that project will cost somewhere between \$350 million and \$500 million is a rapid departure from the sorts of commitments we have had over the years for this to be a project in the \$350 million range. It is a dramatic change.

I turn now to matters of my shadow portfolio and I have to again comment on the reduction in amounts allocated to the environment. Overall, in the last two years we have seen an \$18.6 million reduction. The Minister for Environment today talked about his Kimberley science and conservation strategy and how he believes that there is \$103 million going into that. We have to look at that in the context of time and the fact that it is over the forward estimates. If we really look at where that money is going—things like the geological survey and certain state development projects—it really suggests that, overall, funding for Kimberley environmental and conservation works has barely changed at all. We could probably average the amounts going towards the environment over, say, a 10-year period to closer to the \$8 million mark. It is not, as the minister is trying to suggest, a one-off dollop of \$103 million. He is just spinning it a little there, and he has not actually declared how much goes towards geological surveys or various state development projects. That is not being made clear at all. I know that considerable amounts of money were flowing through to the Kimberley through the Department of Parks and Wildlife; there are other tourism ventures and things that the minister is supporting through this allocation, so it is not the amount that he is suggesting—\$103 million—as a one-off contribution to the environment.

Let us look further across the portfolio, because there is a theme and a picture to be seen here. As I said, there has been an \$18.6 million reduction in funding over the last two years across the portfolio for the Department of Parks and Wildlife. It has gone down from \$239 million to \$220 million. There has also been a drop in funding to the Department of Environment Regulation from \$3.7 million to \$3 million. The minister has even dropped the budget for the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority from \$15 million to \$14 million. Likewise, the budget for the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority drops from \$15 million to \$14 million.

Then, when the minister has had the opportunity to raise revenue through his portfolio, he has been incredibly tardy. I refer, of course, to the Pilbara strategic conservation fund. I first raised this issue with the minister back in Easter 2014. During the recent estimates hearings the minister said in response to a question from the member for Moore that he had just received a report from a working group that he had commissioned in 2015. The fact is that I raised this matter with the minister in 2014 when I identified a series of Pilbara-specific projects that had been signed off on. Some of those ministerial approval statements predate the minister's time as Minister for Environment, but some of them are his. They had been signed off on, and it had been agreed by the companies and by the minister that money would be paid to a Pilbara strategic conservation fund. I did my best to work out how much money should be in that fund by now, and my estimate is that it should be around \$40 million. Back in Easter 2014, when I first did the calculations, I thought it was more like \$30 million, but now, looking at it, I think it is probably getting up to \$50 million.

The minister is cutting back on the amount going to the environment but he is being incredibly tardy about bringing in money that should be going to conservation works in the Pilbara. Why would he be so flippant and casual about it? The minister is sitting on the report of the Pilbara strategic conservation fund right now and considering its implications, but what can there be to consider? The companies have already signed off on it. The minister said there was some problem about the structure of the fund. To my mind, it is simply about opening up an account for the money to be deposited into and then working out what projects the money is going to be spent on, but the minister should get the money in. Why is he delaying this? Fortescue Metals Group, with its

Cloudbreak project, agreed that because of its definitive destruction of certain areas of the Fortescue marshes it was prepared to pay substantial amounts—in the tens of millions of dollars—into this fund. FMG agreed and the minister agreed, but the minister did not collect the money. He has let FMG off the hook; something has gone wrong and now he is sitting on the report that is going to define this. I am very concerned about the minister's attitude towards letting the budget shrink while at the same time not using the revenue-raising aspects of the portfolio to bring money in.

We had an interesting discussion during the estimates hearings about the demise of the Land for Wildlife program. It has since emerged that the minister has entered into an agreement with the various natural resource management groups and that that is somehow going to help keep the Land for Wildlife program going, but how much money is actually involved? None. The minister is not giving the NRM groups anything to run the Land for Wildlife program. This program helps extend the idea of conservation beyond the conservation estate and into private land. It is true that we have much biodiversity in the conservation estate, but bearing in mind that the conservation estate occupies only about nine per cent of the surface area of the state, that leaves a lot of other land tenures that are not covered. Biodiversity occurs in all those areas and we should have conservation programs to help people with private lands who want to be involved in conservation. We should have programs to nurture and encourage them along and assist them, and Land for Wildlife was doing that in a very gently, gently kind of manner, yet the minister is not funding that program. It is a volunteer conservation program, and the minister is not prepared to provide a little bit of money to make sure it ticks over. Instead, he comes up with some sort of agreement with the natural resource management groups and, from what I am hearing, he is not giving them a cent to do that job. The minister should really present to us a copy of the agreement he is signing with those groups so that we have a clear idea of what those arrangements look like, but I know for a fact there is no money in there. Maybe the minister has other things in there such as other enticements or other benefits for the NRM groups. Why can we not see what that looks like? It would be perhaps useful for the rest of the community to see how these sorts of agreements are struck and what they actually look like.

We also touched on the issue of policies the minister has seen fit to cancel. I have counted about 52 such policies. Most famously there are the three environmental protection policies that the minister got rid of through this place. When asked what sort of community consultation he had done on the dismissal of those policies, he said that he had had advice from the Environmental Protection Authority, but there was no community consultation. Masses of community consultation went into the creation of those policies, but the minister saw fit to just have some report handed to him on the basis of which he scrapped those policies. There are at least another 49 other policies in the EPA documents and the minister said—if I have read him correctly in *Hansard*—that he had been advised of some of them but not most of them because he felt that they were operational documents and that would have meant the EPA disclosing operational matters to the minister. How can that be, when these are policies that set out how we are going to respect various aspects of the environment? Surely an environment minister would take a passionate interest in those policies.

One policy in natural resource management was an Environmental Protection Authority position statement on environmental protection in natural resource management. Another one—a very topical one—was the sustainability of the rangelands. The minister was happy for that position statement to be wiped off, because it was archived. It can still be consulted but it is archived; it is not to be referred to. In the meantime of course we have the Quinlan review into the EPA's policies. That is fundamentally about the structure of how the EPA's policies are organised; it is not about the content of the policies. The minister has to work with the EPA to make sure the content of those policies will deliver the level of environmental protection that all Western Australians expect. The sustainability of the rangelands document plays a massively important role. After I gave the minister one example he said that that has been replaced. Where is the replacement for the sustainability of the rangelands document? I do not think there is one. It has not been replaced at all. The minister was happy to archive the position statement, yet there is no replacement for it. The rangelands cover a massive percentage of the surface area of this state. Just looking at the pastoral leases, we are talking about 35 per cent. Looking at the rest of the area known as rangeland, we could say it is about 86 per cent of the surface area of the state. It is massive. The good management of those areas, whether it is fire management, livestock grazing, pest animal and weed control, all of those things, how we look after that sparsely populated land, is very challenging. It was wonderful that back in 2005 the EPA took the initiative and put out a policy, but the minister has seen fit to archive it. This budget is a poor reflection on the minister's commitment to the environment because he is not bringing in the money where he should be bringing it in for things like the Pilbara conservation fund. He is letting that budget dwindle away. Over the last two years \$18 million has been cut from the Department of Parks and Wildlife's budget, and millions elsewhere as well. The minister's commitment to the environment portfolio seems to be more about trimming the budget rather than bringing in the money where he possibly can.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro) [8.52 pm]: This debate gives me the opportunity to reflect a little on how clearly the government has been exposed as being far more focused on spin and media opportunities than on real, tangible commitment to trying to diversify the economy and create jobs in Western Australia. That is no more evident than in the tourism portfolio, now held by the Premier himself. It was good to see some indication from

the government that it felt that it at least had to look like it was doing something about diversifying the economy earlier this year when the Premier decided that he would take on the tourism portfolio. It was not really a hard decision for him because the opposition had been saying for three years that there was a desperate need to diversify the economy. We had been telling him in this place that there would be a transition. Everyone knew in Western Australia that the commodities from mining and offshore would transition from the construction to the production phase, resulting in large numbers of job losses and lost opportunities for Western Australian businesses. The government needed to prepare. There was something that the government could do. In this place last year—it may in fact have been in the corresponding debate last year, when the Premier and the Treasurer were sitting across the chamber from me—I reflected on the fact that those mega projects were ending, that there were no others in sight, that they would all end and thousands upon thousands of Western Australians would become unemployed. At the same time the economy would be tanking because, unlike the east coast, particularly New South Wales, Western Australia's economy was not being pushed along by a housing boom. In fact, it was quite the contrary—in Western Australia the housing industry was collapsing. That was a year ago. I looked across the chamber and said that to the Premier and the Treasurer and they laughed and ridiculed us. They suggested I did not know what I was talking about. I said when Western Australians sensed uncertainty around their jobs, when they felt their wealth was being diminished as property values dropped, they would be less inclined to spend in the retail sector and so that sector would suffer. Again, they laughed and ridiculed the suggestion. I said, "If you're trying to diversify the economy and create jobs in the near term, there weren't too many options."

Agriculture is a sector that is increasingly automated. There are not many jobs created anymore. Agriculture is not a sector that can be expanded rapidly, but even if the government was able to do that, it is increasingly not employing large numbers of people. I advocated for defence, but there is one really large sector that has the capacity to respond to this demand to diversify the economy and to give opportunity to people who are losing their jobs elsewhere and for young people coming into the market, and that is the tourism sector. But it had to be done in a serious fashion. It was obvious that even the government had finally woken up at the beginning of this year when the Premier announced he would take over the portfolio. It was clear that even the government had recognised that tourism was an opportunity. The government's problem is that it cruised through the boom. It had been slumbering for years and whilst it had been doing nothing to promote the tourism sector, some other things were happening on the east coast of Australia. In November 2014, Victoria had an election; in January 2015, Queensland had an election; and in March 2015, New South Wales had an election. During those election campaigns, every single winning side from those three states committed to massive increases in funding for destination marketing and events funding. The things that draw people to the state are international visitors and domestic tourists—people who travel interstate. They are drawn by the money the government spends. It is a simple equation: the money invested in destination marketing and events funding will be recouped through revenue to businesses in the state, and jobs and opportunity for people who work in that sector.

This government slept and slumbered and cruised through the boom, expecting that record royalties would go on forever and that there would never be a downturn, that it would never have to save money and invest on behalf of the taxpayers of Western Australia. Whilst it did that, Queensland funded \$112 million a year in destination marketing and events funding. In comparison, last year Western Australia spent \$74 million, Queensland spent \$112 million, New South Wales spent \$176 million and Victoria spent \$185 million. New South Wales' increase in funding was a 25 per cent increase. As part of its election commitment, it made a 25 per cent increase to destination marketing and events funding. Meanwhile, the Western Australian government did nothing. WA Labor went out early this year, well in advance of the election campaign proper, well in advance of any other historic announcement of significant policy, to drive the argument towards increasing funding for tourism. In January, the Labor Party announced Brand WA—the need to have a unifying brand across all portfolios to ensure that we magnify the impact of expenditure in whatever portfolio, in the same way that New South Wales and Victoria pursued a unified brand. In April, noting that the government had bizarrely cut funding to the Perth Convention Bureau in last year's budget by \$5.3 million, the opposition announced 12 months in advance of the next state election its commitment to the Perth Convention Bureau, increasing its funding and giving it certainty over a five-year period—beyond the forward estimates. It was done for two reasons: firstly, because we believe in the Perth Convention Bureau. It is an outstanding organisation that returns \$30 for every \$1 invested by taxpayers and creates hundreds of jobs. Secondly, we wanted to shame the government into some action. Having announced himself to be the tourism minister, having declared that the Barnett government cared about tourism, after demonstrating no interest in it for the last seven years, the Premier, we hoped, would be shamed into taking action. Fortunately, that was the case. A year after the Barnett government created uncertainty within the Perth Convention Bureau and undermined future planning by depriving it of certainty and therefore denying it the ability to achieve better returns for taxpayer dollars by knowing exactly the amount of money it would be getting in the future and having adequate funding way in advance of when it would be negotiating delivery of events, conferences and conventions, finally, in the budget this year, the government, having been shamed into it, announced it would refund the cut it made to the Perth Convention Bureau in last year's budget. That is extraordinary. It completely exposes the stupidity of the last tourism minister, the Treasurer and, in fact, the

entire Barnett government cabinet . At a time when we desperately needed the tourism sector to step up and create opportunity, these fools declared that they were cutting the Perth Convention Bureau—the best performing organisation within tourism that operated with a very small budget but returned \$30 for every dollar expended. Last year when we asked the tourism minister whether he had consulted with the Perth Convention Bureau prior to making such a stupid decision, he confirmed that he had not. I do not even think he knew what the Perth Convention Bureau was; but, assuming that he may have, he did not even bother speaking to it. When we asked further why the government made this ridiculous decision, it confirmed that it was because it had cut every portfolio, every section of the budget, and everyone had to take to take a cut and so that is where tourism was cut. That is the extent of the planning and foresight into tourism within the Barnett government.

When the Premier finally took on the portfolio, we had hopes that we would expose that and compel and shame him into taking action, and he did. In the budget he returned the money, but prior to the budget coming out, the Premier used backflipping and returning a cut to the budget as an opportunity to again spin the situation and create a photo opportunity, rather than creating a real deliverable to the state. Prior to the budget on 8 May, the Premier announced a \$30 million increase to funding for tourism for Western Australia. It must have been a Sunday, I guess, because the media reported it without much scrutiny and assumed the Premier was telling the truth; that was a mistake. By now we would expect that the Western Australian media would know that the Premier seldom tells the truth and frequently stretches it. Like the Treasurer, he will often tell untruths, but will never correct the record in public, so we are helping him tonight. It was not a \$30 million increase in funding to the tourism sector. It was a \$5.3 million return of funding that had been cut, plus a \$7 million increase in funding to match the commitment already made by WA Labor in April, \$1 million to the Treasurer's favourite group in Northbridge and then \$19 million towards activating events funding for the new stadium in fiscal year 2017–18. We have to ask what the stadium operator was chosen for. I recall some time ago when the announcement was made that the stadium operator was selected because of its vaunted ability to draw events to Western Australia. That was part of the reason that operator was selected as opposed to some of its competitors, yet the government was quite willing to throw in a \$19 million gift to the stadium operator. It will be interesting when the commission of audit takes place, should WA Labor take office next year, to find out all the intricacies of these funding arrangements and the negotiations around them that have been so opaque and secretive over all these years.

There is one other thing I want to cover about the recurrent expenditure on tourism. We had an interesting exchange in the chamber with the Premier about another announcement. Finally, in the budget it was announced that the Barnett government would be increasing funding to tourism. Again, WA Labor put out its job plan for WA well in advance of this election campaign, well in advance of this budget, to give the government the opportunity to at least match our additional funding. We committed \$116 million of new money to tourism over five years, giving the sector certainty. There is \$85 million in destination marketing and events funding for five years. The government has got a fair amount of easy, soft publicity for a commitment to tourism and it is well short of that. This financial year it is increasing funding from \$74 million in destination marketing and events funding to \$77 million. Next financial year, the top, the peak, of the Barnett government's commitment is \$80 million. It then drops to \$75 million and in the last year of the out years it plummets to \$55 million. That is a 27 per cent drop in funding in the last year of the out years. What did the Premier say, what did the Barnett government's tourism minister say, when he was confronted about that massive drop? He said we knew what his view about the forward estimates was. The concept that the forward estimates do not exist has returned to Parliament. It was embarrassing when we first heard of it years ago, but it is even more embarrassing now because in his announcement in May, the Premier said, and I quote —

“The stadium is about 40 per cent built but the events needs to be booked and planned well in advance,”

...

