



# **Parliamentary Debates**

**(HANSARD)**

THIRTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT  
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 20 September 2016



# **Legislative Assembly**

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

## **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY — MEDIA ACCESS**

*Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mr M.W. Sutherland):** I wish to advise members that I have approved the presence of media photographers and television cameras at the north door of the chamber and in the public and press galleries for the first 10 minutes of question time today.

## **BARNETT MINISTRY — RESIGNATIONS**

*Statement by Premier*

**MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier)** [2.01 pm]: Mr Speaker, I rise to inform the house that this morning, Her Excellency the Governor accepted the resignations of the Minister for Agriculture and Food; Transport and the Minister for Local Government; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Youth. I will inform the house of the resulting changes to the ministry when these have occurred.

## **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

### **PERTH FREIGHT LINK — TUNNEL PROPOSAL**

**694. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:**

I refer to the Premier's claim that "A tunnel has not been approved by cabinet" and the Treasurer's budget speech that states —

I am also pleased to confirm the Perth Freight Link tunnel construction.

Given the tunnel was in this year's state budget, can the Premier confirm that it went to cabinet?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

I do not comment on cabinet, but I will comment on the issue. The completion of the Roe Highway project has been Liberal Party policy for many, many years. The most immediate task, given the resolution of legal issues, is to conclude the contract for Roe 8, including the interchange at Stock Road—therefore connecting Roe 8 from the freeway to Stock Road. There will then be a further project—Roe 9, if you want to call it that—that will connect from Stock Road to the inner harbour. The final resolution of whether it will be a tunnel—it most likely will be a tunnel—and the route of the tunnel, whether it goes under the river or a bridge is constructed or Stirling Bridge is expanded, is yet to be resolved. The building of the extended Roe 8 to Stock Road is a three-year project. It is a large project. Treasury and I and the new Minister for Transport will resolve that issue as quickly as we can. I want to make it clear that the Roe Highway project does not stop with Roe 8—it continues.

### **PERTH FREIGHT LINK — TUNNEL PROPOSAL**

**695. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Is it not the case that the Premier advised the former Minister for Transport, the member for Alfred Cove, that he was not going to proceed with the tunnel option of the Perth Freight Link? If the Premier advised him so, was that not altering the original cabinet decision?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

Mr Speaker, there has been no cabinet decision on a tunnel —

**Mr M. McGowan:** It is in the budget.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** As I just said, the immediate task is to build Roe 8 to go through —

**Mr M. McGowan:** That wasn't my question.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I know what the Leader of the Opposition's question is and I am answering it.

The immediate task is to conclude the contracts and to begin construction of Roe 8 to Stock Road. As Roe 8 to Stock Road is under construction, the government will make final decisions on the connection from Stock Road into the harbour, and that issue is yet to be resolved.

## ALCOHOL INTERLOCK SCHEME

**696. Mr C.D. HATTON to the Minister for Police:**

Can the Minister for Police please update the house on the progress of the Liberal–National government’s alcohol interlock scheme to manage high-level and repeat drink-drivers in Western Australia?

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:**

I thank the member for Balcatta for his question and his continued interest in road safety matters in the state.

I am very pleased to announce that the government’s alcohol interlock scheme is due to start imminently. On Sunday, I announced the advertising and education campaign that accompanies our alcohol interlock scheme to advise members of the community who fall into the scheme that they are about to have their lives significantly impacted should they be eligible for an alcohol interlock program. People eligible for the program will be first-time offenders who have an excess 0.15 blood alcohol level reading and a driving-under-the-influence conviction or second-time offenders in the other categories of drink-driving.

Mr Speaker, 25 per cent of our crashes have alcohol or drugs as a factor and as a state government we need to ensure that we have initiatives to try to impact these recidivist drink-drivers. We know that when alcohol interlocks are fitted there is a 64 per cent reduction in recidivist offences for those people who have a problem with drinking and driving. We have specifically targeted our scheme to ensure that those people who fall into the scheme get some assistance for their problem—their problem is drinking and driving. Once these drivers have served their penalty, if they fall into the program, they will have a minimum of six months when they have to have an alcohol interlock fitted to their vehicle. They will have to blow a clear reading before they can start their vehicle. If they attempt to tamper with the interlock device or attempt to start their vehicle while they have excess alcohol in their system, the vehicle will not start. It will have a timeout. Ultimately, the entire vehicle can be disabled should they try to start it three times while they are over the limit. This will effectively interrupt drinking and driving behaviour. Those people who are caught tampering with their devices or trying to restart their vehicle when they have an excess blood alcohol reading will go to six sessions of alcohol counselling to look at correcting their drinking behaviour and the problem they have with alcohol.

I am really pleased to be the minister who has brought this scheme into place in Western Australia. It was one of my priorities when I was appointed as minister in 2012. Although it has taken some time to achieve, it falls into place with other actions we have put in place to cut down on drink-driving in the community, including sanctions around vehicles, impounding offences, roadside disqualifications and increased penalties for people who drink and drive on our roads. Obviously, the endgame is to drive down incidences of drink-driving in our community in the interest of reducing the road toll in this state. I thank members in this house for assisting in the transition of that legislation through Parliament. I thank the people in the Department of Transport and the Road Safety Commission who have worked diligently to bring the program to the point at which we can now implement it pretty much everywhere across the geographical spread of Western Australia.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET — STAFF BULLYING — ALLEGATIONS

**697. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:**

I refer to claims made by the member for Murray–Wellington that the Department of the Premier and Cabinet had placed spies in his office to report back on him, and claims by Hon Helen Morton that she had to stop certain members of the Premier’s staff from contacting her staff when she was a minister due to their “demoralising and destructive influence on her office”.

- (1) Has the Premier received complaints of bullying or misconduct from ministers regarding his staff; and, if so, which staff members and what was the nature of the allegations?
- (2) Have any of the Premier’s staff members ever been counselled for their behaviour towards other ministerial staff or ministers?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

- (1)–(2) I do not think my staff is an issue for the Leader of the Opposition, and if he wishes to go down that path, that would be a grave, grave mistake.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I am just making the point that the Leader of the Opposition would not want to go down that path.

With respect to the comments made by the member for Murray–Wellington, that I had placed spies in his office—I think that was it—that is just not true. This is not the Cold War. It is a ridiculous assertion—just no truth at all. Ministers appoint their own staff, so there is just no truth in that. With respect to the comments made by Hon Helen Morton, we had a party room meeting today—a long meeting and a pretty open one—and some comments were made relating to my staff, but no complaint has been made to me concerning the conduct —

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** If a member of Parliament wanted to make a formal complaint to me or to the head of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet about the conduct of my staff, they would do so.

**Mr M. McGowan:** And none have been made?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** No member has made such a complaint.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET — STAFF BULLYING — ALLEGATIONS

**698. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Considering the serious allegations made by Hon Helen Morton and by the member for Murray–Wellington, will the Public Sector Commissioner now be engaged to investigate the claims of bullying, in particular, that have emanated in respect of the Premier's office?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

The answer is no, because there has been no complaint.

**Mr M. McGowan:** They made one publicly.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** We are all grown-up people in this chamber. We work in a hothouse environment; we work with time frames; we work in a contentious and competitive area.

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

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

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** If any member of Parliament on either side, any staff member in a ministerial office, or indeed the office of the Leader of the Opposition, or any electorate office staff member, came to me formally, with a formal complaint of inappropriate activity or bullying, I would refer it to the appropriate authority, which in most cases would be either the head of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet or the Public Sector Commissioner, depending on the circumstances. No-one has done so—no-one.

#### SIR CHARLES GAIRDNER HOSPITAL — SPECIALIST STROKE TREATMENT PROGRAM

**699. Mr M.H. TAYLOR to the Minister for Health:**

I understand the minister visited Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital yesterday to make an announcement about the specialist stroke treatment program. Can he please update the house on this important development?

**Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:**

I thank the member for the question. Indeed, I was very pleased and fortunate to be able to visit Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital yesterday for the announcement of this important initiative —

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time. That is the fourth time you have interjected today.

**Mr J.H.D. DAY:** This important and very specialised treatment for stroke in Western Australia uses cutting-edge technology. Most members would be aware that most strokes—not all, but most strokes—are caused by a blood clot forming in the brain, cutting off the blood supply to that particular part of the brain. The sooner the thrombus, or blood clot, can be removed, the better, and the lower the likelihood of permanently debilitating or disabling effects. Indeed, if the intervention can be undertaken within four hours, if I recall correctly, there is a much greater likelihood of a positive outcome. At Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, highly trained neuroradiologists and their support staff have been providing this intervention for some time. It involves inserting a series of three concentric catheters—the smallest inside a larger one, inside a further larger one—through the femoral artery in the thigh and navigating up into the brain to be able to remove the clot before it causes further damage. As I was pleased to announce yesterday, the employment of additional specialist trained staff will enable Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital to expand this service to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The service will also be offered at Fiona Stanley Hospital by the end of this year or very early next year. So far this year, about 60 people have been provided with this intervention, and expanding the service will enable 200 or more people a year to be provided with this life-saving and very significant intervention.

This announcement follows two years of planning involving hundreds of healthcare professionals, from special diagnostic training for St John Ambulance paramedics through to the hiring of extra nurses and radiological staff. Stroke is a leading cause of disability, and it is expected that about one in six people will experience a stroke at some stage in their lives. That is a very significant proportion of the community, and the more people can be provided with early intervention so that they hopefully end up with no permanent disability, clearly the

better. Strokes can affect quite young people in the community. I was very interested to meet one survivor yesterday—Jamie, a 39-year-old man who is actually a paramedic himself. He experienced a stroke in early August. He received this intervention very quickly, and once he got to the hospital, it was done within about 11 minutes, and he has had a very successful outcome. This is a credit to those who are working in the health system in Western Australia providing this very specialised treatment, and it is reflective of the strong support this government is giving them through funding the health system very well.

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT — MEETINGS WITH PREMIER

**700. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:**

I refer to assertions by the former Minister for Transport that he attempted for six months to get a formal meeting with the Premier to discuss important portfolio issues. Why did the Premier refuse on a number of occasions to meet with his Minister for Transport; Agriculture and Food about important issues?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

I meet with all ministers, and all ministers meet every Monday morning. There have been several meetings between me and the former Minister for Transport. Last week, for example —

**Mr M. McGowan:** Last week?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I am trying to finish the sentence.

**Mr M. McGowan:** Six months?

**The SPEAKER:** Just give it a chance.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** It is an absurd opposition, when all it can do is ask questions about my meetings and what I think about what former ministers or ministers say.

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition! Premier, through the Chair.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** There are lots of issues to deal with in government, and I was keen that a major issue, obviously Roe 8, would come to cabinet. It was not quite ready to come to cabinet for final contract signing, and I accept that. It is a complex project. I cannot see what interest it is to the Leader of the Opposition, but if he really wants to know —

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** It is trivial stuff —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I am happy to answer that. There have been several meetings between me and the former Minister for Transport and other ministers. They are all diarised.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** We'll do an FOI.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Go for your lives!

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

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** With respect to the last few days, the minister was keen to talk to me last week. I was handling some legislation. On the Thursday there were other things going on. In fact, I had suggested to the minister's office, I think, that I would be happy to meet him on Monday before cabinet. The advice came back that the former minister, the member for Alfred Cove, had a medical appointment. I accepted that, so the response was that we would catch up during this current week. Where is the big deal?

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT — MEETINGS WITH PREMIER

**701. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. I will explain to the Premier why it is a big deal. That minister was responsible for billions of dollars' worth of government contracts. He indicated that for six months he wanted to discuss them with the Premier, and he could not get a meeting.

**Mr C.J. Barnett** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Premier, I call you to order for the first time. Through the Chair, a quick question.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Why is it that the former Minister for Transport; Agriculture and Food made these claims in respect of his ability to meet with the Premier if they were not true?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

The Leader of the Opposition would have to speak to him about that. He could do it in the corridor.

**Mr M. McGowan:** I'd ask him, but he won't answer.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** He is not a minister anymore.

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I have been lenient with you. I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Talk about a Leader of the Opposition, a would-be Premier, engaging in absolute trivia! Where is the big debate?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** It is just foolish.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the first time. A quick answer, Premier; thank you.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** As I said before, the issues related to the Roe 8 project, or the Freight Link, if you want to call it that. I was keen that that came to cabinet. I required that it come back to cabinet before final contracts would be signed. It was not yet ready to come back to cabinet. I accept that is a complex contract arrangement.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** It is a complex contract. I wanted final cabinet endorsement of Roe 8, in particular Roe 8 with a variation to go through to Stock Road, which is what the government is going to do. As I said, I said that we could meet before cabinet. The former minister's office advised me that he had a medical appointment and obviously that would stand and we would catch up later—meaning that we would catch up during this week.

#### CORRECTIVE SERVICES — CARE OF YOUNG OFFENDERS — REFORM

**702. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Corrective Services:**

Can the minister please advise the house about the care of young offenders —

**The SPEAKER:** Just sit down a minute.

**Mr I.C. BLAYNEY:** Can the minister please advise the house about the care of young offenders in Western Australia and the reform that has been undertaken in the sector by the Liberal–National government?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:**

I thank the member for Geraldton for his interest in this very important matter. I say at the outset that the first priority I outlined when I became Minister for Corrective Services was to do something to reduce the travesty of the number of young, particularly Aboriginal, boys in detention, both sentenced and on remand, in Western Australia. To put it in some kind of context, in 2008 when the government changed, there were just over 170 juveniles in detention—predominantly Aboriginal kids and predominantly male. At the time of the riot, just before I took over, there were about 220 juveniles in detention, both sentenced and on remand. Today as I speak, the number is 116. We have seen through our reform process in juvenile justice a 50 per cent reduction in the number of young Aboriginal kids in detention in Western Australia. It is something I am exceptionally proud of. Everyone in the Department of Corrective Services also should be very proud of the way they have attacked and gone through the reform process, in particular through juvenile detention.

The key performance indicators are not just on the number of juveniles who are either on remand or sentenced; it is on the recidivism rate more than anything else. In 2013, the recidivism rate for all juveniles in detention was 75 per cent; upon their release from Banksia Hill Detention Centre, 75 per cent of them recommitted a crime. Today that has gone down by 20 per cent. Although we still have some way to go to get the recidivism rate down, it is down to 55 per cent. That is a significant reduction. It is a significant achievement in trying to do the right thing and reform the lives of some of the most troubled kids in Western Australia, despite the opposition from the union that represents what we now call youth justice workers—the former youth custodial officers—despite the fact that they wanted to use pepper spray and batons at Banksia Hill and despite the fact that they still do not like the idea that we are withdrawing spit hoods and replacing them with personal protective equipment masks and goggles for the workers to deal with kids obviously in very excited circumstances.

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** With all of this in mind, this is an important issue. Despite the fact that we do not use restraint chairs and beds, we can now guarantee that what happened in the Northern Territory does not happen in Western Australia. We have a very, very different focus—predominantly on the reform of the young offender and making sure that we correct their behaviour so that when they are released, they do not reoffend. It means less cost to re-incarcerate them and it means that they can go on and become a meaningful member of society, make a contribution and have a real life.

**Mr M. McGowan:** You look a little bit guilty.

**The SPEAKER:** Through the Chair, please.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** This is a really important issue! The Leader of the Opposition does not care about Aboriginal kids in custody. He wants to make stupid interjections. It is typical of the Labor Party. Stupid interjections!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Through the Chair!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** This is a very important issue, Leader of the Opposition! We are very proud of our achievements in reducing the number of kids in detention in Western Australia. Grow up!

#### YARLOOP BUSHFIRES — RESPONSE OF PREMIER

##### 703. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:

I refer to claims made by the member for Murray–Wellington that he tried to contact the Premier the day before Yarloop was destroyed. Why did the Premier ignore the local member during a period of a natural disaster?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

I was actually on leave at the time of the Yarloop fire. I forget which day of the week it was. I was advised late at night by the Minister for Emergency Services that a number of houses had been destroyed. At that time, I was not aware that the fire had actually destroyed more houses; that was not the information that was available at the time. I spoke to the member for Murray–Wellington, I think, the following morning. I came back from leave and went down to Yarloop as soon as I was advised it was safe and proper to do so, and I have been back to Yarloop on at least a couple of other occasions since. I do not think that when there is a natural disaster, Premiers need to rush into the firestorm when people are still trying to —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** That's not what he was asking for; you know that.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The member for Midland did not ask the question. She can ask me one.

I came back from leave, which is no big deal, because I was aware then obviously of the scale of it, and as soon as it was safe and on the advice of the firefighting authorities that it was an appropriate time to go down, I went down immediately—immediately.

#### YARLOOP BUSHFIRES — RESPONSE OF PREMIER

##### 704. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Why in relation to very important issues does the Premier have a track record of making himself uncontactable, such as —

**Mr P.T. Miles** interjected.

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

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** What is the supplementary question?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Why in respect to very important issues does the Premier have a track record of making himself uncontactable, such as to the member for Murray–Wellington, the former Minister for Transport and the former Minister for Local Government?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Joondalup, the question was not asked of you.



**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I can barely believe that the Leader of the Opposition would ask such a question. Was it not the Leader of the Opposition who disappeared in an election campaign to campaign for Kim Beazley in Sydney? Was that him? He went missing in the election campaign! They could not find him! He had gone to Sydney! What a roaring, searing joke he is!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** The question is finished.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

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

#### FLORENCE HUMMERSTON KIOSK — SIGNIFICANCE

**705. Ms E. EVANGEL to the Minister for Heritage:**

Mr Speaker —

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

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

**Ms E. EVANGEL:** I was pleased to read about the opening of Elizabeth Quay's newest destination for dining, Isle of Voyage, in the reconstructed Florence Hummerston Kiosk. Could the minister please inform the house about the significance of this kiosk?

**Mr A.P. JACOB replied:**

I thank the member for Perth for the question. I was also very pleased to hear about the opening of Isle of Voyage in the now beautifully conserved and restored Florence Hummerston Kiosk. I will touch very briefly on the operators.

**Ms S.F. McGurk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Fremantle, if you want to know about the menu, I suggest you ask somebody else. I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** I will touch very briefly on the operators, who are already well-known northern suburbs restaurant operators. I am a frequent patron of their Sorrento establishment and they are great operators to see in Elizabeth Quay. That kiosk is already a part of the state-registered place known as the Esplanade Reserve. It is in a building that is now commonly referred to —

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean, you have been constantly interjecting. I have been very lenient with you. I call you for the first time.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** What is now known as the Florence Hummerston Kiosk was constructed in 1928. For members who may be interested —

Several members interjected.

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

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

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

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** I thought that member, in particular, would be fairly quiet this week.

The Florence Hummerston Kiosk was constructed in —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kwinana, we are starting to bog down. I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** Like many heritage buildings in this state, it has had a varied past. At one point, it was a nightclub; at another point, a Salvation Army youth drop-in centre. It has also been a day centre and a Chinese restaurant and is now a boutique restaurant. Members opposite have alluded to the fact that it was deconstructed and reconstructed at its present location within Elizabeth Quay. This was done through close consultation with the Heritage Council and the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority and its consultants. The kiosk now sits in a setting that breathes new life into that heritage structure, which was previously almost neglected and overlooked. It sits adjacent to a brand-new playground that is regularly visited by young families—I have had the opportunity to enjoy it from time to time with my kids—and it is now a celebrated heritage structure within the new build of Elizabeth Quay. Had it been left in situ, as members opposite continually pushed for it to be, it would have been overshadowed by the other structures around it and we would have missed out on an opportunity to celebrate a key piece of this state's heritage infrastructure.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** Heritage is as much about finding a contemporary use for a structure as it is about celebrating the historical uses of that structure. This Liberal–National government has not been afraid to make the necessary bold decisions required for heritage. Hale House is a great example. I do not hear members opposite talking about Hale House very often, because —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen! I am giving you a chance now.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** It is very difficult today. I do not hear members opposite talking about Hale House very much anymore, because that is a clear example of an exceptional use of a heritage building and breathing new life into it. The state buildings that sat there vacant for decades are now a thriving jewel in the crown, as the shadow heritage minister himself noted in his speech, and an example of what heritage can be. The Kalgoorlie Courthouse and the warders' cottages in Fremantle —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mandurah, that is terrible. Member for Mandurah, enough! I want a quick answer through the Chair.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** Most of these buildings are in the electorates of members opposite; one would have thought they would support heritage a little bit more. One more that is in the member for Midland's electorate is the Guildford Hotel, which is now a fully restored hub for that region and shows what this government's bold stance on heritage can deliver.

#### MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT — MEETINGS WITH PREMIER

**706. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:**

I refer to the member for Alfred Cove's claim that the Premier offered him —

**Mr M.H. Taylor** interjected.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I refer to the —

**Mr P.T. Miles** interjected.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I refer to the member for Alfred Cove's claim that the Premier offered him three options in a meeting on 26 August—that he be sacked; resign; or be suspended, pending an investigation—and the Premier's comments on ABC radio yesterday morning that, and I quote, according to my notes, "At no stage did I indicate to Dean that I would sack him". Who was telling the truth?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

For goodness sake! Another searching question by the Leader of the Opposition. I fail to see why the opposition wants to go through all this stuff. However, if that is —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** However —

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington!

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

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

Several members interjected.

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

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kwinana, for the second time! Thank you.

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

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

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I had a long conversation with the former Minister for Transport—about 90 minutes, I think—and it was good; we talked about a whole lot of issues.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I think it is a silly question, but if you want an answer, if you keep interjecting —

**Mr M. McGowan:** It's about your honesty.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** All your questions today have been about this stuff. It is pathetic. Do you want an answer? Okay, listen; concentrate.

We had a meeting for 90 minutes, we talked about a range of issues, and obviously that was in the wake of the poll that had been commissioned by a group of businesspeople—something I think was quite improper; however, that is an issue that has gone. All sorts of accusations had been made and I said to the then minister—to the best of my memory, and probably not verbatim—that there had been these accusations made. I asked him whether he had had any involvement in that poll and he reassured me he did not, and I accepted that answer; I accepted it then and I accept it now. I then went on to say —

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Do you want to listen to the answer?

I said, “Given the accusations and given the severity of the situation and public comment, I”—not the minister—“am faced with three alternatives.” One would be to sack the minister, and that was not something I was going to do, because had the minister broken the Ministerial Code of Conduct? No, he had not. The second alternative was that he should resign. I did not call on him to resign, because I did not think he needed to. Had the ministerial code been broken, that would be a different matter, so I did not call on him to resign, but I did say that given the amount of public focus on the issue and given that there was clearly some anger within members of Parliament and cabinet ministers, I thought it would be a good idea for a cooling-down period, and I suggested he take a break. He considered that, and he decided to take a week's leave. I think that was the right decision; it allowed everyone to calm down.

Leader of the Opposition, get back to a serious issue.

#### ASHBURTON NORTH STRATEGIC INDUSTRIAL AREA

##### **707. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Minister for State Development:**

Can the minister tell the house about the benefits to the Onslow community from the oil and gas projects operating or under construction in the Ashburton North Strategic Industrial Area?

**Mr W.R. MARMION replied:**

I thank the member for North West Central for the question. He is a great local member who supports infrastructure development in his electorate, particularly in Onslow. There are two major projects just out of Onslow—the \$29 billion Wheatstone LNG project and the \$1.5 billion BHP Billiton Macedon domestic gas project. They have provided an opportunity for Onslow to move forward very quickly with a number of community projects that have been developed with significant financial commitment of \$70 million from the state Liberal–National government, more than \$250 million from the Wheatstone project and, as I mentioned last week, \$5 million of community benefit from the Macedon project for multipurpose covered courts and a skateboard park that is to be built shortly. The Wheatstone contribution will set up a community development fund with \$5 million from Chevron, supplemented by \$10 million royalties for regions funding, for a total of \$15 million. Also, \$1.5 million every year over a 10-year period will go into the community development fund from Wheatstone, for a total of \$30 million.

I am very proud to mention that over the last year, 2015–16, more than \$41 million was expended on community development projects around Onslow and the Ashburton North Strategic Industrial Area. The most significant was Onslow Airport; residents now have six flights a week. It has doubled the capacity of the town's wastewater treatment plant, which is a very important project. Of course, getting back to heritage, a heritage conservation plan has been completed for the historical Onslow site, which many tourists go and visit. Another major project, which I had the pleasure of opening a couple of months ago, is the Onslow ring-road, overseen by Main Roads and constructed by Highway Construction—a very good, high-grade job. We can look forward next year to about \$67 million worth of projects, with 10 government regional homes to be built in the town; a new \$42 million hospital jointly funded by the state and Chevron; a new 25-metre swimming pool; and a new power station.

As demonstrated by what I have said in the last week, Onslow is really moving ahead. But I must say that is in contrast to what is happening and could have happened in Broome if the Inpex project had gone ahead.

Several members interjected.

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** That was one of the saddest days of my life! I still remember when my parents came in and told me about John F. Kennedy dying. I remember where I was. I remember where I was standing when John Lennon was shot. I also remember where I was, at North Metro Holden, waiting for my car to be serviced, and I was watching the news, and they told me that Inpex was considering going to Darwin. I could not believe it—one of the saddest days of my life!

## MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT — MEETINGS WITH PREMIER

**708. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:**

Mr Speaker —

**Mr R.H. Cook** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kwinana! That is enough!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I refer to the comments by the former Minister for Local Government that he had to listen to talkback radio to find out what the Premier has said about his portfolio and then try to find a way to adjust and work off that.

- (1) Why was the Premier so difficult for the former minister to contact and deal with during the period the Premier was pushing controversial local government amalgamations?
- (2) Did the Premier at any point direct the former minister or his office on how he wanted the disclosure issues of the Lord Mayor, Lisa Scaffidi, dealt with?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

- (1)–(2) I have no idea what the former Minister for Local Government was referring to in terms of listening on the radio, because I had numerous and frequent meetings with him about local government, particularly the City of Perth Act, which I think has been a significant achievement that he can take a lot of credit for, because we have finally got a city —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I do not know why members laugh. We have finally got a city with a proper boundary. It is a damn good act.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** What is happening in the City of Perth has been a one-in-100-years transformation.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you! Member for Mandurah, I call you to order for the second time. Premier, through the Chair.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** The former Minister for Local Government and I had lots of discussions and attended lots of meetings about the City of Perth in particular but also about local government reform generally.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I am just trying to answer the question.

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I have been pretty lenient with you.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** With respect to the situation relating to the Lord Mayor's travel and the sort of inquiries and the case as it has been proceeding, in no way have I directed anyone on how that should be handled, other than expressing a view, which I expressed publicly, that I would want the matter dealt with as quickly as possible.

## MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT — MEETINGS WITH PREMIER

**709. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:**

I ask a supplementary question. Therefore, the Premier had no conversations with the former Minister for Local Government, the member for Darling Range, in relation to the issues surrounding the Lord Mayor and the Premier had no conversations with his staff in relation to that issue?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

I did not say that at all. I did not say anything like that.

**Mr M. McGowan:** Did you give him a direction?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** No, I did not. Of course, there was a very public issue about the Lord Mayor.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland!

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I am on the record as making public comments about that. I have not got those in front of me, but I have made lots of public comments about that. I think it was wrong to accept the hospitality of going to the Beijing Olympics. I made that very clear in my public comments.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

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

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Midland, for the first time.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I have been totally open in my views about that. The investigation took place, and the penalty has been determined through the SAT process. I am frustrated. I think it is taking so long. I think everyone probably feels that, and certainly the Lord Mayor would. I want it to be brought to an end, because it has created a great deal of uncertainty within local government about acceptance of gifts and the like as to what is allowed and what is not allowed. Indeed, I asked the former minister very recently that that is something I think we need to look at, and he has set up a process to try and clarify the situation in systems of declaration of gifts and the like.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I do not know what he was referring to. The member would need to ask him that. I have got no idea what he was referring to.

**The SPEAKER:** That concludes question time.

## TRANSMISSION LINES — PIARA WATERS

### *Petition*

**MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington)** [2.45 pm]: I have a petition to table containing 109 signatures that has been certified as conforming with the standing orders.

**Mr M. McGowan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** It reads —

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

**Mr R.H. Cook** interjected.

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

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** It reads —

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

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the third time. Member for Kwinana, and Premier! That is enough. Start again.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Excellent. It reads —

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

We, the undersigned, Object to the Transmission relocation on Terracina Parkway, Riviera Turn, Passendale Crescent, Monticello Parkway and Skeet Road.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to stop the proposed relocation and force an alternate solution (such as running the Power lines underground or on Nicholson Road where there are no residents).

[See petition 399.]

**ROE HIGHWAY STAGE 8 — AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY  
SERVICE AND REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS SITE**

*Petition*

**MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee)** [2.47 pm]: I have a petition that has been certified by the clerks. It contains a lot of signatures! I will come back to that in a minute. It reads —

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

We, the undersigned, say that we do not want the Roe 8 Hwy (eastern end of the Perth Freight Link) to be built through the area of Beeliar Regional Park that is the site of the Australian Women's Army Service & Regimental Headquarters during WW2. This site is currently being heritage listed and is of great historical and educational value to all Australians. The construction of this Hwy will destroy this unique site which we wish to preserve to be able to remember the contribution made by the brave, young women who enlisted in the AWAS to defend our country during WW2.

**Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to call on the Barnett government to:**

- Reverse your decision to allow the Roe 8 Hwy (eastern end of the Perth Freight Link) to go ahead.
- Support requests by the residents of the City of Cockburn, the sons and daughters of the AWAS women and the RSL City of Cockburn Sub-branch to preserve, and not destroy this site.

There are thousands of signatures! The petition contains 27 signatures.

[See petition 400.]

**PAPERS TABLED**

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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE COMMISSIONER  
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

*Government Response — Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mr M.W. Sutherland)**: I advise that in relation to the recommendations contained in the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People's seventh report, "Everybody's Business: An examination into how the Commissioner for Children and Young People can enhance WA's response to child abuse", which was tabled on 16 February 2016, no response has been received from the minister representing the Minister for Education by the required time. I note, however, that the Deputy Premier advised the house on 13 September 2016 that the government's response was still under consideration and would be tabled as soon as possible.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

*Standing Orders Suspension — Notice of Motion*

**Mr J.H.D. Day (Leader of the House)** gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable private members' business to have priority on Wednesday, 21 September 2016 between 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm.

**SENIORS — GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE**

*Notice of Motion*

**Ms M.M. Quirk** gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That this house condemns the Liberal–National government for failing to consider the interests of older Western Australians in its policies and to accommodate their future health, housing, security, communication and financial needs. This failure has led to a greater number of homeless and insecure seniors, and those in financial difficulty, fearful of crime, marginalised and susceptible to elder abuse.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT — GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE**

*Notice of Motion*

**Mr D.A. Templeman** gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move —

That this house condemns the Barnett Liberal–National government for its illogical and erratic management of the local government portfolio.

**TAXI INDUSTRY — GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE***Notice of Motion*

**Ms R. Saffioti** gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That this house calls on the Barnett government to explain what extra assistance will be offered to taxi plate owners given the commitments made by the former Minister for Transport.

**TRANSPORT — HEAVY VEHICLE HAULAGE TOLL***Notice of Motion*

**Ms R. Saffioti** gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That this house calls on the Barnett government to explain whether it supports a heavy vehicle charge, a new toll, given it has introduced legislation to allow for such a charge.

**PERTH FREIGHT LINK — STAGE 2 EXPENDITURE***Notice of Motion*

**Ms R. Saffioti** gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That this house calls on the Barnett government to explain why it spent \$23 million on stage 2 of the Perth Freight Link when the Premier had no intention to build it.

**ROE HIGHWAY STAGE 8 — LEASE RESUMPTION***Notice of Motion*

**Mr P.C. Tinley** 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 resumption of leases on the Roe 8 road reserve.

**AGED-CARE ACCOMMODATION***Removal of Notice — Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mr M.W. Sutherland)**: I advise members that private members' business notice of motion 1, "Aged Care Facilities", notice of which was given on 5 April 2016, will be removed from the next notice paper unless written notification is provided to the Clerk requiring that the notice be continued.

**BARNETT GOVERNMENT — PREMIER'S PERFORMANCE***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)** [2.54 pm]: I move —

That this house condemns the Premier for his erratic, illogical and irrational decision-making as claimed by the members for Darling Range and Alfred Cove.

As is evident in this motion, two senior members of the government are saying this. It has not been said by someone on the street, by people at a Labor Party branch meeting, by a group of the Greens or even by the Nationals, although they might well say that behind closed doors; members of the Liberal Party are saying this about their Premier. By any measure, the events of the last few days have been extraordinary and they have been embarrassing for the state of Western Australia.

**Mr A. Krsticevic** interjected.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN**: They have been extraordinary and they have been embarrassing for Western Australia. They have been embarrassing for the Premier. They have held our government up to ridicule at a time when we need confidence in Western Australia and at a time when our economy is in trouble. At a time when there are so many issues, this government collapses itself into a fighting mass of disputing members of Parliament. I want to take members through what has happened. It has been a case of minister against minister, Liberal against Liberal and National against Liberal.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER**: Members—the member for Wanneroo especially—I want to hear the Leader of the Opposition in silence. There are going to be a few people having an early tea on both sides.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It has been Liberal against Liberal, minister against minister, Liberal against National, National against Liberal and National against National, all in the last few weeks. The Premier describes this as tedious.

**Mr B.J. Grylls** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Pilbara, I call you to order.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The Premier makes out like this is a big joke. There has been a crisis of confidence in the government of Western Australia by members and ministers of the Liberal Party. As we have seen today, it shows that the Premier governs as a bully. You govern as a bully. You intimidate your opponents, both external and internal.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** You want to go down that path?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is what you do. There he goes, and there it is; that is the way he governs. We did not have a lot of time for the way the two former ministers, the member for Alfred Cove and the member for Darling Range, handled their portfolios, to be fair, but at least as cabinet ministers they stood up and said that they were not happy with what was going on. We have to reward them for their courage. I have heard them being called all sorts of things around the place. Yesterday I heard Peter van Onselen call them idiots. But I know in my heart of hearts that they had the courage to stand up and say what they thought, and not many people do. They stood up and said what they thought about the way the Premier has been governing. We have been watching the member for Darling Range, in particular, for years in this place nodding when we make points about finances or health or broken promises or any of those issues. He wears his heart on his sleeve. These two former ministers have thrown bare and thrown open for public examination the style of government that has been going on in Western Australia now for a long period.

This government has been in power for too long. The Premier is leading a tired, old and arrogant government. The Premier can never admit to a mistake. He never admits to anything being wrong. He sits in this place going through the motions every day as though he was infallible. It is a tired, old and arrogant government. I think at least 15 members of the Liberal Party, as we saw today—one-third of the party room—know it. If the member for Hillarys was still a Liberal, and Hon Nigel Pratt—sorry, Hon Nigel Hallett —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Had they been there, of course there would have been another two votes, and if the National Party had been thrown in the Premier would have been gone. We have seen a tired, useless wreck of a government, with the disunited dysfunctional nature of this government thrown bare in the last few days.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It has always had a lid put on it because of the Premier's personality. He bullies and cajoles; he intimidates. He has kept the lid on it for so long by, to be frank, the way that he, and apparently his office, treats people. A lid has been kept on it for so long and eventually the pressure cooker has burst. In the last couple of days we have seen what has gone on for eight long years in Western Australia—that style of governing. The way the Premier treats people and the way decisions have been made has, frankly, been unacceptable. It is now laid bare and people can see it. But, Premier, you reap what you sow—the way the Premier treated those ministers and other ministers. Let us have a look at them; let us have a look at how many former government ministers there are sitting in this Parliament whom the Premier kicked out, dismissed and got rid of from his cabinet.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members; that is enough.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Let us have a look at them all: the member for Bunbury, the member for Murray–Wellington, the member for Dawesville, the member for Eyre, Hon Ken Baston, Hon Robin McSweeney, Hon Helen Morton and Hon Simon O'Brien. They are now joined by the member for Darling Range and the member for Alfred Cove. We can chuck on the top of that —

**Mr P.T. Miles** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Wanneroo, I call you to order now for the third time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** We can throw on top of that the member for Hillarys. The Premier has so many former ministers on his backbench whom he has treated badly, dismissed without reason and thrown on the scrap heap. Is it any wonder that they have rebelled?



**Mrs L.M. Harvey** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** If you want to be called for the second time, continue.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Honestly, the government thinks it is a joke. Government members have embarrassed and disgraced Western Australia over the course of the last three days and they think it is a joke. You reap what you sow. Ministers have been cast aside without reason. Often—we hear them say it—they have no idea what they have done wrong, because in the morning the Premier says what a great job they are doing and then he sacks them by text message in the afternoon. That is what has occurred in this government over its time in office. People are being treated in that manner because of the bullying nature of the Premier and the style in which he has governed. As I said, that is all laid bare today; we have seen it all. I am going to go into what former ministers have had to say about this style of government in Western Australia, but before I do I just want to say this: you reap what you sow. The people of Western Australia have now seen the worst debt on record; the worst deficit on record; the loss of the AAA credit rating; the worst credit rating in the country; the worst ambulance ramping on record; the worst waitlist in our hospitals on record; massive cuts to our schools; unprecedented increases in crime, according to police ministers; the worst congestion crisis anyone can remember; numerous broken promises; and the worst meth crisis in the country. That is this government's record.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is the government's record. In particular, there is the record of the things that the people thought they were electing the government to do, such as managing the finances properly. The government has failed in that. It makes excuse after excuse, but that is the record of the Liberal Party in Western Australia and that is the record of this Premier. I want to quote someone who is an authority on these issues—that is, the member for Alfred Cove. He had the following to say yesterday, not just in a throwaway remark, not under pressure in a press conference, but in a deliberately constructed column written for *The West Australian*. He wrote the following —

We need a new direction. We need to show the community that we can restore confidence and lead the State through this period of uncertainty.