He said that in relation to the \$19 million gift to the stadium operators for operating the stadium. He is acknowledging there that events do not just occur. Tourism destination marketing and events funding is not just executed next year, it is developed. There are partnerships, agreements and marketing programs and policies developed years in advance; they are planned years in advance.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington) [9.06 pm]: I rise to make some remarks at this stage of the debate on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016. I want to draw attention to the solid work of the Minister for Finance at budget Estimates Committee B on 26 May, the transcript of which is on pages E611 and E612 of the *Hansard*. The minister took up about five paragraphs talking about dolphins in Bunbury while he was growing up. I think that is a very solid effort. It goes for five paragraphs and goes over the page. It even includes him questioning the member for Warnbro about where he went to school. That is an effective use of the very small opportunity that Parliament has to examine the budget.

I draw the chamber's attention to supplementary information B93, which details expenditure under common use agreement CUATPS2014 for the provision of temporary staff. Finally, after a long time we have now been able to discover that in 2014 the government spent \$107 403 645 on temporary staff. The reason that that is important

is that that is money that goes to a company to bring temporary labour into the agencies. There are enormous overheads in doing things that way, because the employment agencies charge very significant overheads. The other point, of course, is that often the staff are paid much higher salaries than a public servant would be for those jobs. That is \$107 million in addition to the ordinary labour costs of the state for bringing in temporary staff and paying fat fees to these employment agencies. The fact that the government has spent years denying this information to the opposition shows that even it understands how embarrassing it is.

I also draw attention to supplementary information B94, which details the number of pensioners by local government area who are going to miss out on assistance with their rates. In Western Australia, 19 300 pensioner families will no longer be supported for their local government rates. They are two very important sides of the same coin, because it can be seen that the government is spending more than it needs to on agency staff, with the fat fees to the private companies at the same time as cutting support to pensioners out of the budget.

I want to draw the attention of the chamber to the fact that on 30 June 2015, the state's net debt was \$23.374 billion. The reason I am drawing attention to 30 June 2015 is that that is the last year that we have the annual report of Western Power, because obviously it will not table its 2015–16 annual report until October, so we will not be able to compare it with the budget papers until later in the year. On 30 June 2015, the financial statements of Western Power showed that it had \$7.192 billion of debt. Let us work that out. That is 30.8 per cent of the stock of net debt. Some cash and other cash equivalents were held by Western Power, but let us ignore those and focus on that figure. That is 30.8 per cent of the stock of debt. The current government spins this line that the reason it has such a large debt is the debt held by the government trading enterprises.

The first point I will make is that, if we turn to that wonderful table on page 205 of budget paper No 3, appendix 1 “General Government Operating Statement”, table 1.1, the expenses and debts of Western Power do not actually appear in that table, because the general government sector is only the bit that the Parliament authorises. When the government refers to its budget deficit—for 2014–15 it is \$431 million, and for the current financial year it is \$3.914 billion—Western Power's activities are not part of that. They are separate; they are not part of the general government sector. Of course the money paid to the government from Western Power is part of the general government sector, but we will get to that later.

Let us have a look at where the government was when it came to office. I will use the annual report of state finances for the year ending 30 June 2008 as the baseline for the government. There is a matter of some weeks between 30 June 2008 and the election but, because the figures are not published at that date, we will just line it up with 30 June 2008. The total net debt in Western Australia at that time was \$3.634 billion, and Western Power's debt, which we can find in its 2008 annual report, was at that time \$3.118 billion. Again there was some cash on hand, but we are going to ignore that just to make it easier. That meant that, at that time Western Power accounted for 85.8 per cent of the outstanding net debt. Let us look at that. It has gone from 85.8 per cent of the total net debt to 30.8 per cent of the net debt, so it has actually declined relative to the total amount of debt held in this state. That is an important issue. The idea that the Treasurer promotes in the community, that somehow the reason that net debt has gone up so much is Western Power, is simply wrong. It simply shows that the minister has not actually read the budget papers.

Let us put it in the context of increase in state debt. Let us have a look at the increase in net debt between 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2015. Net debt went up by \$19.740 billion between those two dates. What did Western Power's debt go up by? It went up by \$4.074 billion, or 20.6 per cent of the increased debt. Let us keep this in the picture—79.4 per cent of the increase in net debt in Western Australia was not the responsibility of Western Power. The argument that net debt is so high now because of Western Power is simply not true; it is simply wrong. Western Power's share of net debt went from 85 per cent—in other words, almost all of it—to 30.8 per cent of the stock of net debt. It has actually fallen as a contributor to net debt. It is now a smaller part of net debt in Western Australia than it was at the time the government came to office.

Let us now take Western Power's debt out of the calculation, to just look at the stock of net debt not including Western Power. On 30 June 2008, there was \$716 million of state net debt that did not belong to Western Power, and on 30 June 2015, the stock of net debt that did not belong to Western Power was \$16.542 billion. There has been a 2 310 per cent increase in the stock of net debt not attributed to Western Power. That is the performance of this state government. That is what has happened, and every time it spins this line that somehow or other the net debt is the responsibility of the government trading enterprises, it is wrong, and it knows it is wrong. Government ministers may not know they are wrong because they may never have actually read their budget papers. If they had read their budget papers, they would be able to explain it to themselves and to the community.

The Treasurer made the point in February this year at the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia that the increase in the budget deficit was actually about recurrent expenditure, and not about capital investment. He himself made that point in February this year, so it is hardly surprising that I am also making that point. I do not understand why the Treasurer does not explain that to journalists in Western Australia when he is talking to them, instead of spinning this line that somehow this massive increase in net debt is due to Western Power, when

it is not. Western Power has made a contribution to the increase in net debt of 20.6 per cent, but it is not the overwhelming reason. The overwhelming reason for the increase in net debt is the budget itself. Let us make this clear: \$3.914 billion is the expected budget deficit that the member for Riverton is asking the Parliament of Western Australia to approve in passing the bills that we are debating today. Not one cent of that \$3.914 billion relates to expenditure or investment by Western Power. Not one cent of any of the money covered by the bills that we are debating is part of Western Power, other than the money that is returned to the government through the actions of the corporation in dividends and other matters. That is the actual truth.

The Treasurer has referred to Western Power being allowed to carry its obligations to the state of Western Australia in terms of tax equivalents without paying them, because in the future there will be tax offsets for the current tax liabilities. I asked the Under Treasurer about that in the briefing that the Department of Treasury provided to the Public Accounts Committee following the handing down of the budget. I asked where that obligation was shown on the balance sheet of the general government sector. The Under Treasurer pointed out that it is shown as a debt owed to the Treasury. I draw the attention of members to the general government balance sheet on page 206 of budget paper No 3. That money is shown on that page. Whether it is paid in cash is not actually particularly important. It is an obligation to the state government for the general government sector. It may well be that in the future there will be tax write-offs to allow Western Power to recover that money, but that is because that will actually increase the carrying value of Western Power.

I want to make another point. I am again indebted to the Under Treasurer for pointing out to me that on page 205 of the *Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, under "Operating Result," other amounts are shown that give the total change in net worth. Members will see that one item is "Change in net worth of the public corporations sectors". There was a \$198 million positive outcome for that in the 2015–16 financial year. It would have been \$248 million in the 2015–16 financial year if it had not been for the sale of the Perth Market Authority, because the Perth Market Authority was of course sold for about \$50 million less, on a net basis, than its carrying value. Obviously that has to be brought to account in the accounts of the state, and that is where it is. We now finally know where the loss on the sale of the Perth Market Authority is shown. The privatisation of the Perth Market Authority was lauded by the government, yet it was sold for less than its current value. The government apparently cannot now sell Utah Point because, in evidence given to the upper house committee, the Department of Treasury said that if the legislation was not passed by 30 June, it would probably delay the sale to the 2017–18 financial year. Given that the upper house committee will not report until 24 August, we can see that that time line is not possible under any circumstance. If Utah Point had been sold for less than its valuation, that is where the loss on that sale would have been shown. That is not a problem for us because the legislation is not going to be passed before 30 June. It is legislation that the Labor Party opposes. It will be interesting to see what recommendations come back to Parliament from that committee, because at least the upper house has taken the opportunity to look at the bill and at the very large opportunities that that facility provides.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen) [9.22 pm]: At the outset, by way of introduction to my contribution on the third reading on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016, I would like to pay tribute to public sector workers, who provide the many services that our community expects and needs. I also pay tribute to those in the public service who are expected to do more with fewer resources, purely because of the government's wanton profligacy and skewed priorities. Those personnel are shouldering an enormous burden and, in some cases, do so under considerable stress. That is no more apparent than when, across the budget, we see a reduction in staff numbers and service delivery targets, be it with child protection workers who with unsustainable caseloads are unable to scrutinise the care and protection of children to the standard they would like, or hospital emergency nursing staff who are unable to allocate beds because wards are full or who have to manage mental health cases that disrupt accident and emergency departments for hours on end because, again, mental health placements are in short supply. Then there are the police officers who are diverted from their traffic duties to other areas and who look at the escalating road toll and wonder why they are no longer on the road, or possibly financial councillors, whose numbers have been halved through funding cuts but who face increasing demand through tough economic times. Then there are the prison officers who face an increased risk of being assaulted due to overcrowding and who have to implement shoddy stop-gap measures, or the principals who have to ensure school cohesion and teaching excellence without the aid of education assistants. Firefighters are being spread more thinly throughout the expanding metropolitan area and are frustrated by the longer time it is taking to respond, while fewer or no apprentices are being trained throughout government and more contract personnel are being used, who are far more costly but are being used purely to evade Treasury's constraints on recruitment. Ironically, the deployment of these contract personnel is invariably more expensive.

What is occurring in the guise of economy is that, increasingly, services are being delivered online or purely through a help line. As I said in the second reading debate, it is now a hallmark of disadvantage to not have access to online information or the internet. Again, by placing more government services online or using help lines, it is marginalising many sectors of the community and making service delivery less effective. Also, the delivery of services tends to be only in English and there are few alternatives to have information delivered in languages other than English. Some of the problems sought to be addressed through the 1800 numbers are

incredibly complex and require personal contact with the caller. It is just risible to think that the 1800 numbers are a substitute to what are very complex social problems requiring a variety of responses. I will give an example. In response to the awful death in police custody of Ms Dhu in Port Hedland lock-up, the government abolished the Aboriginal visitors scheme and replaced it with a 1800 number. I have to say that if this were not such a serious issue, it would border on high farce. Anyone with a rudimentary knowledge of the dynamics around Aboriginal deaths in custody would readily understand how flawed this decision was. I was really quite surprised when in February this year the Minister for Corrective Services and the Minister for Police announced this decision and badged it as increased support for at-risk individuals in custody—a free 1800 number managed 24/7 and expanded to all police lock-ups. I must admit that I was saying to a colleague today that I was tempted to ring it to see whether I got a call centre in the Philippines, but be that as it may, that decision in the guise of delivering better services in fact delivers worse services, shows a complete lack of understanding of the issue and marginalises many sections of the community.

Similarly—I notice that the Minister for Environment is here—having to use contractors in areas like bushfire mitigation is not optimal. The use, for example, of Working on Fire Australia by the Department of Parks and Wildlife has proved somewhat problematic. It was widely publicised that that outfit of contractors was on standby if the Waroona–Yarloop fire got near Collie. What is not so well known is that this same group, when doing some controlled burns, let a fire run out of control and it was DPaW that had to put that fire out near Worsley. I am saying that, in the guise of economy, services are suffering and the very people who require those services or responses are getting a second-rate response.

There is then, of course, the issue of what I call misappropriating or diverting funds earmarked for specific purposes to cover routine recurrent expenditure. The most obvious of these, which I often talk about in this place, is the emergency services levy. The ESL has increased by over 80 per cent under the Barnett government. It is no longer being used as expenditure for frontline services, equipment and training of personnel, but for routine recurrent expenditure within the department. The legislative intent was certainly there, and in hindsight one could say that the legislation should have been better drafted to prevent the wholesale diversion of millions of dollars for purely administrative purposes. People in metropolitan Perth are happy to contribute to the ESL, thinking that it gives statewide protection to both volunteer and career firefighters and that it will provide up-to-date equipment and resources. However, as it is not being used for those purposes, I think that there will be increasing resentment about paying the levels of ESL that have been imposed on the public.

The other area in which I would say there has been some misappropriation and diversion—this proposition is somewhat contestable, but after looking at the issue this morning, I think my claim is certainly justified—is Lotterywest. Many Lotterywest grants now are for expenditure in areas that, certainly in my recollection, would have been government expenditure rather than Lotterywest expenditure. For example, Lotterywest is now having its pocket picked to fund women's refuges and other things that I consider to be principally areas of government service delivery. We need to be mindful that not only is the budget in a parlous state, but also quarantined or hypothecated areas are being used improperly.

Another example is the road trauma trust fund. As everyone knows, the money in that fund is from speed and red-light camera fines. Some years ago the safer roads program became the safer roads and bridges program. There was no connection between bridges and road safety, but it suited the then Treasurer to get money from the road trauma trust fund to fix bridges, which are routine Main Roads maintenance. That is an example. Many of the expenditures under the road trauma trust fund are not expenditures that in fact have any connection to road safety outcomes but are just standard Main Roads expenditure. Again, I believe that is an area in which there have been lots of smoke and mirrors, and it occurs because the government has seriously mismanaged the budget.

I want to talk about a couple of other issues before I conclude. The first is the Smart Transport campaign. Almost \$1 million is being spent on this campaign for us, to use a Monty Python phrase, to be told the bleeding obvious. I know that under the Smart Transport campaign, which is costing \$900 000, that if I decide to travel to work at 6.15 in the morning, southbound on Mitchell Freeway, I will get the best run. I really appreciate being told that for \$900 000! For those in my electorate who have no other option than to travel by car, because the lousy Minister for Transport will not expand a bus service as he promised, that information is of little comfort. It might be good to have a free run at 6.30 in the morning, but the kids cannot be left at school until eight o'clock in the morning. I find this campaign objectionable because it is trying to engineer conduct by members of the public that is not consistent with their needs or requirements.

Finally, I want to talk about the recently released tourism campaign, although it is not my shadow portfolio. I think there are elements of it that show a level of naivety and lack of sophistication about our geographical placement, whom we need to cater for and what service we need to deliver to those tourists if, as the Premier says, they are paying good money. It seems to me that if we are really dinkum about having a sustainable tourism industry, we should be increasing languages taught in schools. In fact, the reverse is happening. Fewer and fewer public schools have language programs. In fact, I was horrified last year when a student from

Murdoch University told me that the Premier had come to speak to the students. It was put to him that maybe languages needed to be more broadly spoken in schools so that we could liaise with our nearest neighbours—our trading partners, neighbours that we hoped would have more commercial and tourism connections with—and that maybe more languages should be taught in schools. The Premier told those students that our neighbours can learn English. That is just horrifying.