The task is made harder by the extraordinary level of State debt that will be part of the Premier's legacy.

That is a direct quote from this article. There are no excuses about how it is everyone else's fault and no excuses about how it is the fault of the commonwealth or the GST deal that the Liberals entered into—there are none of those excuses. He just said it was the Premier's legacy. Over the course of the last eight years, those government members who have been in cabinet over all that time whilst warning after warning has been given about these issues sat there and did nothing. They did not step up and they did not step out. Two people have stepped up and they have stepped out—the member for Darling Range and the member for Alfred Cove—because they cannot believe the style of government that is going on. I want to quote further from the article by the member for Alfred Cove. It states —

The community is clearly rattled by the pace and impact of the post-mining boom downturn. Many have lost their jobs; many more are worried their jobs could be next.

But the Premier is not listening. Not to me, not to his Cabinet colleagues, not to his party room and certainly not to the community. As a result, the community stopped listening to him.

The member for Alfred Cove then went on to write this in respect to a range of projects —

All that has been put at risk because of the Premier's increasingly erratic decision-making.

The member for Darling Range had this to say in relation to the Premier —

“Our Government won two elections based on good policies and effective leadership, but has now lost its way and offers neither of those things.

In *The Sunday Times* the member for Alfred Cove was quoted as saying the following about the Premier. He said —

“He ... has lost my support,” ... “To me some of the decision making has become erratic and illogical and I believe this is not just damaging the Liberal's chances at the next election, but the state's economic future.”

That is the state's economic future. A senior minister, a former senior businessman, went out there and with aforethought—not on the spur of the moment—said these things about the management of the state. The government pretends all the events of the last couple of days are some sort of joke. No doubt the Premier will stand up and yell and scream about events from 10 years ago and what have you, but we are talking about the state's future. We are talking about the Premier's management of the state. This is not personal; I am quoting the Premier's colleagues. I am not even saying any of this. Although I agree with the Premier's colleagues, I am quoting them.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** We might quote you soon.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The Premier probably will, because he probably will not address the issues that have been raised by these two now former ministers. They are serious matters and they have caused the government of our great state to implode over the last few days, with argument, disruption and hatreds laid bare. How does that send confidence to the broader community? How does that send confidence to the investment community? How does that say to the people of Western Australia that we have a government that knows what it is doing when this has gone on over the last few days? As I said, it has been a combination of years. We have seen minister after minister removed from cabinet, not reappointed after an election or given their marching orders without reason. Is it any wonder that when the Premier governs with that dictatorial style, he ends up in the situation he is now in? Is it any wonder? It is staring us all in the face. In some ways it is amazing that it has not happened before now. The Premier is clearly difficult to deal with.

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** Says who?

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Thank you for that question. The member for Darling Range, the member for Alfred Cove, the member for Hillarys, the member for Murray–Wellington, Hon Helen Morton and Hon Simon O'Brien—you name it; they all say it. Even if the Premier's personality is such that he is difficult to deal with, why is it important? He is not a clerk in a bank; he is not a mid-range public servant. Billions of dollars' worth of decision-making is on the line. The member for Alfred Cove was saying that there are billions of dollars on the line that he wants to meet and talk to the Premier about, but he cannot get in to see him. That is also what the member for Darling Range said. An enormous local government disaster has occurred, which the Premier created, but the member for Darling Range did not have the opportunity to get direction from the Premier. Either they are telling the truth or the Premier is telling the truth. All three cannot be right and that is where we are at now. A whole bunch of people are saying things about the Premier's leadership while he is saying the opposite. The public will have to decide who is telling the truth: his colleagues, who deal with the Premier, or the Premier. That is the decision that needs to be made. That is why it is important. If we are to have proper cabinet government, we need a cabinet that can govern, a Premier who listens, and a part of the government—the National Party—that follows cabinet joint decision-making. But none of those things are occurring in this state today. That is why it is important. It is not a joke. The Premier cannot pass this off as nothing. He cannot say that in a week's time this will not matter. This is important and the way the Premier has governed the state and the way he has treated people is a serious issue for the future of Western Australia. I want to close by quoting the remarks of the member for Alfred Cove who said in the conclusion of his article —

We cannot deliver the change in direction the State needs unless there is a change in leadership.

And there it is—probably the most prescient thing he has ever said. That is the only way we will have a decent future going forward.

**MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan)** [3.12 pm]: No portfolio demonstrates the erratic, illogical and irrational approach to government more than the transport portfolio under the Barnett government. Its history tells us there have been a lot of transport ministers but one constant—the Premier. As a result, we have seen broken promises and millions of dollars wasted on projects that were election commitments and that never got off the ground.

**Mr C.J. Barnett** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** If we go through it again, we can see the absolutely erratic behaviour when we are talking about billions of dollars' worth of expenditure. The latest is the Perth Freight Link. The fact that the Premier said on radio that cabinet did not make a decision to build the tunnel is an absolute mistruth and a lie.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down. Member for West Swan, I want you to withdraw that.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I withdraw.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you.

*Debate Resumed*

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** It is a mistruth because cabinet made a decision and it was in the budget. Big spending items get in the budget because cabinet ticks it off. I refer to the state budget speech on which the Treasurer stood in this place and said, “I am also pleased to confirm the Perth Freight Link tunnel construction.” A fact sheet was released about the Perth Freight Link and to say that cabinet did not make a decision is an absolute mistruth. Let us go through this. Cabinet made a decision on stages 1 and 2 of the Perth Freight Link. The key part of this and what the former Minister for Transport alluded to is that because the government made that decision, the contract around Roe 8 had to be changed because the tunnel would begin from a different point. Therefore, the nature of the original Roe 8 had to change. I suspect that the former Minister for Transport was shocked when on 26 August he made the point to the Premier about stages 1 and stage 2 and the Premier said, “We’re not doing stage 2.” My goodness; we have a contract that Main Roads is trying to push ahead with, which is now wrong and it has to be adjusted because it will not reach Stock Road.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** Oh dear; oh dear!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** That is a fundamental problem. It means a complete waste of \$23 million to progress —

I am hearing the Premier’s echo next door. Whatever he says is echoing next door. The Premier and his echo— because there is no originality next door.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Over \$20 million will be wasted.

**Mrs G.J. Godfrey** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough! Member for Belmont! Carry on.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Over \$20 million will be wasted. That is what the former minister said.

Look at taxi reform. Uber has been operating for two years. The Premier said that Uber was okay. The former Minister for Transport sort of woke up to Uber later on, but that was in the situation whereby the Premier said that Uber was okay. The government brought in legislation for assistance to taxi plate owners in May. The government said that the reforms would happen on 4 July. The legislation should have been debated in this house then. I have been asking where the legislation was. I would have thought the transitional assistance would be ready by the time the taxi industry was deregulated, but the legislation never appeared. Weeks went by and I thought: surely the government is bringing in this taxi reform legislation, but it never appeared. Now we know that the former Minister for Transport was trying to meet with the Premier to discuss the legislative priority. However, this government governs by the Premier’s office dictating to the leader of government business on a daily basis what he believes the legislation priorities should be. That is how it happens. As a result, we have seen no proper legislative priority process, but have seen a complete breakdown of key legislation such as the taxi reform legislation.

There is the public transport plan. The Premier said to the Minister for Transport, “Go ahead, have a play and create a public transport plan.” That is all it was. The Treasurer was undermining it from day one; he never supported it. The former Minister for Transport was set up. The Premier said, “Go out and create a public transport plan.” No-one in government ever had any idea that the government would commit to it.

I refer to other transport plans and promises such as the Ellenbrook rail line. Remember the Ellenbrook rail line? The Premier committed to it in 2008. Then he said that it was not a commitment. Who did he leave out to dry? It was the member for Swan Hills. The Premier said that the member for Swan Hills had committed to it but the Premier had no idea about it, when it was included in the Liberal Party election costings. It had been authorised by the Liberal Party and the Premier had committed to it on TV. He left them out to dry and then he said, no-one —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough. I want to hear the member for West Swan.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Then the Premier went on to say that we did not commit to it. Then he said, “We did commit to it but no-one voted for it because it was about the vibe. The community did not worry about commitment; it was just the vibe of the election and that is why they voted for us.” Now the Ellenbrook rail line is not planned to be built for 50 years.

The government committed also to the Metro Area Express light rail and then spent \$26 million on planning it, and then it completely fell apart. No portfolio better demonstrates the erratic, illogical and irrational approach to government than the transport portfolio. I have been watching the body language of members opposite. Many on that side are not happy.

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I would say that members on our side are happier about today's decision than many members on that side. We are very happy that they have stuck with the Premier. We could not be happier with their choice today.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** It appears that they were brought over by changing the Brisbane Line. That is all they did. They did not cut off all members off, just a few of them. That is how the Premier bought them off today. As I said, it is completely irrational.

The Treasurer is an interesting person. I watched the press conference with all those people gathered around the Premier, and the Treasurer was at the back talking to somebody else.

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Actually not—echo?

The Treasurer was at the back talking to somebody else. He was reluctant to be there because he knows that that was a bad decision. We have seen an erratic, illogical and irrational approach and that is what the public is fed up with.

**MR A.P. JACOB (Ocean Reef — Minister for Environment)** [3.20 pm]: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** I do not normally get that level of excitement when I get the chance to stand.

**Mr P.C. Tinley:** Who'd you vote for?

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** I supported the Premier 100 per cent and I will outline some of the reasons why. Thanks for the interjection.

**Dr A.D. Buti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** I am sure he will get a chance to as well if the member stops interjecting on me for a second.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Willagee, I call you for the second time, I think.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** Every government, every cabinet and every Premier have challenges from time to time. Government is not easy. Government in a growing state with the myriad issues we face is simply not easy, and it is an incredibly cheap skill to simply sit in the chamber and point out the challenges. That is all we have heard for almost 30 minutes, and, frankly, that is the vast majority of what parliamentary time is. If members opposite harbour any aspirations whatsoever to sit on this side of the house at some point, I am still waiting. We are less than six months out from the election and the challenge is articulating a way through those challenges. The challenges are well known. The challenges in transport, health and education are well known. The task of delivering outcomes is one that eludes many governments, but it has not eluded this one. If we put this government's track record in any single policy area up against that of previous governments, even what they aspired to, not what they ever delivered, they will come up well and truly short. In particular, transport is a big issue in my electorate, and we are delivering the Mitchell Freeway extension right now. On education—which is the Leader of the Opposition's Achilles heel, and members opposite will have to address at some point—I do not think Liberal–National government members have ever been as welcome to rock up at their local state school as they are now. The Department of Education and the people who work in the department and parents know which government has delivered, and their memories are certainly long enough to remember how it was leading into 2008. If we move into health, very interestingly, it is probably the easiest portfolio in which to pick areas where things could conceivably be better. There will always be areas in which we could conceivably improve, particularly in health.

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Guess what? Member for Girrawheen, you are on three and you are now on three and a half. If you shout out again, you will be having an early afternoon.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** In my lifetime, I suspect that no government will ever match the track record of this government in delivering an entire rebuild of the state's healthcare system and investing to the level that we have.

**Mr D.J. Kelly:** What about state debt?

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** They bleat about debt. That debt is in schools and hospitals that this state desperately needed. That debt is keeping the lights on. If I warm to my favourite topic at the moment, members opposite still absurdly claim that they have some kind of hold on the environment. They are bereft of any credibility whatsoever on the environment, not only because they never achieved anything near what this government has achieved, but also because of their absurd vote against the Biodiversity Conservation Bill. They would rather that the maximum penalty for Rebels bikie gang members illegally harvesting sandalwood sit at \$200.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kwinana, I have called you three and a half times and you are now on four. If you do it again, you are out!

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** If I talk to my environment portfolio, I can talk about the great opportunity that I have had since March 2013 to be part of the Kimberley science and conservation strategy, which is a \$103 million investment in the most needed biodiverse region of this state. I can talk about the parks for people program and the new lookout at Torndirrup National Park. I can talk about all those achievements and the Biodiversity Conservation Bill and I know that none of those would have gotten up if not for this Premier. I know my portfolio. Not a single one of those initiatives would have gotten up if I had not had the support, the vision and the drive of this Premier. In fact, the vast majority of those initiatives were election commitments that this Premier laid down going into the last election, and he has worked alongside us to deliver them. That is leadership. Leadership is challenging, but leadership delivers outcomes. When we look at outcomes, the Liberal–National government stands head and shoulders above any other government in recent years, I suspect—certainly those governments that preceded us.

Members opposite were salivating at the thought of replacing the current Premier. It does not matter what their rhetoric is; they know that he is their biggest threat and that he has the vision, the foresight and the experience to take this election forward and to win the holy grail of a third term. They know where their threat lies, and that is why this motion is before us. I am afraid that we have disappointed them today.

**MR B.J. GRYLLS (Pilbara — Leader of the National Party)** [3.26 pm]: There is no —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I can just feel the excitement here. Calm down. Good news for you, member for Kwinana; I have called you only once, not three times.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** There is no greater fear in politics than the fear of losing a third election and to have to spend 12 years in opposition. There is no greater fear than 12 years in opposition! A bunch of people on the opposite side of the chamber can only look backwards. They do not have a plan and have not, in nine years of opposition, advanced one idea to take the state forward. Now, after reading the opinion poll in *The West Australian* on the weekend, they are going, “Ooh! Ooh! Ooh!” It has been a bruising month for the National and Liberal Parties—probably our worst in government. However, after the worst month in the Liberal–National government’s history, the opposition can only muster three and a half out of 10 Western Australians who will say that they think they should be in government. There is a reason for that: the opposition’s small target strategy has become very small. The opposition has become so small that it has disappeared! The opposition has actually disappeared off the political radar because it does not have anything to say. Members opposite can criticise the Leader of the National Party and the Premier and talk about the members for Alfred Cove and Darling Range, but they cannot advance their plan. Today, members opposite have made it very clear that the criteria to be re-elected in the March election is state debt and AAA credit rating.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean!

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** State debt and the AAA credit rating are the criteria by which the opposition wishes to be judged. Given the Leader of the Opposition seeks to be the Premier in March, he has to make clear what he is going to do to return the state’s AAA credit rating, given that—if I can just get the Leader of the Opposition to put this in *Hansard* again—he has categorically ruled out any new revenue source from the resource sector. Has the Leader of the Opposition categorically ruled out any new revenue from —

Several members interjected.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** Has the Leader of the Opposition categorically ruled that out? He has told the media that he has ruled it out, but he will not tell the Parliament. If the opposition’s strategy is to be so small that its leader cannot say anything, it cannot have a plan. That is why only three in 10 Western Australians think that he should be the Premier. The Leader of the Opposition knows a little about what the Premier may have gone through in the past couple of days, because for the members behind him who thought that Stephen Smith would make a better option than the leader, and whom he still retains on his frontbench helping him formulate his

non-existent plan for the future, that is clearly an acceptable strategy. Those members who thought that Stephen Smith could do a better job than the Leader of the Opposition picked up *The West Australian* on Saturday and said “Gee I think we’re on to something.” I would not be surprised if Stephen Smith got a couple of calls over the weekend saying, “Hang on a second, this is not looking good.”

If the Leader of the Opposition wishes to put forward a plan for the people of Western Australia to vote for, he will have to address state debt and the AAA credit rating, by his own conversation. He has ruled out any new revenue source, and he has ruled out asset recycling, which means that he does not have a public transport policy. He does not have an investment in a public transport policy to take to the next election, because he has ruled out asset recycling. He has ruled out a new revenue source and, from what I read in the paper this morning, most of his supporters think the new revenue source from the mining sector may be something worth discussing. His supporters think a revenue source from the resource sector may be worth discussing, because the difference between the Nationals and the Liberals in government is that we have put forward ideas. We have put forward plans, and we are debating those. The public is debating those ideas, and giving feedback on those ideas. The reason the Leader of the Opposition is not in that debate is that he does not talk about anything. All he can talk about is the Liberals and the Nationals.

Members opposite, I know about it. I was elected in 2001, and I sat in opposition for four years. We lost in 2005. I sat in opposition leading up to 2008. It was a very demoralising time leading up to the 2008 election, thinking that there was a possibility that we would not win. It was a very demoralising time, and members opposite will have to provide the Leader of the Opposition with some level of policy backing to be able to go forward. The only injection into the policy debate about debt and the AAA credit rating has come from the shadow Treasurer, and that was about the privatisation of hospitals. To his credit, he did not hide behind the seat. He is the only one who was not hiding behind the seat. However, it has dropped off the page, because quite clearly the shadow Treasurer does not have support for his privatisation plan from the other members of the caucus. His challenge is that at some point over the next six months he will have to stop being a small target. At that point, he is in deep trouble, because when he stops being a small target his 35 out of 100 will drop into the low 30s. When you drop into the low 30s you do not win, and when you do not win, you spend another four years in opposition. For those thinking about the small target strategy, and how it was going to be so successful, that is 2021, and they are still sitting over there. They should be very nervous about that.

The Liberals and the Nationals have had a bruising month. We are now at the end of that bruising month. The Liberals and the Nationals will work together to come up with a very clear and coherent strategy around state debt and the AAA credit rating, and at that point the Labor Party in Western Australia, for the March 2017 election, will be unelectable.

**MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Emergency Services)** [3.35 pm]: I will start by saying that it is always fascinating to get a leadership lecture on the machinations and challenges of politics from the most Machiavellian person ever to lead the Labor Party.

**Mr M.P. Murray** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Collie–Preston! Minister, through the Chair.

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

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

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** It is always great to get a lesson on leadership machinations in politics from the most Machiavellian person ever to lead the Labor Party—the member for Rockingham. We do not have to go back too far into history, and look at the way he became leader of the Labor Party, to see what his *modus operandi* was.

**Mr A.P. Jacob** interjected.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Absolutely, Minister for Environment. I remember very well when Eric Ripper sat in that chair, and the member for Rockingham got nine votes against the newly elected, not-yet-sworn-in member for Kwinana for the deputy leadership of the Labor Party. The member for Rockingham was relegated to become manager of opposition business. But he sat there and undermined and undermined. He went to the member for Victoria park and said, “If you run against Eric Ripper, I will back you.” The member for Victoria Park went out and challenged Eric Ripper. It mortally damaged him. He pulled the rug out from underneath the member for Victoria Park and left him standing there, having to promise never to challenge for the leadership again. The member for Victoria Park was stuck out there, never to challenge again. Meanwhile, the member for Rockingham rises like some modern day General Sherman, saying, “I’ve been drafted into the leadership; there’s no-one else left to do it.”

We all know how the member for Rockingham works, and it will not be long before the people of Western Australia start to see through the Teflon man—Captain Teflon over there. He thinks he is slick, and he

thinks he is clever, but people will start to see through it. He talked about the issue of the Premier changing out cabinet ministers, and here is the fundamental difference between our side of Parliament and the other side—between the Liberal Party and the National Party in agreement, and the Labor Party. If a Liberal Premier chooses to change out a cabinet minister in order to put the interests of the state first, to get a better team, or for whatever reason he chooses to do it, it is his choice. If the Leader of the Opposition chooses to change out a shadow minister or a minister if, God help us, they ever become the government, he cannot do it without the support of the member for Bassendean and the member for Cannington. He cannot sack a single shadow minister without the support of the union movement that controls the preselections of the very members who put him in that job. That is the one big difference between our side and the opposition. We do not have to answer to the union movement. We do not have to answer to anyone. Our party's principles are not for sale. The opposition is beholden to all of them—every single one of them.

If members opposite do not believe me, they should look at the fact that the Leader of the Opposition has made far too many promises that he cannot keep. There are far more Labor spokesmen on portfolios than there have ever been positions in a cabinet. If the Labor Party wins, someone is going to miss out. I see the member for Armadale smiling at me over there. He is one of the greatest travesties, as an example. He is not the shadow Attorney General, but he should be. He is one of the smartest legal brains on that side of the house, and he is not the shadow Attorney General. Why? Because he has not sold out to a union, and all credit to him.

Several members interjected.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** That is right. Do not even talk about Stephen Smith.

**Mr B.J. Grylls** interjected.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** The Leader of the National Party is right. I bet Stephen Smith's phone has been ringing off the hook in the last couple of days.

Several members interjected.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** That is right; Alannah is not even there, and she is another one to add to the list. If the member for West Swan thinks she will ever become a minister in front of Alannah MacTiernan, if the Labor Party wins government, she is dreaming.

The bottom line is that this government works very well. The relationship between my office, which I can speak very honestly about, and the Premier's office is very open and transparent. I went into this job with a very simple rule that I learnt from being a submarine officer in the Navy—never be the highest ranking person to know about a problem, and never ring the Premier with a problem without some options for a solution. This Premier takes my phone calls 24 hours a day, if required. I have rung him after midnight, and I have rung him at five o'clock in the morning. I have rung him with a situation report about something that might be happening in one of my portfolios. If he does not answer the phone, he calls me back damned quickly. There is nothing wrong with the relationship between ministers' offices and the Premier's office. It just does not happen. Members opposite can make up whatever they want, but I can speak from personal experience —

**Mr P.B. Watson** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Albany!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I can speak from personal experience. If I need to speak to the boss about something, I can. I pick up the phone and I call him. If I cannot get hold of him, I get hold of his chief of staff. It is not that difficult. But he always calls back, because he gives a damn. The great big difference in all of this is that the Leader of the Opposition can never make a decision. He will be hamstrung by the union movement; he will be at their beck and call. He will be taking instructions. Look at that—the member for Bassendean cannot help himself! He is over there giving him instructions right now. The Leader of the Opposition cannot make a decision and cannot make an announcement. If members want an example —

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

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

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** His office cannot even spell "embarrassed"; it is pretty embarrassing, Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Yes, and I am the bloke who needs a lecture from you about asbestosis, mate! Rightio—sure.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** If we want other examples of divisions within the Labor Party, how it cannot make a decision on anything, we do not need to go further than the absent member for Collie–Preston and the absent shadow Minister for Environment and their position on GM crops. What about the member for Victoria Park and his position, compared with the rest of the Labor Party on, say, uranium mining? It is hopelessly divided on these issues, but the big difference is that we can have an adult, mature conversation about the issues that matter. We can have an adult, mature conversation with our colleagues in government, the National Party. We can have an adult and mature conversation about the big issues that are confronting this state and the reforms that need to happen, but the Labor Party will never be able to; it is not in its DNA. It cannot help itself.

Obviously, we will not support this motion. It is just a pointless exercise by a desperate opposition that is so keen to see itself relegated to that side of the chamber until 2021.

**MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys)** [3.42 pm]: I thought the Deputy Premier would have stood up and defended her Premier or that the Premier would have stood up and actually —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Do not worry about that, member for Hillarys!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I do worry about them very much, Mr Speaker.

**Dr K.D. Hames** interjected.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Why don't you be quiet, you silly little man? All right! I have been talking to people from your area.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you! That is enough friendly banter, member for Dawesville!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Yes. Throw him out.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

Several members interjected.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Are you going to throw her out? She is going again.

What a great day to be an Independent! We have the Liberal Party imploding; we have a toxic situation between the Liberal Party and the National Party; and we have a government that is dysfunctional at the moment. Why? It is because we have a dysfunctional Premier. I actually admire, quite deeply, the member for Darling Range. I have always had a high respect for him because —

**Mr J. Norberger** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Joondalup!

**Mr J. Norberger** interjected.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Is that brown on your nose, member? It looks like it; it smells like it.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Joondalup, I call you to order for the first time and the second time.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I cannot believe that the government has a member in the upper house calling some of her colleagues in this house “rats” and “cockroaches”. I find that disgraceful.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey** interjected.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** She might have been talking about you, more likely, but she was not; she was talking about other members here. Talk about me, by all means; I do not have a problem.

I read with great interest the *STM* magazine in *The Sunday Times*. The only thing I took exception to was the picture of this fellow on the cover; it frightened my granddaughter and it was too much of a close-up. It frightened the life out of her! I read the article with great interest, because it was a bit like *Alice in Wonderland*, and I like that fairy story. The part I found most interesting was the quote in the middle of the article —

“If ... the ship's going down, then I'm not the sort of person who will jump. I'll go down with it.

Let me say, Premier: your ship has been taking water for the last eight years, and it is submerged. It is going down and the band are playing *The Last Waltz*.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you; I am getting the wall of noise.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I have a lot of respect for the member for Darling Range and, indeed, the member for Alfred Cove. They are a great loss to cabinet, in my view, because they both have tremendous expertise that is



needed to try to address the horrific debt that this Premier has put us in. The member for Darling Range is a humble baker, but he has run a business and he knows that you cannot spend more than you get in; otherwise, you will go bankrupt. I have always thought very highly of the member for Darling Range; he knows that. We have a top person in the member for Alfred Cove, who has been a leading executive in various businesses, including ANZ and Australia Post. What a tragic loss to cabinet—to lose these two people who can actually do something. The Treasurer has never run a business in his life. The Premier has never, ever run a business in his life. He is an academic. That is great. It is all theory. There is virtually nobody over there who has run a successful business.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** I have.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Did you start it? No, you did not.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you! Deputy Premier! Carry on through the Chair, member for Hillarys.

Several members interjected.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** She is getting a bit upset now. If I were a betting man, I would get onto Sportsbet because it has odds-on now that this Premier will not lead the government into the next election. The favourite now is the Deputy Premier. So if you are a gambling person, get onto Sportsbet and double your money everybody. I do not bet.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey** interjected.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Why don't you be quiet?

I actually admire to some extent the loyalty of those members who are prepared to go down with the ship, prepared to go down with this captain, because that is where they are going. I do not believe for one minute that he will lead the party into the next election; I really do not.

As for his staff, let me tell members: they are the most foul-mouthed females I have ever come across. That is how they treat people. His chief media spin officer's job is to make him look good, and he gave her an \$84 000-a-year rise. The first thing he did after the 2013 election was to give her an \$84 000-a-year rise because he wanted to get the bad news over with first. He gave his other person, Narelle Cant, a similar sort of rise. That is disgraceful. He wants our police officers and everyone else to get 1.5 per cent or consumer price index—whatever—but he gives his chief people in his office a rise. He has the biggest ministerial office I have ever seen. I will be saying a lot more during debate on the Loan Bill because I have a lot more information in relation to ministerial offices and how many staff are employed. It is far more than were employed in the first four years of government, and all these people are on the gravy train. I say to them: well done for going down with him.

Several members interjected.

#### *Point of Order*

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The Premier has just made a threat about me and my records, as though I have done something criminally wrong. I say put up or shut up.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. Okay. Minister for State Development.

#### *Debate Resumed*

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Albany, I have been very tolerant with you. I do not want to hear from you.

**MR W.R. MARMION (Nedlands — Minister for State Development)** [3.49 pm]: What a waste of a motion.

**Ms J.M. Freeman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mirrabooka, this is not question time. I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** What a waste of a motion—that this house condemns the Premier for his erratic, illogical and irrational decision-making. If that is what we have been doing, we have overseen an amazing transformation of Western Australia and the regions, and we have not even started trying. If this is the way we have been doing it, how does it compare with what Labor was doing when it was in government? We looked at the eight years that Labor was in government, and in fairness, it built one thing. We went to the election in 2008 with a very clever campaign: Name three things that the Labor Party did in eight years of government? In fairness, people could think of one thing. They could think of the train line to Mandurah. One thing—I will give them that.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** However, Mr Speaker, if the Liberal Party were in power, it would have built the train line as well.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** The only thing that people could think of that the Labor Party had done in eight years of government was to build a railway line to Mandurah —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you; that is the wall of noise now. This is getting out of hand.

**Ms J.M. Freeman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, member for Mirrabooka!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I shall return to the motion.

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, member for Cockburn!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I have been fortunate in my career to work directly with some very fine Western Australians. I have worked for Don Aitken, a former Commissioner of Main Roads. He was the Commissioner of Main Roads for some 22 years. He was an amazing leader, through Liberal and Labor governments, for 22 years. I have worked directly for Ken Michael, a former Commissioner of Main Roads.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, member for Midland!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I have worked for Jim Gill, who has a terrific reputation in the public service of Western Australia, and I have worked directly for Richard Court. I now have the privilege of working directly for Colin Barnett—eight years as the Premier of Western Australia.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, member for Cannington!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** How many people can be Premier of a state for eight years? We are so far ahead of all the other states. We are lucky to have a Premier such as Colin Barnett —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** — with pages and pages of things we have done over the last eight years.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members for Midland and Maylands!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I will just reflect on my portfolio of the environment. I do not want to take any thunder from the current Minister for Environment; however, when I was Minister for Environment —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** Fitzgerald River National Park is one of the icons of conservation in the whole world. It is a biological hotspot, and we carefully built some facilities at either end. That was supported by the Premier. We retained the status of that biological hotspot. I refer to the Kimberley marine parks. Sometimes there are a couple of tricky things a minister has to get across the line, and I will give one example from the Kimberley—Montgomery Reef. Without the support of the Premier of Western Australia, Hon Colin Barnett, Montgomery Reef may not have been in the marine park. People might be allowed to fish on it. I was adamant when I was Minister for Environment that Montgomery Reef would be included in the marine park and, with the support of the Premier, I got that across the line.

Looking at the time I will move very quickly on to one last portfolio: mining. There are amazing achievements in my portfolio of mining. I mention the mining rehabilitation fund first—a leading policy achievement worldwide. I do not believe any state or any country has a mining rehabilitation fund. We have one, which has been implemented by our government.

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I do note, looking at the time, that I want to mention one project —

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** — that the opposition worked on when it was in power, which is Perth Arena. If we want to talk about erratic, illogical and irrational decision-making —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, member for Midland. Enough!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** That takes the cake. I ought to know, because I was engaged to do the business plan.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn, I suggest you have a little relax here.

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** The Perth Arena —

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** He might try to interject, but the member for Cockburn might want to listen to this.

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** There was no schematic design when I was engaged to do the Perth Arena, but there was an estimated figure of \$170 million. Every now and then the government changed it: \$170 million; \$195 million; \$232 million.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. There is time if anybody wants to respond.

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** The person holding the pen and doing the business case takes instructions from the Department of Housing, which is the boss. I was doing the business case and I got a phone call: “Take out the car park.” Why? It was because the former Minister for Transport, Alannah MacTiernan, did not like car parks. The former Minister for Housing and Works did like car parks; however, I was told to take the car park out. So what did I do?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** Yes. Because I had a bit of experience in government, I rang Treasury.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I rang up my Treasury colleague and said that I had just been told to take out the car park.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** They said, “How about you leave it in? Leave the two options in.” So I left in both options.

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** I actually wrote two cabinet submissions —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** — for the member for Cockburn, so I ought to know! I know all about the car park, because when I put in the business case to start with, I counted 640 spaces.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** When it went to cabinet, I was asked to drop it to —

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** This is interesting, keep going!

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** It is interesting!

I was asked to drop it to about 280, so that the corporates could have a parking spot. I managed to get that across the line. It went to cabinet and I got a phone call after cabinet: “Increase it from 640 to 680.” I could talk for one hour on the Perth Arena, but I have to say that it is an example of erratic decision-making. The Auditor General did not get to the bottom of it in his report, which is diabolical. Far more diabolical than the Ord River —

Several members interjected.

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** This is a good news story for Western Australia. It is a terrific project.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you! Hansard has to record the proceedings.

**Mr W.R. MARMION:** The Liberal–National government has delivered so much to Western Australia under the leadership of the Premier Colin Barnett.

**MR S.K. L’ESTRANGE (Churchlands — Minister for Mines and Petroleum)** [3.57 pm]: When we talk about erratic decision-making, let us just reflect for a very short moment on members opposite, because I tell members right now, there are 26-year old professional Western Australians out there today who have finished school. They did a three-year degree; some of them did honours. Some of them have gone out and joined a profession. Some of them have PhDs or are halfway through a PhD while they are doing a profession, and in all of that time, the opposition has had eight years to make a decision about whether to increase retail trading hours from starting at 11.00 am on a Sunday to starting at 9.00 am, and it still cannot make up its mind. The opposition still cannot make up its mind about whether the people of Western Australia want an extra two hours of retail trading hours on a Sunday. I will tell members why opposition members cannot make up their minds. Because in their own Labor Party platform—let me quickly say to members—they say they will not make any changes without being convinced of the need for such change. They talk about the level of employment in the retail sector and the viability of small retailers, small retail business owners and their families. They talk about religious, cultural, sporting, volunteer activities and current retail employees. Do members know what? I think the member for Gosnells will ask the Carnaby’s black-cockatoos what they think about retail trading hours before the opposition makes a decision, because we are dealing with an opposition that is erratic. We are dealing with an opposition that cannot make a decision. In fact, it cannot even make a decision over its leader.

Earlier in the year members opposite said, “Hey, let’s get Smith in! Let’s get Stephen Smith along; he’ll do the job for us. He’ll help us. He’ll help us in the polls—hang on. Let’s get Alannah. Alannah is the saviour of the world! Alannah will save us.” But then they cannot work out what to do with her. When we talk about irrational decision-making, we have only to look at one place in this chamber and that is directly at the Leader of the Opposition, because he has no idea what to do; he has no idea how to make a decision. He is erratic as erratic could be. I tell members—the opposition would be better off with the member for Gosnells and the Carnaby’s cockatoos, because it cannot make a decision.

**MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park)** [4.00 pm]: Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you for doing my job for me! I did not have to ask for order with that one.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** I also rise to speak in support of the motion. It has been an extraordinary performance. I would have liked to get the *Hansard* of Bill Marmion and just lay it on the table and say, “That’s all we’ve got to say”! But I want to make a couple of reflections, because it was probably question time that highlighted best for me the erratic nature of how the government has handled the finances of this state. The member for West Swan is right about transport. However, I disagree with her. It is the finances. That is where the erratic nature of the government has been so apparent. The Premier went on radio and said a tunnel has not been approved by cabinet. This was just last week. However, in the budget speech of the Treasurer this year—just so that members know—the Premier said —

I am also pleased to confirm the Perth Freight Link tunnel construction.

Is it any wonder that the finances of the state are so diabolical? The Leader of the House interjected. It is self-evident when we introduce legislation that that is our intent. We think it would have been self-evident when the Treasurer introduced his budget that that is what the government intended to do. The Treasurer in own

speech outlined the tunnel. But apparently it has not been to cabinet. Is it any wonder that the finances of the state are so diabolical? There have been seven changes of Treasurer. If we go back seven from Eric Ripper, we get back to Charles Court. That is the impact they have had. There have been seven changes of Treasurer. So, there has not actually been a coherent financial plan.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** How many have the Labor Party had in the last few years?

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** In the last few years? There have not been any.

I have enjoyed the last few days. The highlight for me over the last few days—without a shadow of a doubt—was “Easy Rider” from Morley, on the motorbike, when he commented on the Premier. Does the Premier know that the member for Morley has written a book for him? The book by Ian Britza is called *The Absalom Spirit*. It is a book that is written to advise the Premier. I want to quote from page xxi —

In that pages that follow, you will learn the origin of disloyalty, its danger signs, and how to expel it before it infects you or your ministry team. You will learn not only how to handle damage control if disloyalty strikes, but also how to prevent dissension from ever infiltrating your team.

The Premier needs to perhaps adopt a bit of *The Absalom Spirit*!

**Mr B.J. Grylls** interjected.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** What was that? I missed it.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** Did you read that before your challenge?

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** No. Perhaps I should have! Do you know what, member for Alfred Cove? I have to give the member for Alfred Cove a bit of advice, because it is hard to dislodge the wily old operators. But what we know today from the banker, the baker and the Ponzi scheme maker is that there are a lot of people on this side who do not want the member for Alfred Cove to be Premier. That is the reality. It is not just a small group of government members. It is a significant number. It is the same percentage as those who voted for the empty chair against Tony Abbott—who voted for the spill. Members opposite should think about that, because that ended well for Tony Abbott. I do like the contribution —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Look, just give the member a chance now, thank you.

**Mr B.S. WYATT:** Thank you. That is the typical bullying tactics of the government, Mr Speaker.

The member for Jandakot, in an absolute flurry of loyalty, despite the fact that that very Tony Abbott sacked him for leaking against Liberal members back in the day, said, “Colin Barnett’s my man”—for at least four more weeks! The government cannot manage the finances in the way it has done and hold itself up as a coherent government, because, as the Premier knows, it has always been thus.

I want to conclude my remarks by again quoting the letter from John Langoulant—I know the Premier loves me going back to the letter from John Langoulant—because that is where it all began. Members opposite all knew what they were getting when they elected the member for Cottesloe to be their leader and Premier. The Premier said in his response today that it does not matter whether it is in the budget; it has not gone to cabinet. Dr John Langoulant had something to say about that back in 1998, no less. This is what John Langoulant—who, for those who do not know, was the then Under Treasurer—said when he wrote to the then Treasurer and Premier, Richard Court, in frustration —

- Individual Ministers proposing, and Cabinet endorsing, expenditure proposals with no regard to the state of the overall budget and with no examination or consideration of existing budgetary capacity within a portfolio.

Does that sound familiar? It does, does it not? Mr Langoulant concludes his letter with the words —

In summary, the budgetary forecasts since and inclusive of 1994/95 have not been adhered to. The end result is a budget which is now displaying significant structural weakness. If this structural weakness is not dealt with, the Government ... will be required to further increase taxation or resort to borrowings or both within the next two years.