To conclude, of course we have the new hashtag #justanotherdayinWA. It made me reflect on the numberplate logo that we used to have—“The state of excitement”. It seems to me that we should now replace that slogan with “The state of insolvency”.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [9.36 pm]: I also rise to talk to the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016 before the house. The seat of Collie–Preston has been completely forgotten by the government in the budgetary process. The only time it found out where Collie was is when it removed money or renege on promises made at the last election. That is a very sad state of affairs. It goes straight down the line of the political bias of this government. If we do not happen to be in a National Party or Liberal Party seat, we are certainly starved out by this government and used as a scapegoat to take projects away from the electorate. The Treasurer is sitting here in the chamber. I think I even saw him nod his head when I made that statement. It is unfortunate. Hopefully, things may change on 11 March and people in the electorate of Collie–Preston, which includes the towns of Dardanup, Boyanup, Eaton, Collie and Donnybrook, which also missed out even though it was on the edge of a National Party seat, will get their turn. I do not know at this stage but I certainly hope that will be the case. The Treasurer does not know where Collie is because he cannot even drive down there when things of his causing are in disarray and talk to the community and give us some direction into the future. A miserable amount of \$150 000 through the South West Development Commission to point Collie in the right direction for the next 20 or 30 years is just untenable when we consider that the Labor government gave out \$10 million for the same process, yet it was withdrawn when the Liberal government came to power. We are now very much feeling the pinch of that. We could have been so much further down the line in our transition from coal to other fuels and other jobs that would keep the people of Collie in employment and keep the town viable. Unfortunately, as I have said, we are in disarray; we have no leadership from this government. A very limited number of ministers go down to Collie. I was about to say that the ratio is five or six shadow ministers to one government minister. When they do go there, we could call them somewhat lost. When Minister Day went to Collie, people did not know who he was and asked, “Who’s that man who was walking down the street and who was at the hospital?” He is the Minister for Health. We can understand why it was with great disappointment that the Collie–Preston electorate looked at the budget. The removal of \$7 million to upgrade the Collie Senior High School with the excuse that it was of a high enough standard for the number of people was appalling. It was the main plank of the Liberal Party’s very strong and very well financed and run campaign against me before the last election. When the Liberal Party does not win seats, it reneges on its promises, and that is a slight on all politicians. Even in the upcoming federal election, promises are being made and people wonder why people are cynical about politicians when they make promises and do not deliver. In the scheme of this budget, the \$7 million is not a make-or-break amount given what has been wasted over the time I have been in this house. I am not talking only about the Liberal–National coalition government; I am talking about governments of all persuasions. Why should the Collie students have a lesser quality high school than other places have? Why should they have to be crowded into classes in light of the social problems small country towns have and when the headmaster himself said, “If only I had a bit more room, we could bring down some of the class sizes and address some of the social issues in high schools that should have been addressed in primary schools and in the homes themselves.” People in this chamber will know what I am talking about; that is, some of the school children need more than just the three Rs; they need a lot more help.

Just recently, I was trying to organise some extra funding, which unfortunately has not come to fruition, to pay for an extra psychologist to spend one day a week at Collie high school. Members may recall the problems that occurred a while ago at Kalgoorlie–Boulder Community High School. Most country towns experience the same problems in their high schools. Just recently, there were some awful incidents at Collie high school but, thank goodness, we have sorted them out. If we do not have the financial support to provide the infrastructure and the back-up for school teachers and support staff, not only in Collie but in all Western Australian towns, we will struggle in the future.

In talking about other things that recurrent funding can do for schools, I would like to talk about driver training being available in every school, funded from the road trauma trust fund. Despite the amount of money in that fund, we are patching up problems after events when we should be leading by example and providing driver training in every school. Every senior high school should have funding for driver training. I am not saying that each student should be totally funded because I believe that at that stage the students should be able to work towards helping themselves get their driver’s licence. They should not be given a licence but be helped to work towards earning their licence, subsidised to some degree by the road trauma trust fund. Not so long ago, over the long weekend, we had 11 deaths, many of which occurred in country areas. We do not have any compulsory structured driver training in our schools, but we make students stay in school until they are nearly 18—I think it is 17 and a bit. Mr Teacher, is that right?

Mr D.A. Templeman: Yes.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Yes, it is. We could do a lot more for young people before they get on the roads and before they become a liability to themselves and to others who use the roads. I know that many of the people who were killed on that weekend were from country areas. They were not all young people, but a fair few of them were, and if we can save one life, we will save not only millions of dollars, but also heartache and pain. If someone else in the car also suffers a major injury, the cost to our community is huge, let alone the pain that parents, siblings and partners have to put up with. Fines from speeding and red-light cameras provide a guaranteed income, and my proposal will not make a great difference at all to the budget bottom line. We had \$130-odd million sitting idle in this fund while people were being killed. That is really appalling in a governance sense; it could have been utilised through a program that may have saved some of those people's lives.

One of my hobbyhorses, which I will ride into the future, is funding driver training in high schools. Let me point out that driver training was provided in the Collie region for quite some time. It was sponsored by Worsley Alumina, which put in quite a reasonable sum for driver training for students. Again, once politics became involved, the program was moved away. It was also a good money spinner for the Collie Motorplex, because this motor sports complex was used on a daily basis. The complex is available to people from Bunbury, Donnybrook and any of those surrounding regions. People even came down by bus from Mandurah to utilise the motor sports complex during the week. Young people were taught how to drive safely and to understand the corrections that are needed at times if they should run off the road. They do not get that with normal driver training. It is something that I think the minister should really think about.

The last part of my speech will be very short and relates to the provision of teacher assistants and aides in schools for children with disabilities. Asking for help for these children is a continual process. Our disabled children are not getting enough services. I see that at close hand, probably more than other members because I am in a country town and I am closer to and know the people personally and can see the affect this has on not only the family, but also the child's ability to learn. There has been many a case in which a child who was not expected to be able to speak but who has received intensive therapy has learned to communicate with their parents, which is a great occasion in those households. Another failing of this government is that basic services in our society are being left behind for the grandeur of projects such as Elizabeth Quay, Perth Stadium and many other areas. The government is now talking about tunnels to nowhere as well. When we look at that, we have a lot of work to do to prop up and make sure that our communities are solid as we go into the future. Children with learning disabilities should have opportunities and hopefully with those opportunities would come employment and family, and they could move on through society as normal human beings and not be left out to rot. It still surprises me that there are students in high school who cannot read or write; I just do not understand a system that can allow that. It is certainly a problem that we have to do something about in the future.

Turning to my electorate, I was amazed to see included in the budget funding into the future for a ring-road around Margaret River. I have never heard of something so ridiculous as a ring-road around Margaret River when not a great many people live on the other side of Margaret River, yet we still cannot get from Perth through Bunbury and Busselton in a safe manner on the way to Margaret River. Why would we not do this in an orderly fashion and start at one end and finish at the other? Why? It is political bias; that is all it comes down to. I believe the government already has some names ready for the Margaret River ring-road. There is a bit of an argument over whether it will be "Barry House Drive" or "Terry Redman Ring Road"; we are not quite sure, but I believe those are the two names in the ring for that ring-road. We see more than \$90 million going into that area and money being withdrawn from the budget for the Collie-Preston electorate. We had to screw the Minister for Transport's arm to seal a road that he said he would not do; then, a fortnight later, the road was sealed. It just shows the disarray in this government. One hand says one thing, and the other hand does not know what the other one is doing. It is with much disgust that I stand and talk about a budget that has been special for some and very unfair for others.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler) [9.51 pm]: The state of the deficit that has now rounded out to \$34 billion speaks for itself, and speaks loudly of the government's failure in economic management, which was once heralded by conservatives as the government's strong suit. The "best economic managers" are now shown to be utterly irresponsible in taking state debt from something over \$3 billion, rounded out to \$34 billion and on its way to \$40 billion. The government's responsibility and failure in this area is proven by the size of the deficit in this budget.

The government's other claimed strong suit was law and order, which has been absolutely a comprehensive failure. We know from debates in this chamber and from crime figures released that the number of home burglaries has risen, month on month, in double-digit figures. We are, as has been truly said, the home burglary capital of Australia and the car theft capital of Australia. Assaults are going through the roof and there is a crime wave all over the metropolitan area and in the regions. The Minister for Police and the government like to talk about a crime "spike", as though it will be self-correcting and that these figures are just a blip on the radar, but it has been going on for so long now that it is truly an out-of-control crime wave.

What was the government's intended solution for this? I can remember back after the 2008 election when the Barnett government was in its first term and Christian Porter was Attorney General and subsequently Treasurer. His solution and the government's solution was more imprisonment. When we raised the cost of this to the community, it was shown that it was not feasible, within the prison assets we had, to keep on imprisoning people at the rate the government intended to imprison them. Mr Porter said, "Well, just build more prisons. The answer is we'll just build more prisons. Don't worry about it; we're going to get on top of crime by building more prisons." In this budget, for the first time, the corrective services spend will top \$1 billion. Is this an effective answer to this crime wave? Clearly it is not.

We know that in Western Australia at the moment, over 1 100 of the people in the prison system are on remand. Half of the population of Casuarina Prison, which is our maximum security prison, is made up of remand prisoners. We know that it costs \$120 000 a year to hold a person in prison. We only have to do some basic mathematics to work out that the cost of holding people on remand prior to trial is \$132 million a year. Are these people in prison for just a short time? This government came to office in 2013 on a promise of fast, swift justice. The government said it would achieve that—laughably—by having a night magistrates court and a Sunday court. However, what did the government do? It abandoned the night magistrates court before it even got off the ground, and it employed a retired magistrate to hear bail applications on a Sunday. The Treasurer is now faced with a \$1 billion spend on corrective services. Is that effective?

The main population within the prison system is Indigenous Western Australians. I want to read from a paper delivered by the Chief Justice of Western Australia at the Law Summer School 2015. The Chief Justice stated —

In Western Australia, the adult Aboriginal imprisonment rate is 3,663 per 100,000. That compares to the national rate of 2,174, so if you're quick at maths, the rate in this State is about 70% higher than the national rate. The next highest rate is in the Northern Territory at 2,808/100,000, so our rate is about 30% higher than the rate in the Territory. That compares to the non-Aboriginal imprisonment rate in Western Australia of 164/100,000, so the non-Aboriginal:Aboriginal ratio is 164:3,663.

The Chief Justice goes on to say —

The rate of imprisonment of Aboriginal women is rising faster than the rate pertaining to Aboriginal men, and Aboriginal women now comprise more than 50% of the female prison population in this State.

...

The statistics relating to Aboriginal children are even more depressing. The disproportion of Aboriginal children in detention is 58 times greater than non-Aboriginal children per head of population.

He then goes on to talk about costs —

In 2008, the Auditor-General's review of juvenile justice concluded that the 250 children who have the greatest number of intersections with the criminal justice system in Western Australia will cost the State of Western Australia \$100 million (in 2008 dollars) when they pass between the ages of 10 and 17. If you are quick at maths, that is \$400,000 per child. Inflate that to today's costs and it is probably about half a million dollars per child. We could send those children to Geelong Grammar and to a Swiss finishing school and still have change.

His Honour then postulates the following questions: What are we getting? Is it working? Is it reducing crime rates? The answer clearly is no. The re-entry rate for these prisoners is phenomenal.

In the United States of America, which was incarcerating its citizens at an enormous rate, there has been a change of heart. The Treasurer of this state is allocating \$1 billion to this failed system in Western Australia. The United States, which is usually some years ahead of Australia in its thinking, has now, in a bipartisan way, conceded that this rate of imprisonment does not secure community safety. I will read from the report "Justice in Review: New Trends in State Sentencing and Corrections 2014–2015" that was published in 2016 by the Vera Institute of Justice in America. It states —

- longer sentences have no more than a marginal effect in reducing recidivism and shorter sentence lengths do not have a significant ... impact on public safety;
- many people can be safely and effectively supervised in the community rather than in custody at lower cost; and
- post-punishment penalties and restrictions ... hinder people upon release from prison or discharge from community supervision in addressing known risk factors for reoffending—such as mental illness, substance-abuse problems, lack of vocational skills, education, and housing—with now well-understood impacts on their families and communities.

It goes on to quote the President of the United States. It states —

And recently, in a surprising show of bipartisanship, Republican and Democratic leaders alike are rejecting mass incarceration as a cure-all for crime. In a speech in support of criminal justice reform in ... 2015, President Barack Obama declared that the overuse of incarceration “makes our country worse off,” and that the punishment meted out too often is “disproportionate to the price that should be paid.” Using the example of the harsh treatment of low-level drug dealers and parole violators, the President endorsed wide-ranging types of reform, including curbing the use of mandatory penalties; expanding the adoption of alternatives to prison, such as drug courts and treatment and probation programs; and improving programming and conditions in prison as well as after release.

Here is the bipartisanship —

Meanwhile, the Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan, a Republican, acknowledged in March 2016 —

Very recently —

that he was a “late convert to criminal-justice reform” and noted that tough-on-crime laws that imposed mandatory minimum sentences and three-strikes penalties —

Which this government introduced and sped up —

“ended up putting people [in] for long prison terms, which ends up ruining their life and hurting their communities where we could have had alternative means of incarceration, better means of actually dealing with the problem than basically destroying a person’s life.”

The Americans, both the Republicans and the Democrats, came to this view not because of a higher aspiration for social outcomes but because of the enormous cost to the community and the taxpayers of the United States for minimal outcomes. As I have said, we are paying \$132 million out of this budget to hold people on remand. We do not even know as a community the reasons for all of those people being held on remand because there has been no audit of the system as to why these people are on remand. Some commentators say it is the Monis effect or the Jill Meagher murder effect; that is, the person was out on bail when they committed these crimes. The Commissioner of Police, Mr O’Callaghan, however, says that bail should be used even less—more people should be held on remand because they commit crimes whilst they are on bail—without offering a scintilla of evidence that that is the problem.

The Western Australian government, despite calls from the opposition, refuses to inaugurate a sentencing database of all sentences and judicial decisions made in Western Australia. We are in the dark. We just have to trust the government’s words, which are said in the heat of an election campaign, that it is on track to reduce crime, when we know by the published figures that we are in the middle of a crime wave and the government has no answer. As the Chief Justice says, mandatory sentencing does not deter people from committing crimes at all and longer sentences do not deter people from committing crimes, because the courts are handing out very heavy sentences, for example for ice trafficking. We have just seen the Court of Appeal in the Quaid matter uphold the 23-year sentence imposed upon that drug trafficker. What deters people from committing crime and what is known to deter people from committing crime is the fear of apprehension. We are spending \$1 billion on incarceration. The number of people being incarcerated has risen from 3 500 at the start of this government’s term to over 6 000 people, yet at the same time the risk of being caught has diminished because per head of population the number of police officers is going down. In the community and the electorate Butler, people know there is less chance of being caught now because there is less policing. We are spending money on the wrong end of the system. The apprehension rates were falling so low that the Commissioner of Police stopped publishing the clearance rates because they were an embarrassment. As the Chief Justice pointed out, there is only a one in five chance of being apprehended. That is miserable. We should be spending more money on apprehension and reducing the billion dollar spend on the incarceration system. It must drive the Treasurer nuts when he looks at the figures in this year’s budget that show that the figure on corrective services is climbing steeply and then sits in the chamber hearing about how the crime figures are climbing just as steeply, like in the United States. I invite the government to reflect upon the United States Speaker of the House of Representatives, Paul Ryan; we have all heard of him. He is no softy.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [10.06 pm]: I want to make some comment in the debate on the third reading of the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016. I suppose I make a plea in my contribution. Just before four o’clock in the afternoon on Tuesday, 31 May there was a tragic shark attack in Falcon in Mandurah upon a surfer, Mr Ben Gerring, who despite a very courageous fight in hospital passed away a few days later. We know also that, I think, five days after the tragic attack on Mr Gerring another shark attack occurred in Mindarie just out from the marina, also taking the life of a woman. I suppose I need to tell the house that the Falcon area and particularly the area where Mr Gerring was attacked on the afternoon is a very special part of the coastline of Mandurah. Indeed, the attack by what was presumed to be a great white shark has effectively traumatised and numbed not only his family and so many people who knew Mr Gerring, but also a lot of people who live in the immediate area.

That afternoon Mr Gerring had gone out into the surf. The conditions were excellent for surfing because big swells were coming in across the Indian Ocean, and at least 20 people were out in the water. This time of the day is very popular, of course, because a lot of people knock off work early to go and check out the surfing conditions. Of course, a lot of young people, including kids, had knocked off school and grabbed their boards to go down to surf. We know that on that fateful afternoon some 20 people were in the water, about one-third of whom were, as described by Mandurah Boardriders club president Brian Williams, kids; kids aged 10, 11, 12—young kids. According to witnesses, Ben was sitting a bit further out than anybody else and trying to chase larger waves, when he was, it seems, attacked from behind and went under the water but came back up, obviously screaming for his life and that there had been a shark. Amazingly courageously, when some surfers—understandably particularly the young kids—were being called onto shore, a couple of surfers braved what was now a very dangerous and perilous situation. They went out further, grabbed hold of Ben and brought him to shore. From all reports of what occurred, the next hour was a frantic effort to keep this young man alive. The courage, the remarkable mateship displayed and the professional efforts of people to keep this young man alive, to resuscitate him, to ensure that he had the very best chance of survival was truly remarkable. The brave fellas who went out to get him, in my view, deserve recognition. But all those there that afternoon—whether medics, ambulance personnel and paramedics who arrived, or the off-duty doctor who happened to be on the beach that afternoon—are indeed heroes, and their efforts ensured that Mr Gerring had at least a fighting chance before he was transferred to Peel Health Campus. He was there worked on again by the emergency staff, and then transferred to Perth. I did not know Ben Gerring or his family, but I do know that they are very, very appreciative and certainly humbled, in many respects, by not only those who supported their son in what was a horrific shark attack and who rescued him or took him from the ocean, but also those who worked on him to keep him alive. I know that they are certainly very, very appreciative of all those people.

But what does this do for us? I could go on to give details of the woman who was attacked and killed only five days later, but I just need to put on record in this place the impact these sorts of tragedies have on communities. It is a very numbing feeling. I do not live very far from Falcon and I am not a surfer, but it is a very numbing feeling to know that such a horrific thing can happen in an ocean I have known, having lived in Mandurah for 27-plus years. That such a horrific thing can happen is quite bamboozling in many respects. The days since that attack occurred have been a very numbing experience. I know there have been debates in this place and publicly about drum lines, and about how we respond to an apparently increasing amount of shark activity in our waters. It is very sobering to live in a community that experiences this tragedy. We are not the only one, of course, because we know that there have been a number of attacks in recent years and a number of families have lost loved ones. However, when it happens in my own community, it is particularly sobering. I want to share with the house an email I received from a surfer and family man who has lived in Mandurah for a long time. I will not read the whole email, but I want to give an overview of the perspective of somebody who loves the ocean. He writes —

Hi David,

At the same time the night before Ben Gerring died my 8 and 10 year old sons were surfing at gearies —

That is the beach in Falcon —

with six similar age mates. The afternoon of ben's death there was also a similar amount of kids surfing at gearies under the age of 10 with my 2 about to paddle out when the commotion began and my kids were frantically told to go home. The kids and adults in the water that day are psychologically affected for life. I have had one of the male adults involved at my side last night crying because at this stage he can't return to the ocean with his 10 year old son who is entered in to the junior state surfing titles today in falcon

I am 46 and have lived in MANDURAH since 1976 and have surfed in mandurah since 1979. I have always told my kids not to worry about sharks because I have never seen one in mandurah in all of this time.

He goes on to state that, like most surfers, he is conscious of environmental requirements, and he is open-minded enough to realise the necessity of maintaining the amazing countryside, ocean and lifestyle that we enjoy. The email further states —

When I was growing up one of the sayings adults would use to make us stop and think before we stepped into a car as a 17 year old was that statistics say one of your mates will die in a car accident before they are 30. Since I turned 17 I have had one mate die in a car accident. No one told me I would have 2 mates killed by sharks(Brad smith was my first mate killed by a shark) that is because before 2003 when the attacks began there was no shark attacks in wa so there was no need to worry about it.

So the question the wa community has to ask is how many deaths from sharks per year is acceptable? If we were a company the answer is zero planned deaths for employees or the government/public won't allow us to operate.

He goes on to discuss the risk assessments, and the need to put everything that has been going on into perspective. The email further states —

We have been pussy footing around this issue for to long now. Queensland and New South Wales have been killing sharks via nets and drum lines for 30 years and I don't see sea Shepard or green peace in boat following the fisheries around.

He writes about the need for the creation of what he calls shark exclusion zones, which he identifies as being needed around metro areas and key regional coastal tourist precincts. I do not have a lot of time left to go through more of his email, but he writes about the need to rethink our approach to tragedies in our community and in many other coastal communities in Western Australia over the past 10 years or so. He writes about the need to educate everyone about what a shark exclusion zone might be and how it might operate. He acknowledges that it is not an easy decision. Ultimately, we cannot please everybody, because there will always be those who hold a particular view and others who hold a contrary view.

I want to share with the house tonight that irrespective of what people's views might be—I support my party's position on this and indeed it is now very similar to the government's position—one of the things we all need to be mindful of is that we need to take the politics out of what is essentially a tragedy that has affected not only those family members directly impacted upon, including Ben's fiancée and his unborn child, who will grow up never having met his father. If science is the answer, we need to be putting everything we possibly can into finding a solution. If it is a mix of science and respect for sustainability in oceans, maybe that is what we need to look at too. Tonight I read with interest an article by Rick Ardon in tomorrow's paper, which also highlights the need to look at using technology. Whatever the solution, I do not know whether the Falcon community will be the same after what has occurred. We have lost diving businesses at Mandurah and I know other diving businesses have been lost in other parts of the state. We need to be very careful about the language we use and we need to think very carefully about how we approach this issue, being the beach-loving, surf-loving community that we are.

I express my sincere condolences to Ben Gerring's family, his fiancée and his mates and I acknowledge the wonderful efforts of all those who responded on 31 May.

MS J.M. FREEMAN (Mirrabooka) [10.24 pm]: I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016. I want to point out that I have realised from this budget process that while the government has placed us in grave debt that will go on for some time, it has also done that to the detriment of the public service and the public sector. It has indeed gutted many of the public sector positions and jobs that deliver so much to our communities that we represent. We should be aware of the impact of that on our communities.

In particular, I want to talk about Legal Aid and what has happened with funding for community legal centres. Through the estimates committee and budget process, it was really clear that substantial cuts have occurred to funding for legal assistance in community legal centres. Community legal centres indeed had a cut of 4.5 per cent to their funding in this financial year. That has had a considerable impact on them being able to deliver services when services are increasingly pushed into the not-for-profit sector. This is combined with the 32 per cent cut proposed by the federal government in the 2017–18 financial year, which would be devastating to the community legal sector. In the course of the estimates committee hearings, I asked: given that Legal Aid had received an increase in commonwealth funding of 14 per cent in the 2016–17 financial year, why did the state government not reinstate the 4.5 per cent that it had cut from community legal centres in the 2015–16 financial year? The response was that the department certainly viewed the 14 per cent simply as a corrective adjustment and not an adjustment that would see funding go into those vital community legal centres.

When we combine those cuts with the situation in which centres are no longer getting public purposes trust grants, some centres' funding is going down; for example, the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre's funding is going from \$798 000 down to \$439 000, which is a massive decrease. Other areas have suffered smaller cuts in funding, but those cuts are still significant. For example, funding for the Geraldton Community Legal Centre is going from \$511 000 to \$489 000. The list goes on. The Citizens Advice Bureau's funding goes from \$142 000 to \$60 000; Sussex Street Community Law Services Inc goes from \$270 000 to \$76 000—again that has something to do with the public purposes trust, which I want to go to in a moment—the Wheatbelt Legal Community Legal Centre goes from \$350 000 to \$101 000; and the Youth Legal Service goes from \$497 000 down to \$338 000. This is happening at the same time that two services have been defunded; last year that was the Environmental Defender's Office and this year there will be no continuous funding for the Employment Law Centre of WA. When asked why the Employment Law Centre was no longer funded, the department answered —

The law centre would probably not be considered to be one of our priority clients. Our priority clients are, if you like, people who are very poor, and that is where we concentrate our efforts.

The fact that people cannot get assistance when they are having industrial relations issues with their employers and do not know whether they are being treated with fairness is doubly compounded by the fact that the labour

relations division of the Department of Commerce has been gutted of staff as well. Parliamentary secretary, during the estimates I thought that that agency had lost only 27 positions, but from the supplementary information I have now received it appears that in fact the workforce has been halved from 98.3 full-time equivalent staff in 2013–14 to 49 staff now. That division has effectively lost 49 employees, including positions in the Wageline centre, senior education officers, labour relations officers, labour relations advisers, managers, receptionists and team coordinators. If one of my constituents has an employment issue, they now cannot go to the Employment Law Centre because the government is no longer funding it, despite it having had long-term funding, and they cannot go to the Department of Commerce any longer because this government has gutted the community services of that public service agency. This all happened at a time when the Law Society of WA's public purposes trust allocated funding was anything but transparent. How those funds are delivered is very opaque but many organisations have lost significant funding. It is no wonder the legal fraternity and the general community have embarked on a campaign to promote the idea that legal aid and the funding and benefits of legal aid need to be properly and decently funded. No wonder they have called for this to be an election campaign issue for the election in July. Basically, the Law Council of Australia has demanded that legal aid become an issue that we confront and properly finance. It says that because of government cuts, only eight per cent of Australians qualify for legal aid under the current means tests. An ABC online news item quotes Law Council of Australia president Stuart Clark as saying —

“These are Australians who may be a woman with two or three children whose marriage has sadly broken down and is now facing the prospect of trying to reach a financial settlement with her former husband in circumstances where she's forced to go to court without a lawyer.”

This could be someone with an issue involving consumer affairs or another legal issue relating to their rights and entitlements. This could be any person in our communities whom we represent. They are not just people on the poverty line. These are people who need assistance with complex processes that have been set up by people like us in parliamentary systems, moving laws around commerce, industrial relations or various other things. Now we deny them the right to gain any legal assistance to get them through a difficult time. Most people will never come in contact with our court system but when they do, they want to know that they get good advice and have the capacity to traverse and navigate through difficult procedures and processes to get the best outcome for them without too much cost. We all know that the costs can be quite high and prohibitive for many people such that they will not even pursue their legal rights and their capacity. This is also happening at a time when the Equal Opportunity Commission has again lost significant staff. It will lose 4.5 FTE in the coming financial year, which follows from substantial cuts in previous years such that it now has a skeleton staff. If someone in the general community has an issue with how they have been treated relating to race or gender or any of those things that come under the Equal Opportunity Act, again, they are basically discriminated by the fact that the government has cut their funding through cuts to the public sector. It is not enough to say that people have these services; the government has to provide those services to make them viable. It is not enough to say that there is legislation around that; the government has to provide that.

Nothing is clearer to me about how desperately we need funding in legal aid than when we look at the number of calls that have been abandoned by Legal Aid WA's InfoLine. These are people ringing in and not getting an answer. In 2012–13, 79 736 people called in, of which 17 000 people abandoned, so about 22 per cent abandoned the call. In 2013–14, 78 000 people called in and 12 000 people abandoned the call, so that is 16 per cent abandoned calls. In 2014–15, 85 000 people called in, of which 13 000 calls were abandoned. That is 16 per cent of calls abandoned. In 2015 up to April of this year, 81 000, so fewer people than the whole of last year, have rung the Legal Aid WA InfoLine and 21 000—26 per cent of people—abandoned their calls because they could not get anyone to answer their calls. If this does not show that we have gutted the public sector and taken away those jobs, taken away that funding and taken away those services, nothing does. These are vital services for our community. This government has gutted those services by gutting funding and also taking away vital public services and the human resources that deliver these vital services.

I want to conclude by talking about the way that that has worked in occupational health and safety. Occupational health and safety, or WorkSafe, has gone from having 182 full-time equivalents to 156 in 2015–16—it has reduced staff by 27. WorkSafe will employ two more legal officers because at this point in time it cannot do the necessary prosecutions. Its number of inspectors goes up and down, but it never fills the 107 FTE positions it has the quota for. In our workplaces we depend on our workplace health and safety representatives being registered with WorkSafe, which occurs through good education campaigns by WorkSafe to point out where workers should be covered by health and safety representatives. Those people are then registered and are required to do training and then work with employers and employees to ensure they have safe workplaces. In 2013 there were over 10 000 representatives in a total workforce of 1 325 000, covering 77 per cent of the workforce. This number reduced in 2015 to 7 604 representatives with a greater number in the workforce—1 352 000. The rate has gone from 77 per cent of the total workforce having health and safety representatives in the workplace to 56 per cent. This shows that the resourcing and the capacity on the ground to deliver to the people we represent has been totally undermined by this government. They are vital services.

In closing, I want to talk about the rental accommodation account, which funds tenancy advice services—another service under attack through reduced funding. This has come about because the rental accommodation account funds are earning less interest, but it has still been gutted in order to fund the Magistrates Court. For people on the ground—community members who need to access services when we have greater unemployment, greater uncertainty and greater cost-of-living—what are we seeing? We are seeing services ripped away from them. They are vital services. When there are not necessarily complex problems but issues in the community there are no services for them.

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland) [10.36 pm]: I wish to speak at this third reading stage of the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016-17) Bill 2016. A number of notable matters could occupy a lot longer than 15 minutes, but I want to talk particularly about road safety. Some additional information that came out as part of the supplementary answers I think is very illustrative of what is happening with road safety in this state. The government has been perpetrating a con on the people of Western Australia. It is now attempting to suggest that, in real terms, more money than ever is being spent in the area of road safety. It does this because of what it is now calling a hypothecation of all speed and red-light camera money going to the road trauma trust fund. But of course, the government has changed the rules. Once upon a time, the money allocated to the road trauma trust account was only one-third of that money but that was spent at the Road Safety Council's discretion, not at cabinet's discretion. A huge number of areas once included in mainstream budgets are now being taken out of the road safety budget. When I was Minister for Road Safety, we did not fund, for example, police or other agency full-time equivalent staff from that budget, nor did black-spot funding come from that budget. Black-spot funding was a separate allocation over and above the road trauma trust account. Whenever this government tries to pat itself on the back and pretend it is doing more for road safety, it is a con—a smoke and mirrors job. It is not comparing apples with apples. I particularly want to draw the attention of the house to supplementary information B30 requested in Assembly Estimates Committee B on 24 May. The response reads —

Question: Mrs ... Roberts asked: Can the minister advise how much money is in the road trauma trust account as at 24 May 2016?

The answer was that there was a massive \$116 656 739. As at that day, \$116 million was sitting in the account. I note that the minister decided to provide further information. This is clearly because that is an embarrassing amount of money to have accumulated in the road trauma trust fund. The minister said that the balance did not include expenses relating to May 2016 as these could be processed in June and are estimated to be \$23 million. No doubt it did not include all the money from speeding and red-light cameras for that month either. The minister said that if we take that into account, it would only be \$93 565 922. An amount just shy of \$100 million has been accumulated in the road trauma trust fund. The minister tried to justify that by saying that this year the government will allocate a record \$145.7 million. This government has played politics with this money. Road safety and road trauma should be above politics, but it has squirrelled away this money in an effort to spend it in a year leading up to an election so that it can wheel out a few promises and show a few pictures of the smiling minister at last pretending to do something for road safety. This minister and this government have been a disgrace when it comes to road safety.