That has been the story of the Barnett government. That was identified back in 1998 by the then Under Treasurer, John Langoulant, when the now Premier was the then Minister for Education—spending without restraint, spending outside the budget process, and ignoring the fiscal parameters of the budget. Is it any wonder that the government now finds itself in this position, with record debt and record deficit? The government’s only plan seems to be a plan from the Leader of the National Party that, according to the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, is not in the DNA of the Liberal Party.

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

*Division*

Ayes (21)

Ms L.L. Baker  
Dr A.D. Buti  
Mr R.H. Cook  
Ms J.M. Freeman  
Mr R.F. Johnson  
Mr W.J. Johnston

Mr D.J. Kelly  
Mr F.M. Logan  
Mr M. McGowan  
Ms S.F. McGurk  
Mr M.P. Murray  
Mr P. Papalia

Mr J.R. Quigley  
Ms M.M. Quirk  
Mrs M.H. Roberts  
Ms R. Saffioti  
Mr C.J. Tallentire  
Mr P.C. Tinley

Mr P.B. Watson  
Mr B.S. Wyatt  
Mr D.A. Templeman (*Teller*)

Noes (35)

Mr P. Abetz  
Mr F.A. Alban  
Mr C.J. Barnett  
Mr I.C. Blayney  
Mr I.M. Britza  
Mr G.M. Castrilli  
Mr V.A. Catania  
Mr M.J. Cowper  
Ms M.J. Davies

Mr J.H.D. Day  
Ms W.M. Duncan  
Ms E. Evangel  
Mrs G.J. Godfrey  
Mr B.J. Grylls  
Dr K.D. Hames  
Mrs L.M. Harvey  
Mr C.D. Hatton  
Mr A.P. Jacob

Dr G.G. Jacobs  
Mr S.K. L'Estrange  
Mr R.S. Love  
Mr W.R. Marmion  
Mr J.E. McGrath  
Ms L. Mettam  
Mr P.T. Miles  
Ms A.R. Mitchell  
Mr N.W. Morton

Dr M.D. Nahan  
Mr D.C. Nalder  
Mr J. Norberger  
Mr D.T. Redman  
Mr A.J. Simpson  
Mr M.H. Taylor  
Mr T.K. Waldron  
Mr A. Krsticevic (*Teller*)

Pair

Ms J. Farrer

Mr J.M. Francis

Question thus negatived.

**CONSTITUTION AND ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 2016 —  
SPEAKER'S RULING — STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION**

*Motion*

**MR B.J. GRYLLS (Pilbara — Leader of the National Party)** [4.10 pm]: I move —

That this house —

- (a) recognises that the Speaker's ruling in relation to the Constitution and Electoral Amendment Bill 2016 is in conformity with the practice of the house;
- (b) acknowledges there is a public interest in having the bill debated in this house;
- (c) suspends so much of the standing orders as is necessary for the bill to be accepted from the Council and, subject to the house voting in the affirmative with an absolute majority at each stage of the bill, to proceed through its stages in the house; and
- (d) directs that the following message be sent to the Legislative Council —
  - (i) informs the Legislative Council that the Constitution and Electoral Amendment Bill 2016 forwarded from the Legislative Council to the Legislative Assembly on 8 September 2016 contains a clear appropriation which does not conform with section 46(1) of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899; and
  - (ii) nevertheless, and on the basis that the undoubted financial privileges of the Legislative Assembly are not diminished, has resolved to accept receipt of the Constitution and Electoral Amendment Bill 2016.

This motion is about the Constitution and Electoral Amendment Bill 2016. I thank the house for its support in considering the motion. The aforementioned bill was introduced in the Legislative Council as a private member's bill on 17 March 2016 by Hon Martin Aldridge. The bill was passed by the Legislative Council on 8 September 2016 and transmitted to the Assembly. The bill was passed by the Liberal Party, the National Party, the Greens and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party. The bill seeks to increase the size of the Legislative Assembly by two members with effect from the 2021 state general election. The additional two districts will be assigned by the independent office of the Electoral Distribution Commissioners as part of their 2019 boundary review.

In speaking to the suspension of standing orders, the National Party holds this issue very, very seriously. We were very disappointed that the regional seat of Eyre was abolished at the last redistribution. We have moved to bring forward a bill to allow for two extra electorates to be established. Although we have no control over the Electoral Distribution Commissioners, if those two seats had been part of their consideration, certainly the seat of Eyre would not have been abolished when they made that decision.

I thank members of the Liberal Party for considering this issue at their party meeting today. They resolved not to support the suspension of standing orders. I respect that decision, but, again, the Nationals have the ability to bring private members' bills forward to Parliament. They are able to be debated and decisions can be made. The Labor Party would see that as disunity. I do not see that at all. I see that as us taking our place in Parliament and putting forward issues that are important to us.

I conclude my contribution knowing that this motion will not be passed because the Labor Party is already on the record opposing the creation of two extra seats. In the words of the commissioners —

The removal of a district from the vast landscape of country Western Australia has a significant impact on the democratic process, especially for people in an electorate that is effectively abolished and for those who find themselves in geographically larger districts as a consequence.

Today Parliament has the opportunity to reinstate the bill passed by the Legislative Council and to meet the requirements of the standing orders of the house and allow us to create the two extra seats before the 2021 election to ensure that country representation continues to be maintained. I commend the bill to the house.

*Point of Order*

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I understand that the member for Pilbara is referring to a private member's bill. I note that he is a member of cabinet. I question whether it is proper for him to be the sponsor of the bill in this house.

**The SPEAKER:** Member, it is just a motion, which he can talk on. If the thing had to progress, he cannot move that the bill be read a first time because he is a minister of the government. That is how it works. Thank you. That is a good point of order.

*Debate Resumed*

**MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Leader of the House)** [4.14 pm]: I note that this motion is listed on the notice paper as "Business of the Assembly"; it is not listed as government business, as was explained to me by the Clerk earlier, and that is an important distinction. From the government's point of view—certainly from the Liberal Party's point of view—we are not supportive of the motion. That does not necessarily mean that we disagree with the overall intention of what is being sought to be achieved but we are of the view that it is not appropriate to suspend standing orders to completely change the normal process whereby a bill that involves the expenditure of public moneys needs to be introduced into the Legislative Assembly. We would be supportive of a member of the National Party, or anybody else for that matter, introducing a new bill into the Assembly so that it could be considered in the normal way and allow an appropriate amount of time for some debate on that according to our overall priorities—but we are not supportive of suspending standing orders to deal with the matter in this way.

Of course, that does not mean that we disagree with paragraph (a) of the motion, which recognises your ruling, Mr Speaker. Of course we do. We are not supportive of the motion as a whole for the reason I mentioned. We are of the view that if the substance of this issue is going to be considered, it should be done in a considered manner in the next term of Parliament. We respect the right of the National Party to raise this issue, of course. As I said, there would be some sympathy within the Liberal Party for what is being sought to be achieved. On the other hand, there would be some public debate about whether it is a priority of government expenditure to be appointing and paying for an extra two members of Parliament and all the associated costs. That is an issue that we believe could be considered in the next term of Parliament over the next four years.

For those reasons, the Liberal Party is not supportive of the motion, whilst we respect the substance of the issues that the National Party is seeking to raise.

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition)** [4.16 pm]: I rise to indicate that the opposition will not be supporting this motion. There are a few reasons behind that. Firstly, Mr Speaker, you made a ruling on 13 September in which, after due consideration, you found that the bill that the National Party introduced could be introduced only in the Legislative Assembly because it is a bill that authorises the expenditure of money. For those members who are new, bills that authorise the expenditure of money under the Constitution of Western Australia can be introduced only into the Assembly. The Assembly has that position of authority, if you like, in relation to expenditure of government money, so bills can only be introduced in this place. That has been the constitutional practice since at least the 1880s, but, as I understand it, has been the practice in Westminster democracies for hundreds of years. That is the practice under the state Constitution of 1889 that the Leader of the National Party read in the other day.

The Leader of the National Party, the leader of a conservative political party, is seeking to subvert the provisions of the Constitution. That is a pretty big deal. I would not have thought that they are the ordinary antics of a conservative political party to try to subvert the provisions of the state's Constitution—an accepted practice in this place for 117 years. It is not only the accepted practice, but it is also the law of the state. It is extraordinary that the member is trying to do this. I hope that no members of Parliament agree to this motion because what the

Leader of the National Party is trying to do is against the law. If Liberal Party members consider themselves conservatives, they should support it. If members of the National Party consider themselves conservatives—that is, as they claim, to be upholders of proper processes and the law—they should not support it. Clearly, subverting the Constitution is now something that the National Party wants to do.

**Mr V.A. Catania** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** No-one listens to the member for North West Central, and he is never getting promoted. I remember the days when he used to stack Young Labor. He is never getting promoted because no-one on his side —

**Mr V.A. Catania:** You'll never be Premier of this state ever.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The member might be right. I will tell him why he will never be promoted; it is because no-one from either party on his side trusts him. The first point I make is that we do not support the suspension because it subverts the state's Constitution.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The second point I make is that this is a political manoeuvre by the National Party—it is a political manoeuvre. The redistribution occurred and the boundaries of the electorates were settled last year, and if the National Party had wanted to do something about this, it has had more than 20 weeks of sitting since then to bring this bill before the Parliament and have it debated. This is a political manoeuvre just before the election; the National Party knows it and we know it. This is a political manoeuvre, because the National Party could have done it as soon those boundaries were handed down by the Electoral Commission. If the National Party was really concerned, it could have acted. The Leader of the National Party knows that; he can interject all he likes, but I will make my speech and he can make his speech.

**Mr B.J. Grylls** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** On the death knock of the election, with four more sitting weeks of Parliament, suddenly the National Party is saying that this is urgent and that it has to stand up for country people. It has had 20 weeks of Parliament in which to do it, but it has not.

**Mr F.M. Logan:** Eight years.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is true. The National Party has actually had eight years, but since the redistribution it has had all year. The National Party can pretend —

**Mr B.J. Grylls** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** We are voting against the suspension, and I will go into other reasons for that in a moment.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The National Party has had all year, but it did not do anything. Its members have fought like cats and dogs, its previous leader was rolled and its new leader has come out with his plans that he knows he will never be able to implement, and this is all —

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** Say that again?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** No. Mr Speaker —

**Mr B.J. Grylls** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the National Party.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The National Party is pretending to care about an issue that it has not done anything about. The second part of what the National Party is doing is trying to separate itself from the Liberal Party; this is another example. The National Party first did that a few weeks ago when the member for Pilbara assumed the leadership with his plan that he knows he will never be able to implement. The second thing is this: the National Party has now found another tool to try to separate itself from the Liberal Party, and particularly country Liberals. The National Party will be out there saying, "Look at us; we stand up for the country more than you do." That is what the National Party is doing.

I make it plain: in the current economic climate, the state government has massive levels of debt, people in our schools have lost jobs, large numbers of people in hospitals have lost jobs—hundreds and hundreds, in fact —



**Mr B.J. Grylls** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The Leader of the National Party might not care, but I am telling him.

There are people in our schools, people in our hospitals —

**Mr B.J. Grylls** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the National Party, I have asked you enough times to leave the Leader of the Opposition with the call. I call you to order for the second time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I do not support this as a priority of this Parliament in an environment in which people are losing their jobs at major hospitals across the state. In fact, that is occurring across the community. Contracts have not been renewed and the like, and people's jobs in schools have not been renewed. I was in Kununurra the other day meeting teachers' aides who had lost their jobs. We are seeing that all over Western Australia with hundreds, if not thousands, of people. The National Party says that the solution is to provide more members of Parliament. Honestly, what world does the National Party live in? Does it think the people of Western Australia want that as a solution to the ills that the government has forced upon them during its course? Does the National Party think people are fooled that that creates any solution to what has happened in Western Australia over the course of the last few years? People are not fooled by that; this is just posturing. Where is the assurance that any of those members of Parliament will be allocated to the regions? There is no assurance. There may well be extra members of Parliament representing the metropolitan area. That may well be the outcome here. Over the course of the last eight years, there has been a bigger proportion of people living in the city than in the country. Under the government that the National Party is part of, the city has grown to a greater degree than the country.

**Mr T.K. Waldron** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Apparently that is my fault. In one of his previous contributions, the member for Wagin said that it is my fault that over the last eight years a greater proportion of people live in the city than the country. Honestly, member for Wagin, look in the mirror.

We will not support this motion. The National Party had the temerity to move this motion today of all days, when the entire government is imploding. The Premier had to order all the Liberal members of Parliament out there onto the front steps of Parliament House. They were railroaded out there. A real farmer in this place, Hon Darren West, would have been able to bring along one of his cattle dogs to get members of Parliament out there behind the Premier. Funnily enough, I was walking through the foyer and I noticed that the Liberals were arriving late—some seemed a little reluctant, I might say, to be there. I looked at the photos and, I am not sure, but there might have been a couple of Liberal members who were not there and who are not happy. Then, there is the fifth columnist over here, the member for Jandakot, and the fifth columnist, the Treasurer.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Both of them were there looking grumpy. In fact, the Treasurer was standing down the back talking to the member for Eyre and the former Minister for Local Government, taking no interest in proceedings. But I digress.

I think the people of Western Australia deserve better than this. On a day when the government is imploding, the priority of the National Party is to try to put more bums on seats in here—that is its priority. Does that not say everything about the government? Why is the National Party not talking about plans for the future?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** There is the forced laughter. Over the past two weeks —

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I am more than happy to talk about our plans. Over the last three weeks, I have released six separate policies. We have released plans for health, plans for jobs, plans for transport and plans for freight and trade. We have been releasing lots of plans for the future.

**Mr V.A. Catania** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for North West Central.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The National Party is releasing a plan for more bums on seats in this place.

I do not think the Liberal Party is going to support this. To be honest, I think Liberal members are sitting there looking a bit sheepish about the whole turn of events and a bit embarrassed about what the National Party is up to. I think it is pretty plain to any observer of this place that whilst the government is burning, the National Party is coming in here with plans for more members of Parliament.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** Yes, absolutely.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Yes; the Leader of the National Party confirms it.

I note the gritted teeth of Liberal members here who have to endure this as part of the government. Liberal members are out there trying to be a unified team despite everything that has gone on today—after lunchtime today the Liberal Party was back there being unified. Remember the message? I saw on ABC News 24, in live coverage, the Premier saying, “We’re a unified team.” There he was on ABC News 24 and he handed over to the Deputy Premier and then handed over to the leader of the upper house and each one of them said, “We’re unified; we’re back on track”, but in the second vote to come before this Parliament today, the Liberal Party is going to vote against the National Party. How is that a unified team? The Liberal Party cannot pretend that the government is just the Liberals. As hard as it may be for the Liberal Party to bear, it has the National Party sitting there with it. As rotten and as hard as that is for the Liberal Party to put up with, it has the National Party sitting there with it—out there announcing its own plans, saying everything it will do differently, undermining Liberal members in their seats and coming up with policies that it knows it cannot implement in order to separate itself from the Liberal Party. I know that members of the government hate it, and I do not blame them for hating it because it would be hard to bear. This afternoon, members of the government were trying to show a unified team but in the second vote to come before this Parliament, they will vote against each other. It is hardly unified. How is it a unified team when six or seven government members in this place will vote against other members of the government? That is not unity. That is not direction for the state. Members opposite agree with me; they know what I am saying. They know it is correct. It is not unity; it is not direction for the state. It is hardly a good situation when, today, a major segment of the government is voting against the other part of the government on this issue. It shows the people of Western Australia just how messed up the government is. It is a messed up government.

As I said earlier, when a government has been in office for a long time, which this government has been —

**Mr D.T. Redman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Regional Development, I have been very —

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I am on my feet. Minister for Regional Development, I call you to order for the first time. Leader of the Opposition, through the Chair.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** When a government has been in office for a long time, the arrogance and dysfunction builds up and that is what has happened inside this government. People can see it. People everywhere say that to me.

**Ms A.R. Mitchell** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** They do. I move around the community. I go all over the state all the time, as an opposition leader should.

**Mr A. Krsticevic** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Carine, I call you to order now for the second time. Through the Chair; let us try to bring this to some type of conclusion.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Mr Speaker, you might want to bring it to a conclusion but just so that you understand, this is about the National Party trying to undermine your ruling.

**The SPEAKER:** We will not get into that because they recognise the Speaker’s ruling; anyway, carry on, through the Chair. We will not get into an argument but that is what it states on the notice paper.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Mr Speaker, there is free speech in this house. There is free speech before this Parliament—another fundamental tenet of this Parliament. If members abide by the Constitution, they can have free speech. We do not get told what to say. If we are not infringing the standing orders, we are allowed to say what we want in here. Mr Speaker, I am pointing out that this motion is actually undermining your ruling, but not on an insignificant, minor procedural point. It is undermining your ruling about the Constitution of Western Australia, so it is a serious matter. If the Liberal Party votes for this, we might as well chuck out the Constitution.

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** We’re not.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** To be fair, the Leader of the House’s contribution on this issue was short and lacked detail.

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** And to the point.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** To the point—the Leader of the House’s contribution was, “We don’t support this.” There was no reasoning, no high-minded logic and no argument about the Constitution of Western Australia, just, “We don’t support this.” He gave no explanation of —

**Ms M.J. Davies:** It’s not relevant.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Not relevant? Honestly, you guys! Honestly!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough. Let the Leader of the Opposition speak.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** If we want to be taken seriously as a Parliament in this country—bear in mind that there are nine Parliaments in Australia—we have to treat the Constitution seriously. Do not think that the commonwealth does not look at all sides. Remember when Christian Porter was here? He was going to be a big states’ rights defender. He went over to Canberra and was totally sucked in by the centralised form of thinking. John Howard did the same. He was going to be a big states’ rights thinker, but when he got there—a federalist. When he got over there, he was totally sucked in and became a centralist. That is what happens. When they see this Parliament moving motions to set aside our Constitution, what do National Party members think they think of us—and they moved that motion? It is a joke to seek to set aside the Constitution by a motion like this, over a matter such as this—to increase the number of members of Parliament without assurance that any of them would go to the regions. Jeez! It is a transparent move for National Party members to go out and pretend somehow that they are standing up for the regions after a year of not doing so.

I heard the member for Geraldton—where is he?—the other day talking about the National Party. The member for Geraldton, in another example of unity in the government, was talking about the National Party locally, because he is in a battle with Hon Paul Brown, saying that National Party members pretend they are the only ones who care about the regions. He is right; they pretend that they are the only ones who care about the regions. That is their selling point. That is the way they try to differentiate. They try to pretend they are the only ones. Lots of us here grew up in regional communities and some of us represent regional communities. I grew up in regional communities. Some of the National Party members grew up in the city.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That is enough, member for West Swan!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Some of the National Party members grew up in the city and live in the city so this idea that somehow they have a mortgage on caring about the regions is insulting and wrong, but it is a selling point and they are prepared to do anything, as we can see by this motion. They are prepared to do anything and they are prepared to say anything to get their way. I think a lot of people see through the selling point they have come up with. I know that the member for Geraldton —

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The member for Geraldton saw straight through it, so in his battle with Hon Paul Brown, he called out the National Party for it and I thought that what he said was pretty accurate. The Leader of the National Party was saying the other day that the Nationals could form a government with Labor after the election—yes, right!—like some sort of independent broker.

There are three examples. The National Party comes up with policies that its larger government partner will not agree with—at least it says that. It comes up with the concept of increasing the number of members of Parliament with no guarantee that they will go to the regions, and they did not do it for a year. Then the Nationals try to pretend that somehow they are the only people who care about the regions. They are not and the member for Geraldton established that the other day, and I agree with him. The third part of the Nationals’ strategy is to pretend that somehow they will form government with Labor after the election. Honestly! Clearly, Labor rises or falls on its own two feet, as we have said right from the beginning.

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I hear the guffawing and the groaning—the unusual noises, I might put it, emanating from the Leader of the National Party. That is the truth of the matter. We know that. If people in Western Australia want choice at the election and want a new direction, as the member for Alfred Cove said is needed, and if they want a new government with plans and with experience and that is not responsible for what has gone on in Western Australia over the last eight years, they have to vote Labor. They cannot accept the walking on the fence that the Leader of the National Party engages in these issues. It is all just politics, designed to appeal to a section of the community that he attempts to fool that somehow it can vote National and it is not really Liberal. Everyone knows that in the entire history of Western Australia, the National Party has always formed government with the conservatives. Whatever party it might have been—the United Australia Party, the

Nationalist Party or the Liberal Party—it has always formed government with the conservatives. Everyone knows that. Anyone with a serious knowledge of political history in this country knows that. That is a fact. I know that and I am not silly enough to respond to the sorts of comments that the Leader of the National Party is quoted in the press as saying. The day he became the National Party leader he said, “We’ll form government only with the Liberals”, and I heard on Friday that the Leader of the National Party said he would form government with Labor. Honestly, where is the consistency and unity in the government? Today, of all days to bring this motion on, it is embarrassing for the government and for the National Party. After the events of today, it should have been held off until the next sitting of Parliament or at least until tomorrow. Instead, we are going to spend hours —

**Ms M.J. Davies:** Get on with it.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It is an important constitutional issue. The Minister for Water may not understand, but it is an important constitutional issue.

**Ms M.J. Davies:** I understand them very well.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** If the minister understands the issues very well, why is she trying to subvert the Constitution?

On a day like today, there will be hours of debate on this motion.

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** Why?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is because it is an important issue. It is about the authority of this house over the Legislative Council. It is about rivalry and the position of the lower house in relation to the upper house. It is a big issue. If the government wants to give away the authority of the lower house —

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** No, we’re not.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is what the minister’s colleagues are trying to do. They are trying to give away the authority of the lower house. We are lower house members and we should have some pride in this place. This is the house in which governments rise or fall based upon the House of Commons, in Britain, and members need to have pride in and respect for that. Giving away the house’s authority to the other place is wrong. I would have thought that everyone in this place would understand that fundamental principle. Have some respect for the institution and the house we are in. If government members want to give that away, it is a very slippery slope for the authority of the Assembly, the House of Representatives or the Commons. Do not give that authority away, yet that is what this motion is trying to do. I have outlined why we do not support this motion. We think that it is flawed, that it reeks of politics and of being a stunt, and that the government is trying to pretend that it is appealing to one audience over others. The motion attempts to undermine the Liberal and Labor Parties and to give away the authority of this house. I say to all members of this place that none of us with respect for the Legislative Assembly should even contemplate voting for this ridiculous proposition.

**DR G.G. JACOBS (Eyre)** [4.43 pm]: I do not want to protract this debate any longer than I need to, but I need to make a few comments about the Liberal Party and my position as the member for Eyre. The Liberal Party and I see merit in the substantive motion. It is not that we do not support the concept; it is about the timing. On the timing, there is no reason we should adopt and deal with this matter now. The impact of any of the changes the Leader of the National Party is bringing forward would not affect the next election—it would be a subsequent election—and we will have time to deal with this reform in the next term of government. It is reform, and I have to say that it is reform that I would support. Members might say that that is because of self-interest, because if we had 61 seats, presumably the seat of Eyre would still exist.

The Leader of the Opposition said that we should talk about plans for the future. This is a plan for the future because electoral reform is about planning for the future. I think it is important that we have free speech. I believe that Parliament has the power to implement these changes, and this house has that power. I want to put on the record that, in concept, I certainly support this motion. On the issue of the self-interest concept that people put up, regardless of whether it was me or any other representative, I believe that the people of Eyre will get less rigor and less representation in Parliament as a result of the electoral boundary change—irrespective of whether that was from me or anybody else. I think that the representation they were getting in the link and connectivity that the Esperance region had with the goldfields, served them well. I think the big losers in that boundary change were the people of Eyre. That is not because they lost me, but because they lost a representative.

We have to thank the Labor Party for this very laudable concept of one vote, one value that it put forward. How many times did I hear that my constituents’ votes were weighted? How often did I hear the then Attorney General and Minister for Health who had carriage of the legislation say, “Trees don’t vote”? The three seats of Roe, Murchison–Eyre and Kalgoorlie were converted into two seats. Where did that take me?

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** If the member wants to have a talk, he can get up and have a talk.

That took me from Ravensthorpe to Southern Cross to Eucla, at the border with South Australia. Members can say that trees do not have a vote and what does it matter, but I can tell them that representing that region was difficult. If this trend continues, representation of regions and country people will get even more difficult. Aside from self-interest, I support the concept of this motion, but I do not support its timing, because, member for Pilbara, this can be dealt with at another time. That is why the Liberal Party and I have landed on the position not to support the suspension of standing orders, but to deal with this very laudable concept at another time when we have time to give it the rigor and discussion it deserves.

**MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys)** [4.49 pm]: As has been said already, this is a constitutional issue on which the Speaker has made a ruling—and, if I might say, a very correct ruling. In my time in this house over the last 24 years, I have seen similar actions in which bills with monetary implications were initiated in the upper house and sent to this place. They were rejected by the Speaker of the day. Today, unfortunately, the Leader of the National Party is trying to circumvent the normal constitutional processes of both houses of this Parliament. If he and the National Party feel so strongly about this, they are part of the government—coalition, alliance, call it what you like—and there are three National Party ministers in government, so if they want to bring this in as a government bill, they will get a Governor's message, which will have the implications of seeing the bill go through this house and then go to the other house. This type of bill cannot be initiated in the other place. I am absolutely staggered that the leader of the government in the upper house would allow this debate to happen in that house without even talking to the Premier or the Liberal Party room at all.

I understand perfectly the reasons for the National Party doing this. I do not blame the Nationals; it is a question of self-preservation, as my colleague the member for Eyre said. We are all guilty of self-preservation, in trying to ensure that we keep our seats and increase our vote if we can.

**Dr G.G. Jacobs:** And the representation of country people!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Yes, but we have to abide, my friend, by the Constitution.

If the government wanted to bring in this bill, I would not have a problem with that. If a National Party backbencher was to introduce a private member's bill into this house, that is the other way that they can go. It would still require a message from the Governor by the end of the second reading stage in order to progress any further. Those are the rules of this house; those are the standing orders of the Parliament. I would say that at the moment the Nationals have Buckley's chance of progressing things that way; firstly, because the Liberal Party will not agree with it; and, secondly, it has not even been discussed in cabinet, I would suggest.

This is something the Nationals did in the upper house, and I would say good luck to them; I do not blame them for doing this. I would try everything I could to increase my numbers. I think, however, it is more a matter of the National Party not losing its numbers rather than increasing them.

**Ms W.M. Duncan** interjected.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I disagree with that. We have one vote, one value. Without a doubt, there is loading in all the country areas to take that into account. It passed through both houses of Parliament, and that is what we have to live with. The increase in population that we see today is in the metropolitan area, as the Leader of the Opposition quite rightly said. We are seeing massive population increases in the northern part of the metropolitan area, and the southern part—the south metropolitan area, going down as far as Mandurah and beyond—is increasing tenfold. That is where the population is coming from.

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Yes, I said “and beyond”. I did say that, minister.

The problem that the National Party has now, as I see it, in trying to get this bill through with a motion to suspend standing orders, is that I do not think it will get up, because the Liberal Party has said it will not support it, the Labor Party will not support it, and I will not support it, because I am a great believer in the Constitution of this Parliament, and I have been for the last 24 years. If the National Party wants to get this through in some form or another, it needs to get one of its backbenchers to do it, because a government minister cannot introduce a private member's bill. That is against the rules of this house. A backbencher can do it—the member for North West Central, the member for Moore, the member for Kalgoorlie or the member for Wagin. They can move a private member's bill in this house. They have left it a bit late to do it, and I would say that they have Buckley's chance now, because, being a private member's bill, the mover would have to negotiate with the opposition, which has the prerogative on what happens during private members' time—not government members, unless the government wants to allocate government time. The government will not give time to two of my good friends. The member for Eyre has a private member's bill before this house at the moment.

**Dr A.D. Buti:** A very good bill.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** It is a very good bill, dealing with sexual harassment of young people. It is a very important bill, but the Premier will not let him get it through, because he does not want it to be debated in this house. He should, because it is a very good bill. The member for Murray–Wellington also has a private member's bill on the notice paper. They have got Buckley's chance now of getting their bills through, because the government, although it said a year ago—I remember, because I was in the party room—that there was a chance that it might allocate government time to both those bills, there is now Buckley's chance that it will do so.

We are only sitting 12 more days after this week. We should be sitting an extra two weeks, in my view. To get up in the middle of November, I think, is absolutely criminal. For the government to walk away in the middle of November from its parliamentary responsibility to be open and accountable and to be there for scrutiny, is criminal. I have never seen the Parliament rise so early. We used to go into the middle of December and later, when I first became a member, 24 years ago. Things got debated properly, and all areas were scrutinised. Bills were scrutinised properly. We are not seeing that today at all. The government just wants to get out of this place, and not be open to scrutiny, and do what it wants to do. It will have its problems, but that is what it wants to do. We should be sitting an extra two weeks. We should have a week's recess after the final sitting week on the notice paper, and then sit for a further two weeks, and then rise for the conclusion of this parliamentary term. The minute the upper house rises, if there are no messages coming for this house to deal with, the Premier will prorogue the Parliament, because he will not want any of the committees to have the opportunity for one day to hold the government accountable. That is an absolute fact. I am saying this because it is all part and parcel of the constitutional affairs of this Parliament. It is a very serious issue. A government must be accountable, and I must say that I am ashamed of this government, of which I was a part.

I said today that it is lovely being an Independent member, and it truly is, but at the end of the day I believe in the Constitution of this Parliament. I believe in what is right and what is wrong, and that should be debated in this house. I do not blame the National Party for what it is doing. If one of its backbenchers wants to introduce a private member's bill, go for it. However, the trouble is they have to negotiate with the Labor Party, which will not allow it because it has its own parliamentary agenda it wants to fulfil.

The Leader of the National Party should not have done this as a cabinet minister. It is wrong to do that. The upper house should never have sent this bill down. I am not disgusted, I am just amazed that the leader of government business in that house did not foresee this. There have been arguments between the Clerk of the Council and the Clerk of the Assembly over the years. I remember that Peter McHugh when he was Clerk of the Legislative Assembly would argue fearlessly with Laurie Marquet when he was Clerk of the Legislative Council about the rights of each house.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** The President's ruling on this was that it was in order.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I know; I have seen it before, Leader of the National Party. I do not know whether I have seen it once or twice—it may have been twice—when members of the upper house take on too much and usurp the authority of this house, which has been the authority ever since this Parliament was established. According to *Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice*, members of the upper house have it wrong. Any money bills must be initiated in this house. Just because somebody in the upper house thinks they can do it, does not mean to say that is right. I am delighted, Mr Speaker, that you have upheld the rights of this house and not allowed this bill to go forward. The minister can move to suspend standing orders, and, even if we agree, when we get onto the substantive bill, it would have to be ruled out of order because the Leader of the National Party is not a private member. He is a government minister. He would have to get the government to agree to fund this bill, and to get a message from the Governor saying that the funding is okay. The member can shake his head as much as he likes, but that is what he would have to do. I cannot see any of that happening between now and when we rise in just a few weeks' time, after about 14 more sitting days. That is all we have in this Parliament—14 more days of joy, happiness, harassment, love and a show of adornment to each other.

I am delighted that you made the ruling that you did, Mr Speaker, and I think you made the absolute right decision. I am sorry that the National Party cannot get its own way. It will have to try again, I would suggest in another way, but it must be initiated in this house, because it is a bill with monetary implications. Apart from the two new members that the Nationals want to introduce, there would be two or three electorate staff for each one, so that is six individuals already. That is probably getting up to about half a million dollars a year at least; with the electoral allowances, we are probably talking about a lot more than that. It is probably getting towards \$1 million a year, with all the benefits they get and the fit-outs and the running of the offices and so forth. Not everybody thinks we should be spending that on an extra couple of members at this moment in time.

**Ms J.M. Freeman** interjected.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Yes, we are having enough trouble paying back the debt we have at the moment; we do not want to make it any worse.

Mr Speaker, I will conclude now, and I say thank you for upholding the rights of this house and for making the decision that you did. I urge all members to vote against this motion because I think that even if they vote for it, it is still flawed and I do not want to see a flawed bill introduced to this house in a flawed way.

**MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington)** [5.00 pm]: I want to outline why I oppose this suspension of standing orders motion. I make the point that the ancient traditions of Parliament are not just something we read about in history books; they are actually protections for people, for individuals in this state. We want to support the Constitution and the traditions of the Parliament not because we are old-fashioned, but because they are important. A practice in the Westminster system is that once a decision has been made in cabinet, ministers support that decision; and, if they do not support it, they resign. That is the clear Westminster system, and there is a reason for that. It is actually about protecting people's rights. It means that if cabinet makes a decision that some members of cabinet think impinges on the rights of the individual, they can publicly explain their position and say, "We don't accept that", and resign. That is a very important part and one of the fundamental purposes of cabinet solidarity. This is not just some old-fashioned practice; it is actually a live part of the Westminster system that protects every Western Australian, as it does people in other countries of the world that have the Westminster system. Undermining Westminster traditions undermines the fabric of our democracy. We are a representative democracy; that means we rely on the people elected to represent us to perform the duties imposed on them by the Constitution and the standing orders of the Parliament.

In making a decision about whether we should overturn a tradition of this Parliament we have to understand why these traditions are important. Another important tradition is the idea that money bills start in this house—that this is where the expenditure of taxpayers' money begins. That, again, is a protection from the other house spending taxpayers' money. Why is that important? It is because members of the upper house are not elected directly by the people; they are elected through a list system. We are the chamber that directly represents the people of this state. I know that the National Party probably does not understand these things, but they are important. That is why the Constitution sets out that money bills start in the Assembly.

There is another reason to vote against this suspension: because it is meaningless. This is a *Kath & Kim* suspension, so that the National Party can run around the state saying, "Look at me! Look at me!" but it is actually totally meaningless because there is still no message from the Governor, so the bill cannot get to the second reading. I remind the Minister for Environment that that is exactly what happened with the Labor Party's decision to introduce the container deposit legislation. When the Minister for Environment voted against asking for a message from the Governor, he killed the bill; he prevented the container deposit legislation coming to a vote on the second reading because he prevented a message from the Governor being achieved, and it is exactly the same with this legislation. Even if this suspension of standing orders were to be passed, the underlying legislation will never come to a vote. It is *Kath & Kim*; the National Party will be able to run around the state saying, "Look at us! Look at us!" but it will achieve nothing. Passing the legislation through the other house was meaningless, as the Speaker's ruling made clear. It was a pointless decision of the National Party to have this bill debated in the other house when it was never going to be implemented. It is all about *Kath & Kim*.

That brings us to the underlying legislation. I remind members that that is just another *Kath & Kim* bill, because the underlying legislation does not mean that there will be any additional representation for regional citizens because, as we all know, the Electoral Commission in its most recent decision debated whether it should add one or two extra seats to the metropolitan area. If we increase the number from 59 to 61, at least one of those seats is going to be in the metropolitan area.

My next point is that if the National Party wanted to admit to the problems of country representation, it is not about the number of National Party members in this chamber; it is about the quality. If we had some decent members representing the National Party in this chamber, people in regional Western Australia would get representation. I suppose that is why the Labor Party got more votes in regional Western Australia at the federal election than the National Party did. That is why our vote went up significantly in regional Western Australia while the National Party vote went down by, I think, about 20 per cent in regional Western Australia.

The National Party can come in here and take its *Kath & Kim* "Look at me! Look at me!" approach, and that is exactly what this legislation is about. It is not so that the National Party can change anything in the regions; it is so that it can talk about changing things in the regions. That is what this bill is about and that is what this suspension of standing orders motion is about; it is not about improving conditions for regional Western Australians.

The member for Eyre said that he acknowledged the constitutional irregularities, but still thought it was a good idea. Why is it a good idea? Why is increasing the number of representatives in this chamber better? Why are more politicians the answer? What question is the member asking? If the member for Eyre is telling me that the only answer is more politicians, he is asking the wrong question. I do not agree with the idea that increasing the number of politicians will somehow give us a better state. If it did, why are we here debating this? When the Labor Party increased the number of members in the Legislative Assembly from 57 to 59, did it improve the representation of regional Western Australia? Is that what the member for Eyre is saying—that that was the result of increasing the number of members from 57 to 59? He has not actually explained anything.

Members say, "Oh, these seats are very large." Yes, they are; the member for Kimberley's seat is enormous. Do members know what? The Labor Party recognised that when we introduced one vote, one value, and we initiated

something called the large district allowance, so that there are notional voters for very large electorates. The very large electorates in the most distant parts of the state get—I use the term—phantom voters added on to the calculation for the Electoral Commission so that those distant parts get additional representation that they would not be entitled to on the basis of population alone. The Labor Party recognised that. We always recognise that the very remote parts of the state are entitled to have that allowance. The problem is that National Party people living in the metropolitan area do not get it; they think that having more politicians is the answer. I say let us have better politicians; that is the answer. Instead of the second-raters that have been delivered by the National Party, let us have some good ones. Let us have some people who actually know what they are doing.

It always amuses me to listen to the Leader of the National Party. He was opposed in his struggle to get into Parliament by the current Premier. The current Premier ran around the seat asking people to vote against the Leader of the National Party at that 2001 by-election. The Leader of the National Party got elected to Parliament by handing out Labor how-to-vote-cards at his polling booths. That is exactly what happened. I remember the phone call, when I was state secretary of the Labor Party, from the state director of the National Party, asking me to print 20 000 extra copies of our how-to-votes so that the now Leader of the National Party could hand them out on polling day! That is what happened. That is how he got into Parliament. That was against the wishes of the then Leader of the Opposition. I cannot remember the name of the candidate. Our candidate was, of course, the now Hon Darren West. He was an outstanding candidate. It was his second election —

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** No, it was not.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes, it was. It was Darren, absolutely. Darren ran. In fact, the current Leader of the Opposition —

**Mr R.S. Love:** It was in Moore.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** No. He ran in Moore at the general election. He ran in the by-election in what was then called the seat of Merredin. The now Leader of the Opposition went up to Merredin for the day and handed out how-to-votes with Darren. I remember how these things happen.

I also remember 2005, when the National Party did the deal with the Labor Party that it would not run any candidates in the Mining and Pastoral Region, in return for the Labor Party directing its preferences to the National Party ahead of the Liberal Party. If we had not done that, the National Party would have been wiped out in the 2005 election. We have to remember the way these things happen. Of course, as we all remember, the Liberal Party and the National Party were not in coalition at the time of the 2005 election. These are the things that have actually happened to get us to where we are today.

We have a proposed suspension of standing orders. That is not a sensible approach.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** So you got it wrong?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes, absolutely. I got it wrong. The member for Pilbara's career would have been over in 2005, as he well knows, if it were not for the Labor Party. What was I thinking! It is like the member for North West Central, who got into Parliament only after getting on his hands and knees and begging me to make him a Labor candidate!

**Mr V.A. Catania:** What was that?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** We all remember these things.

This is a look-at-me suspension of standing orders. The National Party, in moving this suspension of standing orders, is trying to set aside important practices in the Parliament that protect the people of Western Australia and are part of the ordinary conservative nature of government and Parliament. We need to continue to adhere to those practices. This suspension of standing orders will never achieve anything. Even if members were to vote for the suspension of standing orders, it would not matter, because the bill itself will never be voted on. That is because there is no message. That is what the Minister for Environment did when he killed off container deposit legislation in this state by voting against this house asking for a message.

**Mr A.P. Jacob:** It was because it was unconstitutional.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** No, it was not unconstitutional. It was introduced in this chamber. When we introduced the legislation, we knew it was a money bill. We are allowed to introduce a money bill in this chamber. We are not allowed to introduce it in the other chamber. However, we knew that there needed to be a message. That is why we came into the chamber and asked for a message, and members opposite voted against it, to kill off container deposit legislation in Western Australia.

**Mr A.P. Jacob:** No!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Look at *Hansard*, minister! Members opposite voted to prevent the introduction of container deposit legislation in Western Australia by denying a message on behalf of the member for Gosnells' bill—actually, it was the Leader of the Opposition's bill.



If the National Party was genuine in what it is saying it wants to do, it would get it done by cabinet. It would get it done through its alliance partners. It always amuses me that whenever I ask the Leader of National Party—whoever it is—under what circumstances the National Party would support a Labor government, they will not answer it. We know the truth. The truth is that it will never happen. The National Party is nothing more and nothing less than a barnacle on the back of the Liberal Party. The National Party has no capacity to do anything in this state. This *Kath & Kim* legislation is another refection of that. The National Party is irrelevant to the political process in Western Australia. Members of the National Party can run around the state saying, “Look at me; look at me”, but they cannot ever deliver. They have to convince somebody else to do their work for them. They have to either convince us, or convince the Liberal Party, otherwise they can do nothing.

This legislation is dead, because there is no message. The National Party has brought in this motion for the suspension of standing orders for the sole purpose of being able to go into the regional parts of Western Australia and say, “Look at me; look at me”. It is not that they have achieved anything, and it is not even that they want to achieve anything—that is enough for them. Even if we did get to vote on the underlying legislation—which we will never do—it would not help. The solution of the National Party is more politicians. The National Party reckons that the problem can be solved by getting more backsides into Parliament, and more big white cars. It amuses me that the Leader of the National Party, when he was a National Party backbencher, said that the current government could not be re-elected with the member for Cottesloe as Premier. However, today the Leader of the National Party got up in Parliament and told us how wonderful the member for Cottesloe is. What changed between those two events? A big white car! Give a National Party member of Parliament a big white car, and they will change their view! That is exactly what happened.

**Mr F.M. Logan:** And a plane!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes, and a plane. That is exactly what happened with the Leader of the National Party. He said four weeks ago that the member for Cottesloe could not win an election. Now, the member for Cottesloe is the saviour! Whatever happened? What was the change in policy? What was the change in direction? It was the big white car for the former member for Central Wheatbelt. That is the only thing that changed. It is funny the way these things change.

The people of Western Australia are awake. As I have said, if we had two additional politicians in Western Australia, one of them would definitely go into the northern suburbs of Perth. Therefore, this bill should not be called the Constitution and Electoral Amendment Bill 2016. It should be called the “Additional Members of Parliament for North Metropolitan Region Bill”.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** Do you really need another 10 minutes?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The member can speak for as long as he wants. The member introduced this motion. If he wants to speak, he should get up and speak. I am not trying to get in the way of the member speaking. In fact, I am looking forward to his contribution.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** This is the longest time they have been in the house for at least two weeks!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes. They missed afternoon tea. That is what happened today. It is a disaster for the National Party. They missed afternoon tea. What a shock!

This attempt to overturn the decision of the Speaker is wrong. It goes to the fundamental issue of the prerogative of this chamber as the place in which money bills commence. We must continue to hold our right, as the people’s chamber, to be the only place in which money bills should commence. If the National Party was genuinely concerned about the matters contained in the bill, it would have introduced the bill in this place, not in the other chamber. The fact that the National Party chose to introduce the bill in a place in which it knows it would not be able to succeed is a demonstration of the empty rhetoric that the National Party has sprouted for this legislation.

However, it is also important to think about the fact that if we proceed down the path that the Leader of the National Party and the National Party minister want us to go down, the bill would not be voted on, because there is no message. Go back, member. Do the work properly and introduce the bill into the chamber. If the member is genuine about wanting to increase the number of politicians in the North Metropolitan Region, which would be the result of the Constitution and Electoral Amendment Bill 2016, bring it here properly. Do not try to engage in sneaky procedures. Let us understand: we should deal with the bill first, and then the upper house can look at it. The overturning of a long tradition of this house—that this place is where money bills commence—should not be allowed. That is an important issue. This chamber, not the upper house, forms government because we are directly elected by the people of this state. The upper house is list voted. Members are voted in on proportional representation; they are not directly elected. We are directly elected, and that is why we need to ensure that our rights are properly understood and respected. Allowing this suspension to go through will undermine our authority as the house of the people.

This is interesting. From the comments of the Leader of the National Party, I understand that after everybody has finished speaking he will explain to us how he will have the bill even brought on for debate. Leaving aside the fact that we cannot vote on the second reading, the minister cannot introduce the legislation as a private member because he is not a private member; he is a member of the government. I do not understand why the minister did not tell us that in his opening remarks. I would be happy for him to explain to me by interjection how the bill will come on for debate; he did not explain that in his opening remarks. Will he let me know?

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** Yes. If the suspension was agreed to, the Speaker would determine whether the bill was a private member's bill or a government bill. If it was a government bill I could do the first reading, and then the second reading would be made an order of the next day's sitting.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** What happens if he says it is private members' business?

**The SPEAKER:** Sorry; are you having a private debate?

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** The point being that if the suspension was agreed to, it would have become a government bill, but it was not agreed to.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** So the minister is saying that he will say that it is a —

**The SPEAKER:** Can I just tell you something? This is an ordinary motion, actually; it is not a suspension. I will put the motion; and, if it is lost, it is lost.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Okay. No, but it is a suspension, Mr Speaker, because paragraph (c) states —  
suspends so much of the standing orders as is necessary for the Bill to be accepted ...

I understand it is on notice and that it only needs a simple majority, but it is still a suspension. Am I to understand that if we pass this, the bill will be treated as a government bill?

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** It is not going to be passed.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** No, but I am asking the minister whether, if it is passed —

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** It is not going to be. That would have been the process.

**The SPEAKER:** My advice is that this is not a government bill—it has not been agreed to as a government bill—and if it is introduced, the member can give the first reading but cannot proceed any further; it has to be done by a backbencher. That is it.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am delighted with your advice, but that is different from what the minister is saying. The minister is saying that if we agree to the suspension, the government will determine whether it is government bill or not.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** It is not going to be agreed to.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes, I know.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** The next steps after that became irrelevant after that point.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** But the minister asked for this to be debated.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** Correct!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Why are we debating it if —

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** I want it to be agreed to!

**Ms J.M. Freeman** interjected.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** Once it was agreed to, I had a process to follow.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mirrabooka, you are not helping! Hansard has to take notes.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** But that is the problem, minister. What is the point? If the minister says he is introducing this on the basis that the motion will be defeated, why is he bothering? Surely he can tell us —

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** I didn't want it to be defeated; I wanted it to be supported.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes, okay. That is why I am asking the minister what will happen if he gets his way. It is not an unreasonable question. I have made the point that the minister never explained that when he asked us to support this. That is why I am asking him. I am happy to take an interjection from the minister on what would happen next if this motion was passed. Minister?

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** If it had been passed —

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** If it was passed; yes?

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** — I would have asked the government—the Liberal Party—to join us and make it a government bill.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Right. Has the minister taken a cabinet submission in?

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** It was discussed at cabinet.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes, but that is not what I asked. Has the minister provided a cabinet submission?

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** It was raised at cabinet and discussed. We have a bill from the upper house.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** So there is no cabinet submission?

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** I am very happy with the process to follow.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Sure, but I just want to get it straight before we vote. At the moment we have this problem: the minister has introduced this motion, but then not explained how he wants us to behave. He has told us to vote for this, but has not said, “These are the things that will happen after that.” I take it, from what the minister said, that there is no cabinet submission. I point out to the member for Moore that it is not a breach of cabinet confidentiality to say whether a cabinet submission exists or not. It is the discussions at cabinet that are confidential, not the existence of the discussion. That is not a particularly unusual situation.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** We are dealing with a bill that was passed by the Legislative Council.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes, that is right. There is no cabinet submission. So, the minister is saying that he has asked the house to support a resolution that has no effect in practice. That is why I am saying to the minister that it is the *Kath & Kim* approach. The minister is able to go around the state —

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** I do not agree with that.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** If the minister does not have an agreement, even if we passed this resolution it would be of no effect.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** So pass the resolution.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** But there is no reason for us to. I have outlined 100 reasons for us not to pass it, but the minister cannot outline one reason for us to pass it. Even if it gets passed, it is a nullity because it does not have any effect. Even if this suspension was passed, the underlying legislation will not even be debated. That is what the minister is telling me.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** That is not true.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes, it is. How will it be debated?

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** I have told you, and you are arguing with me.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Sorry; I cannot hear the minister.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** I have told you and you are now arguing with me because you don’t want to hear the answer.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** No, the minister said he would take it to the Liberal Party and ask it to agree to it. That is what the minister said.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** Just finish your contribution.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** If that is not what the minister said, correct me. I do not want to be wrong.

**Mr B.J. Grylls:** I have a process to proceed through the stages of the bill, but it needs this motion to be passed.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Okay. Minister, tell me what those steps are. This is ridiculous.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I have allowed a lot of toing and froing. Through the Chair, and let us just take it from there, okay?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Mr Speaker, this is the difficulty that the National Party has left us in. In his original contribution on the introduction of this suspension of standing orders, the minister did not explain the steps to have the underlying bill voted on. I have outlined to you, Mr Speaker, the extensive problems that I foresee and the reason I clearly say that this suspension is a nullity. It is of no effect because the underlying legislation will never be debated. The minister is not outlining any argument against that position; he did not do that in his opening contribution. That means I cannot, therefore, examine his arguments to see whether they are justified or just another load of hot air that we usually get from the National Party. That is the problem. National Party members are happy to sit there and giggle, laugh and interject but not do any work. That is hardly surprising, because that has happened over eight years in the National Party. That is probably why the Labor Party’s vote in country Western Australia went up and the National Party’s vote went down at the federal election! That is a bit contrary to the rhetoric that comes out of the National Party. It is probably why the now Leader of the National Party was not prepared to run as a Senate candidate—because he knew he would not get up! It is probably why he would not run for Durack—because he knew he would not get up! Talk big, act small. That is probably why he was prepared to say there was no way the Liberal–National government would get re-elected with leadership of the member for Cottesloe, before he got the big white car! But after he gets the big white car, now the member for Cottesloe is going to lead him to government, apparently, at the next election.

As I have outlined, this suspension should not be supported because it breaches the rules that protect Western Australians. It breaches the Constitution, it breaches our practices and it gives up our authority as the house of government to be the sole place in which money bills start. Even if it was passed, it would be a nullity because the Leader of the National Party refuses to outline any mechanism to implement the decision.

*Question to be Put*

**DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Treasurer)** [5.30 pm]: I move —

That the question be now put.

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

*Division*

*Ayes (34)*

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

*Noes (21)*

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

*Pairs*

Ms E. Evangel	Ms J. Farrer
Mr R.S. Love	Mr P. Papalia

Question thus passed.

*Motion Resumed*

**The SPEAKER:** The question now is that the motion be agreed to.

*Division*

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

*Ayes (6)*

Ms M.J. Davies	Mr B.J. Grylls	Mr T.K. Waldron
Ms W.M. Duncan	Mr D.T. Redman	Mr V.A. Catania ( <i>Teller</i> )

*Noes (49)*

Mr P. Abetz	Mrs G.J. Godfrey	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mrs M.H. Roberts
Mr F.A. Alban	Dr K.D. Hames	Ms S.F. McGurk	Ms R. Saffioti
Ms L.L. Baker	Mrs L.M. Harvey	Ms L. Mettam	Mr A.J. Simpson
Mr C.J. Barnett	Mr C.D. Hatton	Mr P.T. Miles	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mr I.C. Blayney	Mr A.P. Jacob	Ms A.R. Mitchell	Mr M.H. Taylor
Mr I.M. Britza	Dr G.G. Jacobs	Mr N.W. Morton	Mr P.C. Tinley
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr R.F. Johnson	Mr M.P. Murray	Mr P.B. Watson
Mr G.M. Castrilli	Mr W.J. Johnston	Dr M.D. Nahan	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr D.C. Nalder	Mr A. Krsticevic ( <i>Teller</i> )
Mr M.J. Cowper	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Mr J. Norberger	Mr D.A. Templeman ( <i>Teller</i> )
Mr J.H.D. Day	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr P. Papalia	
Mr J.M. Francis	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mr J.R. Quigley	
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr M. McGowan	Ms M.M. Quirk	

*Pair*

Mr R.S. Love	Mr P. Papalia
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Absolute majority not achieved; question thus negated.

**PEEL–HARVEY CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT BILL***Removal of Order — Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mr M.W. Sutherland):** I inform members that, in accordance with standing order 144A, the order of the day that appeared on the last notice paper for the Peel–Harvey Catchment Management Bill 2014 has not been debated for more than 12 calendar months and has been removed from the notice paper. I advise that a bill removed from the notice paper under the standing order may be restored by motion to the point it reached prior to its removal.

**LOAN BILL 2016***Second Reading*

Resumed from 15 September.

**MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells)** [5.40 pm]: I rise to speak to the Loan Bill 2016. I begin by noting that this is the fourth such loan bill in seven years; in other words, the management of the state's finances by this Barnett Liberal–National government has been such that on four occasions that loan has had to essentially be topped up. The amounts each time have been enormous sums of money. I understand this time we are looking at a loan bill worth \$1.7 billion. That reflects poor management of the state's finances. This is something we all have to communicate back to our electorates—the situation when it comes to the Barnett government's mismanagement of the state's finances. People understand that the state is in serious strife, with the debt level getting to \$40 billion and the budget on an annual deficit. When I talk to my constituents about the Loan Bill and tell them that Parliament will be spending the best part of a week discussing our loan, they find it extraordinary and difficult to comprehend. Of course, they also find it difficult to imagine the sum of money involved—\$1.7 billion. Personally, I find it very useful to talk to my constituents about the sorts of things they have concerns about—the day-to-day issues they want to raise—and then think about those in the context of this financial mismanagement. That is a real strength of our Westminster parliamentary system. We can be in here debating a bill worth \$1.7 billion and the next day or later in the week we can talk to our constituents about the issues that impact on their lives. I think it is a real attribute of the Westminster parliamentary system that we have that very important grounding; that is, we can talk about big budget issues and then go to the reality of people's day-to-day issues. I want to raise some of those issues in this place today in the course of this contribution to the Loan Bill debate.

I start with a very simple issue, and one that will resonate with many members. It is an example that comes from Cori Bradley, who I met at a street-corner meeting in Homestead Park in Gosnells recently. Cori's daughter goes to Seaforth Primary School, one of the primary schools in my electorate. Seaforth is a primary school that looks as if it deserves some extra investment. It desperately needs some additional investment as there is a growing school population. The impression we get when walking onto the school grounds is that there is a need for some additional maintenance money; there is the need for some refurbishment. That is not what the parents, carers and people connected with the school necessarily asked me about. They just want the very basics—the essentials we would imagine any child at a school would receive. That is the message here. I noted the comments that Cori made and I will read them, bearing in mind that this is what impacts on a young girl going to Seaforth Primary School. According to my notes, Cori said the following —

The books in the preprimary library are old books and they are falling apart. I think they are the same books that would have been there when I was at the school. These are the books the children are supposed to learn to read from. They should be quality, attractive books that children want to pick up and look at. Sure, the children like to look at the cows and the kangaroos in the field behind the school. We've got kangaroos, but not proper books. That's not right.

I think that point made by Cori just reflects that we are not funding our schools adequately, as children do not have nice, fresh, current, actual reading material that they can learn to read from. That is just not fair on those kids. It does not encourage them, bearing in mind that there are pockets in my electorate where literacy rates are not strong; they are behind the national average. The National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy score for some schools is worrying. I know there is a whole host of issues we have to tackle to improve that situation, not least of which is doing things like encouraging families and parents to be active readers themselves so that when children get to school, they are eager to emulate what their peers and role models might be doing and they become enthusiastic readers themselves. It would seem like such a basic thing to make sure that a school like Seaforth Primary School is adequately resourced so that students there will be happy to read interesting material that is fresh, and not shabby old books that are falling apart and that make them feel like reading is something that belongs in the most dingy, ramshackle library. That is something we have to turn around.

Looking at this Loan Bill, we have to ask about the figure of \$1.7 billion. I understand that the need has come about because the public service has to be paid, but I look at some of the other items and issues that should be priorities for a government and one of the highest order items in my mind should be the refurbishment of schools

in my electorate. Through freedom of information and other mechanisms, we unearthed some plans for the re-establishment of a decent learning environment at both Thornlie Senior High School and Southern River College. We have seen documents stating that an upgrade for Southern River College of \$9 million is needed. We have gleaned these figures from the education minister's own information. The same documents state that Thornlie Senior High School should have at least \$12 million put into it just to bring it up to some semblance of modernity so students do not complain about the unsanitary conditions of toilets or have to dodge through corridors or covered areas as they go from one building to the next during a rainy spell. Those sorts of situations are totally wrong. Students having to walk through large puddles as they go from one building to the next and getting themselves and their shoes wet so they are wet when they get to their class is not acceptable. It will not make for good learning if kids get soaked through to the skin as they go from one class to the next. They will not be in a good frame of mind for learning, and perhaps worse, they will catch a cold and then be off sick and unable to participate in lessons. And there we see it: they will fall behind just because the facilities are inadequate. The documents we received suggest that Southern River College is in line for a performing arts and media centre, an extension to the sports hall, a new netball court surface and a science lab—all essential things. The documents reveal that at Thornlie Senior High School there is to be a new dance and media studio, refurbishment of the commercial teaching kitchens and more than \$1 million worth of science laboratory upgrades. But we need to see the colour of the government's money. Where is it? We have been hearing about various promises. During the last election campaign the Liberal Party's education policy was to provide the best possible learning environments to cater for students' needs for education and social development, and there was also a commitment to pay for a refurbishment of any school that was built before 1980. That is certainly the case at Southern River College and Thornlie Senior High School, but we have not seen that revamping.

What is going on when promises are made at one election and nothing happens and we find that the government claims that it is investing in education? Along with other broken promises, we need only look at the transport area. Other members are far more expert than I when it comes to the needs of the Ellenbrook community and the Ellenbrook rail line, a broken promise; the Yanchep rail extension, a broken promise; the 30 per cent increase in bus kilometres, a broken promise; obviously the Metro Area Express light rail; the Ellenbrook bus rapid transit; railcar procurement; airport rail line by 2018, a delayed promise; overtaking lanes between Southern Cross and Kalgoorlie–Boulder; maintaining the tier 3 rail line, a broken promise; and the 100-day plan since 2008, a delayed promise. These are the sorts of day-to-day issues that people want to know about and find it mindboggling that the state government has to ask for more money just to keep the public service going. This \$1.7 billion Loan Bill indicates to people the serious mismanagement of the state's finances. Those day-to-day issues that test and infuriate people are the sorts of problems that people want to see remedied. A very pressing one—I recall raising this issue four years ago—is the illegal use of trail bikes in my electorate.

**Ms L.L. Baker** interjected.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I know it extends to other electorates.

It is a problem that the government has simply not addressed. When we meet with constituents at street corner meetings, it is an issue that is raised. I received a letter from Catherine and Peter Muckett, who also live in Homestead Road, Gosnells. They wrote to me saying —

We did mention the problem of offroad vehicles and the fact that they were causing a nuisance, causing a danger and causing damage to the park.

A local councillor mentioned that the shire knows where some of these children live. It continues —

... and presumably their bikes are housed there. It should not be too hard a problem to pick them up.

I can tell you that the problem is getting worse. Young children, sometimes three on a bike, no helmets, no shoes, unlicensed bikes, unlicensed drivers, probably unroad worthy bikes. The other day I counted bikes going past 16 times.

They have been known to drive right through the middle of people and their dogs on the park.

There is going to be a serious accident if somebody does not change the rules and apprehend these children, confiscate their bikes and bring their parents to account for allowing this dangerous behavior to occur. Are you aware that the fine, in the unlikely event they do get caught, is only \$50.00 ... and the bike cannot be confiscated, and guess what ... if they are underage ... no fine

They also ride up and down the road at night, no lights on imagine the outcry If someone reversing out of their driveway was to hit one of these bikes because it was not visible.

Surely we have a right to live in our homes without the roar of off road vehicles, we should have the freedom to walk safely with our dogs on the park, which is a designated off lead exercise area, families should feel safe to take their children to the park.

I think the Mucketts make an excellent point. They are calling out for help, and calling for government to put its resource—the best resources in the state—towards finding a way of solving this vexed problem. Draft trail bike strategies have been discussed at public forums. There has been all sorts of talk about licensing trail bikes but nothing has been done. No progress has been made on this issue at all and people are left frustrated. I do not think this problem is unique to Labor-held electorates; I think it is across a range of electorates.

**Mr P. Abetz** interjected

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I imagine members from right across the chamber have an interest in seeing some sort of action on this issue but to date we have seen nothing. Meanwhile we are putting the state further and further into debt. What do people see? They see mounting debt. They see us debating at length loan bills of \$1.7 billion and then they find the issues that are impacting on their day-to-day lives are not being tackled. That is very frustrating for people. This is the sort of thing that probably causes the tendency we are seeing in Australia and around the world for there to be disengagement with what has become termed as the political class. We all know that we are just humble members of Parliament doing our best to represent our electorates, but the public are frustrated when we do not deliver solutions to problems facing our society; when we do not deliver on problem-solving initiatives that the community puts forward; and when we do not honour commitments to things like state trail bike strategies. We are not trying things. Nobody is suggesting there is a silver bullet solution to this vexed problem of trail bikes going through parks in our communities but we should be seen to be trying to find a sensible solution. We do not even appear to be trying at the moment. That is one of the reasons we get this disenfranchisement with the political process—this frustration many people have about politics in Western Australia and, indeed, how it is played out across the western world. When governments are not attempting to solve these vexed problems, people become very frustrated.

I turn now to some other matters. I am particularly concerned about what I am seeing in the public service. When we look at our public service, we see that it is operating at what is often described as a skeleton service. It is a cut down service. I realise a political philosophy embraced by the Liberal Party is all about cutting the size of government.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** The Liberal Party's philosophies are a little bit influenced by the Tea Party idea and no doubt the Trump ideology of small government—getting government out of our lives. The fact is that the public service is often best placed to deliver quality service but if we do not have a public service that is there to anticipate, for example, the arrival of so-called disruptive technology, we have knock-on impacts of a taxi industry thrown into turmoil because we have not done the necessary visioning or restructuring to accommodate something.

I think we might be headed for the same sort of problem in the energy sector. We know we are headed for dramatic change in our energy sector given the possibility of people having home storage batteries for the electricity they produce and that people might then be inclined to switch off from the electricity grid and a declining number of people will pay for their electricity through the grid system. People who remain dependent on the grid, most likely businesses and low-income earners, will have to share a cost burden that is proportionately much higher than the one currently faced. This is called the death spiral. Do we have the expertise in the public service to tackle this sort of issue? Opportunities are there. Do we have the expertise in the public service to contemplate the possibility of a highly distributed electricity storage system when grid-connected devices, otherwise known as electric vehicles, are all around the place? These devices are being charged at certain times of the day, and then they are in a position to discharge at others. Therefore, every single car in the Western Australian car fleet would be, potentially, a storage device providing electricity into the grid at peak times. I am unconvinced that we have the expertise in our public service to anticipate the arrival of that sort of technology. This is what we find when we cut down the public service. Services that people are reliant on are disrupted in many areas. We also have this vexed problem of our public service not looking into the future, not visioning how the technologies of tomorrow should be incorporated. That causes problems like those faced by our taxidriviers with the arrival of Uber. If the transport public service were on the ball, we could have anticipated that and worked out how we would accommodate it without the hardship that many taxidriviers have had to face.

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm*

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I have had to tear myself away from an excellent presentation by Professor David Blair, not about electromagnetic radiation and waves but about gravitational waves and the gravitational wave spectrum. It was a fascinating presentation, and an example of the sort of scientific research that we should be investing in. That is something we were hearing was not given due priority by previous governments. I understand that the CSIRO's facility on gravitational wave spectrum research has tens of millions of dollars of equipment and a beautiful laboratory, but no scientists there to continue it, so it has been cut and cut, and sadly so.

The Loan Bill 2016 seeks \$1.7 billion, which is a massive sum. The fact that the state's finances are in this state is bad news for all Western Australians. It means that there are so many things that people would want to have as services that are going to be jeopardised. What we do need to do, though, is to look at the means of protecting or insulating people from the cost-of-living pressures that will inevitably come about when the state's finances are so badly managed. There is one area of public policy about which I am dismayed by the level of fragmentation that occurs around it.

[Quorum formed.]

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I was mentioning the need for us to protect or cushion the community from the impacts of budgetary mismanagement, and noting that there is one area of public policy where we have so much fragmentation of administrative responsibility that it is very hard to see how we could possibly do that—that is, the housing policy. I look at our housing stock. I recognise that many homes are put on the market each year. Sure, the housing market is relatively slow at the moment and property values are not what they perhaps were, but we do not have incentive schemes in place for people to actually renovate a place to make it not just more cosmetically appealing but also more energy efficient, water efficient and waste efficient. That is for the existing housing stock, but what about the 20 000 or so new homes that are built each year? We have a scheme in place known as the six-star household energy efficiency rating scheme, which was brought in by Hon Simon O'Brien when he was Minister for Commerce. I am hearing all sorts of stories about how the detail of that is not being respected and the obligations are not being met. I only have to look around my area to see the quality of housing that is being built—I would be hard-pressed to see anything that would go close to being a six-star rated home, yet, somehow, they get approval to be built. Where does the responsibility for this lie? One would think that the Department of Housing or Minister for Housing would have some responsibility, but, no. In fact, that minister is really more worried about public housing. The Minister for Energy has some interest in this because it is about energy efficiency, but that is not really where the responsibility lies. One would think there would be some responsibility with the Minister for Water concerning water efficiency, or with the Minister for Planning and the Department of Planning on the layout of subdivisions, so that we could have optimum solar access for homes to take in the warming winter sun and keep out the hot summer sun, but that is not really where the responsibility lies. It could be the Minister for Transport, so that people could be well located near transit-oriented developments—that would make sense—or the Minister for Environment, as so much of this is about environmental issues. But, in fact, the best we have at the moment is a Minister for Commerce, who has responsibility for the Building Act. I had this conversation with the executive director of the Housing Industry Association of WA, John Gelavis, and he said to me, “Why don't we have a Minister for Housing who's really responsible for our industry?” This frustration is not felt just by someone like me, who is worried about the cost of living and quality of life impacts on people who are living in dwellings that are ridiculously expensive to heat at this time of the year. Why is it in Western Australia that we have homes where people will be inside at 11 o'clock on a sunny winter's day and the air temperature outside is actually warmer than the temperature inside their home? We are literally forcing people to live in refrigerated blocks because of the poor design of the housing stock. That is something we have to turn around, and that would in turn protect people from the additional costs that go with having to heat or mechanically cool their dwellings so that they are comfortable to live in. It would give people homes that are more comfortable and cost efficient to live in. That is something we really have to do, but, unfortunately, I do not see this government taking any interest in that area at all.

A national housing forum was held a couple of months ago and some really important recommendations came out of that. It was run by the Cooperative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living and the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council. It is worth me reading these recommendations into *Hansard* because they are very sensible, and I think they should be at the core of government policy right around Australia. They call for a more ambitious building energy regulatory target to be put in place for new housing, matching jurisdictional net zero carbon aspirations. They call for regulation of energy standards for rental properties to protect the most vulnerable from energy poverty. They call for disclosure of energy performance, and that it should be mandated to provide independent information and empower consumers. Further, they state that incentives should be established to drive the market beyond minimum regulations. Finally, they state that greater effort should be made to engage the community through the development and promotion of exemplars, providing tangible examples of low carbon housing.

The industry itself, through various peak bodies, is very aware of the issue that we face and that we have to have improvement in the quality. This gets back to a point I raised earlier in my speech about the depletion of policy capability in our public service. If we have a gutted, shrunk down public service, we do not have the intellectual capability to make sure that this is delivered, that these sorts of cases are argued and that we do not just suffer or fall into the trap of having industry players saying, “We want to deliver cheap housing”, which is not actually cheap beyond the moment a person buys the home, but is highly expensive when they actually live in the home and throughout the whole lifetime of a particular property. That is an important policy area that we have to be addressing. It is one that is not being pursued, because we just do not have the capability in the various agencies and, indeed, we have this highly fragmented administrative responsibility. That is letting us down badly.



I have constituents coming to me all the time about the very high gas bills they are receiving at this time of the year. They say, “How can we possibly pay these bills? What is going on when the state government’s finances are so badly managed? If I try to negotiate some sort of delayed payment scheme with Alinta Gas or Kleenheat Gas, I’m going to be really struggling to get what I need to fit in with my budget.” We have a state budget that is already calling for an extra \$1.7 billion because of a sheer lack of good fiscal management. It makes people wonder why we have a state government that is incapable of managing its own finances but at the same time requires individuals to manage their budgets in a way that is quite ruthless and forced upon them. When people are living in homes that are badly insulated or designed, the costs that they face are probably way beyond their means. That is just not reasonable or fair for the people who have to endure that situation. The bill before us represents poor fiscal management in Western Australia.

**MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn)** [7.11 pm]: I rise to add my 20 minutes to the debate on the Loan Bill 2016. Tonight I would like to talk about just one of the reasons the government is seeking a loan of up to \$1.7 billion to keep government services rolling along. I refer to the wasteful expenditure of taxpayers’ money on housing in the Pilbara over the past four years. I have spoken at length in this house about the investments that have been made in houses, apartments and work camps in the Pilbara that are now lying empty. I will do so again and I will summarise exactly what has occurred for the members of the house who are here.

If members cast their minds back to 2012—the year before the 2013 state election—Hon Brendon Grylls had announced he would be running for the seat of Pilbara and royalties for regions money was significantly committed to a number of projects in Karratha and Port Hedland. These projects happened to be in the seat of the Pilbara, the seat for which the then Leader of the National Party had just been preselected. In 2012 the state government, led by the National Party, made a commitment to major investment in apartment building, worker intervention, housing purchases and accommodation camps in both Karratha and Port Hedland. That was in the second half of 2012. The decision to invest happened to coincide with the major projects in the resources sector of the Pilbara region, with the exception of Wheatstone, reaching what is called peak workforce. On the construction scale of manning up to extend the facilities of BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto in the iron ore area, build the new LNG plant on Barrow Island and various other projects that were happening in the Pilbara, the work schedule had reached its peak and was beginning to wind down. Peak workforce is the point at which the maximum number of people who would ever be required on a job has been reached and people would start to be laid off as their services were no longer required.

It also coincides with the time when, as has been acknowledged by real estate agents in Karratha and Port Hedland, demand for housing started to drop. We had various National Party members, including the member for Pilbara and the former Leader of the National Party, the member for Warren–Blackwood, argue that with rents at \$2 000 to \$3 000 a week, they had to act; they had to use taxpayers’ money to intervene in the marketplace to bring down the price of accommodation in the Pilbara. There may have been some justification for this expenditure by the government in helping either the private sector or government investment through the Department of Housing or LandCorp to make land and accommodation available to try to address those high rents, but not when the National Party decided to do it—in the second half of 2012—because peak workforce had come and gone on most of the major projects and demand for housing was starting to wind down. It was at that point they started to invest in and sign off on contracts for the construction of major housing projects in the Pilbara. It did not have anything to do with the marketplace; the market was turning down. What did it have to do with? It had to do with the then Leader of the National Party having been preselected for Pilbara for the 2013 election. He needed to have an argument to show the voters in the Pilbara that the Pilbara Cities concept was real and things were going to be happening. That was why he did it.

What did we actually get for the investment? For Osprey, the camp in Port Hedland, there was a \$150 million investment; in Cottier Apartments in Port Hedland, there was a \$25 million investment; and in the Hedland 125 house service worker intervention package, there was a \$93.3 million investment. That was also in Port Hedland. Hamilton stage 1 never actually went ahead, but we paid up anyway—\$25 million for the purchase of the land. The Quarter, which opened only recently, was going to be an office, apartment and hotel complex. At one stage people were even talking about a casino in Karratha! That dropped away pretty quickly. The hotel project that was going to be part of The Quarter also dropped away in line with the drop in demand for housing and accommodation across the whole of the Pilbara. Nevertheless, The Quarter’s office and apartment complex went ahead at a cost of \$66 million, bringing that little investment package to \$324 million. That figure does not include Pelago, which was the underwriting of the apartments in stage 2 of the Pelago construction program, which would not have gone ahead if the government had not pre-purchased the apartments in that building. That project was not going to go ahead because the developers and the builders had realised that demand was not there to justify the investment. The only reason stage 2 went ahead was that the member for Pilbara, who was running for election to that seat at the time and was Leader of the National Party, was strongly behind this project because it was an apartment complex, and any city supposedly needs high-rise towers to be seen as a city. Taxpayers forked out \$37 million for that little

investment as well. That brings the total for just those projects to \$360 million. The National Party is absolutely blatant in the way it spends money. I quote Hon Jacqui Boydell from the *Pilbara News* of 27 January this year, when she said —

Government should absolutely be in the space of leveraging private investment, getting it started and giving it a leg up.

Does the Treasurer agree with that? Does he believe that that is the government's position? Does he believe that the government should be in the space of leveraging private investment, getting it started and giving it a leg up? A representative of his government was using taxpayers' money while we were here discussing a loan bill of \$8 billion. I will not go into it now, because there will be plenty of time to go into what we have got for that \$360 million. How many people occupy this accommodation that has cost \$360 million? What is the value of that accommodation, as it stands now, given the collapsing real estate prices in the Pilbara? I will talk about that at a later stage, and I am sure the Treasurer will be as amazed as I am. Every time I look at the valuations of what we got for that \$360 million, I become more amazed that a bunch of clowns from the National Party chose to use taxpayers' money in the way that they did—investing at the wrong time, when the market was going through its downturn and leaving the government of the day —

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** When was the investment committed to?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** It was in the second half of 2012, after the current member for Pilbara was preselected and before the state election in 2013.

**Mr M. McGowan:** The prices were in decline.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** The prices were in decline. The real estate agents acknowledged that the prices were coming off, and that is when the government made the investment. At a later stage, Treasurer, I will go through in this house what we have as a result of that foolish squandering of taxpayers' money. It goes to a reflection of the behaviour of government ministers and the National Party in particular. If we go further into the role that they have been playing and look at the questions we have asked in this house about other investments in the Pilbara, and the role of the National Party and its leader in those investments, we see that cavalier approach to not only the way in which taxpayers' money is accounted for, but also the relationship with people in the private sector. I draw to the attention of the house the questions that we have already raised in this house, and articles in the media about the relationship between the Leader of the National Party and Ms Veronica Macpherson of Macro Realty Developments. I am sure members of the house know that Macro Realty and Ms Macpherson have had their assets frozen at the federal level by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, and at the state level by a decision of the State Administrative Tribunal on behalf of the Consumer Protection Division over the way they marketed the \$100 million Newman Estate, once billed as the Pilbara's biggest property scheme. Nick Evans, in *The West Australian* of 18 August, wrote —

The Federal Court found in May that —

Ms Macpherson and her partner, “the notorious property spruiker, Jamie McIntyre” —

... were jointly operating a misleading, deceptive and unlicensed financial services scheme that procured a contravention of the Corporations Act. The scheme asked investors to set up companies to buy properties from Macro. While the investor would be the sole director of that company, Macro would retain effective control of its affairs, in breach of the Corporations Act.