Members opposite used to like goading me back in 2008 and 2009 saying, "Well, you never got round to implementing drug testing." I wanted Western Australia to lead the nation in random drug testing for drug-drivers. It would have been a very smart thing to have happened in this state because, guess what? All of the empirical information shows that WA has a bigger amphetamine problem than in the other states and we have more people on meth and other drugs than in the other states. At the height of the mining boom people said it was because we had a lot of cashed-up young people earning big bucks who were easy prey when parting with money for those drugs. We had people hooked on these drugs and involved in crime. That leads us to a whole other area that I do not intend to go into right now.

The last year that I was police minister, in 2005, I said that drug testing should be a priority and that is where the Labor government was going. I had one of the Dräger DrugCheck units and demonstrated it to the media and said that we were going to implement a trial, but in the next couple of years under other Ministers for Police and Road Safety that did not eventuate. This government said that I had dropped the ball and did not do anything. These guys opposite dropped the ball for the next five or six years! Guess what? Every other state has beaten WA at this. We are the only state that does not have a proper drug-testing regime. We have the worst drug problem but no proper regime for drug-testing drivers. It is a disgrace, and it has cost lives. Government members should make no mistake about that at all, because in other states where it has been in place for years now people have been charged and prosecuted with those offences. The Minister for Police stands up from time to time and says that the government is going to do more. It is a national embarrassment to now be the last state to implement driver drug testing. The criticism of the Labor government for not implementing it, effectively ahead of every other state in Australia, is really pretty shrill, is it not, when this government has sat back and let every other state go first? It is a national disgrace. I went to a national road safety conference last year, and everyone in the road safety space said that Western Australia was the only state not doing random drug testing.

We have one of the lowest rates of drug testing. We have had evidence before parliamentary committees that has indicated the drug testing was being done only in situations in which police thought someone seemed inebriated or under the influence of a substance, and when they tested negative for alcohol, they were then tested for drugs. To me it is a no-brainer. Everybody else seems to know that there are a whole lot of young people and older people who abuse both drugs and alcohol at the same time. Alcohol is a substance that disinhibits people and sometimes, having had a few drinks, people move on to drug taking as well. If we had a proper random drug-testing regime, we would have had many people charged and prosecuted and hopefully taken off our roads and off drugs.

That is one huge area in which, had the government acted five or six years ago, three or four years ago, or even two or three years ago, lives would have been saved on our roads and we would not have one of the worst fatality rates in the nation. Over the last two or three years, we have been either the worst or narrowly the second worst of any state, while some of the much bigger states population-wise—Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland—have done much better than us in their fatalities and serious injuries rates.

Another area in which this government has not acted is the area of point-to-point cameras. Again, they have been rolled out in virtually every other state. When the member for Hillarys was the Minister for Police; Road Safety, he stood in this place and announced that he was going to introduce a trial of point-to-point cameras. More than three years later, the current Minister for Police just sat back and did nothing. It was not completely nothing; she has made a couple of announcements over the last year. She stood and said, “Yes, we’re going to be doing this.” We waited about six months and she stood again and said, “Yes, we’re going to be doing it soon”, and she is again delaying it. Again, implementing that was really a no-brainer and it is something that would save lives. A lot of people think that it is a fairer system. Perhaps someone might creep up on the accelerator at a particular point, after becoming a little distracted or whatever, to 12 or 13 kilometres over the limit for a five-minute period and get caught out and get a ticket because of that, but for the rest of a 200-kilometre trip have driven at or below the speed limit. If they are assessed over a point-to-point system, there is an argument that that is fairer.

It also means that people cannot do silly things like go past a speed camera and think, “You beauty; I’ve passed the speed camera. I’ll be right to speed for the next 50 kays because how unlikely is it that they’ll have two speed cameras within a kilometre of each other?” This is a fair and reasonable system and it also gives people the message that they have to not look out for the speed cameras or have one of those contraptions that help them identify a speed camera that is coming up. They have to know that they need to keep to the speed limit for the whole journey, and I think that would really encourage people. Again, it is just another initiative the government has not taken.

The principal point I want to raise about the estimates committees is the way this government has really used smoke and mirrors to cover up what it is doing and pretend that it is spending more on road safety than it really is. I asked the minister how many full-time equivalents were being employed out of the money that goes to police each year and I was told that in the last year there were 50 FTEs funded as part of the WA Police allocation from the road trauma trust fund. Fifty police officers’ or staff wages—I expect most of them are police officers—are funded as part of the WA Police allocation from the road trauma trust fund. Once upon a time, the payment for all police officers, whether or not on traffic duty or in booze buses, came out of the WA Police budget. As part of this smoke and mirrors exercise, the government is robbing this money out of the road trauma trust account and putting it in the WA Police budget. The government is basically filling holes in the WA Police budget. According to the supplementary information that I have, that happened again in the midyear review. We were told this time last year that \$18.048 million had been allocated to the WA Police budget in 2015–16 from the road trauma trust account. However, in the 2015–16 midyear review, a further \$5.378 million was allocated across. Basically, the government needed to rob some more money out of the road trauma trust account and pop that over to plug the hole in the WA Police budget. That was for the funding of 50 FTEs. I am told that this year, \$26.669 million will be allocated to the WA Police budget. The government is saying at this stage that a total of 42 police FTEs will be funded, but that is subject to change depending on further projects and so forth. No doubt it will end up funding the wages of roughly 50 police officers. I have no doubt that the same thing is happening in Main Roads WA and other agencies that are getting money from the road trauma trust account. That money will be funding some of the FTEs that were once funded under that agency.

This is a smoke and mirrors exercise. This government has been absolutely political in its attitude to road safety. This government has the worst record of any state. There is no point in the government saying that the road trauma rate in this state is slowly going down. The rate in other states has gone down at a rapid rate. Part of the reason is that people are now driving safer vehicles. Just about all cars now have a four or five-star safety rating. Ten years ago, a lot of cars, particularly four-cylinder cars, had only a one or two-star safety rating. People are more likely to survive a crash if they are driving a five-star safety rated vehicle.

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Treasurer) [10.51 pm] — in reply: I will be very quick in my response to the third reading on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2016–17) Bill 2016. I guess it is the task of the opposition to be oppositional and to find fault—fault might not be there, but they want to find fault anyway. With some

exceptions, this was a pretty dismal performance from people on the other side. They whinged about the deficit but whined about the lack of spending in all cases. They went on and on about how we have not spent here and we have not spent there. They whinged about the deficit but whined about the tax increases. They whinged about the debt but whined about the lack of capital spending here, there and everywhere. They whinged about excessive salary growth. This is coming from the Labor Party, which claimed that it would keep wages tight. When they came into government, I note that wages grew by over 30 per cent. That is its record. Labor members whinged about the lack of growth in the public sector and in every sector that they talked about. They whinged about the royalties for regions level of spending but whined about the denuding of spending in regional areas. They gave no recognition whatsoever—with some exceptions—to the severity of the conditions facing this state, and therefore they have no capacity to address those issues. The policies of the opposition are quite clearly to whinge and whine their way into government.

Mr J.E. McGrath: World champions!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Yes; they are world champions at that. There were a couple of exceptions. One was the member for Mandurah, who did a great job in talking about a very controversial issue—sharks, and what we can do about them. He talked also about the tragedy of the young man who was killed by a shark down at Dawesville, who happened to be the grandson of a sailing partner of mine.

The second exception was the member for Butler. We have to give him credit. Sometimes the member for Butler can go off the shelf but sometimes he is on the money. One of the issues that he addressed today was very good. It was the challenge that we face with the rapidly growing incarceration rate.

Mr J.E. McGrath: He fluked one!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Yes; he fluked one. I give him credit. We have to give him some credit, member for South Perth. At the same time, he talked about the high proportion of Indigenous people in the prison system and the cost of that and the waste of life. That is a challenge that not only we in government but also any future government must face.

One of the things that the shadow Treasurer whined about was the lack of capital growth. All I can say is net worth—what we have is assets minus liabilities. He said that I skipped net worth. Under our watch, net worth in the public sector has grown by 76 per cent. In terms of assets minus liabilities, we have added \$50 billion worth of net worth over our period in government. To say that we have not been doing anything is ridiculous. Anyway, that is what we have. That is the opposition's job, I guess. Our task is to ensure that the opposition does not whinge and whine its way into government.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 10.55 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

ATTORNEY GENERAL — PORTFOLIOS — CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

4969. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the minister representing the Attorney General; Minister for Commerce:

Since 1 July 2014, have any officers or board members within a department, agency, Commission or Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities attended a conference, seminar or workshop organised by a private organisation for which attendance was paid for by the department, agency, Commission or GTE, and if so:

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

Mrs L.M. Harvey replied:

Corruption and Crime Commission

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 4214.]

Commissioner for Children and Young People

(a)–(f) N/A

Department of Commerce

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 4214.]

Department of the Attorney General

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 4214.]

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 4214.]

Equal Opportunity Commission

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 4214.]

Office of the Information Commissioner

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 4214.]

Legal Aid

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 4214.]

Legal Practice Board of Western Australia

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 4214.]

Legal Profession Complaints Committee

(a)–(f) Not applicable.

State Solicitor's Office

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 4214.]

Solicitor General's Office

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 4214.]

The Department of the Registrar, WA Industrial Relations Commission

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 4214.]

WorkCover

(a)–(f) [See tabled paper no 4214.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — RATES

5387. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the Local Government Council Rates charged for the years 2013–2014 and 2014–2015, and I ask:

- (a) will the Minister please provide the average percentage increase in rates for each metropolitan council; and;
- (b) will the Minister please provide the average percentage increase in rates for each regional council; and
- (c) if details are not available, why not?

Mr A.J. Simpson replied:

- (a) [See tabled paper no 4213.]
- (b) [See tabled paper no 4213.]
- (c) Not applicable.

ENERGY — ROUNDTABLE OF ENERGY CONSUMERS AND INDUSTRY

5389. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the “Roundtable of Energy Consumers and Industry”, announced by the Minister for Energy on 24 October 2012, and I ask:

- (a) on how many occasions has the “Roundtable of Energy Consumers and Industry” met;
- (b) on what dates has the “Roundtable of Energy Consumers and Industry” met; and
- (c) when is the next meeting scheduled for the “Roundtable of Energy Consumers and Industry”?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

- (a) One.
- (b) 20 November 2012.
- (c) There is no meeting scheduled.

ENERGY — SMART METERS

5390. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the reported comments in “The West Australian” of the Minister for Energy of 4 December 2012, regarding ‘smart’ meters, and I ask:

- (a) has the Government responded to the “Solar Cities” trial, and if yes, on what date did it respond to the “Solar Cities” trial; and
- (b) does the Government still assess the cost of ‘smart’ meters to consumers as \$1,000 per household to buy, install and monitor, and If not, what is the current cost assessment as to the cost per household to buy, install and monitor ‘smart’ meters?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

- (a) Outcomes of the Solar Cities trial with respect to advanced metering infrastructure will inform consideration of retail market arrangements and customer services as part of the Electricity Market Review.
- (b) The price of advanced metering infrastructure deployment is affected by factors such as the scale of a project, the technologies selected, the entity selected to lead deployment, and the timing and method of infrastructure procurement. As such, the Government does not have an estimate for the cost per household to purchase, install and monitor advanced meters.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — FULL TIME EQUIVALENT SECURITY STAFFING — REGIONAL

5392. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:

Can the Minister please advise, for each of the following hospitals (including those hospitals where security is provided by an external contractor) – Albany, Bunbury, Broome, Nikol Bay, Onslow, Derby, Geraldton, Newman – as at 31 December 2014:

- (a) what was the allocation of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for security;
- (b) what level of FTE were employed for security;
- (c) does security at the hospital receive penalty wages; and
- (d) does security at the hospital have leave backfilled?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

As at 31 December 2014:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Albany*	4.0 FTE	4.0 FTE	Yes	No
Bunbury	13 FTE	13.5 FTE	Yes	Yes
Broome**	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nickol Bay**	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A
Onslow***	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A
Derby***	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A
Geraldton	2.2 FTE	1.84 FTE	Yes	Yes
Newman***	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Additional security services at this hospital are also utilised via external contractor for one on one patient guards as required and night checks when there are no salaried security officers on site.

**Broome Hospital and Nickol Bay Hospital security services are not provided by WA Health employees but through externally contracted services.

***Onslow Hospital, Newman Hospital and Derby Hospital do not employ security staff or have externally contracted security services. Due to the small size of these hospitals, any security related incidents are responded to by WA Police.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — FULL TIME EQUIVALENT SECURITY STAFFING — REGIONAL

5393. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:

I refer to security services for the following hospitals being provided by an external contractor, can the Minister please advise, for the Broome Hospital, Nickol Bay Hospital, Onslow Hospital and Newman Hospital, as at 31 December 2015:

- (a) what was the allocation of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for security;
- (b) what level of FTE were employed for security;
- (c) does security at the hospital receive penalty wages; and
- (d) does security at the hospital have leave backfilled?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

Answer as at 31 December 2015

- (a)–(d) Broome Hospital and Nickol Bay Hospital security services are not provided by WA Health employees but through externally contracted services.

Onslow Hospital and Newman Hospital do not employ security staff or have externally contracted security services. Due to the small size of these hospitals, any security related incidents are responded to by WA Police.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — FULL TIME EQUIVALENT SECURITY STAFFING — METROPOLITAN

5394. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:

Can the Minister please advise for each of the following health centres Princess Margaret Hospital, Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital, Graylands Hospital, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Osborne Park Hospital, Royal Perth Hospital, Bentley Health Service, Fremantle Hospital & Health Service, Armadale Health Service, Rockingham General Hospital, Fiona Stanley Hospital, St John of God Midland Public Hospital, Peel Health Campus and Joondalup Health Campus, as at 31 December 2014:

- (a) what was the allocation of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for security;
- (b) what level of FTE were employed for security;
- (c) does security at the hospital receive penalty wages; and
- (d) does security at the hospital have leave backfilled?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

As at 31 December 2014 –

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Princess Margaret Hospital	9 FTE	9 FTE	Yes*	Yes
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH)	22 FTE	22 FTE	Yes*	Yes
Graylands Hospital	15 FTE	15 FTE	Yes*	Yes
King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH)	9 FTE	9 FTE	Yes*	Yes
Osborne Park Hospital (OPH)	1.8 FTE	1.8 FTE	Yes*	Yes
Royal Perth Hospital	21 FTE	21 FTE	Yes**	Yes
Bentley Health Service***	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fremantle Hospital & Health Service	13 FTE	13 FTE	Yes**	Yes
Armadale Health Service	9 FTE	9 FTE	Yes**	Yes
Rockingham General Hospital	9 FTE	9 FTE	Yes**	Yes

*Security Officers employed under the QEII Flexibility Award (SCGH) receive an annualised salary, inclusive of penalties and shift allowance.

Security Officers engaged at KEMH and the Child and Adolescent Health Service are on an annualised salary inclusive of penalties, shift allowance and limited overtime.

Security Officers on the Graylands Hospital campus are paid via their fortnightly roster (hours worked).

OPH Security Officers work a roster of seven (7) nights on, seven (7) nights off and are paid for shifts worked.