Members know that we have asked various questions in the house of the Leader of the National Party about his relationship with Macro Realty and Ms Macpherson because of information that has come to our sources and information that has been in *The West Australian*. The Leader of the National Party acknowledged in this house that he has met with Ms Veronica Macpherson on a number of occasions. He has also admitted that he has met with investor groups on their tours of those Macro Realty projects in the Pilbara. In fact, there are photographs of the Leader of the National Party with those investor groups beside the coach in Newman, spruiking the benefits of investing in the Pilbara. The Leader of the National Party has acknowledged this, and he is featured on the website of Macro Realty in a corporate video filmed here in Parliament House, when he again spruiked the benefits of investing in the Pilbara. At no stage, I might add, did the Leader of the National Party give any indication of the changing financial and investment environment in the Pilbara during that corporate video. I am sure that he never said that to the investors on the investor bus. I am sure he never said, “By the way, now, in 2016, it is a different financial environment here in the Pilbara. Property prices have fallen by over 50 per cent, and where we were getting rents of \$2 000 to \$3 000 a week, now you will be lucky if you get rent of \$500 a week.” I am sure that the Leader of National Party never mentioned that to the investors in Macro Realty. He certainly did not make any mention of it in the corporate video that he shot here in Parliament House. Despite Ms Macpherson having her assets and those of her company frozen at both federal and state level, and being required to surrender her passport, the member for Pilbara acknowledged that she phoned him, so she obviously had his mobile phone number. He took the phone call and, according to her website, he discussed her new

business venture of obtaining visas or migration status for investors. According to Ms Macpherson's website, that was the discussion that the Leader of the National Party had with her, even after we had asked questions in the house about that relationship.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** Turning to the issue of the Kurra camp, members in this house would know, and the Leader of the Opposition would know because he has raised this on a number of occasions, that the National Party led an absolute charge against BHP Billiton, demanding that the bed accommodation at that camp be reduced to 600 and that the life of the camp not be extended at the levels of accommodation that it had at the time. Members will remember that. It got to the point at which the then Leader of the National Party, the member for Warren–Blackwood, stood the Premier up over the issue. Despite the Premier saying in this house that that extension of the Kurra camp would be signed off and would go ahead, the Minister for Regional Development; Lands said to the Premier that he would not sign off on that. So it led to a stand-off, as you will remember, Madam Acting Speaker, between the alliance partners of the Liberal Party and the National Party in government.

Given the relationship that I have just described to the house between the current Leader of the National Party and Ms Macpherson and Macro Realty, and although the Leader of the National Party has quite clearly and adamantly said that the relationship is no more than him spruiking the Pilbara, his seat and the whole concept of Pilbara Cities, I remind the house that he has not clearly informed either Macro Realty or its investors about the change in the financial circumstances of the investment in the Pilbara. The question that would then be asked is: why was he so adamant that Kurra camp be closed and was Macro Realty likely to get a benefit from the closure of Kurra camp? According to the Macro Realty website, yes, it was, and, up until very recently, it has been spruiking on its website each step of the way in which the National Party was pushing for the closure of Kurra camp. According to its website, the investors in Macro Realty would benefit from BHP Billiton being forced to relocate its workforce to town, taking up the empty accommodation in town and underpinning the investment that Macro Realty had made in Newman village. That is according to Macro Realty. You will remember, Madam Acting Speaker, that on Thursday, 8 September 2016 in this house, I asked the Leader of the National Party, who had acknowledged that he had had meetings with Ms Macpherson, this question —

- (1) At any of these meetings did either the minister, Ms Veronica Macpherson or any other attendee raise the importance of closing BHP Billiton's Kurra camp?
- (2) At these meetings did Ms Macpherson or any other attendee suggest that the closure of the BHP Kurra camp might support or help the development of the Newman estate project?

The Leader of the National Party went out of his way not to answer that question. It got to the point at which I had to raise a point of order to ask the Speaker to direct the minister to answer the question, but he did not answer either the main question or the supplementary question. He refused point-blank to answer either of the questions. It would be acceptable for the ordinary person in the street to draw the conclusion that the relationship between the current Leader of the National Party, the National Party itself and Macro Realty is really unhealthy. It is so close that it requires the Leader of the National Party to come clean and tell the general public of Western Australia and this house about his relationship with that company. This company has had its assets frozen and its CEO has had her passport taken away, yet the Leader of the National Party is taking phone calls from her. He is taking phone calls from someone who has been required by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission to surrender her passport. I think he is duty-bound as the leader of a political party to explain to the general public, the constituents of the Pilbara and this house about the true nature of the relationship between him, the National Party and Macro Realty, and whatever business they got up to.

The Nationals were of the mind that the closure of the Kurra camp would result in thousands of workers being relocated to Newman, thereby, according to the comments on Macro Realty's website, underpinning the investments of its investors in Newman. Because the National Party took it to the level of causing a virtual split in the alliance, I believe, as I am sure does everyone in this house outside the National Party, that it is incumbent on the Leader of the National Party to answer those questions about the relationship between him, his party and Macro Realty. Did the National Party go into bat to try to get the BHP Kurra camp closed in order to underwrite the investments of a company that has now been disgraced? It has been called a Ponzi scheme. Is that what he was doing? Is that what the National Party was doing? There are questions to be answered and so far the Leader of the National Party has run away from them. We are not going to let him get away with this. We are going to keep following him on this one. This has been described as a Ponzi scheme, and his and his party's fingerprints are all over it.

One final issue that I would like to raise goes a little bit to the behaviour of Liberal Party members and their leader and what happened in the Liberal party room today. For the life of me, I cannot understand why the Premier makes life hard for himself, and he does make life hard for himself. We heard the criticism by various former ministers over the weekend and we saw commentary in today's newspaper about the behaviour of the Premier. We have to acknowledge that, in a way, the Premier brings all this upon himself. He certainly does not

learn from his lessons. He has been through this before; he has had disagreements with his backbench. You will remember, Madam Acting Speaker, that he was unceremoniously dumped as Leader of the Liberal Party once before. He has a track record of falling out with his backbench, and many times with his frontbench, but he does not seem to learn from it. He has allowed the preselection of Mr Katsambanis for the seat of Hillarys. He has encouraged Mr Katsambanis to be preselected for the seat of Hillarys. What did Mr Katsambanis say in 2005 about the current Leader of the Liberal Party? He said —

*Western Australians face the unenviable choice on 26 February when the state election in our most isolated state is conducted. Current Premier Geoff Gallop will face off against Colin Barnett who is possibly the most bland and boring opposition leader in any state (in what is a very crowded field).*

That is what Mr Katsambanis said!

Several members interjected.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** After he lost the election in 2005 when he made those crazy statements about the pipeline, Mr Katsambanis went on to say this about the current Premier —

*Barnett broke the golden rule of campaigning—oppositions don't win elections, governments lose them! He also made a gross miscalculation in turning economic management into a negative for himself and a positive for Labor. He made himself the target and it was easy for government ministers to take cheap shots at his grand plan ...*

As members know, Mr Katsambanis has a very strange record of criticising his leaders. Not as a member of Parliament but as a blogger, he made a shocking attack on his own state leader in Victoria. He attacked him mercilessly. He also said, as I have quoted, various uncomplimentary things about the current Leader of the Liberal Party, yet the leader went in to bat for him and supported his preselection! The Premier could have chosen anybody to run against the member for Hillarys, but who did he choose? He chose somebody who had already undermined his leader in Victoria and been critical of the Premier in Western Australia.

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Leader of the Opposition)** [7.41 pm]: I rise to contribute to the Loan Bill 2016. In light of what went on today, it is an interesting day to be making this speech. We have had some debate about today's events that have been really quite amazing, with the Liberal Party, in particular, tearing itself to pieces internally. After the event, the Liberal Party came out with a facade of unity. The Loan Bill shows that underneath all this is another example of major concern by some members of the Liberal Party about the government's direction. Some members of the Liberal Party are concerned about the government's direction and have some policy concerns. As we went over earlier, the member for Alfred Cove had some very, very interesting things to say about the government of Western Australia. In the course of the last three or four days, he said some things about erratic decision-making, a lack of economic leadership, and the fact that the economy is in significant trouble. The member for Alfred Cove is right. There has been a lack of economic leadership, a lack of financial leadership and some real problems with the running of Western Australia over the course of the last eight years. We have been saying this for a long time, Madam Acting Speaker. Week in and week out, the shadow Treasurer, my colleagues and I have been saying it. Back when revenues were strong from a very high iron ore price, we said that we needed a buffer for when prices turned down, because the economic history of the world is such that when prices are high, eventually equilibrium is reached and prices come down. We therefore said that this situation—the very enviable position of very high revenues into the state—was going to change. There was absolutely no listening to these warnings by the government. The warnings were out there and times were good, but there was no listening by the government. The Premier, in particular, did not listen. He had his Treasurers—Mr Buswell and Mr Porter—making noises, as they constantly were, that there had to be restraint from the government and it needed to put in place various plans and the like to try to deal with the financial situation that confronted the state, yet they were not listened to. Members can only imagine their frustration; both of them are no longer in the Western Australian Parliament. Both of them left Parliament due to their frustrations.

**Mr F.M. Logan:** One, by the way while the leader is on his feet, said to me, “When you see a train coming, you get out of the way”!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** There it is. They both left the Western Australian Parliament. Two Treasurers left in rapid succession. Both of them were frustrated by the management of the finances. Christian Porter, of course, fled to the federal Parliament, where he has gone on to bigger and better things, and Mr Buswell left for other reasons, but both of them were very frustrated by the management of the state. Both of them were loyal Liberals. I think they were sort of sending coded messages in their various budgets speeches and in various things that they had to say about how they were going to toughen up and make sure that the finances were under control, but they had no effect. Nothing they did had any effect, so the state's financial position continued to deteriorate during both their terms as Treasurer—or, in the case of one of them, his multiple terms as Treasurer. They had no effect and there was no action on the government's part, which the events of the last few days have brought into focus.

A senior minister in the government has described the management of the state as erratic, illogical and irrational. Let us think about those words—erratic, illogical and irrational. A senior Liberal member said that about the management of Western Australia. It should send alarm bells to everyone that those words were said about the management of the state. Western Australia is now in a very concerning situation. It makes it even more poignant that we are dealing with this rushed-in fourth Loan Bill today, on the eighth anniversary of the government's election—eight years of this style of management and debt and deficit hitting the state.

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** Twenty-three billion dollars.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The loan bills total \$23 billion worth of borrowings. The 2009 Loan Bill borrowed an additional \$8.316 billion—exhibit A; the 2012 Loan Bill borrowed the round figure of \$5 billion; the 2015 Loan Bill borrowed \$8 billion; and this Loan Bill will borrow \$1.7 billion. In total, \$23 billion is contained within these loan bills. Liberal and National Parties' members say that the Labor Party cannot manage the finances, but the totality of the loan bills during the eight years of the Labor government was \$250 million. In the course of this government there has been \$23 billion worth of additional borrowings, and in the course of the Labor government it was \$250 million. That is about a hundred times more borrowings in the course of this government than in the course of the Labor government. Depending on how we want to measure that, we could say that it is a hundred times worse. That is pretty extraordinary by anyone's measure. What galls me the most is that members opposite were warned and knew, but no-one did anything about it. It just kept happening and happening, and growing and growing, and members opposite made noises. Treasurers fled the scene—two of them—literally. Of course, as the Premier always says, they have had no ministerial scandals. That is except for people fleeing the scene of actual crimes and hiding from police—that sort of thing! There have been no scandals, according to the Premier; that does not count. We are now in a position, after Treasurers have fled the scene and fled the Parliament as well, with all this additional borrowing. In the past few days ministers have actually been prepared to tell it like it is. As I said, the column written by the member for Alfred Cove will certainly be going on my pinboard because it is an example of someone prepared to tell the truth about the economic management of the state over the last eight years. We are now in a position whereby the government is asking the Parliament to pass another loan bill. If this bill does not go through the Parliament within the next 40 or so days, the government of Western Australia will run out of money. If the bill is not passed—if the government does not use its numbers to pass it—the government will be bankrupt.

**Mr F.M. Logan:** It will shut down.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The government will shut down. The government has left it so late in the process that in 40 days' time—that is, by the end of October—the state will run out of money; that is, run out of money literally, and that is not a figurative term. Literally, we will not be able to pay our public servants, teachers, nurses and police, or put petrol in the police car and the rest of it because there will be no authorisation. What is more, because of the deficit situation, we are currently in the position of borrowing to do those things. We are borrowing not for capital, but for recurrent. It is an extraordinary situation that we have not seen in this state for decades. Of course it is a loan bill and if government is going to shut down, there are two alternatives for an opposition. We could act like the Republican Party in the United States—no doubt the Treasurer has close affinities there—and say, "That's a good thing; it's sending a message. You are stopping it from all happening." We will not be adopting that approach. We will never adopt an American Republican Party approach on anything. Our approach is responsible; that is, the business of government needs to go on. A better way to deal with the situation confronting this state is to change the government in March next year. That is a better way to deal with the condition of governance in Western Australia. That is the position we are in now; that is the position the Liberal and National Parties have got us into and that is why we are currently debating the Loan Bill before this house.

The economy is in trouble. We only have to look at any single indicator, whether it is rental vacancies, commercial vacancies, the unemployment rate or the condition of the domestic economy in recession, to see that the economy is in trouble. I think the member for Alfred Cove copied some of my language in his article when he said —

The community is clearly rattled by the pace and impact of the post-mining boom downturn. Many have lost their jobs; many more are worried their jobs could be next.

That is true. That is the condition of Western Australia today. As I said the other week, our unemployment rate is roughly the same as Tasmania's. If that does not ring alarm bells, I do not know what does. It is clear that we need a plan to deal with these things. All I hear from the government is bluster. I hear my good friend the Leader of the National Party's bluster about how his plan to repair the situation is to add a new tax. Let me start again. His plan is to unilaterally rip up state agreement acts, that have been in place now for decades—they are contracts—and put in place a new tax, from which 90c out of every dollar will be redistributed to the east. He actually admits that is his plan. The second component of the plan is to get Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton to go to the federal government to get the Commonwealth Grants Commission formula changed. Honestly! The distribution formula —

**Mr D.T. Redman** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Sorry?

**Mr D.T. Redman:** Can I ask a question?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Before the member does, I want to say one thing: a day or a couple of days after the member for Warren–Blackwood became Leader of the National Party, I asked him a question about this and he did not support it. Anyway, ask the question now.

**Mr D.T. Redman:** The state agreements, back in about 1964, put in place two and six a tonne as its rental fee. That hasn't changed since then. Do you think at the very least that should be reviewed?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I say that the thing about a state agreement act is that the middle word is "agreement". It is a contract. If the member knows anything about contract law, there are various ways of ending or changing a contract. It can be breached, which involves damages, or by negotiation an alternative position can be reached. That is not what the National Party is putting forward. If the companies want to agree to lift that charge, or whatever, I say fine. Everyone would say fine. It would still be subject to —

**Mr D.T. Redman:** These agreements also don't have any end dates; they just keep going.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I know. Does the member know who negotiated them? It was Sir Charles Court and David Brand.

**Mr D.T. Redman:** I am not worried about that.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** But the member has to understand that is fine. The National Party's position, which says, "We would like to get more out of the companies", is fine, if they agree.

**Mr D.T. Redman:** Based on the fee that was set in 1964, that hasn't changed since.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Seriously, we sign up to state agreements acts. State agreement acts have gone through this Parliament recently. Is the member saying that in whatever year in the future, a government can say that that was five years ago, or 10 years ago or 15 years ago, and we can just rip that up now?

**Mr D.T. Redman:** What you're saying is that something that was signed 50 years ago is okay and let it go.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Is the member saying that we just rip up an agreement?

**Mr D.T. Redman:** No; I'm saying that we need to review it.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is not what the Leader of the National Party is saying. Is the member saying that he has a different position from the Leader of the National Party?

**Mr D.T. Redman:** No, I'm not. I'm making the point that you can't have something that was signed in 1964 and say that it's relevant today and hasn't got any scope within the agreements to be reviewed or looked at or changed.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** If it is an agreement, it is a contract. It has to be done by negotiation if we want to change these things. That is the way a contract works. It is also an act of Parliament so it requires legislation to go through this house, so there are actually two phases. The reason a lot of companies want them is that it is a contract, and it has the backing of an act of Parliament as well.

**Mr D.T. Redman:** Security of tenure.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is right, and that is the basis upon which investment in Western Australia has taken place. I am surprised I have to argue this with people. I am surprised I have to explain this to people. The member for Warren–Blackwood might think it was unfair and unjust, but the natural way of dealing with these things is to reach a negotiated outcome. That is not what the National Party has said. The Leader of the National Party has said that these agreements will be changed via unilaterally changing the agreements. That assaults the fundamental basis upon which billions of dollars have been invested in Western Australia. However, what really gets to me is not that. What gets to me is that we will tax Western Australian employers to send money east—to send 90 cents out of every dollar east within three years. That is what gets to me. Then, as the shadow Treasurer said, that will lock in a whole heap of new spending, because that is what the Leader of the National Party has said, and then when the grants commission formula kicks in and we lose that additional revenue, because our GST share goes down, our debt situation will worsen. Honestly, I saw today's newspaper. I think we need some deeper analysis on these things to make that point. When that point is explained to people, they suddenly get it. Sure, the Commonwealth Grants Commission formula is flawed. Sure, it should be better.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Let me say this: what incentive do other states have to agree to the Commonwealth Grants Commission formula changing if before we do that, before we seek that outcome, we send them a whole heap of additional revenue? All we are saying to them is: you beauty! The commonwealth gets a whole heap more money out of Western Australia but now we want it to change the formula. What is the incentive to agree to that? There is none. It is just silly. But I think that reflects the state of the government today. It is full of illogical, irrational and erratic decision-making, and I do not think it is only the Premier.

I note that today the Premier said that there will be changes with Western Power. I am interested to know what they are. The Loan Bill asks for significant additional borrowings on the part of the state. The Treasurer has always been saying that Western Power will be sold. He has said it numerous times in here. However, today the Premier went out before the cameras and said something different about that. I would be interested to know whether the Treasurer can let us know the changes that might be in store for Western Power. I am very interested to know the Treasurer's plans and compare them with what he has said earlier about these issues. I think today's party room meeting must have been robust and interesting with the debate going on about these things. All those rats and cockroaches were being squashed in there, as one Liberal member indicated.

**Mr P.B. Watson:** What are you, John?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** No, these guys are not in that camp. I am pretty sure that the member for Kalamunda is not in the camp of the rats and cockroaches. I think she was referring to some others. I thought that commentary, and that members of the government are describing their own colleagues that way, was very telling. That is pretty extraordinary stuff. It goes to show the condition of the government today. No doubt, lots of things were said in this party room meeting. It would be interesting to know the policy outcomes from that party room meeting and, in particular, the outcome for Western Power.

**Ms R. Saffioti:** The Treasurer was not standing as close to the Premier today on the front steps.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The Treasurer was down the back having a conversation. When they were all pledging loyalty, the Treasurer was down the back talking to someone. That is pretty interesting.

As is protocol, we support this legislation. But there is a need to point out why we are in this position, and that is what I have sought to do.

**MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys)** [8.02 pm]: As legislators, we are in the extraordinary situation of having to continue to borrow so much money because one man has been allowed to dictate the economic direction of this state without any proper checks and balances. I will get to one of the main reasons we lack those checks and balances later. That problem is systemic and not necessarily of the Premier's making. Over the past few years I have prepared numerous large savings in this chamber, including having a moratorium on royalties for regions, delaying the airport rail link and selling off public housing. This week we have learned that the former Minister for Transport desperately tried to protect over \$1 billion in commonwealth funding, but the Premier seems to know best—and look at the state's finances at the moment! Fifteen former Liberal ministers have now had the distinction of serving under the current Premier. I will list them: Hon Norman Moore, Hon Dr Kim Hames, Hon Dr Elizabeth Constable, Hon Simon O'Brien, Hon Troy Buswell, me, Hon Christian Porter, Hon Robyn McSweeney, Dr Graham Jacobs, Hon John Castrilli, Hon Helen Morton, Mr Murray Cowper and Hon Ken Baston. Now we add to the list Hon Tony Simpson and Mr Dean Nalder. That is 15 former ministers in that short period.

Those who do not know how things work in this government are probably somewhat bemused about why our Premier has not been able to enjoy a fanfare of celebrations as he achieved the milestone of passing Hon Richard Court as our fifth longest serving Premier, having now surpassed the times served by Sir Charles Court and Hon Richard Court. What distinguishes this Premier from both those gentlemen and Sir David Brand? It is the lack of respect he commands from most of those who have served under him. It is ridiculous to dismiss most of those members as disgruntled. All those former Premiers had ex-ministers and by and large they did not speak as disparagingly of their former leaders. All those Premiers also had to make many tough decisions, but they knew how to take advice.

Two public comments this week have been instructive. One was when the Premier, during his media conference on Sunday, referred to his former Minister for Transport by saying, and I quote, "I gave him extraordinary opportunities." When I last checked, ministries were bestowed by the Crown, not the emperor. Can one imagine our former Liberal Premiers talking in that way? "I gave him this or that." I would have hoped that the job was given to the former minister because he was the most capable person to perform it, not because of some dictator's generosity. This approach was reinforced with the second comment made on 6PR this morning when the government leader in the other place praised the Premier for being authoritarian. That was the exact word used. In doing that, the upper house leader offended, as he often does, the most basic tenets that the Liberal Party was founded on. It highlights why people, such as me, have been forced out. Robert Menzies founded the Liberal Party on principles of democracy and accountability, including an accountable government and local preselections. Former Liberal Premiers adhered to these principles.

Not coincidentally, the government leader in the other place is also a powerbroker in the Liberal Party, as we know from the extraordinary intervention in Hillarys where a failed member of Parliament from Melbourne with no local support has been foisted on the electors. The government leader in the other place holds no regard for democracy in the lay party either. Indeed, the Liberal Party is rotting from within at the mercy of a dominant faction, not because that faction enjoys dominant grassroots support, but because it manipulates the numbers on the party's state council. That is the systemic problem to which I referred earlier. We now have what some

would term a perfect storm: the Premier has isolated many of his natural supporters in the party and is now beholden to a faction that firmly pulls the strings of the dozen or so MPs in this Parliament who have delivered the Premier a hollow victory in this week's party room meeting. Talk about doing a deal with the devil!

This faction is predominantly focused on preserving its power and has little interest in the welfare of this state. At the time of a crippling financial situation, when this Parliament is occupied with debating the borrowing of more substantial sums of money, where are these people focused? I can tell members that they are focused on branch stacking. As I speak, the leader and deputy leader of the government in the other place both have staff who trying to transfer into the Woodvale branch, along with a group of others. None of them lives or works in the area. Some of these individuals are moving at the behest of the Minister for Mental Health; Child Protection. Others are from the famed Globalheart sect, with which the Minister for Environment; Heritage and the federal member are intimately involved.

Of the remaining Liberal Party members in the Premier's cabinet, I know that almost half, including the government leader and deputy leader in the other place, are focusing their attention on stacking the Woodvale branch. To what gain? It is not for the retention of government or addressing the state's economic woes. It is merely the preservation of power. No doubt dovetailing into this effort is the federal member's interest in putting his candidate into the seat of Kingsley going forward. He tried to stack every branch in Hillarys without success and had to call on his factional masters at the Liberal state council to intervene when his failed candidate from Melbourne lost the local preselection. We know how badly the federal member behaves when he does not get his way. I know that he was not happy with the choice of candidate in Kingsley in 2005—that was the Liberal candidate—and he confessed to me that he had donated money against the Liberal campaign. Given this current round of branch stacking in the seat and, indeed, the seniority of the people involved, it is an appropriate time to raise that historical issue.

When I was a Liberal Party member I said many times that I felt duty-bound to preserve various confidences. I said many times that if I became an Independent Liberal, I would not feel bound by that protocol. Now a third of the Parliamentary Liberal Party wants to spill the leadership. As I said when I went to the crossbench, I did not want to be on the Premier's *Titanic*. I cannot be blamed for what has transpired. The Premier holds only on to the pleasure of a faction that has little interest in the welfare of Hillarys or WA's economic situation and has a lot of interest in preserving its members' positions. If everyone is so confident the Premier will be here at the next election, they can go to Sportsbet now, as I said earlier, and more than double their money because he is odds-on not to be here. If they think this government is going to win the election, they could almost triple their money!

During the matter of public interest debate earlier today, I spoke about the fact that ministers now have an enormous number of staff compared with what they used to. When I was a minister during the first four years of the Liberal–National government, we were allowed 10 staff in our ministerial offices. That was it. They managed quite well. What do we have today? Looking at the list of ministerial offices, some have up to 15 staff; the Premier's office has too many to count. That is at least 50, 60 or 70 extra jobs in ministerial offices, yet we are getting rid of public servants elsewhere. If it is jobs for the boys, they can come in.

In the Treasurer's office, Mr Blair Stratton has just been employed for six months—until the next election. He will be a term-of-government employee. Over the last eight years, that man has gained nearly \$200 000 in settlement figures after leaving. He worked for the then Minister for Energy, now Minister for Education who is in the other place. That minister lost a few hundred million dollars of public money on failed energy proposals. Blair Stratton was his chief of staff at that time. After the furore, Blair Stratton left there and worked for Synergy. He got a top job in Synergy as a government adviser. He was there for three or four years. When he left there, he got another huge payout. Synergy is a government corporation, predominantly. Now he has gone back into the Treasurer's department. Why the hell would the Treasurer want another policy adviser for six months? He already has Robert Taylor, the ex-political reporter, who used to criticise the Liberal government all the time.

**Dr G.G. Jacobs:** He didn't like me much.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** He did not like many people in the Liberal Party, I can tell members.

**Mr D.T. Redman:** He was Max Trenorden's chief of staff.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Was he? He was always either against the Liberals or he was with the Labor Party or with the Nationals, in my view. He certainly was not with the Liberals. He criticised the Liberals all the time. Now it has the gamekeeper who is also the poacher!

All I am saying is there has been an increase of 50 or 60 jobs in the past nearly four years under this Premier. The first four years he used constraint and every minister had to adhere to the policy of no more than 10 staff.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** It is also the levels of those staff.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I know; he has upped the levels so they all get a fortune. I said earlier, the first thing he did when he got back into power in 2013 was to give his chief spin doctor, Dixie Marshall, a rise of \$84 000 a year. A lot of people do not even earn \$84 000 a year!

**Mr P.B. Watson:** It is called a bullying allowance.



**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The member is quite right; it is called a bullying allowance. Narelle Cant, the other one, she got almost the same. Two of the most precious people in his department got those two sorts of rises. Oh dear, I have dropped a few papers. Perhaps somebody could pick them up for me, if there are some decent people around here. I know there are one or two.

What did the Premier do? He spent all that money on his own people. That is wrong. I want to share something with members. I do not know whether I should do this. I got an email a few weeks ago. I have always been really concerned about state debt. It is one thing I have highlighted over the last four years. During the address-in-reply four years ago, in every Premier's Statement speech and in every budget speech I have highlighted state debt—four years ago, three years ago, two years ago and this year. I predicted where it would be at this moment in time. I have been pretty much right. I said Western Australia would lose its AAA credit rating. I said our debt would be nearly \$40 billion. It is nearly \$40 billion, but that was supposed to be in the next year or so. We are now looking at nearly \$40 billion. We are nudging \$40 billion right now. I predict that in the next three years or so state debt will get to \$50 billion because there is nothing happening to reduce that debt. Even if this mining tax was to come in, what will the government do with it? It is not going to pay down debt; it is talking about spending more money on infrastructure. Any fool can build infrastructure. If I were given a credit card without a limit and without a settlement date, I would build the most beautiful infrastructure ever in Western Australia. Just give me that. If I can do the same as the Treasurer, or the Premier in this case, I can say, "The kids in the future can pay for it." It will not be our kids in the future who will pay for this debt; it will be our grandchildren's grandchildren. It will be decades before those debts that are mounting up now will be repaid. One should never spend more than one earns. That is a principle. Most good housekeepers would do that. My wife would not spend more money than she gets in her housekeeping budget and I would think most people —

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange:** Pay the mortgage.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Mortgage! A mortgage is different—that is buying an asset. We are not buying assets with these debts. We are not buying assets that provide an income. We are buying fancy stuff like Elizabeth Quay and Perth Stadium—things we do not actually need yet. We want them, but we do not need them. The Premier has been building monuments to himself. When this Premier leaves this Parliament, he will not have paid back one cent of the debt he has incurred. You guys over there will be over this side of the house next year, I reckon; those who get through the election. They will not be in government, I am sure, because the people of this state do not want to see the sort of debt level we have at the moment. My good friend Gareth Parker and I think alike very often on this issue. I have done opinion pieces in the paper and I have spoken in this house on budget speeches, addresses-in-reply and Premier's Statements. He and I have said the same thing—only he is not highlighting it to the public, which he should be doing. I do not blame him; I blame the editor for not looking at what is necessary to tell the public. We have to be honest with the public. If we say state debt is nudging \$40 billion, it goes over people's heads. They do not realise; they do not think about it. It is too much to take in. It should be on the front page of *The West Australian* or *The Sunday Times*—please God, let them stay separate papers—that state debt every single day of this year, next year and the year after is going up by \$15 million. Yesterday, state debt went up by \$15 million. Today, state debt has gone up another \$15 million. Tomorrow, it will do the same. People ask me how I have worked that out. It is quite simple. I looked at the state debt from one budget to another and divided that difference by 365, and it came out at roughly \$15 million a day. One does not have to be a science teacher or a maths expert to work that out. People can work it out for themselves. That is what it is—\$15 million every day! People should be told the truth: "If we divide that debt between you all, when it gets to \$40 billion to \$50 billion we are looking at about \$18 000 for every man, woman and child in this state." That would make people think. That is what I will be telling people in my electorate because I do not want them to vote Liberal; I want them to vote for me. At least I will speak up for them.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** We want them to vote for you too.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I know the member does. We are still talking, are we not, about what could possibly happen in the seat?

I want to share something with members. My good friend the Prime Minister sent me an email about three or four weeks ago. I did not know whether to share it with everybody in this house tonight.

**Mr M.P. Murray:** Go on!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I did not know whether to, okay, because I like Malcolm and he likes me. I would like to say we are personal friends. I will not read the whole email because some of it is a bit personal. In one part, he talks about the forty-fifth Parliament and what he wants to do and all the rest of it. I promise members I have the email from the Prime Minister here. It is not a forgery; it is from the Prime Minister. It was not done by somebody in the upper house; it was the Prime Minister, okay? I want to read one very short paragraph because it is absolutely salient to what we are talking about today with a \$1.7 billion loan bill—yet another one—and state debt going higher and higher. The email refers to various things, which I will not read out because some of them could be classed as personal. I am happy to share this letter with members.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The letter reads —

Rob,

...

How long are we prepared as a nation, to load more and more debt onto the shoulders of our children and grandchildren?

That is what the Prime Minister said. I promise members that that is what the Prime Minister said in an email to me.

**Mr P.B. Watson:** How do you sleep at night, you mob?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I do not know how they sleep at night. I really do not. They would not spend their own money the way they are spending the people's money—not in a fit!

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** What is your solution to the problem you have identified?

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I have told the Leader of the House many times, but he does not listen. He should open his ears! I said to cancel royalties for regions, or at least put a moratorium on it. I said to cut back on expenditure. At the moment, the government is spending royalties for regions money on things that would not be normal government expenditure. Every cent that is spent on royalties for regions is borrowed money. The Treasurer knows it, and the Nationals know it. Yes, they do!

**Mr D.T. Redman:** It is legislated; it is the first piece that comes out!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** It is legislated that the regions will get roughly equivalent to a billion dollars a year. We cannot afford it. That is why the Nationals are spending royalties for regions money on normal government expenditure. Royalties for regions builds these great big swimming pools and beautiful community halls and the rest of it. They are lovely, but councils cannot afford the upkeep.

**Mr D.T. Redman:** Rubbish!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I am telling the member that they cannot continue to do this. Royalties for regions gives them money for all these very expensive apartments and houses up in the north west—great! All these deals are done with these dodgy developers, in my view—these Ponzi schemes. The member for Warren–Blackwood knows it is true that that is what his leader signed him up for. Public money is being spent up there, and the value of those developments has gone down by 50 per cent at least. It is money from the member's electors. It is not his money, his money or even his money! It is not even the emperor's money! It is money that comes from the people in our constituencies. They are the ones who are paying for all this. We have seen increases in taxes, charges and fees throughout the whole state. I have pensioners and self-funded retirees in my area who are screaming because they thought they had put enough money away to see them through. Let us talk about businesses. I can tell members what the growth business is in Western Australia—it is liquidators. They are coming from over east to Western Australia because so many people are going bust from what is happening here. We have record unemployment; in 30 years it has never been as high as it is today. I hope the Treasurer is proud of that, because he simply goes along and does whatever the emperor says.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** You obviously don't look at data very often.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Yes, I do look at data very often—I do!

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** If you did, you would not make that statement.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I look at it all the time, and I make that statement right now. I even look at data!

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** It is absurd.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The Treasurer can say that it is absurd, but he will get a chance to respond, my friend.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz):** Member for Riverton, I will have to call you if you do not desist.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The Treasurer used to be respected when he was a genuine economist who would have crucified the Premier.

**Mr M.P. Murray:** That is when the world was flat!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Exactly, member for Collie–Preston.

That is what the Prime Minister says. Does the Treasurer take any notice of what the Prime Minister says?

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Riverton!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** The Treasurer can stop spending some money. Look at the money the Treasurer is wasting.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Riverton, I call you for the first time.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** He is so vicious, honestly! He is so vicious, I do not know how to take it—goodness me! I am so sensitive; I really am.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I have only been here 24 years! I have had worse than you, sunshine! I can tell you—much worse than you have had a go at me, and I am sure there will be others who will want to. When I come back after the next election, I am sure there will be more.

My point is that the Prime Minister has said this—the top man said this!

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Riverton!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Mr Acting Speaker, throw him out if he is going to keep on being naughty. Put him in the naughty corner, Mr Acting Speaker. It is where he should go.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** There's not enough room.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Exactly, member for Girrawheen!

I am trying to say that when the Prime Minister of our country, the top person in our country, asks, "How long are we prepared as a nation, to load more and more debt onto the shoulders of our children and grandchildren?" then that Prime Minister is really concerned at what is happening not only federally but in Western Australia. He is not a debt person; he is not somebody who likes debt—nobody likes debt. Western Australia's debt has gone up so much in the past years.

I want to touch on a couple of things before I move on to some of the other stuff that I would love to deal with. I have so much stuff here! Our crime rate is spiralling out of control. Unfortunately, the number of deaths on our roads is reaching unacceptable levels. It is because the government is not spending the road trauma trust account money in the areas that it should. The government is cost-shifting so much stuff to other departments. The Treasurer knows this full well. I can tell the Treasurer that that sort of action is costing people's lives. I hope the Treasurer is proud of that!

In an earlier speech I spoke about the Premier's staff. I have to tell members that they think they are an unelected cabinet. They seem to think they can make all the decisions of cabinet. They have not got much time for the ministers and their officers. I have been there as long as the Treasurer has been there.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** We know you have been there, and you were a disgrace!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Why was that?

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** You were a disgrace as a minister.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Why was that?

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Because you were a disgrace.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Can the Treasurer tell me why?

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Incompetent!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** You are the most incompetent Treasurer I have ever come across. You really are! You are totally incompetent!

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** You are totally incompetent, which is contrary to what you used to be before you came into this place.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members, I remind you to direct your comments to the Chair and that might reduce the number of interjections.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** He makes me so angry; I am so cross with him. He can be so nasty at times; he really can.

As I was saying, we have an enormous rise in crime. I want to go back a little bit. I have said many times what the debt situation was. I predicted it four years ago, and we have reached the level that I predicted. Debt is nudging \$40 billion. We have lost our AAA credit rating. We have seen massive increases in unemployment—

the worst in 30 years. Unemployment is rife in some areas. We are losing thousands of jobs. The government says that it has not made anyone redundant. No, it has not, but when somebody leaves they are not being replaced. The government is as good as sacking people, because in certain areas they are not being replaced—except in ministerial offices, where they are getting top money. It is jobs for the boys and girls. This Premier used to be totally against that sort of thing. When the Premier was on this side of the house, I thought he had integrity. He was always complaining when the Labor government did exactly what he is doing now! If we do not learn from history, we are bound to repeat it. Unfortunately, that is what is happening. I really do not think that the Premier will make it to the election—not as the leader.

I read a couple of really good articles from over east, where they watch what goes on in Western Australia. I will quote an article from *The Age* of 18 August this year. It was written by Peter Martin, a highly respected journalist in the economics area. I am sure the Treasurer would know of him. The Treasurer has probably read the article. I am sure one of his staff would have given it to him. The article deals mainly with Christian Porter, when he was Treasurer. It is not about the incompetent Treasurer we have now. I will read some of the article, which is referring to Christian Porter. It states —

He spelled out the problem clearly enough. His 2011 budget said GST revenue would “fall dramatically” from \$3.6 billion in 2011–12, to just \$2 billion in 2014–15.

His response was to spend even more. He promised spending growth of 7.9 per cent in 2011–12, and achieved 10.2 per cent. And he borrowed more, boosting state government debt from \$13.2 billion to \$18.4 billion in two years.

He borrowed for a new football stadium, a new purpose-built home for WA Institute of Sport, a new Perth Museum, a new hospital and new schools, and a \$270 million Perth Waterfront Project, all in the middle of a construction boom when the cost of building was soaring.