**As per Health Services Union Award. For full-time officers this is reconciled in a salary averaging agreement.

*** Bentley Health Service privately contracted security staff at this date.

Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH), Peel Health Campus (PHC) and Joondalup Health Campus (JHC) security staff are not WA Health employees. Accordingly information for FSH, PHC and JHC security personnel is not provided.

St John of God Midland Public Hospital was not operational at this date.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH — FULL TIME EQUIVALENT SECURITY STAFFING — METROPOLITAN

5395. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:

Can the Minister please advise for each of the following health centres Fiona Stanley Hospital, St John of God, Midland Public Hospital, Peel Health Campus and Joondalup Health Campus, as at 31 December 2015:

- what was the allocation of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for security;
- how many FTE security guards are actually employed;
- does security at the hospital receive penalty wages; and
- does security at the hospital have leave backfilled?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

(a)–(d) Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH), St John of God Midland Public Hospital (SJGMPH), Peel Health Campus (PHC) and Joondalup Health Campus (JHC) security staff are not WA Health employees. Accordingly, information for FSH, SJGMPH, PHC and JHC security personnel is not provided.

PERTH LORD MAYOR — TRAVEL AND EXPENSE CLAIMS — INVESTIGATION

5396. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the Department of Local Government's investigation into the Perth Lord Mayor's travel and expense claims, which were announced on 12 October 2015, stating the review was expected to be completed within weeks, and ask:

- when was the Department's investigation finalised;
- what date did the Department send you a copy of the Report;
- what date did the Department send the Lord Mayor, Lisa Scaffidi, a copy of the Report;
- given the Premier was calling in March 2016 for the Report to be released publicly and couldn't understand what was taking so long, why is it taking so long to release the Report;
- when will the Report be released publicly; and
- if the Report is not to be released publicly, why not?

Mr A.J. Simpson replied:

- (a) 5 May 2016.
- (b) 6 May 2016.
- (c) The Department of Local Government and Communities delivered a copy of the draft report to the Lord Mayor's legal representatives on 24 March 2016. The Lord Mayor, or her legal representatives, received a copy of the final report on 10 May 2016.
- (d) There are a number of processes that need to be undertaken when conducting an investigation. Accordingly, the Department's officers must ensure that the investigation is completed in such a manner that the investigation is presented properly and with fairness to the accused.
- (e) The report was tabled on 10 May 2016 and was released publically at that time.
- (f) Not applicable.

HEALTH — PATIENT ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEME

5397. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:

For the 2014/15 financial year:

- (a) how many successful Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) claims were for appointments either cancelled or delayed by WA Health, when the patient was either en route to the place of treatment, or already at the place of treatment;
- (b) with respect to (a), what percentage of the total successful PATS claims for financial year does this represent;
- (c) with respect to (a), what was the total cost of additional transport subsidies resulting from appointments delayed or cancelled by WA Health, when patient was either en route or at place of treatment? (for example, patient flies to Perth on Thursday morning from Broome for appointment Friday morning, appointment cancelled Thursday afternoon, requiring a repeat return trip);
- (d) what was the total cost of additional accommodation subsidies claimed as a result of delayed or cancelled appointments by WA Health (for example, appointment scheduled for a Friday, patient en route Thursday when finds out appointment re-scheduled to Monday, requiring additional nights' accommodation to be claimed); and
- (e) what percentage of PATS approved claims for appointments cancelled or delayed by WA Health, when the patient was either en route or at the place of treatment were for category 1, elective surgery?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

- (a)–(e) WA Country Health Service is not able to provide a response to these questions as the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme database, nor any other database, currently accurately captures this specific information. Provision of the information sought would require a significant amount of manual research and time which would divert WA Health staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the Member has a specific inquiry I will endeavour to provide a reply.

HEALTH — INPATIENT STAYS

5398. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the current average length of stay per inpatient episode (eg. x number of nights) in metropolitan tertiary hospitals?
- (2) What is the current average length of stay per inpatient episode in major regional centre public hospitals (Bunbury, Albany, Broome, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, etc)?
- (3) What is the average cost per night per each inpatient stay in West Australian public hospitals?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

Data is provided based on discharges (separations) from respective hospitals for the 2015/16 year-to-date (28 April 2016) and the response includes both total average length of stay and non-same day average length of stay.

- (1) The average length of stay per inpatient episode in metropolitan tertiary hospitals is 3.1 days. The average length of overnight stay (excludes same-day) per inpatient episode in metropolitan tertiary hospitals is 4.8 days.

- (2) The average length of stay per inpatient episode in major regional centre public hospitals is 2.3 days. The average length of overnight stay (excludes same-day) per inpatient episode in major regional centre public hospitals is 3.8 days.
- (3) The average cost per bed-day, per inpatient separation in Western Australian public hospitals for 2014/15 was \$1,910.

Note: The average cost per bed-day for an inpatient separation is not a measure the Department of Health or the National Health Performance Authority use. The unit cost per weighted activity unit is the primary measure for hospital efficiency. The figure provided in the answer has been derived by modelling data submitted for the round 19 National Hospital Cost Data Collection process and is subject to an extensive validation process which is yet to be completed with the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority prior to the information being considered final.

HEALTH — HOSPITAL BEDS

5399. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:

I refer to all tertiary public hospitals, (including public hospitals with private operators) in the Perth metropolitan area and ask:

- (a) how many beds are there in each hospital, (total) broken down by hospital;
- (b) how many single bed rooms with ensuites in total are there in each hospital, broken down by hospital;
- (c) what percentage of the hospital's rooms are single beds with ensuites, broken down by hospital; and
- (d) how many beds in the new 298 bed Perth Children's Hospital will be single bed rooms with ensuites?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

- (a)–(c) Refer to table provided below. Please note, none of the State's public hospitals with private operators are tertiary hospitals.

Hospital	(a)	(b)	(c)
Princess Margaret Hospital for Children	242	46	19%
King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH)	212	89	42%
Graylands Hospital	121	52	43%
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital	505	170	34%
Royal Perth Hospital	474	86	18%
Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH)	783 (including 140 in the State Rehabilitation Service)	526 (including 70 in the State Rehabilitation Service)	71% of beds in the main hospital. 50% of beds in the State Rehabilitation Service.

- (d) 153 single bed rooms with 'ensuite' bathrooms.

MINISTER FOR ENERGY — PORTFOLIOS — GOVERNMENT TRADING ENTERPRISES — PAYMENTS

5400. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to all Government Trading Enterprises (GTEs) in the Minister's portfolio and ask:

- (a) what payments are made annually by each GTE to the consolidated account under the principle of Competitive Neutrality (i.e. please provide a list of payments such as taxation equivalents, loan guarantee fees, and any other payments required); and
- (b) with respect to the payments mentioned in answer to part (a), what was the basis for, and total amount of, all payments made to the consolidated account by each GTE in:
- (i) 2012/13;
- (ii) 2013/14;
- (iii) 2014/15; and
- (iv) 2015/16?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

Horizon Power

(a)–(b) (i)–(iv)

Payments under the principle of Competitive Neutrality (\$)

Items Financial Year	Income Tax Equivalent	Loan Guarantee Fee	Payroll Tax	Local Government Rates	Emergency Services Levy	Other State Taxes	Total
2012/2013	23,898,742	3,085,426	3,755,676	327,983	9,429	832,630	31,909,886
2013/2014	31,471,004	4,293,376	3,673,355	347,442	10,651	1,043,288	40,839,116
2014/2015	11,158,233	4,687,791	2,903,511	609,022	16,759	1,072,193	20,447,509
YTD 2015/2016	13,147,776	4,769,118	2,038,921	176,145	21,497	879,472	21,032,929

Synergy

(a)–(b) (i)–(iv)

Items Financial Year	Income Tax Equivalent*	Loan Guarantee Fee	Payroll Tax	Local Government Rates	Emergency Services Levy	Other State Taxes	Total
2012/2013	34,800,000	4,996,209	8,153,699	753,891	95,377	77,882	48,877,058 ^
2013/2014	55,300,000	3,900,000	6,936,474	689,671	202,921	118,115	67,147,181
2014/2015	23,800,000	1,700,000	9,748,248	604,276	79,846	122,130	36,054,500
2015/2016 (YTD March 2016)	5,531,711	1,500,000	6,371,060	453,678	65,588	76,723	13,998,760

^ Tally of Verve Energy and former Synergy payments

* Income tax equivalent for 2015–16 (YTD March 2016) based on YTD provisional tax expense.

Western Power

(a)–(b) (i)–(iv)

Type of payments	2015/16 (\$'M)	2014/15 (\$'M)	2013/14 (\$'M)	2012/13 (\$'M)
Loan guarantee fee	47.2	40.8	51.6	34.9
Annual local government equivalent rates, land tax and payroll tax	24.3	29.0	26.9	25.6
Dividend	232.4	131.9	124.4	102.1
Income tax equivalent	–	–	–	–
Total	303.9	201.7	202.9	162.6

WESTERN POWER — LOAN GUARANTEE FEE

5401. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to Western Power's – and any subsidiaries – debts and repayments and ask:

- (a) what is the current amount of Western Power's debts at the present date;
- (b) what is the amount of the current, "Loan Guarantee Fee," paid by Western Power to the State and:
 - (i) has this Loan Guarantee Fee changed since the 2012 financial year and if so how;
- (c) what was the total amount in dollar terms paid by Western Power to the State by way of the Loan Guarantee Fee in:
 - (i) 2012/13;
 - (ii) 2013/14;
 - (iii) 2014/15; and
 - (iv) 2015/16; and
- (d) what is the budgeted amount expected to be paid by Western Power to the Government by way of the Loan Guarantee Fee for the out years:
 - (i) 2016/17;
 - (ii) 2017/18; and
 - (iii) 2018/19?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

- (a) \$7,197M (29/4/16)
- (b) 0.70%
 - (i) Increased from 0.20% to 0.70%
- (c) Totals (Actuals):
 - (i) 2012/13 \$34.9M
 - (ii) 2013/14 \$51.6M
 - (iii) 2014/15 \$40.8M
 - (iv) 2015/16 \$47.2M
- (d) Totals (Estimates):
 - (i) 2016/17 \$52.6M
 - (ii) 2017/18 \$54.7M
 - (iii) 2018/19 \$56.7M

SYNERGY — LOAN GUARANTEE FEE

5402. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to Synergy's – and any subsidiaries – debts and repayments and ask:

- (a) what is the current amount of Synergy's debts at the present date;
- (b) what is the amount of the current, "Loan Guarantee Fee", paid by Synergy to the State, and has this Loan Guarantee Fee changed since the 2012 financial year and if so how;
- (c) what was the total amount in dollar terms paid by Synergy to the State by way of Loan Guarantee Fee in:
 - (i) 2012/13;
 - (ii) 2013/14;
 - (iii) 2014/15; and
 - (iv) 2015/16; and
- (d) what is the budgeted amount expected to be paid by Synergy to the Government by way of the Loan Guarantee Fee for the out years:
 - (i) 2016/17;
 - (ii) 2017/18; and
 - (iii) 2018/19?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

- (a) \$254 million
- (b) "Loan guarantee fee" is assumed to be the government guarantee fee (GGF) as charged by Western Australian Treasury Corporation (WATC).

The GGF is \$1.5 million (to 31 March 2016).

The GGF is the same as in the 2012 financial year, 0.7% per annum.

From 1 July 2015 a new method for charging the GGF was implemented. The change decoupled GGF payments from loan maturity payments. This better represents the GGF as a charge on debt held and differentiates from interest payments on individual loans.

- (c) (i) \$5.0 million (reflects payments made by Verve Energy. The former Synergy did not have any government borrowings on its books)
- (ii) \$3.9 million
- (iii) \$1.7 million
- (iv) \$1.5 million (to 31 March 2016)
- (d) (i) \$1.8 million
- (ii) \$1.2 million
- (iii) \$0.8 million

HEALTH — SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND DENTAL HYGIENE VAN — KIMBERLEY

5403. Ms J. Farrer to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Can the minister please confirm the number of speech pathologists currently employed based in the Kimberley, and where they are each located?
- (2) I refer to the dental hygiene van that services some parts of the Kimberley, and ask:
 - (a) can the minister list the communities that the dental hygiene van has visited in the years 2014, 2015, and 2016;
 - (b) how many times does the van visit each location per year;
 - (c) does the dental hygiene van have four wheel drive capabilities, therefore being able to travel on gravel road; and
 - (d) if no to , how are dental hygiene services delivered to communities such as Beagle Bay and Balgo?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

- (1) As at 28 April 2016, a total of 4.8 FTE speech pathologists are currently employed based in the Kimberley including 1 FTE in Broome, 2 FTE in Derby and 1.8 FTE in Kununurra.
- (2) (a)–(c) Dental Health Services (DHS) does not possess a dental hygiene van that services different locations in the Kimberley. DHS possesses a Dental Therapy Van which is permanently sited at the Wyndham Primary School.
- (d) The Beagle Bay Community receives dental services from Broome-based staff totalling four (4) visits per year of one (1) week duration utilising field-portable dental equipment set up in the health clinic or school room.

The Balgo Community receives dental services from Kununurra-based staff totalling two (2) visits per year of one (1) week duration utilising field-portable dental equipment set up in the health clinic.

WESTERN POWER — REPORTED REDUNDANCIES

5408. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the recently reported redundancies of 215 roles at Western Power and ask:

- (a) how many of these individuals' salaries were:
 - (i) \$20,000 – \$50,000 per annum;
 - (ii) \$50,000 – \$70,000 per annum;
 - (iii) \$70,000 – \$90,000 per annum; and
 - (iv) more than \$90,000 per annum;
- (b) how many of these individuals had been employed by Western Power for:
 - (i) 1 year or less;
 - (ii) 1 – 2 years;
 - (iii) 2 – 5 years;
 - (iv) 5 – 10 years; and
 - (v) more than 10 years; and
- (c) from where are these roles being removed (i.e. Head Office or Field Operations)?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

- (a)–(c) No decisions have been made at this time.

MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM — PORTFOLIOS — CONSULTANTS — BUDGET

5409. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Small Business:

In relation to all agencies that fall within the Minister's portfolio of responsibility, I ask:

- (a) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2016–17;
- (c) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2017–18; and
- (d) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2018–19?

Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:

- (a)–(d) Please refer to the response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice Number 5425.

MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — CONSULTANTS — BUDGET

5410. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Mental Health; Child Protection:

In relation to all agencies that fall within the Minister's portfolio of responsibility, I ask:

- (a) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2016–17;
- (c) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2017–18; and
- (d) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2018–19?

Ms A.R. Mitchell replied:

(a)–(d) Please refer to the response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 5425.

MINISTER FOR HOUSING — PORTFOLIOS — CONSULTANTS — BUDGET

5412. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the minister representing the Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming:

In relation to all agencies that fall within the Minister's portfolio of responsibility, I ask:

- (a) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2016–17;
- (c) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2017–18; and
- (d) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2018–19?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

Please refer to the response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice Number 5425.

MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT — PORTFOLIOS — CONSULTANTS — BUDGET

5413. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Local Government; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Youth:

In relation to all agencies that fall within the Minister's portfolio of responsibility, I ask:

- (a) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2016–17;
- (c) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2017–18; and
- (d) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2018–19?

Mr A.J. Simpson replied:

Please refer to the response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice Number 5425.

MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES — PORTFOLIOS — CONSULTANTS — BUDGET

5416. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Emergency Services; Fisheries; Corrective Services; Veterans:

In relation to all agencies that fall within the Minister's portfolio of responsibility, I ask:

- (a) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2016–17;
- (c) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2017–18; and
- (d) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2018–19?

Mr J.M. Francis replied:

(a)–(d) Please refer to the response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice Number 5425.

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT — PORTFOLIOS — CONSULTANTS — BUDGET

5417. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Environment; Heritage:

In relation to all agencies that fall within the Minister's portfolio of responsibility, I ask:

- (a) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2016–17;
- (c) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2017–18; and
- (d) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2018–19?

Mr A.P. Jacob replied:

Please refer to the response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice Number 5425.

TREASURER — PORTFOLIOS — CONSULTANTS — BUDGET

5420. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Treasurer; Minister for Energy; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

In relation to all agencies that fall within the Minister's portfolio of responsibility, I ask:

- (a) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2016–17;
- (c) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2017–18; and
- (d) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2018–19?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

Please refer to the response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice Number 5425.

MINISTER FOR HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — CONSULTANTS — BUDGET

5421. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Minister for Health; Culture and the Arts:

In relation to all agencies that fall within the Minister's portfolio of responsibility, I ask:

- (a) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2016–17;
- (c) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2017–18; and
- (d) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2018–19?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

Please refer to the response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice Number 5425

PREMIER — PORTFOLIOS — CONSULTANTS — BUDGET

5425. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Premier; Minister for Tourism; Science:

In relation to all agencies that fall within the Minister's portfolio of responsibility, I ask:

- (a) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2016–17;
- (c) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2017–18; and
- (d) what has each agency budgeted for expenditure on consultants for the financial year 2018–19?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

Engagement of consultants is largely undertaken by agencies in response to specific and emerging issues.

The Liberal–National Government produces six-monthly reports on all consultancy expenditure, with these reports tabled in Parliament.

MUJA AB POWER STATION — CONTRACTORS

5426. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the servicing, operation and maintenance of Muja AB and ask:

- (a) are any contractors currently engaged to service Muja AB:
 - (i) if yes, how many full-time equivalent contractors service Muja AB, who are the contractors and what is the nature and duration of the contracts; and
 - (ii) if no, have any contractors serviced Muja AB since January 2014, and if so who were the contractors and what was the nature and duration of the contracts; and
- (b) how many full-time equivalents from Synergy's Generating Business Unit (GBU) are tasked with servicing, maintaining and operating Muja AB?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

- (a) Yes.
 - (i)

Company	FTE	Contract detail
Veoil	2	Industrial cleaning and waste management.
Kaefer	<1	Insulation maintenance and repair
Monadelphous	2	Coal basin coal infrastructure
Jackson Electrical	2	Electrical support services
Downer	1	Electrical support services
Henderson Plumbing	<1	Plumbing
Nabase	<1	Carpentry
SouthWest Refrigeration & Air Conditioning	<1	Air conditioning

- (ii) Not applicable.

- (b) Synergy FTEs working at Muja AB operate under the group areas of boiler, turbine, balance of plant, power and control, asset support, and operations. For the purposes of servicing, maintaining and operating Muja AB, all Synergy employees are dispatched from this pool as required.

SYNERGY — GENERATING BUSINESS UNIT — FULL TIME EQUIVALENT STAFF

5427. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to Synergy's Generating Business Unit (GBU) and ask:

- (a) how many full time equivalents are presently employed in Synergy's GBU; and
- (b) how many full time equivalents were employed in Synergy's GBU in:
- (i) 2011–12;
 - (ii) 2012–13; and
 - (iii) 2013–14?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

- (a) 413.8
- (b) (i) 457.17
- (ii) 491.73
- (iii) 472.76

TREASURER — MID-YEAR FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS — ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS

5429. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Treasurer:

I refer to Appendix 6 of the the 2015/16 Mid-Year Financial Projections Statement setting out the breakdown of expenditure for Royalties for Regions, and I ask:

- (a) in respect of the \$112.4 million allocated to the 'Midwest Investment Plan' in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (b) in respect of the \$150.1 million allocated to the 'North West Health Initiative' in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (c) in respect of the \$79.5 million allocated to the 'District Medical Workforce Investment Program' in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (d) in respect of the \$158.0 million allocated to the 'District Hospital Investment Program (Operating)' in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative; and

- (e) in respect of the \$12.8 million allocated to the 'Regional Skills and Training Initiative' in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

Please refer to the response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice Number 5430.

TREASURER — MID-YEAR FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS — ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS

5431. Mr B.S. Wyatt to the Treasurer:

I refer to Appendix 6 of the the 2015/16 Mid-Year Financial Projections Statement setting out the breakdown of expenditure for Royalties for Regions, and I ask:

- (a) in respect of the \$108 million allocated to the 'Regional Workers Initiative' in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (b) in respect of the \$55 million allocated to the 'Community Resource Centres' in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (c) in respect of the \$21.5 million allocated to the 'Creative Regions Program' in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (d) in respect of the \$29.4 million allocated to the 'Caravan and Camping' in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (e) in respect of the \$21.7 million allocated to the 'Regional Young People Program' in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;

- (f) in respect of the \$41.6 million allocated to the ‘Regional Events Program’ in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (g) in respect of the \$57.8 million allocated to the ‘Regional Strategic Projects’ in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (h) In respect of the \$60.7 million allocated to the ‘Seizing the Opportunity Agriculture’ in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and If so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and If so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (i) In respect of the \$77.0 million allocated to the ‘Infrastructure Audit and Infrastructure Investment Fund’ in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (j) in respect of the \$25.5 million allocated to the ‘Agricultural Sciences Research and Development’ in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (k) in respect of the \$33.9 million allocated to the ‘Water for Food’ in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (l) in respect of the \$20 million allocated to the ‘Regional Capital Works Initiative’ in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;

- (m) in respect of the \$458.6 million allocated to the ‘Pilbara Cities Strategic Infrastructure’ in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (n) in respect of the \$68.1 million allocated to the ‘Pilbara Cities Community Projects’ in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (o) in respect of the \$68.2 million allocated to the ‘Goldfields Esperance Revitalisation’ in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative;
- (p) in respect of the \$412.9 million allocated to the ‘Southern Investment Initiative – Growing our South’ in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative; and
- (q) in respect of the \$334.1 million allocated to the ‘Statewide Regional Blueprint Initiatives’ in the Budget year and across the forward estimates:
- (i) has this allocation been expensed for the purposes of calculating current net debt;
 - (ii) has this entire amount been allocated to specific initiatives, and if so, what initiatives and how much to each initiative; and
 - (iii) is any of this amount unallocated to specific initiatives, and if so, how much in each year is currently unallocated to a specific initiative?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

Please refer to the response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice Number 5432.

SYNERGY — PHILIPPINES VISIT

5433. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to Synergy’s C Smith and K Skinner’s travel to the Philippines of 8 June 2015 to 11 June 2015 to ‘visit and review international operations of onshore contract centre service provider Stellar, and ask:

- (a) what business services are provided or offered by Stellar in the Philippines;
- (b) does Synergy contract with Stellar, or any other entity, for business services provided from the Philippines;
- (c) if yes to (b):
 - (i) which services are provided from the Philippines;
 - (ii) at what date did Synergy start receiving services from the Philippines; and
 - (iii) what is the value of the contract for services to be provided from the Philippines; and
- (d) if no to (b), why did representatives of Synergy visit Stellar’s international operations?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

- (a) Stellar has been a service partner with Synergy since 2009 and through its Joondalup base has assisted Synergy in increasing service standards over that time. Stellar also operates state of the art business processing services in the Philippines for clients all over the world and there are key learnings that can be adopted by Synergy in the future as it continues to strive for continued excellence in customer service.
- (b) Synergy does not contract with Stellar for services delivered out of the Philippines. Synergy does have a relatively small contract with Probe Australia for back office processing services, some of which is operated out of the Philippines.
- (c)
 - (i) No customer facing roles are provided from the Philippines. Services include the following:
 - transfer of 'over-payments' on a customer's final account to their current account – (process system task);
 - transfer of overdue debt from final accounts to customers current (active) account (process system task and exception);
 - process refunds tasks and credit account (process system task);
 - update the system where tariff doesn't match the account type (process system change).
 - (ii) March 2015.
 - (iii) \$130,000 per annum.
- (d) Not applicable.

PREMIER — PORTFOLIOS — MINISTERIAL OFFICE —
 AVESTRA ASSET MANAGEMENT, BRIDGE GLOBAL CMC AND ZENITH CITY INVESTMENTS

5434. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Premier:

I refer to the answer to Question on Notice 5055 which states, '[t]he Premier and his current Ministerial staff may have had contact with representatives of the companies Avestra Asset Management, Bridge Global CMC or Zenith City Investments for administrative purposes' and ask:

- (a) what constitutes administrative purposes; and
- (b) was there contact for administrative purposes:
 - (i) if yes to (b):
 - (A) what were the dates of the contact(s);
 - (B) did the contact(s) occur by telephone, email, meeting or other means;
 - (C) what was the nature and subject of the contact for administrative purposes;
 - (D) where the contact was by phone or email, who within the Minister's office participated in the contact; and
 - (E) where the contact was in person, what were the names of all persons present at the meeting?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

The Premier and his current Ministerial staff have not had contact with representatives from the companies referred to for administrative or any other purpose.

ENVIRONMENT — STATE OF COCKBURN SOUND REPORT 2014

5437. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Further to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 4899, why did it take from December 2014 to July 2015 for the Minister to receive the final State of Cockburn Sound Report 2014?
- (2) Between December 2014 and July 2015, how many draft copies of the State of Cockburn Sound Report 2014 did the Minister receive before receipt of the final version in July 2015?
- (3) Has the Minister been provided with a draft State of Cockburn Sound Report for 2015 and, if so, on what date was the first draft received?

Mr A.P. Jacob replied:

- (1) The drafts of the technical report (*Environmental Quality Assessment Report*) and the *State of Cockburn Sound Report 2014* were reviewed by members of the Cockburn Sound Management Council, and prepared in accordance with the Department of Environment Regulation's publication process, before the final *State of Cockburn Sound Report 2014* was provided to me.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) I was provided with the *Cockburn Sound Annual Environmental Monitoring Report 2014–2015* on 25 May 2016.

ENVIRONMENT — COCKBURN SOUND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

5438. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Further to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 4912, at any time over the last five years, has the Cockburn Sound Management Council sought an increase in funding or support from the Department to carry out its duties?
- (2) If yes to (1):
 - (a) when;
 - (b) what was the nature of the request; and
 - (c) was the Minister advised of any such request?

Mr A.P. Jacob replied:

- (1) No. I recently approved The Department of Environment Regulation's budget which includes over \$1.1 million to support monitoring programs in Cockburn Sound over five years.
- (2) (a)–(c) Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENT — COCKBURN SOUND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

5439. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Environment:

Further to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 4913, how many staff are currently assigned to support the Cockburn Sound Management Council?

Mr A.P. Jacob replied:

There is currently one full-time coordinator assigned to support the Cockburn Sound Management Council, with oversight by an Executive Director and administrative support as required.

In addition, communications, financial and human resource support is provided by the Department of Environment Regulation as required.

HOUSING — MIDLAND UNITS

5440. Mr M. McGowan to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the Minister's media statement of 17 March 2016, "78 New Units Coming to the Heart of Midland", and ask:

- (a) on what date was the land for the development acquired from the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA);
- (b) what was the cost of the acquisition to the Housing Authority;
- (c) on what dates was the Tender for the partnership arrangement with Psaros released and awarded;
- (d) how many submissions for the Tender were received;
- (e) if the partnership arrangement wasn't tendered, how did the arrangement with Psaros transpire;
- (f) what specific statutory and regulatory approvals have already been received for the development; and
- (g) what specific statutory and regulatory approvals are still required for construction to commence?

Mr D.T. Redman replied:

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) Lot 602 Yelverton Drive, Woodbridge was acquired on 16 December 2013.
- (b) \$1 237 500.
- (c) 17 March 2014 and 7 October 2014 respectively.
- (d) Five.
- (e) Not applicable.
- (f) None to date.
- (g) A development approval and a building permit.

PREMIER — SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE — RESIGNATIONS

5442. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier:

- (1) Other than chief executive officers, how many members of the Senior Executive Service have resigned since 1 July 2015?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the number in (1) per agency?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

The Public Sector Commission advises:

- (1) 21.
 (2) Please see below table:

Central Institute of Technology	1
Department of Aboriginal Affairs	2 * *
Department of Agriculture and Food	2 *
Department of Commerce	1
Department of Education	1
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	1
Department of Health	2
Department of Sport and Recreation	1
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	3
Department of Transport	1
Department of Treasury	1
Disability Services Commission	1
Mental Health Commission	1
Public Sector Commission	1 *
Rottneest Island Authority	1
Western Australia Police	1
	21

* Officer ceased in SES role and returned to a non SES role in the Public Service

PREMIER — PORTFOLIOS — SUBSTANTIVE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

5443. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier:

For each agency to which a substantive chief executive officer is appointed under Section 45 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*:

- (a) on which date does the Term of Appointment for the current substantive chief executive officer next expire;
- (b) have any substantive chief executive officers resigned since 1 July 2015; and
- (c) if yes to (b):
- (i) from which agency did the chief executive officer resign; and
- (ii) on what date was the resignation tendered?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

The Public Sector Commission advises:

- (a)
- Director, Art Gallery of Western Australia, term of appointment expires 21/07/2018.
 - Chief Executive Officer, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, term of appointment expires 22/11/2019.
 - Chief Executive Officer, ChemCentre, term of appointment expires 7/06/2017.
 - Director General, Department for Child Protection and Family Support, term of appointment expires 18/08/2019.
 - Director General, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, term of appointment expires 14/11/2016.
 - Commissioner, Department of Corrective Services, term of appointment expires 30/09/2018.
 - Director General, Department of Culture and the Arts, General Manager, Perth Theatre Trust (concurrent appointment), term of appointment expires 30/06/2019.

- Director General, Department of Education; Chief Executive Officer, Country High School Hostels Authority (concurrent appointment), term of appointment expires 11/06/2017.
- Director General, Department of Education Services, term of appointment expires 1/08/2016.
- Director General, Department of Environment Regulation, term of appointment expires 18/08/2019.
- Director General, Department of Finance, term of appointment expires 6/07/2018.
- Commissioner, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, term of appointment expires 18/09/2017.
- Director General, Department of Fisheries, term of appointment expires 13/04/2020.
- Director General, Department of Health, term of appointment expires 2/08/2020.
- Director General, Department of Lands, term of appointment expires 1/01/2019.
- Director General, Department of Local Government and Communities, term of appointment expires 30/03/2018.
- Director General, Department of Mines and Petroleum, term of appointment expires 1/06/2019.
- Director General, Department of Parks and Wildlife, term of appointment expires 17/03/2019.
- Director General, Department of Planning, term of appointment expires 6/04/2019.
- Director General, Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor, term of appointment expires 9/03/2018.
- Director General, Department of Regional Development, term of appointment expires 10/11/2019.
- Director General, Department of Sport and Recreation, term of appointment expires 6/06/2019.
- Director General, Department of State Development, term of appointment expires 28/11/2016.
- Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Tourism Commission, term of appointment expires 18/04/2019.
- Director General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, term of appointment expires 27/11/2018.
- Registrar, Department of the Registrar Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission term of appointment expires 1/01/2019.
- Executive Director, Department of the State Heritage Office, term of appointment expires 22/06/2020.
- Director General, Department of Training and Workforce Development, term of appointment expires 6/12/2019.
- Under Treasurer, Department of Treasury, term of appointment expires 20/04/2020.
- Director General, Disability Services Commission, term of appointment expires 5/11/2020.
- Chief Executive Officer, GESB, term of appointment expires 29/01/2017.
- Director, Goldfields–Esperance Development Commission, term of appointment expires 13/10/2019.
- Director, Great Southern Development Commission, term of appointment expires 6/09/2020.
- Managing Director, Insurance Commission of Western Australia, term of appointment expires 11/06/2017.
- Director, Kimberley Development Commission, term of appointment expires 6/09/2020.
- Chief Executive Officer, Landgate, term of appointment expires 18/06/2019.
- State Librarian, Library Board of Western Australia, term of appointment expires 31/10/2019.
- Chief Executive Officer, Lotterywest, term of appointment expires 1/02/2020.
- Chief Executive Officer, Zoological Parks Authority, term of appointment expires 29/03/2019.