We were building all this stuff and paying the highest possible cost, when the rates for bricklayers and everybody else in the construction industry was up there. Why did we not put some money aside from the mining boom? If we were able to spend a bit now in a more responsible and moderate way, we would be getting these things built much cheaper. The Treasurer says, “We built Fiona Stanley Hospital.” The government built it, but it did not pay for it! The former Labor Treasurer, Eric Ripper, put \$1.2 billion in a legislated account, which could earn interest, for Fiona Stanley Hospital, but this Treasurer will never accept that.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** You were a cabinet minister when that data was there—explain your behaviour!

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I can assure the Treasurer that I spoke to Christian Porter on many occasions about the level of state debt.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** You were a cabinet minister.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** He was really concerned as well, but he left the sinking ship!

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** As a result of that you were partly responsible.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Why, Treasurer?

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** It is cabinet solidarity. You make decisions collectively.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** That is rubbish! The Treasurer knows that nothing goes to cabinet without the Premier’s approval and nothing comes out of cabinet without his approval. We have a one-man band in the emperor here who runs this government. The Treasurer is insignificant; he just does what he is told to do. I do not think many of those former ministers would have a good word to say about the Treasurer. Dr Doolittle, as somebody from his electorate with whom I spoke called him today, would do anything the Premier asked him. The Leader of the House is the Premier’s most loyal soldier, but what did the Premier do when he made the member for Kalamunda the Leader of the House in 2013? He virtually sat him on the backbench instead of seating him where he is seated today, which is where he should be, because he wanted the now Deputy Premier and his good, good friend and drinking mate, Troy Buswell, to sit next to him. The poor old member for Kalamunda had to sit behind the Premier. The Leader of the House has never sat there—ever.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** You’re a bitter old man.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** I am not a bitter old man at all. I am angry that the government is wasting so much public money.

#### *Withdrawal of Remark*

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I seek clarification from you, Mr Acting Speaker. When members on this side of the aisle interject, you often call them. I wonder why you do not do it when government members interject. The Treasurer has continually interrupted and you have not said a word. When we do it, you always call us. You’re a disgrace.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz):** I have called the member for Riverton. I have ignored the interjections from this side of the house continuously and I have called the member for Riverton.

**Dr A.D. Buti:** You're a disgrace.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member, withdraw that comment; otherwise you leave the chamber immediately. You do not call into question —

**Dr A.D. Buti:** I will not withdraw, because you are an absolute disgrace as an Acting Speaker.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** In that case, I ask you to leave the chamber.

**Dr A.D. Buti:** Under what circumstance? You can call me.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** You are not allowed to call into question —

**Dr A.D. Buti:** I said that you're a disgrace.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** You are not allowed to do that.

**Dr A.D. Buti:** You are a disgrace. You can name me. You can call me.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Given your conduct, member for Armadale, you are not to remain in the chamber. I have been advised to simply call the member for Armadale to order. I will call you to order and if you persist, I will call you to order every time until it is time to eject you from the chamber. I call to order the member for Armadale.

**Mr J.H.D. DAY:** Point of order. Is the member for Armadale leaving? Mr Acting Speaker, whatever the member for Armadale might think about the issue, he repeatedly called you a disgrace and refused to withdraw.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Armadale, I am on my feet.

**Dr A.D. Buti:** He's made his ruling.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Armadale, I call you for a second time.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** I am on my feet. The member for Armadale kept talking, but the Leader of the House was quiet.

**Mr J.H.D. DAY:** Mr Acting Speaker, I seek clarification.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** We already have a point of order. You will have to wait your turn.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Midland, I call you to order. That is unacceptable conduct.

**Mr D.A. Templeman** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Mandurah, I call you to order. Points of order are to be heard in silence, member for Mandurah.

**Mr J.H.D. DAY:** Mr Acting Speaker, this is becoming farcical, I agree. The member for Armadale, regardless of the issue he raised, refused to withdraw from calling you a disgrace on numerous occasions. No member who calls the person in the chair a disgrace, no matter who they are, should be allowed to get away with it. I simply seek clarification about your ruling.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Further to that point of order, I take the point of order. I should have asked the member for Armadale to withdraw. The Leader of the House is quite correct. I ask the member for Armadale to withdraw.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Mr Acting Speaker, you made a ruling and that was the end of the matter. You then took a point of order from the Leader of the House as to how you should behave. You made your ruling and that should stand as your ruling. You should not try to retrospectively change the ruling after coaching from the Leader of the House. That is not how you should be operating. You made your ruling. You called me and that was it.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** I do not need a lecture from the member for Armadale. It was pointed out as a point of order that I should have called on you to withdraw. When the Acting Speaker does not hear something and does not take action, any member can call a point of order and ask that a member withdraw the statement. That is what I asked you to do. That is the matter. I ask you to withdraw what you said, member for Armadale.

**Dr A.D. Buti:** Withdraw what?

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** You referred to me as being a disgrace. That is unacceptable conduct. It is unparliamentary, so I ask you to withdraw.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Before I accede to your request, why did you not see it necessary to ask me to withdraw earlier but now you see it as necessary to ask me to withdraw?

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Because there was a point of order and I accepted that point of order.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I withdraw.

*Point of Order*

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Mr Acting Speaker, you called me to order just now, but the fact of the matter is that I was making a point of order. I was making a legitimate point of order. The reason that the member for Armadale called the point of order in the first place is that there were repeated interjections from the member for Riverton, but he was not being called to order. He was called to order once when there were clearly about 10 opportunities to call him to order. You made a ruling on the member for Armadale and the matter was settled but you then took a point of order from the member for Kalamunda, as Leader of the House, and then you rose to your feet. The practice in this house is that members sit down when you are on your feet. It applies to this side of the house but, again, it does not apply to that side of the house. You allowed the member for Kalamunda to remain on his feet while you were responding to a point of order. It is hardly any wonder that we have disarray. In the process of making a legitimate and correct point of order, you called me to order and named me. It is extraordinary.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Please resume your seat. I think I have said enough on this matter. It is very clear — Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members, I am on my feet. I will call anyone to order who continues to speak while I am on my feet. I have heard what the member said, but there were so many interjections from the opposition side of the house that I did not call. I called the member for Riverton.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members, I am on my feet.

**Mr P.C. Tinley** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Willagee, I call you to order. Member for Hillarys, you have the call.

*Debate Resumed*

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Mr Acting Speaker —

*Point of Order*

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** I will make my point clearly so that you understand it. I simply ask, Mr Acting Speaker: are you going to call the member for Kalamunda for remaining on his feet while you were on your feet; and, if not, why not?

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** I did not call him to order. He was not speaking, but there was yelling coming from opposition members, including you, member for Midland. I do not accept that. I was looking this way because —

Several members interjected.

*Suspension of Member*

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P. Abetz):** Members, I am on my feet. Member for Armadale, I call you again. That is now the fourth time. I ask you to leave the chamber.

[The member for Armadale left the chamber.]

*Debate Resumed*

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Hillarys, you have the call.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Boy, oh boy!

*Point of Order*

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** Mr Acting Speaker, I move dissent from your ruling to eject the member for Armadale.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** I have just been advised that under standing order 48, the member cannot move dissent from a ruling that is made at the discretion of the Acting Speaker.

*Debate Resumed*

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Mr Acting Speaker, as I said earlier today, it is a great day to be an Independent—it really is! I cannot believe that I have caused this furore. I was quietly going through my budget speech —

**Mr D.T. Redman:** You're a walking disaster.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Obviously! I have upset a few people and I will upset a few more because I again want to talk about the Premier. He is the worst Premier this state has ever had. He does not know how to appreciate his friends. He talks about loyalty, but he does not know the meaning of loyalty. Look what he did to Hon Liz Constable. He would not have formed government without her help. He was not prepared to be the leader in 2008 unless she agreed to go around with him and be part of his team. He would not accept the leadership under any other circumstances. He won that election with Hon Liz Constable. What did he do to her? Eight months out from the next election, she was doing a great job as Minister for Education, and he stabbed her in the back and got rid of her. I have had coffee with Hon Liz Constable many times, and she has said to me many times, about his behaviour, "You never forget who took you to the dance." She took him to the dance; she helped him become the Premier, and look at the way he behaved towards her.

And yet we have Troy Buswell, a drunkard who smashes up other people's cars, leaves the scene of a crime, and the Premier stands up for him and covers it up. They arrange to send his chief of staff to an accounting firm that I believe gives advice to the government on the sale of assets. It is the same with the media adviser they got rid of who was espousing the Leader of the Opposition's house and where it was. They sent him over to Queensland, paid all his fare and shifted all the stuff out of his apartment.

**MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland)** [8.41 pm]: What extraordinary times we have here. We have seen some shambolic displays from the Liberal Party in recent days, and the shambolic relationship between the National Party and the Liberal Party knows no bounds. We are here today debating the Loan Bill 2016 because of the Liberal Party's mismanagement of the state's finances. Specifically, this Loan Bill is here because the government has run over budget, not by \$1.7 million, not even \$17 million, but \$1.7 billion. That is the extra money that the government needs by the end of October because, otherwise, it is not that some little building project will not go ahead; it will mean that the state cannot pay its bills. It will not be able to pay teachers, nurses, education assistants and police officers because it has mismanaged the budget. I remind members that it is only September; the budget was brought down in May. In May we were told that the budget would see the government through the next 12 months, but just a few short months later the government has botched the budget to such an extent that it must walk in here with yet another loan bill, for \$1.7 billion. This is the major disgrace of the Barnett government.

The Premier would like to have a legacy of all the projects that he has carried out, such as Elizabeth Quay and so forth, but the biggest legacy that this Premier will leave the state is debt. The member for Hillarys pointed out that it is costing \$15 million a day. We could build a couple of primary schools a day for that. We could build a police station. We could employ goodness knows how many additional nurses, police officers and education assistants. Maybe we could build some proper rehabilitation centres to deal with the drug problems that are out of control in this state. So many worthwhile things could happen. All of us have big wish lists for our electorates, because we have got bugged all over the past eight years of Liberal government. Yes, some areas have been deluxed, including the Premier's own electorate and the Deputy Premier's electorate. They have done very well out of this government, but my electorate and other electorates in the East Metropolitan Region have not been so fortunate.

This government has its own priorities, which are not for the ordinary working people of this state. Its priorities have not been for the people in the East Metropolitan Region. Its priorities have not been for pensioners. Household expenses have gone up beyond belief. In my electorate and, I expect, in most other electorates—although not that of the Premier, the member for Scarborough or even the member for Kalamunda—such as your own electorate, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr P. Abetz), people are doing it really tough. They are getting extraordinary water bills every two months and exorbitant electricity bills. Their car licences have gone up and the cost of public transport has gone up. Now the emergency services levy has gone up considerably. There has been no end of pain for ordinary mums and dads.

Even those people whom the government said it would serve when it was first elected are doing it tough. I have had person after person come in and talk to me about land tax bills—not just people living in Midland, but people from the broader region have come in and seen me about their land tax bills. People in the Swan Valley and in the hills and other areas have come to see me. Land tax bills have gone up dramatically, not because the value of people's properties has gone up in recent years, but simply because of this greedy government.

The various measures the government said it would put in place to reduce costs and reduce red tape or whatever just have not come to fruition at all. However, this bill, for an additional \$1.7 billion, is very light on detail. It means that all the money that people in the community could well do with for really worthwhile projects is not there. It also means that because of this overspend and this colossal, unprecedented interest bill, household charges will continue to go up. It also means that necessary works in a range of electorates cannot take place. It also means that staffing and services in the community have been cut. I have had things cut from the Midland community. The legal aid office, in place in Midland for decades, has been removed, courtesy of a combination of state and federal Liberal governments removing legal aid from Midland. A good proportion of the people accessing legal aid in Midland were Indigenous people. We know that the incarceration rate for Indigenous

people is high. We also know that someone with good and effective legal representation has a much higher chance of staying out of jail, and their chance of being found not guilty is much higher. However, the problem for a lot of my constituents is that they are reliant on legal aid, and it is now no longer convenient. They somehow have to find the money, the time and inclination to come into the city to avail themselves of those legal aid services. If they want to speak to a legal aid lawyer, and they qualify, they must come into the central business district of Perth. That is crazy. The government says it is interested in decentralisation, but many services are now being centralised in the CBD that used to exist in the suburbs. The disarray of this government starts at the top. What we have seen displayed today is more evidence of the dictator who has run this state for the last eight years—the member for Cottesloe. Long before eight years ago, people in the Liberal Party knew of some of his proclivities and what the likely issues would be in putting him in the top job. That is why members of the Liberal Party avoided it. That is why they were in opposition. They churned through a large number of opposition leaders—there were so many that I cannot remember the order—and at least one of them had more than one go. They included the Premier, Matt Birney, Paul Omodei and Troy Buswell. I think the Liberal Party started the previous term with Colin and it ended up going back to Colin, but for most of the time that it was in opposition, there was a pretty united group called the ABC group—the “Anyone But Colin” group.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** Led by the Liberal Party president.

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** That is right.

The acrimonious relationship between Hon Norman Moore, now the Liberal Party president, and the current Premier of this state had long been on record, but they were desperate times and they were desperate enough to give Colin a go. It was often remarked on because of the close proximity at that time. They knew full well the issues that the current Premier had had in dealing with his education portfolio and that he had not been able to keep within his spending limits. When he was given the allocation for his education portfolio by the then Treasurer, Hon Richard Court, quite clearly his instruction to his department was: “Just keep spending; don’t bother reining it in. The fact of the matter is if we overspend, they’re just going to have to give us the extra money.” That is what had to occur over and over again, and he got away with it. It was only in sheer frustration that John Langoulant, the then Under Treasurer, penned that letter. He was sick and tired of the situation that the then Minister for Education had placed him in, as the minister continually overspent his education budget. Imagine if every minister in cabinet took that same blasé attitude. It seems that the Premier brought this same blasé attitude to government.

This links in pretty interestingly with the way that the Liberal Party selects its ministers. The Liberal Party has a policy of allowing the Premier to select the ministers. It is his little fiefdom. He chooses who is in and who is out. I think that is pretty unhealthy, because the moment that anyone questions what the emperor wants or questions the emperor’s decisions or does not do what the emperor says, they can be out on their ear. This Premier likes to talk about stability in government. The only stability has been the Premier. He has stayed there for the full eight years, as he has churned through, as pointed out by the member for Hillarys, no fewer than 15 ministers in eight years. Fifteen ministers have been out the door in eight years. I think that could be a record. That is what I call a recipe for instability in government. If my numbers are right, I understand that we have had seven swearing-in ceremonies of Treasurers under this government. We had the former member for Busselton and then we had the Premier, and then it was back to the former member for Busselton and then it was Hon Christian Porter for a time. I think the Premier ended up having another go in the job before we eventually got to the current Treasurer, who I think, as one of my colleagues remarked, might have been a more appropriate choice in the first place. If the current Treasurer had been chosen on day one, he surely would not still be in the job because, one way or another, they would have banged heads, and if someone bangs heads with the Premier, they are out the door.

We have had this autocratic leadership—this dictatorship—by the Premier. He has had absolute power in government. He has dictated what happens in every portfolio. Some really unedifying aspects have been dragged through the media in recent days. Former ministers, many of whom I think are good and honest people, have in total frustration made clear what went on. I do not think Hon Helen Morton, for example, relished the opportunity to effectively air dirty laundry in public. I do not think Hon Tony Simpson relished the opportunity to air dirty laundry in public. They have done that out of total and complete frustration with the way the Premier has run government. He has been a dictator. He has called the shots in just about every portfolio. He goes on radio and has a thought bubble—we have heard it; from day one, we have talked about the Premier’s so-called thought bubbles—and we think to ourselves: I wonder whether that is the first the minister has heard about it. Now we find out that in many cases it was. He announces things on radio and responds to something and basically takes the portfolio in a new direction. He has a weird approach to things whereby he says, “Is; isn’t.” He says that two opposite things can be true at the same time. That is what the local government amalgamation process was all about. First, councils had a free choice to amalgamate and then when councils wanted to amalgamate, he said, “No; there is a process.” Then he told some councils that they could not amalgamate with their neighbouring council and they had to amalgamate with another neighbouring council. Then he said that



amalgamation was not compulsory. Tell that to the local governments that went through a process for two years. I cannot remember how much money was wasted by local governments, because they were basically snookered into a corner. Probably \$20 million or \$30 million of ratepayers' money was wasted across the community for a process that ultimately did not come to fruition. Communities such as the Mundaring community were put through hell for a couple of years. Other people can talk about situations south of the river.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mrs M.H. ROBERTS:** The City of Cockburn was supposed to be amalgamated. It was up in arms at one point. I did not follow the issues south of the river all that closely, but I know there was quite a debacle there. There was certainly a debacle in Mundaring. That council was told that it would be pushed down the path of forced amalgamation. The Shire of Mundaring was going to be forced to amalgamate with the City of Swan and the Shire of Kalamunda was going to be forced to amalgamate with the City of Belmont. None of these councils wanted to amalgamate. At an earlier stage, the Town of Bassendean and the City of Swan had been working on a potential amalgamation, but the Town of Bassendean was told that it had to amalgamate with the City of Bayswater. It did not want to amalgamate with the City of Bayswater but had been amenable to talking through a process with the City of Swan. Amalgamations that could have taken place in a cooperative arrangement were not allowed because the Premier had his own panel, with his hand-picked appointment, Mel Congerton, heading it up, and it came up with what I can only assume were some quite political solutions. Every time members spoke to the councillors and the CEOs about their meetings and discussions with the Minister for Local Government, most of them said that he was a pretty good bloke and a pretty reasonable man. He gave them certain assurances, and I am sure that the Minister for Local Government was quite genuine in those assurances. The minister was then continually overridden by the Premier and he had no choice but to take the Premier's direction. For about two years, he must not have known whether he was coming or going. The minister is the one at the coalface who constantly goes out to the various occasions, events, meetings and so forth held by local government authorities. He was getting it in the neck from all the local government authorities. The Premier then stood up in Parliament and said that there would be no forced local government amalgamations. The political heat got so strong that the Premier turned around and abandoned the process. He absolutely hung the Minister for Local Government out to dry. This was after the previous Minister for Local Government, the member for Bunbury, went through a similar process in the last couple of years that he was minister. I do not think that he knew whether he was coming or going either. This is the Premier's kind of autocratic control. I kind of wonder who called the shots when the member for Vasse was Treasurer, as the Premier kept announcing things that suited him that had to be added to the budget. Similarly, when Hon Christian Porter was Treasurer, he would have the budget just about set and then the Premier would announce some new pet project or make some other commitment and suddenly the budget would be off the rails again.

Remember those early years when the newly elected Premier was flying high and he pulled off the remarkable, unexpected win in 2008? Remember those years when he presented state budgets and would announce projects that there was no funding for in the budget? We would say that there was no money on forward estimates, and he would say, "This is the budget, one year at a time." We all stood here and said that he could not operate like that. Those of us who had been in government under the stewardship of Geoff Gallop and Eric Ripper knew that money had to be put on forward estimates. Hon Eric Ripper would not talk about a spending envelope for the single year we were in; he would talk about the spending envelope of the four years of the forward estimates, and often beyond. He wanted to know what capital expenditure lay in wait for us over the horizon so that he could budget accordingly. If some big, long-term spending commitments were made, they needed to be pencilled in. That is why when we announced capital projects, money was always put on the forward estimates for them. Amusingly enough, if there was not money on the forward estimates for projects that we had not even announced but which people believed would go ahead or had to happen, we would get complaints from the then opposition that we did not have the money on forward estimates. They believed in it when they were in opposition, but not when they got to government. These are just more examples of the kind of never-never spending that the Premier has done. He has not had a proper process.

Members can have a look at what happened with the new Perth Stadium on Burswood Peninsula. Is it not incomprehensible that there are no funding arrangements with the major tenants and the building is just about complete? That does not really put the government in a position of strength. No proper funding arrangement was put in place with the Australian Football League. It made no commitment; the Premier just kind of announced it and hoped that people would come along and help him pay the bill afterwards. What was his commitment from the federal government? What was his commitment from the AFL? What long-term arrangement did he have in place with either the West Coast Eagles or the Fremantle Dockers? We now know that it is absolutely nil and nothing. That is just irresponsible. There would have been a significantly lower cost to renovate and build a new stadium at Subiaco—certainly a cheaper option than what the Premier went for. He went for the grand scheme and that is a call that he and his government made—I suspect that largely he made it. There is no doubt that the stadium will be magnificent when it is finished but it will cost, all-up, way more than what the Premier has said. It will be significantly more. The site works around it and the cost of the train station that had to be installed will

mean phenomenal costs. Maybe over the next 50 years or something it will prove to be a significant landmark building and people will really enjoy going there, but, it came at a cost. It came at the cost of borrowing. We literally had to borrow to build projects such as the stadium, which was plainly irresponsible.

Meanwhile, in just eight years, state debt has escalated from \$3.6 billion to over \$30 billion, and is heading towards \$40 billion. In the stint I had as shadow Treasurer a few years ago, after the Premier had been in office for about three years, I asked him whether he would put a cap on state debt at \$20 billion. He said that I was talking nonsense and he would not get anywhere near \$20 billion. He said a \$20 billion cap was not needed because it would never happen. It has now gone way, way beyond that. He spent like a drunken sailor and like there was no tomorrow. That means he has now saddled the community with state debt. For an electorate like mine, that means we still do not have a new train station in Midland. In the May 2008 budget, we put some money on budget for the upgrade to Midland station. We never got that upgrade. The money was taken off budget in the first year that Colin Barnett was in office. We are still waiting for a commitment for that. Midland train station should be moved to the new hospital site so it can link in to the town centre and Cale Street, and flow through to the main shopping area at Midland Gate Shopping Centre; that is what should happen. Just as the new train station is going in near the Burswood sports stadium, our new Midland train station should be near the new hospital and feed into the main Midland shopping precinct. After eight years, this government has made no commitment. It is really difficult to make a commitment now because it has absolutely blown the budget. Out of the city, the train-holding yards need to move from an area in East Perth to Bellevue, in my electorate. This, of course, is a fantastic opportunity to commit to a train station at Bellevue and provide new end-of-line facilities there. However, again this government has made no commitment; it will not go ahead, although it is long overdue. It will be difficult to deliver because of the disastrous state finances.

I refer to school bus routes in my electorate in areas that have grown and where thousands of houses have gone in. The school bus route from La Salle College and Governor Stirling Senior High School finishes in, for example, Jane Brook at the start of Dongara Circle. It does not go properly into the housing estate. I would simply like that bus—the community, the kids and the mums and dads would like it too—to go another 500 metres or another half a kilometre to a more central location in the suburb. That is not far to go, but it would make a huge difference. What would it cost to get the bus to go half a kilometre more a day? It might cost \$20 day—\$100 a school week. It is not a lot of money. The response from the Minister for Transport was that the government is trying to cut out school bus services. It wants to remove them, shorten them; it does not want to expand them. That is the sad state of affairs we are facing. It wants to provide a lesser public transport service for kids to get to school. It is just wrong.

Other bus services in my electorate have been curtailed. There is no weekend bus service to Helena Valley, which is one or two kays from Midland town centre. A lot of elderly people live in that area, people are retiring there and more retirement accommodation is being built, but there have been no results in that area.

The much needed link from Lloyd Street through to Abernethy Road would benefit not just my electorate but about six electorates in the vicinity. It is the City of Swan's number one priority and the city cannot get an answer out of the government because the budget has been blown. The money has been spent elsewhere. That extension would increase the productivity for freight and trucks that pass through and it would result in less commuter congestion and so forth. It is an obvious and necessary link, yet we are still waiting for it. Hundreds of thousands of people in the eastern region are still waiting because this Treasurer has blown the budget and spent the money on other priorities. We do not have primary school infrastructure and a range of things we need.

**MR P.B. WATSON (Albany)** [9.12 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to speak on the Loan Bill. I will probably drift away a little from what other people have said and talk more about my electorate. The first thing I want to mention is that Albany has been saddened by the loss of Annette Knight, a freeperson of the city. She was the first woman newsreader and announcer with ABC regional radio and had a career that lasted 27 years. She served three terms as Mayor of Albany from 1978 to 1998. In 1996 she was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for services to local government, particularly through the then WA Municipal Association, the then Country Urban Councils Association and as Mayor of Albany. She was a WA Citizen of the Year winner in 1997, and received the Governor's Award for Regional Development in recognition of her commitment, vision, leadership and contribution to the growth, development and prosperity of regional WA. She was a government-appointed delegate to the 1998 Constitutional Convention, was a justice of the peace for 35 years and held the University of Western Australia's vice-chancellor's award for outstanding service to higher education, having been instrumental in establishing Great Southern Grammar and the UWA Albany Centre. Annette was made a commissioner of the WA Tourism Commission in 1995 and was appointed deputy chairperson of the commission's board in 1998. In 2001 she was awarded the Centenary Medal, awarded on the centenary of the Federation of Australia, for her service to the community of Albany, and in March this year was inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame.

Those are just some of the things she did, but it does not really explain the gist of who Annette Knight was. Annette Knight and I did a radio show every Saturday morning for over 10 years. It was the highest rating little

show all over Australia on the ABC. I was not a member of Parliament then; I was just the manager of the local post office. There was a great understanding between us. I used to call her the “Old Grey Mare” and she called me the “Roo Dog”, and people throughout the Great Southern loved hearing our banter on Saturday mornings. Annette, the person, was as comfortable with princes, kings and queens, and the person in the street. She always had time for everyone. She will be a tremendous loss to Albany. We will miss seeing her smiling face. I had the opportunity to see her in the hospice a couple of days before she went and she still gave me a bit of cheek and I gave her cheek back. We gave each other a big hug. I would like to read out something that was said at her funeral service, entitled “For Annette”, which states —

May you continue to inspire us:  
 To enter each day with a generous heart.  
 To serve the call of courage and love  
 Until we see your beautiful face again  
 In that land where there is no more separation,  
 Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,  
 And where we will never lose you again.

As I said so some of my friends, Albany has lost a legend and I have lost a very dear friend. Rest in peace, Annette, and I extend my deepest sympathy to Tom and the family.

Turning to something a little lighter, over the weekend the Great Southern Football League had a tremendous grand final in Mt Barker. The league had decided to hold the grand final game at different grounds every year, but even under the old system Mt Barker would have hosted the grand final this year anyway. They were the favourites, but unfortunately for Mt Barker, North Albany got up and won by three points. It was a tremendous game of football. Both the North Albany league and reserves sides won the premiership for the third year in a row. I told the boys I would mention their names in Parliament. The North Albany league team included: Adam Ditchburn, Regan Lloyd, Grant Corcoran, Matt Orzel, Luke Cameron, Nathan Crudeli, Nick Barrow, Jacob Hobbs, Stewart Davies, Alec Haskins, Matt Smith—the Kleeman medallist, which is the fairest and best for the whole competition—Addison Dew, Marcus Trevenen, Graham Ross, Jake Becroft, Elliot Smith, Stefan Ericson, Daniel Parker, Dom Knight, Ray Padfield, Brock Ramsay, Jack McPhee, who was fairest and best on the day —

**Mr P. Abetz** interjected.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Would the member for Southern River not interrupt. It is bad enough when he is in the Chair, without interrupting down here.

**Mr P. Abetz** interjected.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Madam Acting Speaker, can you call him to order? Jack McPhee was the Alan Barnett medallist, as best and fairest on the day. I mention the coach Craig Dew, who has done a very good job with the juniors; he coached the seniors this year.

I turn now to the North Albany reserves players. The fairest and best was Benjamin Hitchcock. The other players included Jyrin Woods, Michael Martain —

Several members interjected.

#### *Point of Order*

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** It would be helpful if the members for Eyre and Southern River did not interject on the member on his feet. This is a general debate. It is clear the member for Albany is trying to advocate on behalf of his community. It seems that he is being constantly interjected on and pilloried by two members who do not appear to intend to speak on behalf of their constituents.

**Mrs G.J. GODFREY:** I cannot see the relevance of two footy teams to the Loan Bill.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** It's a general debate.

**Mr P.B. Watson:** It's a general debate. If you'd been here for such a long time you'd know.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman):** Member for Albany.

**Mrs G.J. Godfrey:** Very nice. Thank you very much!

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Belmont, I am on my feet.

**Mrs G.J. Godfrey:** My apologies, Madam Acting Speaker.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Settle, settle; it is late. We are all good. Take a deep breath. It is a general debate.

A member interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** You are not in your chair, Treasurer. I think I might call you for that.

A member interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Treasurer, you are called. Are we all settled now? The member for Albany has the floor. He has my full attention. We are all good.

*Debate Resumed*

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I forgot who I mentioned last so I will go through the reserves team again. The players include Benjamin Hitchcock, Jyrin Woods, Michael Martain, Bradley Jetta, Brodie Sumich—who won the Jim Hull medal for fairest and best on the day—Charles Walmsley, Scott Mackenzie, Nathan Dovey, Ryan Roznoczny, Warrick Ellery, Brett Hall, Grant Freeborough, Ryland Galante, Bradley Randall, Alan Maris, Luke Chambers, Nathan Komene, Mitchell Woods, Todd Knuiman, William Mcsweeney, Brendan Selleck and Stuart Ranford. The umpire of the year, which is an award that I do, was won by Ryan Tindale.

We had the hockey grand finals at the weekend. The winners were the Tigers and its players were Brigitte Rockwood-Turner, Bonnie Crook, Phoebe Howard, Hollee Worrell, Sian Turner—good on you, Sian—Alex Keymer, Georgina Lilford—I used to teach her how to umpire basketball—Lauren Hortin, Tamara Lowry, Julie Keymer, Lisa Leonhardt, Cionne Fage, Rebecca Nairn, Georgetta Powis, Renae Hordyk, Mikayla Penn and Bonnie Crook. The men's hockey was won by Manypeaks for the fifth year in a row. That is a tremendous performance by the Manypeaks hockey team. Their players were Kieran Howie, Brett Stevens, Riley Scott, Lachlan Stainton, Tim Pyle, David Pyle, Adam Scott, Daniel Baker, Reece Curwen, Matt Stevens, Hudson Field, Trevor Greay and Andrew van Rooyen.

The fairest and best in the Albany Netball Association was won by Kelly Judd.

**Mrs G.J. Godfrey:** Well done, Kelly.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Kelly Judd is the member for Wagin's daughter, so do not take the cheek out of her or the member for Belmont will have to answer to the member for Wagin. The Albany Netball Association's competition was won by Kangas 1: Rani Rawlinson, Marcia Trevenen, Kellie Rogers, Kym Quartermaine, Brooke Baines, Alyssa Perry, Jodi Ferry, Hannah Mackay, Rebecca Ravenhill and Carrie Beeck.

Last Friday night we had the Albany Chamber of Commerce Business Awards. The microbusiness category—less than five employees—was won by HideAway Haven, Becki Shaver and Maggie van Santen. They do a wonderful job in promoting the region. The best business with five to 10 employees was won by Albany Harbourside Apartments and Houses, Mark Wareing and Louisa van Halteren. That is a great place to stay if members are going to Albany. The business achiever category was won by Grande Food Service, Daniel Till. The start-up business category was won by Carlyssa Birkbeck of the Temple Boutique Spa, which is just up the road from my office. The young business person of the year was Daniel Till. The best home-based business was HideAway Haven. Best community business was Southern Aboriginal Corporation, CEO Asha Bhat and chairperson Glen Colbung. The customer service award went to Colette's Curtains and Blinds, Colette Knowlden. Business person of the year was Darren Jerrard from Albany Office Products Depot. Old Slick has been delivering our office products for quite a few years now. Business of the year was HideAway Haven.

I congratulate the Albany Sea Rescue Squad. It was a finalist for the outstanding group operations award at the recent emergency services conference. The operation in question was a very difficult rescue at night in large seas. Although it did not win the award, the Albany Sea Rescue Squad and, more particularly, the people involved in that rescue received a never-before-given commissioner's commendation. Congratulations to Tim Wilkinson, Jason Shepherd and Chris Johns for their dedication to duty in a difficult situation and to their continued dedication to the Albany Sea Rescue Squad. I must congratulate the government on providing the brand-new sea rescue boat. It is a marvellous boat. It is very difficult because the squad is situated at Emu Point and it takes about 12 or 13 minutes to get from Emu Point out to the Gap where a lot of our tragedies occur. People get washed into the water out there. The squad does a tremendous job. They are all volunteers. Most people, when they go in off the Gap or off the rocks, will try to swim back in. The only way for someone who goes off the rocks at the Gap or Salmon Holes, or anywhere such as that, to survive is to swim out. The south coast is a bit different from the west coast; on the west coast we go into the water and everyone swims around and gets out, but the south coast is completely different; it is sheer rock going down into the water. Once someone gets into the water, they will not get out on the rocks. They have to swim out. The only person who has survived at the Natural Bridge is an American guy who swam out and lay on his back. They rescued him, but the other ones who have gone in have not had as much luck.

The Albany Basketball Association has also done well. I congratulate Colin Davies for winning the Arthur McRobbie Award at the Basketball WA awards night for his dedication to Albany basketball. Colin's

efforts have been vital in driving Albany basketball forward and this recognition is well deserved. Colin has not only coached teams but also played and coached umpires. He is the umpire's adviser down there now. Colin does a tremendous job. He is a bit cheeky to me sometimes, but he is a very good person and it is tremendous that he has received that award. To be involved in amateur sports is a thankless task. I know that he has been on the committee. It was a tremendous effort by Colin and I congratulate him on behalf of everyone in Albany.

I refer to the conditions on South Coast Highway. I took the Leader of the Opposition out and we drove from Albany to Bremer Bay. I am sure that the member for Eyre has come down that road a few times when he comes down to Albany to see something decent for a change—a bit of sunshine and nice beaches!

**Dr G.G. Jacobs:** I see you along the cyclepath.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Yes, and he tries to run me over. The member for Eyre would know how bad that road is, particularly for trucks. It is not like our normal roads. The roads there drop right away. Someone can drive in the gravel on Albany Highway to Perth and it is not a problem; they hit the gravel and come back on. If someone goes out on that South Coast Highway, it drops right down like that. Many trucks have turned over. It is a real problem. I was glad that the Leader of the Opposition came out and had a look. We will be making some commitments for the next election to look after that road. We will have a very good minister for regional roads, the member for Collie–Wellington —

**Mr M.P. Murray:** Preston.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** He is the member Collie–Preston—sorry, Mick. I have shared a room with the member for Collie–Preston for eight years so I should know where he is.

When we were out there we looked at a group called 888 Abalone. We met Peter and Craig Kestel out at Bremer Bay and their abalone farm is just magnificent.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Member, is that in Augusta?

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Yes, there is one in Augusta but they also have in one in Bremer Bay. It is the same group. They bought the old one and they are spending a lot of money. Peter has spent a lot of money there. It is just amazing. They get a little spoon; they probably get 100 000 or something and only a small number survive. Then they put them all on these little flat things in the water and there are different stages. They turn them over and shift them to the next thing. It is a tremendous business and I know they want to expand. They want to get more land.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Is it the same business that owns both of them?

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** It is the same people. Peter had the one there and then he bought the one there and they have done it up.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** He was going to expand the Augusta one, and it is tremendous.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** It is, with the way they have all the different stages. Not only that, he employs people, including marine biologists. They have marine biologists there to make sure that they get everything right.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** He started off as a diver, you know.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Yes. Pete is a wild man. They are doing a tremendous job down there and they want to expand. It is a great tourism thing. We went there and I remember the Leader of the Opposition asking how long we were going to stay there for. I said we had it for an hour. I had to drag him out after an hour and a half. When we were there we saw the Shire of Jerramungup, which has issues out of Bremer Bay with the tourism side with the Bremer Bay Canyon with the Orca whales; there are all sorts of sea life in the canyon out there.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** It is a great biosphere out in that area. It is tremendous. It is a great opportunity not only for business, for tourism and for extra jobs, but also for our region. I hope that it can expand. Peter and Craig are very savvy businessmen and they work really hard. Let us hope we can help them in the future.

A camp event is coming up. I would like to thank the state government for giving \$20 000 to The Big Camp Out, run by The Fathering Project. Wayne Bradshaw is doing a wonderful job as the chief executive. It gives dads the chance to take part in activities with their sons and daughters. Being involved in local sport over a long period, I have seen the same parents come down. Junior sport is just a drop-off point. People come along, drop their kids off and go shopping. It is the same old ones. I coached some boys from primary school right through to high school. I coached them in cricket, footy and basketball. There was probably one person there on a regular basis. Football was not so bad because we got some kids from the regions. I found that kids from Mount Barker and Cranbrook would come and play junior footy. Their parents came all the time but we had a lot of problems with the local parents. We want our kids to go the right way. People keep saying kids are going off track and they are not doing the right thing. We have to get parents involved again. People talk about footballers being role models, but the role models start at home. I feel sorry for a lot of young Noongar boys in Albany who are living with

their grandparents or with their aunts and uncles. We have to look at this if we want to stop it happening down the track. I think we have it all arse about. We are putting all the money in later on. We have to put the money in early to get kids on the right track. Tell them about drugs and alcohol in primary schools and let them know. Show them the health effects. Do not just say it is not good for them; say, "This is what happens to people who take drugs. This is what happens to people who smoke." We are too much of a nanny state when we cannot tell little kids because they have enough to worry about. But if they do not learn about it at school, and someone offers them a smoke or a tablet, they will be a lot worse off. Talking about drugs and tablets, the government is very strong on being tough on drugs. Through questions on notice I found out that the great southern has one drug-testing machine. The police can pick up someone and test them for drugs but they have to take another test back at the police station to make sure it is okay. There is one machine for the whole great southern region. When Albany sends it to Williams or to the edge of the wheatbelt, that means there is not one in Albany. The police can pick people up, but if they show up okay on the alcohol test, they have to let them go because they do not have a testing machine there. I do not know how much they cost —

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** It is terrible. It is done in a police car in New South Wales.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** We have not got the thing. The system here means they have to be taken back to the station. I was down at the station one night on another issue when they brought someone in. The police thought that person was on drugs but they had nothing to test them with.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** We have invested very heavily in new testing equipment.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** But the whole great southern police district only has one.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** They are in individual patrol cars now for testing.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** They have to bring them back for this machine to test.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** No.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I was down there watching them do it.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** That was probably the old one; they have new stuff. They take a test and give one to the person tested. They take the other one and bring it back and, if they find something, it goes to the ChemCentre for testing.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I do not think it has got to the great southern yet. I found out through a question on notice.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Okay; maybe. But they are rolling it out and it is improving.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Okay. This is something royalties for regions should be doing.