- Chief Executive Officer, WorkCover Western Australia, term of appointment expires 21/09/2019.
 - Director, Mid West Development Commission, term of appointment expires 16/10/2020.
 - Chief Executive Officer, Museum, Western Australia, term of appointment expires 21/03/2020.
 - General Manager, Office of the Environmental Protection Authority, term of appointment expires 20/09/2020.
 - Commissioner of Road Safety, Road Safety Commission, term of appointment expires, 27/10/2020.
 - Chief Executive Officer, Rottneest Island Authority, term of appointment expires 7/04/2017.
 - Chief Executive Officer, School Curriculum and Standards Authority, term of appointment expires 29/10/2017.
 - Director, South West Development Commission, term of appointment expires 6/09/2020.
 - Director, Wheatbelt Development Commission, term of appointment expires 6/09/2020.
 - Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority, term of appointment expires 11/06/2017.
 - Commissioner, Small Business Development Corporation, term of appointment expires 16/01/2017.
 - Commissioner, Mental Health Commission, term of appointment expires 19/06/2020.
 - Director General, Department of transport; Chief Executive Officer, Public Transport Authority, Commissioner of Main Roads, Main Roads Commission(concurrent appointment), term of appointment expires 29/07/2016.
 - Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, term of appointment expires 21/07/2020.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) (i) The following are the agencies of which the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has resigned or indicated their intention to resign or to not seek appointment at the conclusion of their current contract.
- Western Australian Tourism Commission
 - Department of Commerce
 - Department of the Premier and Cabinet
 - Department of Transport; Commissioner of Main Roads and; Public Transport Authority (concurrent appointment)
 - South West Development Commission
 - Government Employees Superannuation Board
- (ii)
- Western Australian Tourism Commission. The resignation was tendered 4 May 2016, effective 22 July 2016.
 - Department of Commerce. The CEO did not seek reappointment upon expiry of contract on 31 July 2015.
 - Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The CEO has indicated their intention to resign effective mid-2016.
 - Department of Transport; Commissioner of Main Roads and; Public Transport Authority. The CEO advised that they would not be seeking reappointment upon the expiry of his contract on 29 July 2016.
 - South West Development Commission. The CEO has indicated intention to resign at the end of 2016.
 - Government Employees Superannuation Board. The CEO advised that they will not be seeking reappointment upon the expiration of his appointment on 29 January 2017.

PUBLIC SECTOR — SUBSTANTIVE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

5444. Mr M. McGowan to the Premier:

I refer to Public Sector Agencies, and ask:

- (a) as at 10 May 2016, how many public sector agencies are without substantive chief executive officers appointed under section 45 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*;
- (b) what does the number in (a) represent as a percentage of the total number of overall agencies to which a chief executive officer is appointed under section 45 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*;
- (c) what is the name of each agency without a substantive chief executive officer as at 10 May 2016; and
- (d) as at 10 May 2016, what is the length of time each agency outlined in has been without a substantive chief executive officer?

Mr C.J. Barnett replied:

The Public Sector Commission Advises:

- (a) Sixteen (16)
- (b) 28%
- (c)
 - Pilbara Development Commission
 - Peel Development Commission
 - Gascoyne Development Commission
 - Department of the Attorney General
 - Department of Water
 - Department of Commerce
 - Housing Authority
 - Country Housing Authority
 - Department of Housing
 - Department of Agriculture and Food
 - Rural Business Development Corporation
 - North Metropolitan TAFE
 - South Metropolitan TAFE
 - North Regional TAFE
 - South Regional TAFE
 - Central Regional TAFE
- (d)
 - The Pilbara Development Commission – approximately 1 year and 2 months.
 - Peel Development Commission – approximately 10 months.
 - Gascoyne Development Commission – approximately 7 months.
 - Department of the Attorney General – approximately 3 months.
 - Department of Water – approximately 9 months.
 - Department of Commerce – approximately 9 months.
 - The Housing Authority; Country Housing Authority and Department of Housing (a concurrent appointment) – approximately 9 months.
 - The Department of Agriculture and Food and the Rural Business Development Corporation (a concurrent appointment) – approximately 5 weeks.
 - North Metropolitan TAFE – approximately 1 month.
 - South Metropolitan TAFE – approximately 1 month.
 - North Regional TAFE – approximately 1 month.
 - South Regional TAFE – approximately 1 month.
 - Central Regional TAFE – approximately 1 month.

ENVIRONMENT — GREEN GROWTH PLAN 3.5 MILLION — CLEARING

5446. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Government's Green Growth Plan 3.5 Million, and ask:

- (a) what is the total amount of clearing of native vegetation proposed or allowed under the Plan for the entire Advice Area over the 30 year period;
- (b) is this clearing restricted to the combined classes of action footprint;
- (c) what is the total amount of pre-approved clearing permits (where clearing is yet to happen) in the Advice Area, and will this amount be part of the overall clearing allowed, or is it separate to (a);
- (d) does the total amount of clearing allowed under the Plan in (a) accommodate area of clearing exemptions;
- (e) if no, to (d), what is estimated area resulting from clearing exemptions over the Plan's life;
- (f) which government agency will have overall responsibility to report on the total area of annual native vegetation cleared under the Plan, including clearing that has resulted from exceptions;
- (g) are all local government authorities and the Department of Planning expected to report on clearing under their control every year;
- (h) is the Department of Mines and Petroleum and the Department of Environment Regulation expected to report annually on:
 - (i) clearing permits issued;
 - (ii) actual clearing occurred; and
 - (iii) amount of area cleared resulting from clearing exemptions;
- (i) if no to (h), why not; and
- (j) given that there will be a time lag in reporting of possibly up to a year, how will the Government ensure that the total area cleared under the Plan will not be exceeded?

Mr A.P. Jacob replied:

- (a) The draft Plan addresses the impacts of vegetation clearing for urban, industrial, rural residential and infrastructure development and basic raw material extraction at a strategic scale, as well as the harvesting of the Gnangara, Pinjar and Yanchep pine plantations. The draft Plan accommodates the clearing of approximately 17 100 hectares of native vegetation, which includes previously approved and future development. This represents clearing of a further three per cent of the Swan Coastal Plain in the Perth and Peel regions and clearing of one per cent of the area of the Perth and Peel regions east of the Darling Scarp to accommodate a nearly 70 per cent increase in the population of 3.5 million people. This is in contrast to the clearing of around 70 per cent of the coastal plain in the Perth and Peel regions that has occurred to date to accommodate our present population of approximately 2.1 million people.
 Avoidance of environmental impacts has been a key consideration in the development of the draft Plan, with major reductions in potential environmental impacts in comparison with development contemplated under previous land use planning and basic raw materials mapping. A strategic, landscape approach to developing the Western Australian Planning Commission's (WAPC) draft sub-regional planning frameworks and draft *Green Growth Plan* resulted in changes to future development areas avoiding potential impacts on approximately 16 000 hectares of native vegetation.
 Under the draft plan, impacts will be addressed through the establishment and management of more than 170 000 hectares of new conservation reserves in and around the Perth and Peel regions as well as through revegetation and rehabilitation initiatives and threatened species programs.
- (b) The intention is that actions undertaken in accordance with the strategic assessment will be able to proceed through a streamlined Part IV approval process under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* without the need for project-by-project assessments and approvals under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Actions that are not one of the classes of actions or consistent with the conservation commitments under the draft Plan will need to be considered separately under existing Commonwealth and State environment approval processes.
- (c) Current approvals, including clearing permits on matters of national environmental significance, have been considered as part of the impact assessment report for matters of national environmental significance.
- (d) Any classes of action under the draft Plan are included in the total amount of clearing regardless of whether an exemption under the clearing provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* applies.

- (e) Not applicable.
- (f)–(j) The *Strategic Conservation Plan* is based on the identification of classes of action and locations of planned future development. *Draft Action Plan I – Assurance* outlines the responsibilities for proposed monitoring, reporting and compliance activities that will be undertaken to provide assurance that the *Strategic Conservation Plan* for the Perth and Peel regions is being delivered effectively. A monitoring program will be implemented in order to determine if the outcomes, objectives and commitments of the Plan are being achieved and allow for adaptive management to occur. The State Government will prepare and publish an annual report outlining implementation performance achieved in the previous year, measured against the requirements of the Plan. An Executive Body will oversee the implementation of the *Strategic Conservation Plan* and will have responsibility for reporting the total area of native vegetation cleared.

HEALTH — KALEEYA HOSPITAL — VALUATIONS

5449. Mr P.C. Tinley to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the sale of the Kaleeya Hospital Site in East Fremantle and ask:

- (a) since 2008, how many valuations have been conducted for this site, and on what dates;
- (b) what was the estimated value on each occasion; and
- (c) who conducted each valuation?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

- (a) Two valuations have been conducted for the Kaleeya Hospital Site, on 12 November 2013 and 11 September 2014.
- (b) The 12 November 2013 valuation on the basis of an ongoing hospital and heritage house was \$9,500,000 to \$12,500,000 (excluding GST). A valuation on the basis of a Residential Redevelopment site was \$3,300,000 (excluding GST).
The valuation on 11 September 2014 on the basis of an ongoing hospital and heritage house was \$12,350,000 to \$13,900,000 (excluding GST). A valuation on the basis of a Residential Redevelopment site was not undertaken.
- (c) Landgate Valuation Services (Government) carried out the valuation in 2013. M3 Property Strategists carried out the valuation via LandCorp in 2014.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — CITY OF PERTH ACT 2016 — TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

5452. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the introduction of the transparency measures, enacted through the *City of Perth Act 2016*, and ask:

- (a) can the Minister confirm whether local government employees and elected officials have to report gifts from family and friends for birthdays and other special occasions, as the Department of Local Government and Communities Special Governance Bulletin, in March, addressing gift and travel disclosures has led them to believe;
- (b) if yes, why; and
- (c) if not, does the Minister have plans to consult with the sector to allay their concerns on the matter?

Mr A.J. Simpson replied:

- (a)–(c) Section 5.74 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) requires the following ‘Relevant Persons’ to disclose gifts and contributions to travel:

- Mayors, Presidents and Council Members;
- Chief Executive Officer;
- employees with delegated powers and duties under Part 5 Division 4 of the Act;
- employees who are members of committees comprising elected members and employees; and
- other employees as nominated by the local government to be designated employees.

Section 5.74 also provides an exemption from the disclosure provisions if the gift or contribution to travel is from a relative. A relative is defined in this section as:

- a parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, lineal descendant of the relevant person or of the relevant person’s spouse or de facto partner; or
- the relevant person’s spouse or de facto partner or the spouse or de facto partner of any relative specified in the above paragraph,

(whether or not the relationship is traced through, or to, a person whose parents were not actually married to each other at the time of the person's birth or subsequently, and whether the relationship is a natural relationship or a relationship established by a written law).

Gifts from all other persons are required to be disclosed where their value exceeds \$200.

Under section 5.82(4) of the Act, **gift** means any disposition of property, or the conferral of any other financial benefit, made by one person in favour of another otherwise than by will (whether with or without an instrument in writing), without consideration in money or money's worth passing from the person in whose favour it is made to the other, or with such consideration so passing if the consideration is not fully adequate, but does not include any financial or other contribution to travel.

My Department of Local Government and Communities, through its Governance Roundtable (with membership from the Department, Western Australian Local Government Association and Local Government Managers Australia) is currently working to identify areas of improvement in the legislation and/or guidance on the reporting of gifts and travel contributions.

ENERGY — ELECTRICITY RETAIL AND GENERATION CORPORATION — LOAN GUARANTEE FEES

5454. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:

Please provide the details of the total amounts paid, (or budgeted to be paid), by the Electricity Retail and Generation Corporation and by the former Electricity Generation Corporation and the Electricity Retail Corporation (as relevant), to the Government as a loan guarantee fee in each of the following years:

- (a) 2012–13;
- (b) 2013–14;
- (c) 2014–15;
- (d) 2015–16;
- (e) 2016–17;
- (f) 2017–18; and
- (g) 2018–19?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

(a)–(g) Please refer to the response provided in Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 5402.

HORIZON POWER — LOAN GUARANTEE FEES

5455. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:

Please provide the details of the total amounts paid, (or budgeted to be paid), by Horizon Power to the Government as a loan guarantee fee in each of the following years:

- (a) 2012–13;
- (b) 2013–14;
- (c) 2014–15;
- (d) 2015–16;
- (e) 2016–17;
- (f) 2017–18; and
- (g) 2018–19?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

- | | | |
|-----|----------|--------------------|
| (a) | 2012–13; | 3,085,426 |
| (b) | 2013–14; | 4,293,376 |
| (c) | 2014–15; | 4,687,791 |
| (d) | 2015–16; | 5,410,000 (Budget) |
| (e) | 2016–17; | 5,750,000 (Budget) |
| (f) | 2017–18; | 5,350,000 (Budget) |
| (g) | 2018–19? | 5,620,000 (Budget) |

Please note that actual figures are the actual payments in the relevant years. Budgeted figures are per MYR.

WESTERN POWER — LOAN GUARANTEE FEES

5456. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:

Please provide the details of the total amounts paid, (or budgeted to be paid), by Western Power to the Government as a loan guarantee fee in each of the following years:

- (a) 2012–13;
- (b) 2013–14;
- (c) 2014–15;
- (d) 2015–16;
- (e) 2016–17;
- (f) 2017–18; and
- (g) 2018–19?

Dr M.D. Nahan replied:

- (a)–(g) Please refer to the answer provided for Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 5401.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM — OFFICE LOCATION

5467. Ms M.M. Quirk to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Commerce:

- (1) Can the Minister advise what plans, if any, are in place for the Department of Mines and Petroleum to vacate its current premises?
- (2) Has any commitment or understanding or negotiations taken place to lease whole or part of an office building currently under construction on the site of the former FESA house in Hay Street, Perth, and if so, please outline the nature of any proposal or commitment?

Mr P.T. Miles replied:

- (1)–(2) The Attorney General; Minister for Commerce is unable to answer this question. I suggest that you refer your question to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

MINISTER FOR HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — BIGGER PICTURE CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE

5469. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Health:

I refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 5213 answered on 10 May 2016, concerning the amount expended by the Department of Health as part of the “Bigger Picture” campaign, and ask:

- (a) what amount of money has been expended on the “Bigger Picture” campaign between 15 March 2016 to 17 May 2016?

Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

- (a) The total amount spent on the Bigger Picture campaign between 15 March 2016 and 17 May 2016 was \$101,211.