**Mr M.P. Murray:** The road trauma trust fund.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** No—that is balancing the budget!

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** It is going through the road trauma trust account. They are trying to increase the number of them.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** The member for Collie–Preston has had success already!

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** It costs \$300 a pop.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** We are now talking about the Loan Bill. I remember when loan bills were \$1 million or \$2 million. Mick and I have been here 16 years. When we get onto the Loan Bill we get up and talk about our electorates—probably \$1 million or \$2 million or something like that. In 2009, it was \$8.3—is that billion?

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** It would be.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** In 2012 it was \$5 billion, in 2015 it was \$8 billion, and the fourth one, in 2016, is \$1.7 billion. I try to tell people how much it is. Rob Johnson, the member for Hillarys, said today it is \$15 million every single day. We have to tell people how much it is costing. Will the member for Hillarys do my tax return?

A member interjected.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I will get onto another thing that has bugged me. I sat back and watched the Olympics recently. I saw all these experts sitting in the studio saying, "This person has failed." They were very negative. Kitty Chiller came out and said, "We're going to win all these medals", as though there is not enough pressure on athletes, when they go away after training for years and years, to peak on that one day. It is not the day before or the day after. I will give an example. When I was in Mexico, I got sick the night before I ran.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Was that in 1968?

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Yes, 1968. We were told not to drink the water. I did not drink the water but I cleaned my teeth in the shower.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** Did you take them out first?

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I will be taking someone's teeth out in a minute and they won't be mine!

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Was it difficult when you were running? What did you do when you were running after you cleaned your teeth?

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I ran a lot, but it was in a very short space. I got sick the night before I ran. Ralph Doubell, who was my roommate, did exactly the same thing. He came out and won a gold medal but got sick the night after.

**Mr M.P. Murray:** Life is nasty, is it not?

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I am just saying that the people who win gold medals produce it on one day out of 365. Young girls and guys coming through are going through puberty. I had the opportunity to talk to the two girls who are swimmers. I told them what had happened to me. They said one of their coaches was in Mexico and he got crook too. I do not know what event he was in. They were so flat and depressed. They won the relay by breaking the world record and had a gold medal, but they did not want to show it. They had them in these little bags. They did not want to get them out and show them because to show that meant they had failed in the other events. It is a funny way of looking at it. Twenty-four-hour media means stuff has to be produced on a regular basis, but these people will be affected for a long time. They are lucky they have access to psychologists at the Australian Institute of Sport, but people can tell them as much as they like. These kids dedicate their lives to sport. A particular journo—how can I say this without upsetting Basil Zempilas; sorry, did I mention his name!—talks as though he is an expert on anything. I can remember him as a rather average footballer for West Perth. He was very knowledgeable about every event and what people should and should not be doing, saying, "They have let us down." The guy from the ABC in Melbourne said that was a real choke. The guy was on *AFL 360*. I looked up his résumé. He has never played sport in his life, but there he was saying that this person had choked in the final. She choked, but she probably finished fifth in the world. When I hear stuff like that, I get very frustrated.

I think I have mentioned the name of everybody in Albany. To those whose name I have not mentioned, I apologise. But they will all get a copy of this speech with love.

I was hoping that the Minister for Health would be in the chamber, because we have a situation in that those who participate in the patient assisted travel scheme can claim their money only by cheque and some people have a real problem with that. When one of my constituents went into the Commonwealth Bank the other day, he was not allowed to deposit his cheque over the counter. I do not know what the issue is. He said that everything else is paid for by EFTPOS. I will follow that up with the minister.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** By the way, member, that is a problem with quite a few government accounts. They do not accept EFTPOS or BPAY and they should.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Thank you.

Three months ago one of my constituents got a referral to a specialist at Fremantle Hospital. He was told that there is a 12-month wait for an appointment and another possible 12-month wait for surgery. That is not very good for people who live in the country, because they have to travel up and down all the time.

I refer to another gentleman who 20 years ago had throat cancer. He was referred to a speech pathologist who visits Albany and he was told that it could be a 12-month wait before he sees a specialist. This is not good enough for people in regional areas. It is not good enough for people in city areas, but I know that it does not happen in the city. Country people use PATS to go to Perth and they seem to fight a lot with the various departments to get the money. Treasurer, I am disappointed that my children and grandchildren will have this debt hanging over their heads.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** But you have a hospital and an arts centre.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** An arts centre?

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Don't you have a major convention centre.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** That was paid for by the previous government. You guys opened it, but we put all the money in. I had to screw Eric Ripper to the ground to get that money. I am very disappointed. It is all right saying that we have all these things, but our children and grandchildren will have to pay for them.

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [9.42 pm]:** It is good to see the member for Albany setting low benchmarks as usual!

I will make a contribution to the Loan Bill 2016. We have heard from the Leader of the Opposition and various members that this is indeed the fourth time in this government's tenure that a loan bill has been presented to this place. As has quite rightfully been pointed out, this loan bill is for \$1.7 billion, and it will once again add to the

debt of the state with which this government has burdened the people of Western Australia. It is very sad. It is a poignant point to make that this is the government's fourth loan bill, because in contrast, the previous Labor administration had one loan bill for a mere \$250 million between 2001 and 2008. It is a sad indictment on the state government and on Liberal and National Party alliance members that the state's finances are in this parlous situation. It is very disappointing in an electorate such as mine when things are tight—budgets are tight, employment markets are tight and people are finding it more and more difficult to make ends meet. The government will leave a debt and deficit and a sense of great vulnerability and concern that will cause a lot of problems for people in my area. One of the challenges for the Peel region is that a number of historical aspects of our economy affect our social fabric. The first is that unfortunately we have a significant unemployment problem that was compounded only recently when Mandurah was unfortunately highlighted as having the second highest unemployment rate in the country. If we couple that with the fact there are no major new jobs being created in the region—certainly nothing is being encouraged by government—there is angst in families in the Peel who now very much feel the concerns that are related to job insecurity and unemployment and the impact that that has on people's health and wellbeing. As the member for Mandurah, it is distressing to talk to businesses and to people who have lost their jobs, whether those jobs were in the mining industry or related industries or whether they were professionals who held high paying jobs in engineering or higher professions. Families in numerous suburbs in the Mandurah–Dawesville electorates and the wider Peel region are doing it tough. What they want to hear and see from government is a plan for jobs for the future and a plan to create a greater sense of optimism and hope amongst people. The sad thing is that that has not been demonstrated by this government. I have been doing a bit of doorknocking of late and I need mention only one name to elicit a negative reaction.

**Mr J.R. Quigley:** In my electorate, member, it is the Premier, Mr Barnett.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is the same when that name is mentioned in my electorate. Mention of the name Barnett creates a strong reaction from people. What do they say? They say things such as —

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange:** Thank you.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Oh mate, I tell you what—they do not say thank you. They do not thank you for the debt that the government has delivered for the state. They do not say thank you for the record debt with which the government has burdened future generations. That interjection is a classic example of how out of touch the member for Churchlands, the Premier and the government are. How absolutely appalling to say that people would say thank you to the government! The member's interjection demonstrates how out of touch he is, and that is the problem we face with this government.

I am going to outline a number of projects and programs that are important to my region because despite the concern, some people are attempting to do some great things to change that lack of optimism because optimism is so important to a region such as mine.

The first is the business community of Mandurah, particularly the Peel Chamber of Commerce and Industry, of which I have been a member for 16 or 17 years. A couple of weeks ago, the Peel chamber held its annual Peel business excellence awards in the City of Mandurah. Over 450 people attended. Donna Cocking, the president of the Peel chamber, rightfully and proudly claimed that it was the biggest chamber event of its kind in Western Australia. I have heard of other chambers around the state holding events, but it seems there is no comparison in attendance numbers. What struck me about the chamber's excellence awards was the absolute commitment to turning things around in the region and doing whatever possible to ensure that local businesses prosper and succeed. The comment made quite often was, "We'll do it without the support or encouragement of the government; we don't trust the government now, so we'll do it on our own." It is interesting to note that a number of the businesses that were nominated for the various categories, and indeed the businesses that were winners in those categories, were run by younger people who are part of start-up businesses. They were start-up businesses that, with a great deal of enthusiasm and some good business planning and business cases, are now succeeding. Businesses that started out as one-person shows are now employing five, six or up to a dozen people. It was tremendous to see them celebrating their success on that night. The chamber's role is particularly important in promoting the importance of small business in the region, encouraging small business and demonstrating support for new start-up businesses.

It was particularly thrilling to see the younger businesspeople, and I want to mention one group in particular—the three Nalder brothers. I do not know whether they are related to the member for Alfred Cove, but they are three young men under the age of 30. I went up and talked to them after they had received their award. The eldest brother decided a number of years ago that he would go into dentistry. I am not going to reflect poorly on the Leader of the House, who, in his former life, was a dentist. Most people's perceptions of dentists would probably fit the mould of the Leader of the House—a mild mannered, quiet, distinguished, solemn and brutal person. These three fellows, the Nalder brothers, were totally different. I have badged them as the Patch Adams of dentistry. Their approach is all about engaging with their patients, particularly as they have set up their practice in the northern part of Mandurah, in the Meadow Springs–Lakelands area, attracting, if you like, a target audience of younger families with children.



Apparently, the eldest brother decided he would become a dentist. I asked whether it was in his genes or his heritage, but he said that he just decided that might be a good thing to do. While he was studying, in his third year, his next brother decided he would try his hand as well, so he started training, and then the youngest brother also decided to take up training. Three of them were all studying at the same time and finished in a staggered formation. The eldest brother decided to set up his practice. They all had an affiliation with Mandurah, having been educated there, so he set up his practice and his brothers came on board. Over the past couple of years they have built up this business of young dentists, under 30, with great staff, and they have created a niche market in attracting younger families. Not a lot of people have fun going to the dentist, but I can just imagine that if there is fun to be had going to the dentist, it would be in going to the Nalder brothers' Meadow Springs dental practice. They would make it a great experience, and that is why I call them the Patch Adams of dentistry. I could almost see them wearing red noses to entertain the kids—honk, honk! For *Hansard*, that is a honking sound. They would be of that sort of nature. When I came home that night, apart from checking my teeth and deciding I did not need a check-up, it made me think what a wonderful thing that these young people have an aspiration to create a business based upon an energetic approach. I think they are going to be very successful. They already have been successful in being acknowledged through the award, but I think they are going to build a great business.

I want to move on to some very important issues. I have spoken about this previously, but I need to acknowledge and wish the very best of luck to the Peel Thunder Football Club, whose West Australian Football League team will contest, for the first time in its nearly 20-year history, the WAFL grand final against Subiaco this Sunday. Last weekend Peel defeated South Fremantle. It was very interesting to see all the South Fremantle supporters, including Bob Maumill and others, whingeing about how the team was all Dockers players and that it was not a real WAFL team. Come on, Bob, you know better than that, son! All the South Fremantle supporters were having a crack at Peel Thunder. I hope Peel Thunder does very well. They are actually playing against Subiaco, the team that I originally supported when I was a little boy, but I am very happy to pin my hopes on Peel Thunder this Sunday, when it takes the field at Domain Stadium to contest its first grand final. I know that in Mandurah and the Peel region there will be huge support for the Peel Thunder team, and hopefully it will bring home the bacon.

I also want to acknowledge a young woman who competed in the Rio Olympics, tragically injuring her shoulder throwing the javelin. I refer to Kim Mickle. It was sad to see her injure herself when she went to do her throws in the Rio Olympics a month or so ago. I know Kim well because I taught her in grade 6, when I was teaching in primary school. One thing about Kim Mickle is that she is tough as nails. I notice now that she is thinking of going into the women's football league. She will be trying out for that and if anyone is going to succeed, it will be Kim Mickle. She is a great young woman who was brought up in Mandurah and schooled there for many years. From a very early age she was totally committed to athletics, and she is a wonderful role model for so many young people in Western Australia. When she was interviewed after dislocating a shoulder we could see how painful it was for her on that morning, but her response was beautiful. It was very matter-of-fact: "I'll just get better and keep going." I thought: What a wonderful young woman and what a wonderful role model for young men and women in the community of Mandurah, who can be very proud of her, as can men and women throughout Western Australia and Australia.

I have to have a bit of a slam at the Minister for Police, because she was told some 18 months ago how dumb it was for the decision to be made to relocate the Peel police traffic unit to Forrestdale.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Now, 18 months later, the government has finally realised it was a dumb decision and is returning the traffic unit to Mandurah. It recognised how stupid it was to take away the seven or eight officers in the unit and put them in Forrestdale, some 50 or 60 kilometres away. What happened? The minister was told by me and others that this was centralising resources away from the region. Now the government has realised that that was a dumb decision and now it has to bring them back. I am pleased that it is bringing them back, but I told it 18 months ago how stupid it was. It demonstrates the complete lack of understanding of the policing needs in the region. Under this government, the Mandurah and Peel region had its autonomy as a policing region taken away when it was absorbed into the south metropolitan policing district. Ultimately, that meant a decline in capacity for the good police men and women in the region, who are wonderful people and do a tremendous job, but their job was made even harder by being absorbed into the south metro policing district and the expectation that when they needed a few extra coppers, they would be sent down from Fremantle or Rockingham. I maintain my view that our district needs to be returned to a policing district in its own right because of the population it currently services, the projected population growth in the region and the geographic challenges that the Peel area delivers to policing in general. I hope that, after the state election, if the Labor Party is elected, we will see the return of a regional policing model for the Peel, with the appropriate resources to cope with the future population.

Under this government, we also have lost autonomy in sport and recreation. I have had a go at the current Minister for Sport and Recreation and the previous Minister for Sport and Recreation about the ridiculous

decision that was made about 12 months ago not to replace the outgoing district director of the Peel office of the Department of Sport and Recreation. Previously, like all the nine regions, the Peel had a district office with a district director, and some staff supported him or her. Due to operational matters, the previous manager's tenure was not continued, but rather than simply replace him with a new district director of the Peel office of the Department of Sport and Recreation, it was decided that the position would be shared with the manager in Bunbury, who is responsible for the south west. I am not having a go at him; he is a great young bloke. But, quite frankly, he is now responsible for two regions, the south west and the Peel—the two most highly populated regions of all the regions. That is absolutely ridiculous. The south west needs its manager in the south west. He needs to do his job with his staff and the appropriate resources for the development of sport and recreation in the south west. Now he is responsible also for the Peel. The Peel is the second highest populated region after the south west and now only one person is doing the job. He cannot do it.

That is particularly the case in our region where we have some major issues associated with sport that need to be addressed. I want to highlight some of them. I have been the patron of the Mandurah Netball Association for over 10 years. This year it celebrates its fiftieth year of operation. That is a tremendous achievement by some magnificent women in our region over those five decades. The association needs more space in the future. At the moment it is constrained to a limited number of courts in Thompson Street but it needs to expand. Over 2 000 girls and young women play netball during the netball season in Mandurah every day of the week, and some nights as well, on a facility that it has outgrown. Yet the big promise—the proposed Fiegerts Road facility, for example, near Forrest Highway—remains just a project on the drawing books. No up-to-date planning has been done, no money has been set aside and there is no plan for that facility. That is one area in which netball could grow but we need a commitment from the government. Without a district director who is able to argue for the region's sport and recreation needs unequivocally and not be tied to their other demands of the south west region, it cannot work. I will make sure that after the next election the new Minister for Sport and Recreation returns our district director and focuses on that facility at Fiegerts Road as a priority. It is in the Shire of Murray but it is going to be the key sporting and recreational facility for the future population and growth of the region.

That brings me to education. One of our real major concerns is the uncertainty or lack of information that we have about the government's proposed public-private partnership model for our proposed new high school in Lakelands, which is north of the City of Mandurah. I understand that four schools will be subject to this PPP model. Lakelands Senior High School will be one of them. There is a lack of information coming out. This school will open in February 2019. That may seem a while off but planning for these schools has to happen now. We cannot seem to get any clarity on planning issues for that new high school. One of them is for the North Mandurah Junior Football Club, which is currently constrained by its location at the Tindale Oval site of John Tonkin College. It cannot expand there. Its facilities are substandard but it is waiting for the go-ahead of the Lakelands Senior High School site, which will be a co-located partnership between the City of Mandurah and the school. The problem we have is that there seems to be no confirmation that North Mandurah Junior Football Club can go onto that site when it is built because the answers about ownership of assets and, indeed, funding proposals to build things such as change rooms, clubrooms et cetera, have not been clarified. North Mandurah Junior Football Club is in a hiatus. The City of Mandurah cannot give the club firm affirmation that it will be officially located at the new Lakelands Senior High School. There is no certainty about funding for the facility, whether that be for the clubrooms and/or change rooms et cetera. There seems to be no clarification of that. The answer we get back all the time is, "Well, you have to wait until the principal has been appointed." That is all very well but the North Mandurah Junior Football Club, for example, cannot wait much longer to plan for its future. It cannot grow when it does not know exactly where it will be and because of the constraints in its current facility at John Tonkin College.

I want to finish my contribution with a plea, again, to the Minister for Mental Health. It relates to the 3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program. I have mentioned this service to the minister on numerous occasions. It has strong bipartisan support from me as the local Labor member; the member for Dawesville, the local Liberal state member; and Andrew Hastie, the federal Liberal member for Canning. We—and myself in this place—have requested to know when the Mental Health Commission will get over the impasse it seems to be in with this project. For some reason, there is a blockage at the Mental Health Commission about it, despite the fact that this year the Mandurah community and the region raised over \$100 000 towards the program. The ask is simply for about \$400 000 in total over the next three years. It will deliver three tiers of the program in mental health to young people in the region. Despite a tragic number of suicides this year, particularly in the last six months, of nearly one dozen young lives, there seems to be an impasse about supporting this program. Our community has responded. It believes in this program. It has already seen the program's results in the rollout that was able to be delivered by "GP down south" and Eleanor Britton in particular. She is an amazing woman who is absolutely committed to this program. However, we have hit an impasse with the Mental Health Commission. I do not know why. It keeps asking for more information and we have sent it all. We have had meetings with the current minister and we simply cannot get any further. Minister, I will raise a grievance in this place about this program before the end of the year—you have had enough time to respond to this plea on behalf of my community. For

the young people of Mandurah and the Peel, the 3 Tier Youth Mental Health Program is a much needed service. It is now time for the minister to fund it.

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie-Preston)** [10.12 pm]: It does not give me any joy to stand up to speak to the Loan Bill 2016. People before me have commented on what it is costing us per day—\$15 million. The member for Mandurah is asking for help for a mental health facility, which is something that the Deputy Speaker has also asked for up in her area and is much-needed in many, many other areas around the place. Mental health programs are needed more than what most people think or understand, unless they are close to the action with some of the groups that work so hard to be able to help people with problems. Even today on Facebook, I saw a call from a young girl of 23 years of age. She asked for help and she distinguished herself from drug addiction or anything, but she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and some other mental health diseases. The cry was loud and it was certainly listened to, but we need the funding that has been put in there. I have been pleased to say that the government has taken some action in the last couple of weeks with the addition of some extra beds and a few other things, but it is still nowhere near what is needed. It is a different society from what we knew before when people with mental health problems were locked away and, in many cases, were left for their lives to just fade away with no stimulation because, at the time, they were thought to be mad. Mental health is something dear to my heart, member for Mandurah and member for Kalgoorlie, and I know in country areas it is far more difficult to place someone with those problems. I certainly support the call for that.

I move on to some other issues that can cause mental health problems: the way workers are being treated in the Collie region by the overseas-owned mining companies that have bought into the coal companies down there. I do not think many people would understand the threats and the oppressive behaviour of these companies in the community of Collie. People have become scared to talk to their neighbours and scared to put their views about the coal industry out there. They are scared because their wives, husbands or they themselves—the workers—might get the sack for voicing an opinion. It is the most oppressive thing I have seen in my time in any workplace and any community as such, where people are not allowed to speak up and speak about their position. They are afraid because if someone's wife puts a comment about a company on Facebook, they may be counselled for those comments. What an appalling situation. It is supported by this government through a \$50 million loan to the company. It is something that the government has wiped its hands of, but it cannot do that because it is part of the system. The government is in there as much as anyone else to make the company become more efficient, to make sure the jobs are there, but also to make sure that the workers are treated with dignity. Honestly, it appals me. I had an argument with a representative from Premier Coal last Friday. Unfortunately, he was not the boss, but I vented my anger on someone else and I hope he took it back to the company. People do not understand that when the shire president said he did not think the finances put to the workforce were quite right, immediately—the following week—his rights to go to community meetings and be shire president were taken away from him. That made it much more difficult for him to perform his civic duties. That is the type of company we are dealing with. That was Premier Coal. I have no problem with saying that.

There was a community picket line, if you like, or a protest at Griffin Coal, not on the property, but on the road verge. It was held by community people because the workers of the day were told that if they had a picket line themselves—the blokes who were off shift—they would lose their jobs. So the community came out—that is how the town is; people look after each other—and stood on the picket line. Some of those people from the community work at another mine. They did not wear any identifiable clothing; they were not aggressive or disruptive. The police were in attendance and people were able to drive through. These people were going to have a misdemeanour notice put on their file by the company on the other side of the road, Premier Coal. However, I believe there may have been some change of mind about that. In my view, Premier Coal has no right in any shape or form to tell any worker where they can stand and protest peacefully. I think it is just a terrible situation when people cannot support their mates in a private capacity—not as workers, not with shirts on identifying them as miners or union members. That was not done; people were very careful not to do that. They were there to support their mates to get across the road. People were identified to the other company from video footage. There was an industrial problem on one side of the road at Lanco, and on the other side of the road guys who were off shift came over—not even on afternoon or day shift, on their days off—and were supporting their mates. They were threatened that a misdemeanour would be recorded on their files or that their jobs would be terminated. The people in that room did not go so far as to tell me that, only because I cut them off and said, "Don't tell me because I'll just get wild." I believe it is time for the Australian Council of Trade Unions to take action over what is happening in Collie. I believe it is time the federal government became involved, because this government will not. This government has sat back. We have a gutless energy minister who will not front up in Collie at all. At least the Leader of the National Party came to Collie. He did not meet with the miners, but he came into the community. The Premier and the Minister for Energy do not have the guts to come down and front up to the community. The community in the area has not only been oppressed, but also they are not told what is going to happen to the power stations in the near future and what is going to happen to their jobs. The people coming through my door now are not so much miners, but people who work in the electricity industry. We have a problem.

I now want to take the time to read article 12 from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states —

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

That is from the UN. I believe that if we keep going this way, we will have to go to the UN because the government does not have the gumption to come down and sort out the companies that are bashing people into submission, bashing a community into submission and taking away the feeling and goodness of a very hardworking town that has supplied power to the state of WA for nearly 100 years. They are some of the things that really annoy me.

As I said to the company the other day, God help it if we get into government, because we will write the letter of the law in areas such as rehabilitation and the environment. Things have not been done to dispose of tyres and the company is breaking laws hand over fist. The people of Collie have tried to work with the company and now the government and the power companies are kicking them in the guts. Enough is enough! If they do not do it one way, we will do it another way. That may happen after the election, but it could also happen before the election. I believe that when it gets to this stage people should take drastic action, such as shutting companies down for a week to let them know that they should not do such things to human beings.

I now read article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states —

Everyone has a right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

That has not been given to the people of Collie. The police are out there, hounding them. The companies are trying to drive through them with their cars because they are standing in the road. Section 2 of Article 20 states —

No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

That is fine. I do not have any problem with that, but how long will it be before the company says to people, “Because you work for my company, that’s the football team you will be barracking for”? That is what it has come to. It is an appalling situation. It must be dealt with by the government as much as the industry down there. If it does not, it will end up in some bother and people may say, “Maybe we should have done something previously.” I do not want people fighting in the bars. What is happening in Collie is very similar to what happened in Newman and Karratha in the 1980s. People would not drink in the same hotel. It was family against family, friends against friends. That is where it is getting to in the town of Collie. Members may think I am stretching the point, but if they went down there and understood what we are talking about, they would really feel the tension in that community. Women are now running the meetings. Wives are standing up because husbands cannot do it due to fear of losing their jobs. I take my hat off to some of the women who are leading the community—young family women are standing up because their husbands cannot because if they do, they will be sacked. What a disgraceful situation, yet we have a minister who will not deal with it. He sits in this room making smart comments about the power industry and the town, yet this sort of situation is occurring, fuelled by Premier Coal Ltd and Lanco Infratech Ltd. As I say, it is every person’s right to work to their capacity but not to be hounded or pushed around and not to be too frightened to bring up issues at safety meetings.

I have been told that they should go to the top of the tree and talk to the manager. That is fine, but as soon as they come out of there, they are hounded on the job. Small misdemeanours can incur a suspension equal to \$10 000. Those sorts of fines are not handed out even on the street—they are not handed out anywhere on the street for speeding or doing anything illegal—but the company imposes it by standing people down, and the loss of wages amounts to around \$10 000. The company management does not know the position of people’s households. If a person is under financial stress and makes a small mistake, they should be counselled. I have no problem with someone being pulled into gear and told to smarten up or to be more safety conscious. However, when people are stood down and lose wages to the tune of \$10 000, when they have a mortgage and might be having family problems, sooner or later there will be repercussions. I do not want to see that. That is why I am saying to the minister that it is time he sorted it out. If he does not want to come to Collie, we will come and see him in Perth. That offer is to make sure we do not have one of those mental breakdowns that could cause a problem that we will regret for the rest of our lives. I believe that is where the situation is heading.

I put the ball in the minister’s court. If nothing happens there, I will ask people I know such as Bill Shorten and Doug Cameron to come over and stand on the road and see what happens. Then we will see how we go with the Australian Council of Trade Unions. We have seen how Carlton and United Breweries was trying to do something very similar to what is happening at Premier Coal. However, the contractors there have pulled out, although the picket line is still there, supported by all of Australia. I hope that if the situation in Collie keeps going, that will happen in Collie—we will get support from all over Australia to ensure things are sorted out down there. Remember, some of the guys who are back at work have lost \$40 000 a year of their income, but that is not their grizzle; it is the unfriendly roster, which is not conducive to family life. It is a roster from hell. Workers are not only losing \$40 000; they are expected to work seven extra hours a week.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** It is a diabolical situation. I understand that the company is losing money and I wish it well in its endeavours to sort things out, but there are bloodsuckers on that job—I mean bloodsuckers—on \$300 000 a year walking around. When I asked one of them what they did and what their position was, I was told, “I don’t really have one but I walk around behind the boss.” So I asked, “What do you do when you go into a meeting? Do you have any voting powers?” They said, “No; but if I added my two bobs’ worth, they’d probably tell me to shut up anyway.” They are the things that should be sorted out straightaway. With one stroke of the pen someone can be employed as a “consultant” and earn close to \$300 000 a year, but look at what they are doing to the community.

It is so sad to see in the press this week just gone that the company has stopped payroll deductions for the social club, which shops locally every year and spends around \$70 000 in the local community, mainly on toys and those sorts of things for kids. There are no payroll deductions and the company is telling people to do it themselves. What a miserable mob the company is! How miserable can the company be to take action to disrupt the community by stopping payroll deductions for donations to a social club that was used entirely for the social club and no other reason? I think it has about four barbecues a year. Again, all the goods are sourced locally. The club hosts a Christmas event with a very, very big Christmas tree and a lot of the kids sneak in who do not generally get a holiday and get that merry-go-round ride that they normally would not get—I would not say “sneak in”; they come in but they are not policed at all. That is the type of company we are dealing with. This government supports those types of companies. Again, that is an appalling state of affairs.

Now I understand all the disruption in the Liberal Party; it is because its members are miserable. They are a whining, whingeing miserable mob who have turned on themselves. It has bitten people out in the workforce and now its members are turning around and are backbiting themselves. That self-destruction is because the Liberal Party does not have the same spirit that my town has, and its members are unable to look after each other. We will look after each other into the future.

Members wonder what that has to do with the Loan Bill. I refer to a \$50 million grant to Premier Coal, the same company that is kicking the workers and is threatening the workers on the job. Therefore, the government has a say—or it should take the \$50 million back and put it in its broke bank. It could look just that little bit better with \$50 million in —

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** What is the \$50 million?

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** That is the \$50 million grant that the government gave to Premier Coal.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** We didn’t give a grant to Premier Coal.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** It can be converted to a grant.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** No.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** Yes, it can. That is what the Treasurer told me before.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** It is not a grant. They pay us. We pay them for coal.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** That is right.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** We can convert some of the payment to equity in the business—not a grant; equity ownership in the business—if we wish, and we have not done it.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** My understanding is that \$6 million has been utilised.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** The latest information I have is that we have not taken equity in the business. It is not a grant.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** Where does it sit then? Tell me where it sits.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** It sits as equity, if we do it; it sits —

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** The Treasurer is telling me now that nothing has been done.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Yes.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** That is quite different from what was reported in the press when the Treasurer said it is commercial-in-confidence.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** We have a right to convert some of the uplift price to equity in the business, if we wish. We did that so if the business goes into receivership, we have rights over it, which was a weakness in the previous contract. That is the only reason we did it—no grants, no payments, except for the purchase of coal. That is it. We did uplift the price of coal because they were going out the door quickly without that.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** I am glad to hear the Treasurer’s version of events, because previously he told me that it was commercial confidentiality and he would not say anything.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** I will inform you; I will check with Synergy to make sure that it has not made a conversion of the price to any equity.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** With all due respect, I have been told \$6 million has been converted.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** I will check and tell you that. My latest advice is that they have the right but they haven't taken it up. They might take it up, but it does not constitute any additional value to Premier Coal other than we can convert it to equity or we can just pay them money for the coal—that is it.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** I will take that point, but can the Treasurer also take my point about what is happening down there on the ground?

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Member, I would like to sit down and talk with you on this.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** Why has the Treasurer not come to my community and talked to me? The Treasurer has been invited by the shire—by every man and his dog—and now he is saying in here that he would like to talk to me!

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Yes. Both companies are under the water. Premier Coal is seriously under the water.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** I understand that, but it does not mean the Treasurer has to agree with the things that they are doing.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** They have to improve the productivity of their operations.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** I see no problem with that and everyone in the town understands that. But should that mean if someone voices their opinion that they could lose their job, or if someone's wife puts a post on Facebook that they could lose their job?

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** That is inappropriate behaviour, and the Fair Work Commission should operate over that. I am not going to get involved. Unless things have changed, both Lanco and its employees and Premier Coal are before the Fair Work Commission, or they are negotiating EBAs.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** They are negotiating enterprise bargaining agreements.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** That is fair enough; let them negotiate.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** That is exactly right; I do not have a problem with that.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** I am not involved and I am not going to get involved. That is why we have the Fair Work Commission.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** The point I am making today is that the Treasurer has an association with a company that is oppressing people in the community to the extent that its employees' wives were told—I asked this question—that if they kept posting things on Facebook that were not in Premier Coal's or Lanco's favour, their husbands could be in trouble at work. That sort of thing occurred in the 1960s—in fact, it occurred before that in the 1950s! I ask the Treasurer to address that problem.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** How?

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** The Treasurer should go down and tell them that if they do not pull their finger out and get on with their job of getting the EBAs done —

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** I have not talked to Premier Coal—I will leave that to Synergy; but I have met Lanco. I have told them to get on with improving productivity. I have also told them to talk to Premier Coal to drive a single pit because I have been told that just the efficiencies through that could save \$11 to \$15 a tonne of coal. That would give uplift to that. That is what I have been told.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** We will not argue about that. No-one denies that they have got to get their heads above water, but the way they are doing it is not the way to go. The shire president queried their figures and the next week he is moved off shift so he cannot go to a shire meeting. That sort of thing is payback for people who challenge those companies. They are trying to break people's spirits. We do not want a heap of clones going to work, because that is when accidents happen. People are too scared to report an accident or something that is wrong with a vehicle because they might get blamed for it. I want the Treasurer to think about someone who has rolled through a stop sign being put off work and suffering the equivalent of a \$10 000 fine. That is the wages they have lost by being put off work. They could go through five red lights and they could still pocket change. That is the type of thing those companies are doing. The minister has the right to query that, and he should do that. That is what I am asking the Treasurer to do.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Have you made these complaints to the fair work commissioners?

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** The Treasurer knows what happened there the last time. The commissioner got a bit flustered; he threw his hands in the air and walked out the door and said he did not want to see them again. He left them hanging. We got a decision that was not a decision, and it is still not a decision. I am sure the Treasurer would understand that, as would a lot of other people. The decision was that it would think about a decision, and then it was, "We have made a decision not to make a decision." Everyone is left hanging.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** The firms and the workers have gone back and are negotiating. They are going back to the commission into the future, are they not?

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** Talks are still going on at the moment; in the meantime, the guys are feeling the pinch not only in their pocket but also mentally, and it is just awful for them. I cannot put it into words, but it is an awful feeling to be in a town that is oppressed. These are a Chinese and an Indian company. They might do this in their countries, although I do not believe that is the issue. I believe it is the management groups that are in there, because I do not think the boards of these companies would even know what is happening.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** I cannot say about Lanco, but Premier Coal is run largely by Australians.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** They are Queenslanders.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Queenslanders are Australians.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** Rock jockeys are not dirt jockeys, and that is one of the problems.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** The Chinese are not involved. They own it —

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** But do not forget they are still owned. Maybe it is my job to write to that board to explain that this is the sort of management group it has in there and it is not the Australian way.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** Do so. When the Lanco people come through, it is run to a large extent by a bank in India—ICICI.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** And that is the group I am talking about. Some of the people in that group are just bloodsuckers. They wander around with hardly a job to do and are using money.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** They are also haemorrhaging money. How they can sustain themselves —

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** Get them out the door to stop the haemorrhaging; it is as simple as that. Anyway, we could argue about that forever.

I have only a couple of minutes left. I do not understand why this government has to borrow money when it has reneged on nearly everything it promised before the state election. One example is Collie high school: \$7 million. It was the lead promise in the run-up to the election. Not done; not going to be done; taken out of the budget. Three million dollars for Lake Kepwari is out of the budget, and \$34 million for the Wellington catchment area, which the Minister for Environment should have been right on their toes about. Of that, \$17 million was sent back.

**Mr A.P. Jacob:** That is being delivered.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** The job was suspended under Minister Jacob at the time, when there was the fifth study of the area. We could have put a lot of trees in at that time, but it was suspended. Now we are going back to try to do it again through the Water for Food program.

**Mr A.P. Jacob:** That is not my portfolio.

**Mr M.P. MURRAY:** No, but the environment of the river and the salt is. We had a program that removed 20 tonnes of salt in one year. That has now been canned and the money has been sent back to Canberra. What a disgrace that is.

I will move on quickly, because I only have a couple of seconds left. I cannot find the money for Collie River bridge, which is in Eaton. The sum of \$6 million has been removed from the Collie Coal Futures Group. As soon as the government was in, bang, the money was gone. Why is the government bleeding when it is taking more jobs off the book than putting on in many of these country areas? We will hear about royalties for regions. I will always support royalties for regions if it is done fairly. At this time it is not being done fairly. I think it is about time it was looked at by the Treasurer to make sure that the spread of money is done equally and fairly.

**MS J.M. FREEMAN (Mirrabooka)** [10.42 pm]: I, too, rise to speak on the Loan Bill 2016. As we debate this loan bill for \$1.7 billion to pay the wages and other operating costs of government, and the wages of employees in the WA state government, people on the streets know the government is basically disorganised. In his second reading speech, the Treasurer talks about —

Members may recall that the Loan Act 2015 authorised \$8 billion in consolidated account general purpose borrowing.

He went on to say that was supposed to be a buffer to carry us through until the next state election. It is clearly the case that an incapacity to properly budget and manage money has led us here again. I am acutely aware of what this means to the community because people raise it with me. I always know when something has resonated in the community when I am walking along on my morning walk and someone from the neighbourhood—who knows that I am a member of Parliament but generally just has a chat and asks how I am and how the family is—is driving past, stops, winds down a window and remarks what a disgrace it is that the government is running out

of money. They clearly say, “It is disgraceful that the government will run out of money in 45 days.” That’s when you think, “Wow, that’s really resonated out there in the community”. People are aware of how disorganised and out of control the budget process is with this government. It was 45 days last week; I think it is now down to 40 days.

When the government is facing internal conflict during a period when it is supposed to be managing the books appropriately for the health and wellbeing of our community and when yet another transport minister has departed from the government, one really knows that the government is in disarray and that things are not going well. When the \$1.7 billion that the government needs to borrow is almost the same amount that should have been used to deliver its 2013 Metro Area Express light rail promise to the people of Mirrabooka, which was about \$1.8 billion, we know that this government was arrogant and is now completely out of touch. When one in three Liberal members of Parliament does not support the government in the Liberal party room, we know why this government does not care about making policies to respond to the one in four people in Mirrabooka–Balga who are unemployed. Basically, government members are self-consumed and are unaware of what is going on in the community and how people out there are doing it tough. We are in here just giving the government more money to prop itself up when it is in disarray, disorganised, out of control and arrogant in the way it is delivering things. When we know that in not delivering the MAX light rail to the people of Mirrabooka this government has wasted \$26 million and there is nothing to show for it for the people of Mirrabooka, we know that this government is completely arrogant.

We also have to ask about individual members and their arrogance in all of this. MAX light rail was not delivered to the people of Mirrabooka because it was said to be too expensive and too difficult to deliver, yet in 2013 it was the number one commitment of the Liberal Party to deliver that to the people of Mirrabooka. Instead, the government decided to deliver the airport railway and called it the Forrestfield rail line. It did that ostensibly, I believe, because it wanted to shore up a marginal seat, but in shoring up a marginal seat, all that has been repaid by that member of Parliament is for him to become one of the disaffected. Frankly, a constituent of the Mirrabooka area might think, “Well, you know, they didn’t deliver it to us for political purposes; they delivered it to Forrestfield because that’s how politics works.” Even though government members came to Mirrabooka and said, “Buy land. Come here—it’s going to be fantastic. This is what we’re going to deliver,” maybe the constituents of the Mirrabooka area would start to look at it and say that the political reality is that a government that wins of that political persuasion is always going to shore up its marginal seats. The member for Forrestfield did not even have the gratitude to his constituents to say, “Well, I better stay on board and stay loyal to the people who have delivered this rail line to the community I represent.” The people of Mirrabooka missed out on MAX because priority was given to Forrestfield. My view is that they should feel aggrieved by that.

Here we are debating a loan bill of \$1.7 billion. I again remind members that that amount is only slightly less than what the government committed to before 2013 and took to the people of Mirrabooka with all the bells and whistles, buses and billboards about what MAX would deliver to that community. The Premier now knows how the people of Mirrabooka must have felt now that he has suffered at the hands of the member for Forrestfield and witnessed his lack of gratitude. The people of that area trusted the Premier and the then Minister for Transport when they rolled into Mirrabooka and hyped up all things to do with MAX light rail. They promised an innovative transport solution, one that had not been delivered anywhere else in the city. They said it was coming to Mirrabooka. But the Mirrabooka community was duped by this government and it will not easily forget how duped it was, especially when we stand in this place to debate a bill for another \$1.7 billion to keep the budget going while the people of Mirrabooka sacrificed the \$1.8 billion that they were promised in the 2013 election.

As we know, the \$1.7 billion is in addition to last year’s \$8 billion which, as has already been said, was to get us through to the election. There was also a \$5 billion loan bill in 2012. This is the fourth loan bill totalling \$23 billion that this government has asked the house to pass as we move to \$40.2 billion of state debt in 2020. That figure is based on the *Economic and Fiscal Outlook* overview, which states —

Consequently, total public sector net debt is expected to increase from an estimated \$27.9 billion at 30 June 2016 ... to \$40.2 billion by 30 June 2020.

There has been ongoing mismanagement and debt and all the while that that is happening there is record unemployment, which is what I really want to talk about in the house tonight. Everyone knows that I constantly raise the serious nature of unemployment in the Mirrabooka area, particularly in the suburbs of Mirrabooka and Balga. I will go to this a bit later, but it interested me that Sir Michael Marmot devoted one of his Boyer Lectures to the implications of work and unemployment on the health and wellbeing of a community and the involved social inequity costs.

Unemployment in Mirrabooka and in the Mirrabooka electorate, particularly in the Mirrabooka and Balga suburbs, is at unsustainable levels with one in every four people unemployed. When government members stood in their party room today, one in three members did not support the Premier. If they multiply that and get up to a constituency of 25 000 people, that is one in four people who are unemployed—a rate of 25 per cent unemployment in the area. Youth unemployment sits at 15.8 per cent in Perth’s north west area, which includes



Mirrabooka and Balga but, as I have said in this house before, it also includes Ocean Reef, Hillarys, Joondalup, Osborne Park, Balcatta and Scarborough. It includes a group of areas that has much lower unemployment levels. If the highest youth unemployment rate in the whole of Western Australia sits at 15.8 per cent in Perth's north west region—unemployment in general is sitting high in the Mirrabooka area—it is clear that that is where a great cohort of unemployed youth live. This issue is serious and needs addressing. This issue is just as serious as coming here to get money to run the budget. It is a social issue that needs to be addressed. It is my strong view that social consequences will be borne by the people of Mirrabooka because of this unemployment rate. Increasingly, there are reports of young, bored, disengaged youth who cause problems around local shops in Balga. As one community worker said to me, when there is nothing else to do, a gidgee and a stone gives them something to do and a bus passing by gives them a target. We have serious issues that I do not want to see escalate, or to suddenly have penalties for antisocial behaviour when there are clear causal factors that the government refuses to address.

This week's *Eastern Reporter* reported that 15 people had been charged with stealing vehicles and with drug possession in the area. A further nine people are of interest to the police. Reports have illustrated that over the last 12 months there has been a 10.9 per cent increase in crime in Balga. That means that of the 3 837 households in Balga, close to nine per cent have been affected by home burglary, compared with Cottesloe where less than two per cent of households are affected, and Scarborough, where only 2.2 per cent of households have been victims of home burglary.

This affects everyone. There was a chilling situation for a Ms Newman, a teacher, who was home late one evening and heard a rattle at her door as someone tried to break in. She called the police, the police came and she was very pleased with their quick response; she did not come to any harm or lose any property. As a teacher in the area she understands that education, employment and the wellbeing of the community needs to be addressed, as well as community safety. It is my strong view that this government and the Minister for Police, who is also the Minister for Training and Workforce Development, have failed the people of the Mirrabooka electorate. In addition to presiding over the seriously concerning crime figures, the minister has sat on her hands in respect of unemployment figures.

I want to now talk about some of the studies and information around the link between unemployment, social issues, crime and community safety. Sir Michael Marmot in his third Boyer Lecture made reference to the health gap. He is a leading researcher into health inequality and in his lectures has really linked together the issues around health and social inequity and how they illustrate some of the actions we can take to try to address social inequity and health in our communities. He recently carried out an audit in the UK and there have been some quite innovative outcomes in terms of addressing some of his findings. In 2015 he was president-elect of the World Medical Association, so one assumes he is now president. He is used extensively by many governments throughout the world for his public-health knowledge. It is my understanding that many Canadian social policies have been assisted by Sir Michael Marmot. In this third speech on work he said that if a workplace has no social control and decision-making, it can have an impact on stress and other issues around personal health. He points out that unemployment has its own health risks, which are even greater than health impacts. According to an online ABC News article on Sir Michael's third Boyer Lecture —

He referenced the Indignados of Spain, —

Who, I gather, are the indigenous people of Spain —

protesters on the streets of Madrid who are among the roughly 40 per cent of youth in the country who are unemployed.

"They are angry with good reason. Society's implied promise to them has been broken," Sir Michael said.

"Not usually given to hyperbole, I have described this youth unemployment as a public health time bomb.

When we debated the Public Health Bill with the previous Minister for Health, I raised on a number of occasions that I thought that unemployment was a public health issue, and he refused to accept it was a public health issue. He said that it was a separate issue, of other social consequences.

[Member's time extended.]

[Quorum formed.]

**Ms J.M. FREEMAN:** Sir Michael goes on to state —

Unemployment is bad for health and it blights lives. Young people who leave school for the scrapheap are in danger of never getting the habit of work—potentially, they face a lifetime on the margin. Bad work may be bad for health; unemployment may be worse.

The member for Mandurah will be interested in this. Sir Michael goes on to talk about the study by Oxford University's David Stuckler, who has shown a direct correlation between the rise in a country's unemployment rate—this is in the United Kingdom—and a rise in a country's suicide rate. I tried to go a bit further and have a look at that study, but I am yet to source it. It is a really interesting position, especially given some of the evidence given to the Education and Health Standing Committee about Aboriginal youth suicides in remote communities, and the sense of feeling that there is nothing to live for. I can understand that. I have never spent any length of time unemployed, but I can imagine how pivotal in our society that whole concept of being employed is, and how much a part of identity it is. Taking away that identity must eat into our resilience to be able to cope with the difficulties we face in other areas of our life, and make us despondent and disillusioned about what it is all worth.

I also refer to the Centre for Independent Studies. The Treasurer may know that it is not a left-wing organisation; it is a relatively conservative organisation. It released a report in November 2015 titled "Youth Unemployment in Australia" by Dr Patrick Carvalho. The summary states —

Youth unemployment has nearly doubled since mid-2008, with around 300,000 youth now unemployed in Australia, accounting for over a third of total unemployment.

Further on, in a section titled "The Scarring Effects", the report quotes some studies about the impact of unemployment on young people in our community. It states, in part —

For instance, Mroz and Savage (2006) show that early youth unemployment affects both future job displacement and earnings for up to 10 years in the US. A similar British study found wage penalties of 9% to 21%, lasting up to 20 years later. Accordingly, an analysis of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey suggests the likelihood of being unemployed later in life is three times as high if one experienced unemployment spells in their youth, which might give rise to a welfare dependence trap.

He goes on to talk about a study in the United States that shows that people who have had long-term unemployment are less likely to get an interview for a job. He backs up what Sir Michael Marmot has been saying, which is that unemployment has a serious effect on a person's health status. The risk of poor health status doubles if a person is not in employment. Unemployment also has an effect on a person's social inclusion and mental health. So, it is not just me who keeps standing up in this place and saying that the government has to know that unemployment is having an enormous impact on these social indicators.

I want to point out, too, that in his first lecture in the Boyer Lecture Series, Sir Michael Marmot spoke about the link between deprivation of social conditions, ill health and civil unrest. That is my next concern. I represent a community that has a social indicator of unemployment at such a high rate that if we have a situation of social unrest, people will say that is just the area, instead of trying to address the cause so that we can prevent it from happening.

Sir Michael Marmot studied the health inequalities in Baltimore before the civil unrest in April 2015. He found that in the poor parts of Baltimore, where the riots broke out, life expectancy for men was 63 years of age, and in the richer parts of Baltimore, it was 83 years. In Australia, people on a low income lose about six years of life compared with better-off Australians. So, unemployment and ill health are linked when we look at some of the causal factors.

Sir Michael Marmot spoke also about the association between social conditions, ill health and crime, and said that the link is no coincidence. He then spoke about how we need to go beyond the causes of ill health—smoking, drinking, poor diet and lack of exercise—and better understand the causes of the causes. He said, and I quote —

The causes of the causes are the social determinants of health and they influence not only lifestyle, but stress at work and at home, the environment, housing and transport.

He then spoke about how we need to lessen this health gap by addressing those causes.

The Boyer Lecture Series is named after, I think, the first managing director or general manager of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. In Sir Richard Marmot's second speech in the Boyer Lecture Series, he focuses on the importance of early childhood education for the development of a community, and also for the person as an individual. I find it interesting that this government has shifted its focus to early childhood development. The government has done relatively well in that space by opening the child development centres that are attached to schools. I am very grateful that I have a number of those centres in my electorate. However, in doing that, the government has shifted money from older education cohorts. I have one educator who says that the shift in education to the focus on early childhood has meant that there is less money for programs to meet the needs of the diverse community of Mirrabooka in terms of educating people in high school.

There has been one pool of money and it has shifted. My understanding is that in the Mirrabooka electorate, there has been an 11 per cent decrease in funding per student from 2009 to 2014 based on 2014 dollars; that is \$1 662 per student. Although I agree that we need to focus on early childhood, we also need to make sure that we focus on those people right across the broad spectrum to ensure that they are fully equipped for ongoing employment.

One thing that I want to mention about employment is that one of the difficulties we face is that the employment figures do not truly reflect unemployment in our community, because there is massive underemployment. People can basically work for one or two hours a week and they are not considered to be unemployed. It is really important to realise that. The Reserve Bank of Australia statement on monetary policy in August 2016 states —

Over the course of 2016, employment growth has been concentrated in part-time jobs ...

I want to finish off by talking about social cohesion. Last Saturday I attended the Eid al-Adha celebrations in Mirrabooka. I want to congratulate the community organisers who were involved in that event. They did a fantastic job and they deserve congratulations. A lot of people were there. It was a great event to celebrate a very significant day for the Muslim community. I get to attend a lot of these events. I joke that my new year starts with Diwali in October and finishes with Songkran in April, with the full gamut of Tet, Australian new year and Christmas, Karen new year, Afghan new year and Hazara new year thrown in. You name it; it happens in that period. For me, that is what it means to be Australian. This inclusive community wants to celebrate its heritage and culture but recognises the richness and privilege of living in Australia. The recent productivity report on migration highlights the contribution of migrants to Australia's prosperity. One of the families at this event was the Aziz family, who came to Australia from Afghanistan 30 years ago. They have contributed to and are part of the social fabric of the community through working in both businesses and community organisations.

I just want to finish with this: freedom of speech means the need to respond to false claims that incite intolerance. I think that everyone in this community should be included for their commitment to being Australian. The Muslim people I work with and the Muslim people who were at the Eid al-Adha celebration on Saturday absolutely embrace being Australian, while they also embrace their faith. They do that because they believe that their faith makes them great contributors to Australia, and it does. When they became Australian citizens, they took the oath and accepted the rights, privileges, responsibilities and democratic beliefs of Australia, and one of those beliefs is to ensure that we do not have hate speech.

**MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen)** [11.13 pm]: Before I begin talking about the Loan Bill 2016, I want to acknowledge the work of Tony Simpson as Minister for Seniors and Volunteering. As a former shadow spokesperson for volunteering and the current shadow spokesperson for seniors, I have had a fair bit to do with him. He was generally very well liked amongst stakeholders. They regarded him as a man of integrity and as being sincere. From a policy perspective, I cannot say that a lot has been achieved in the area of ageing. However, the former minister was certainly prepared to advocate and get the message across about the needs of our seniors. To some extent, he was hampered. There are only a handful of people—maybe one or two—within the Department of Local Government and Communities who do policy work in the seniors area. A framework was done by his predecessor that was never funded. More importantly, I believe that the blueprint of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, “Age-friendly WA? A challenge for government”, gave him and the rest of the government some guidance as to where they could implement sensible policy changes that would meet the challenges of our ageing community. However, most of those changes were not taken up. To a large extent, I think that experience illustrates the siloed nature of the current government and the fact that there is very little interaction between agencies on these issues that affect the whole community.

As we have heard, this bill seeks a loan authorisation of \$1.7 billion to meet the estimated borrowing requirements of the consolidated account to 30 June next year. We have already heard that \$8 billion was authorised in the Loan Bill 2015 for general purpose borrowing. When that bill was introduced, the Treasurer indicated that it was expected to provide authority for sufficient central borrowings to cover the needs of the consolidated account to the end of 2016–17, and that the bill included a \$1.5 billion buffer for any unexpected changes in the borrowing needs of the consolidated account.

In his second reading speech of this bill, the Treasurer reminded the house that loan bills are of an administrative nature, the borrowings had already been authorised in the 2016–17 budget and there were no additional costs in excess of those approved in the forward estimates. Under this bill, proceeds of all loans raise the payment to the consolidated account and then advance to agencies as required by budget appropriations. This bill leaves none of us in any doubt as to who are the worst economic managers. In lay terms, the Treasurer has been saying, as we have seen from his actions in introducing this bill, that the government made provision for expenditure in last year's budget, but as its revenue was less than expected it needs to come cap in hand for some additional funds. Not only is the revenue less than expected, but the Loan Bill 2015, with the additional \$1.5 billion buffer for a rainy day, has also been expended. The Treasurer portrays this as a normal state of affairs in what is a completely unforeseen and extraordinary position that government revenue has contracted significantly. As we have already heard from a number of speakers tonight, the frequency with which this government has come to this house with such bills is far in excess of the preceding Labor government, which I think introduced one such bill.

We know that for every boom there is a corresponding bust. Prudent financial management recognises that there should be provision for the times when revenue may ease and fall from its record highs that we have been experiencing for some time. How is it that in a state like this we have to make special provision for wages for teachers, police officers and nurses? Compare this with how pensioners and even self-funded retirees have to scrupulously manage their finite resources in a climate of record low interest rates. In this regard, this government is no friend of seniors. For example, the cost-of-living allowance for seniors was scrapped in the 2015–16 budget to be replaced by the energy assistance payment that was means-tested and available only to those on a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. The rationale for this was purely to address the record debt that the state government had irresponsibly incurred. In that same budget, the government decided to impose a cap on local government rate subsidies for pensioners. Originally, I think, it was \$550 but it later changed to \$750 and it was due to commence this year. The government also imposed a similar cap on water services charges for pensioners at \$600. It implemented an increase to the eligibility age to qualify for the WA Seniors Card from 60 to 65 years old by 2023–24. It also scrapped the safety and security rebate. These measures were estimated to save the government \$199 million over four years. They were on top of the decision to halve the seniors' cost-of-living rebate of \$84 for singles and \$126 for couples in June 2014. The issue that the Labor Party has with these cuts is twofold. Firstly, the government disproportionately placed the burden for state debt on our seniors and pensioners compared with other members of the community; and secondly, many of these cuts were arbitrary and made without consultation to seniors groups and advocates that were in a position to provide greater input and advice to ensure more equity, to minimise the impact on the most needy, and to make any such cuts that were needed much more targeted.

Of course, all these cuts were made to concessions within an environment of escalating household taxes and charges that were imposed by the government. These were then reflected in the rising cost of services and goods across the board. Also of note in the context of impacting on seniors and pensioners were the federal Liberal government's decisions, in last year's budget, to reduce eligibility for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card and to introduce significant changes to the age pension. As we will read in tomorrow's *The West Australian*, the threshold for getting an age pension to assess property values will kick in next year. More than 690 000 people could lose all or part of their age pensions. In light of this environment, pensioners have to soldier on as best they can.

A report released this week illustrates how difficult life can be for older Western Australians, especially those who do not own their own homes. "The adequacy of the age pension in Australia: An assessment of pensioner living standards" is a report authored by Warwick Smith and David Hetherington under the aegis of three organisations: The Benevolent Society, Australia's first charity; The Longevity Innovation Hub, a not-for-profit entity that has undertaken the task of implementing the "Blueprint for an Ageing Australia"; and Per Capita, which is an independent think tank. The report's overview notes —

The Age Pension in Australia is inadequate.

It fails to provide a decent standard of living for approximately 1.5 million older Australians who rely on it as their main source of income. Some pensioners are taking drastic measures in order to make ends meet—they are turning off hot water in summer, blending food because they can't afford a dentist and choosing between food and medication.

The financial wellbeing of age pensioners depends a great deal on their specific circumstances including where they live, whether or not they are single, their gender, and, perhaps most significantly, whether or not they own their own home. Home ownership constitutes the single biggest factor contributing to financial hardship among pensioners.

Age pensioners who are renting, in particular those who are single, are the worst off. Many of these are women without superannuation or other savings. Urgent measures are required to redress the profound levels of deprivation experienced by this group of pensioners.

The report's recommendations included —

- Provide nationally standardised Medicare-funded dental care to all full pensioners
- Run an awareness campaign of government schemes that subsidise or reimburse costs associated with non-pharmaceutical health expenses, for example medical disposables associated with diabetes and incontinence.
- Coordinate or replace state-based utilities rebates for pensioners in order to prevent utility costs rising as a proportion of pensioner expenses
- Provide a specific broadband or internet-related supplement or rebate

That last one seems a little strange, but it is in order to ensure that pensioners and seniors are not more socially isolated. Also, access to information is increasingly only available electronically. The report went on to state —

We recognise that advocating for increased government expenditure is difficult in the current fiscal climate. Like our international counterparts, our population is ageing and this places real pressure on the

national budget. However within the report we have identified areas where, with political courage, budget savings could be made which would fund any potential increase in the pension.

The fact that many pensioners are suffering substantial deprivation is not acceptable in one of the richest countries in the world. We can and should do better.

Of particular concern are some of the individual responses by those interviewed. They are as follows —

*“Life is not worth living unless it has some quality. Just surviving is not a good life.”*

*“If a fridge or washing machine has to be replaced this is a crisis for which help is needed from family or friends or a charity like the Salvos.”*

*“I only came to this meeting for the free food. We often reach the point of having to decide between food and medication; sometimes we can’t afford both.”*

*“...the rent has been going up much faster than the pension and this is making it harder to make ends meet financially. The rent for a couple is \$450/fortnight which is a lot from the pension...”*

As an aside in this context, I note that the calculations of certain allowances such as that for pharmaceuticals is now included as income for those Homeswest tenants. It is simply bloody-minded in the context of the sorts of issues raised in this report. Other interview responses are as follows —

*“...My home is falling to pieces with tree roots blocking the pipes but I just don’t have the money to fix it...”*

*“... When the rent goes up, I can make up for it a bit on food because my daughter will bring care packages from church which give you 8 or 9 meals for the freezer...”*

*“...I’m not safe in the kitchen because of my MS—all my knives have to be blunt as a pencil. But that means I have to rely on frozen meals which are over \$100 a week. Lite’n’Easy is \$140–170 a week and I just can’t afford that without tradeoffs. Some people I know split one meal into three. One way I get by is to just put aside gold coins when I can until I have a spare \$10...”*

*“... GPs are quick to send you to the specialist and the first visit is a big hit —you need to be saving for that. Health is a big variant. Anything medical outside of the GP is difficult to cope with...”*

*“... Medication that used to be free now costs every time. Including Panadol. I have to take Panadol every day and it is now a big expense in my week...”*

*“... I’m on 15 tablets a day and paying for them every month is very difficult. I’m a high-range diabetic and I have to pay for everything for my diabetes—strips, special needles, the lot...”*

*“... Some of us have poor teeth and cannot afford dentistry so we blend or mash up food so that we don’t have to chew...”*

It continues —

*“...You struggle to manage things that involve upfront cash. The eye specialists told me it was \$140, but it actually cost \$495 luckily, I had that in the bank just then, but who has \$495 sitting in the bank the whole time?...”*

So it goes on —

*“...Gas is very expensive and you need it for the hot water, heating, stove. You need to be saving very carefully for those quarterly bills gas, power, water, rates...”*

...

*“... I find I can manage OK without hot water during the summer months...”*

...

*“We’re very vulnerable on public transport. The violence in society is crippling us.”*

It continues —

*“My wife saved for a year to buy me a birthday present of tickets to a stage show that were \$79 each.”*

[Quorum formed.]

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I have quoted from “The Adequacy of the Age Pension in Australia: An assessment of pensioner living standards” report at length because it is important that the voices of seniors are heard as often as they can be in this place. I have also laboured the point that Western Australian pensioners and seniors have to impose on themselves a level of fiscal discipline, which severely restricts their lives and isolates many from the broader community.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Western Australians are doing it hard, and that is not limited to seniors. Many middle-aged Western Australians are also doing it hard. The mantra “You have never had it so good” rings hollow for many trying to find employment, especially if they are over 45. Many employers do not consider employing someone that age and many people feel that they are on the scrapheap at too early an age. Rising unemployment, the downturn in mining jobs and hikes to TAFE fees make entry for retraining less financially accessible. The increasing incidence of age discrimination for older but far from elderly workers makes many consider their prospects to be extremely bleak.

History will not view the Barnett government kindly in this context and in the context of the minimal efforts it has made to date to diversify our economy. That is simply inexcusable. I know comparisons are odious, but we need look no further than South Australia in that regard. Without the natural resources and advantages that this state has, South Australia has worked assiduously at diversifying its economy, and it has done so quite successfully. Tourism is very healthy in that state and its aggressive and thorough approach to securing defence naval contracts is in stark contrast to Western Australia’s rather lazy and laissez-faire approach, which has meant we have received only the crumbs of the defence contract work. Likewise, I reflected recently at the seventieth anniversary of Indian Independence Day that South Australia has shown a much more assiduous effort in its trade relationships with India. It has already secured a sister-state relationship with Rajasthan, and Premier Weatherill, himself, recently led a very large delegation to India. In contrast, Western Australia’s trade with India has declined in recent years and, as I understand it, in eight years in government, the Premier has spent only three days on the subcontinent.

In electorates like mine, access to education opens many doors for kids and can give them the tools to overcome all manner of challenges. As we all know only too well, investment in children at an early age can result in positive returns to the community many times over. It is with some concern that I saw in the *Cockburn Gazette* recently a table showing a breakdown of education expenditure by electorate. Despite the proposed Carnaby Rise primary school in my electorate being built and due to open in 2017, the figures indicate a reduction in education expenditure per student. In 2009 it was \$10 087, which translates to \$11 981 in 2014. That decreased by 15.6 per cent to \$10 107 in 2014, or a reduction of \$1 873. Likewise, young people wanting to gain TAFE qualifications are finding it increasingly inaccessible due to cost. Certainly in my experience as a local member, I am getting many more complaints about kids wanting to go to TAFE and finding it inaccessible or that the courses they want to do are not classified as carrying a government subsidy. Certainly in my electorate and that of the member for Mirrabooka and, I suspect, in that of the member for Southern River, for many young job seekers there is the added component of racial discrimination. Last week the Scanlon Foundation released a discussion paper exploring the role of local communities in creating a sense of belonging and unity, particularly in low-socioeconomic, high-immigrant areas. That discussion paper drew attention to key issues for local leaders and organisations to consider in supporting integration and combating discrimination and isolation in communities. That report was somewhat disturbing at page 15 where it discusses the experience of discrimination. It states —

The impact that experience of discrimination has on an individual cannot be judged simply by counting the number of incidents. Some individuals may remain relatively unaffected by repeated experience of discrimination, while for others, even just one incident which may seem relatively minor can entrench a lifelong feeling of isolation.

The report refers to a study done in 2015 where respondents were asked —

‘Have you experienced discrimination because of your skin colour, ethnic origin or religion over the past 12 months?’

Of those who live in Australia, who were born in the United Kingdom, 11 per cent had experienced discrimination; Italy, 13 per cent; Turkey, 15 per cent; Iran, 23 per cent; Vietnam, 24 per cent; India, 39 per cent; China, 39 per cent; New Zealand, 50 per cent; Australian Indigenous, 59 per cent; Zimbabwe, 75 per cent and South Sudan, 77 per cent. This research shows that certain segments of our community experience very high levels of discrimination.

Finally, in the context of community cohesion, I concur with the member for Mirrabooka’s comments and congratulate the Islamic community for the various Eid celebrations that took place last week. In particular, the festivities in both Southern River and Mirrabooka were great gatherings. Last week was Eid al-Adha; this festival is a holy day for the Muslim faith and it commemorates the willingness of Ibrahim—Abraham—to perform the sacrifice of his son. Abraham showed that his love for God superseded all others and that he would lay down his life or the lives of those dearest to him in submission to God’s command. However, while Abraham was willing to obey, God ultimately prevented the sacrifice, additionally signifying that one should never sacrifice a human life and especially not in the name of God. I tell this story at length only to demonstrate that it is shared in common with Christianity, Judaism and Islam, as all those religions are part of the Abrahamic tradition.

I also relate that story to reinforce that to look at what we have in common instead of perceived and incorrect differences would do much for community cohesion. Community cohesion is something that we need to work on. We need to be vigilant. We need to defend our fellow Western Australians. If we do not, we may well have the very outcomes that I have described of discrimination, a higher unemployment rate and social isolation.

**MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington)** [11.41 pm]: I join in the general debate on the Loan Bill 2016. I start by noting the birth of my first-ever grandchild on 6 September, in Sydney, which is where I was last week. I went over with Hon Kate Doust, my wife, to spend a week with our brand-new grandchild, Kora Lily Johnston Roche. We had a wonderful week paying attention to our daughter Rebekah, her husband and our beautiful brand-new grandchild. That was quite something for the family and we look forward to sharing the joy of Kora's life with our daughter and her husband, Liam Roche.

I also note that last Thursday night in the Senate my good friend Senator Stephen Conroy announced his retirement. I would note that some of the coverage in the media of Steve Conroy's resignation would appear to state that he is dying, but I make the point that all he is doing is retiring from parliamentary life to move on to new ideas. It is remarkable that although Senator Steve Conroy set out in very great detail in his final speech, which he tabled in the Senate last week, why he was leaving politics, all these conspiracy theories seem to be running around in certain media areas to try to explain what he explained in very great detail in his retirement speech.

I note that four of us joined the Labor Party at about the same time. Michael Kerrisk joined first. He encouraged his friend Stephen Booth to join, and then Michael also encouraged Steve Conroy to join because they were all at university together. Steve and I, who had gone to school together, had always intended to join the Labor Party but had not got around to it. Given my mother and my brother were both members of the party at that stage, Steve rang up on the night that he went to join the party and said that they were finally getting it organised and I should go right then. I got in the car and drove off and joined the Canberra city branch, which later split into the Mt Ainslie and Black Mountain branches. I went to the Mt Ainslie branch, which not only had Kerrisk, Booth, Conroy and me in it, but also many other distinguished people. It had the later-to-be the honourable Gary Gray, Craig Emerson, Kevin Rudd, Bob McMullan and Margaret Quirk.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** What year was that?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** We joined in June 1983, which is a very long time ago. It was a remarkable time to be involved in the Labor Party.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** That was when Craig was finishing his PhD, or had he finished?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** No; he had already finished. He did not join in 1983; he joined later when he was working for Bob Hawke. Basically, Conroy had gone to work for Ros Kelly, and he encouraged every right-wing rational economics person to join the Mt Ainslie branch of the Labor Party, which was actually dominated by the far left. It was always an interesting branch, because we had people of immense substance to debate with.

I also acknowledge my good friend Craig Shannon, who was also active in ACT Young Labor, although he was not in that branch. It was a great time. It was a period of time when the Labor Party changed Australia for the good. It opened up Australia, which is something that no other political party had been prepared to do. If members read Paul Kelly's book *The End of Certainty* they will understand the ridiculous closed nature of Australia prior to 1983, and the rapid and incredible change that was brought about by those Labor governments. Nobody had ever been prepared to make those changes, and, indeed, the reason Australia is such an open and successful country now is directly because of the decisions taken by the Labor Party in government in the 1980s. Although I was just a young Labor activist and I played no part in those decisions, it was certainly an exciting time to be involved in the Labor Party in Canberra. We met all the people involved at those senior levels and we were encouraged to be involved. I never thought, back in 1983, that I would end up in Parliament, much less the Western Australian Parliament. Of the four of us who joined the party at the same time—"the original four" we used to call ourselves—Michael Kerrisk went on to be the ACT branch secretary of the Labor Party. Members might not realise that when self-government came to the ACT, the government was not dominated by the Labor Party. It was only when Michael Kerrisk became secretary of the ACT Labor Party that he finally bashed the party into shape and led it to government, and fortunately it has been able to continue in government for a long period of time since then. Steve Booth went on to hold senior roles in a range of different unions and was a senior adviser to a range of ministers in Victorian Labor governments over time, including the Premier at one stage. Steve Conroy, of course, became a dominant figure in federal Parliament. I was fortunate enough to be sent to Western Australia, although I must say that when I accepted a job with the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association I did not realise that I was accepting a job in Perth. I came over here in 1989, which gave me incredible opportunities and led me to the privilege of representing the people of Cannington and working on behalf of the hardworking people of my community. I wish Stephen the best for his future. I note his great achievements and that he sees his greatest as the national broadband network. I also point out that he had an incredible impact on the governance of corporations in Australia. He pursued John Elliott for his improper dealings—I would say corrupt dealings—with Elders IXL and BHP Billiton in the 1980s and 1990s, which led directly to significant changes to corporate regulation in Australia. That is not to be sneezed at.

We are here dealing with \$1.7 billion of additional borrowings by the government. I really have a problem with that because I understand that when the Treasurer introduced the budget in May, he already knew that \$1.7 billion in additional borrowings would be required, and yet it is only now, in September, that we are dealing with the Loan Bill. I am not quite sure why it was not introduced at the same time as the budget bills. If the Treasurer knew that \$1.7 billion was required in May, why did he wait until now to introduce this bill? I also understand there are a couple of authorisations around supplementary appropriation bills from former years. I understand from questioning before that there is no legal reason for those bills to be passed immediately, but I note that at some point either the current Parliament or the next Parliament will have to deal with those supplementary appropriation bills. Quite a number of finance bills have not been brought to Parliament in a timely manner. That surprises me.

At the time we did the last Loan Bill, the Treasurer said that that \$8 billion would last us through until the next financial year. In fact there was a discussion at the time across the chamber during the consideration in detail stage about that. We realised that one of the first bills in the next Parliament would be a loan bill because the government would run out of cash from the previous loan bill. Apparently we have run out of cash quite significantly before that. I look forward to the Treasurer outlining, perhaps not tonight, but maybe in consideration in detail, when the \$1.7 billion that we are authorising in this Loan Bill will run out. I think one issue will be that whoever wins the next election will almost certainly have to come back to Parliament with another loan bill within a relatively short time. I wonder why we are only authorising \$1.7 billion when the last one was \$8 billion, particularly if my supposition is correct that it will not be that much longer, perhaps this time next year, that the government will run out of cash again. I would like to get a picture from the Treasurer about exactly when we will run out of cash again, even after we pass this Loan Bill.

It is interesting to note that a previous Liberal government in the 1990s ran five budget deficits in eight years. It is not as though this is the first time the Liberal Party has run down the finances of the state. One might say it has been done at an Olympic level this time—the destruction of the financial security of the state of Western Australia has been done in overdrive during the last two terms of a Liberal government. As has been pointed out on a number of occasions, our accrual deficit for this year—not cash deficit—is larger than the total stock of net debt bequeathed to the government in 2008. That is clearly nothing for the government to be proud of.

I want to also draw members' attention to the privatisations that are said by the government to be the answer to our debt position. The Utah Point privatisation legislation is currently being debated in the upper house; as I understand it, the government has amendments to that bill and if they are carried—which we assume they will be, given that the government has the numbers in the upper house—the bill will be returned to this chamber for further consideration before it can be enacted. Given that the government's original time line would have had Utah Point sold on 1 July this year, which is obviously now impossible, we have to ask: when will the Utah Point legislation be ready for any consideration of privatisation? Clearly, it is not going to happen soon; it is not going to happen this calendar year, but it probably will not happen even this financial year. All that money has been spent on preparing the privatisation of Utah Point but there appears to be no actual endgame for that privatisation, so why have we been paying consultants all this money for a privatisation that is not going to happen? Even if it did happen, it would raise only a couple of hundred million dollars. It is just bizarre the way the government has allowed this to take place.

Then we have the Fremantle port privatisation. When the chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission criticises the proposed privatisation of Fremantle port, we know we are not on a winner in supporting that privatisation. Again, there are no circumstances in which that privatisation legislation will be dealt with by this Parliament; my good friends in the National Party say that they would oppose it anyway, and the Labor Party certainly totally opposes both these privatisations —

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I still do not, but I have to be polite! I have no reason to say mean things about you!

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** That is right; absolutely correct.

The Fremantle port privatisation is effectively dead for the current financial year, and it would be a financial disaster if it were to proceed on the basis that has been outlined by the government. It would tie up Western Australia's export infrastructure for decades and slow down the necessary expansion of our export capacity for a generation.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** No, it is a completely different issue. Seriously, the Treasurer has to start reading some stuff. He actually has to know what he is talking about before he opens his mouth. As everybody in the industry keeps saying to me, no-one in this government can tell them what it is trying to achieve; no-one in the government can tell anybody in industry—exporters using Fremantle port—what the government's intention is



with this privatisation. What is it trying to achieve? Is it simply trying to maximise the value, or is it trying to expand export capacity? The government's own sales document, the briefing document it gave to us, does not clearly outline what it is trying to achieve, the same as Utah Point. The Treasurer should go and read the report of the upper house committee inquiry, which points out that the intention of the Treasury officials directly contradicts the purpose of Utah Point, and now the government has an amendment that will guarantee large companies access to Utah Point. For the first time, the government is giving them guaranteed access.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** That is ridiculous. Then we have the Western Power privatisation. That is against the interests of Western Australians; the Labor Party is opposed to it and, quite frankly, so are the overwhelming majority of Western Australians. The Western Power privatisation is a negative for the state budget, a negative for electricity consumers and it is certainly a negative for the people who work in the power sector. It is not a plan and it will not generate large amounts of money for future infrastructure because half the value will be in debt, and if the government borrows again to build new infrastructure, it will have to service that debt and it will not have any income with which to service it. By the way, the commonwealth has already closed the asset recycling fund, so there is no bonus from the commonwealth government. Again, that is outlined in the Utah Point upper house inquiry report. Privatisation is negative for Western Australia, if we proceed with selling Western Power. It will mean higher prices and poorer service.

I also point out that there has been no clear direction in the power sector from this government. The legislation is currently before an upper house committee. I must point out that that legislation was referred to the committee by the government. The opposition did not ask the government to look at that legislation; it was referred to the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review by the government. When Hon Norman Moore was the leader of the Liberal Party in the upper house, he created a system that requires all uniform legislation to be referred to the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review. That is why, when the bill was introduced in the other place, the government itself referred the bill to that committee. I understand that that committee will report to the upper house on Thursday. That bill does a number of things, one of which is to move the regulation of the fixed assets from the Economic Regulation Authority of Western Australia to the Australian Energy Regulator. At last year's estimates committee hearings, I asked the minister on a number of occasions about the purpose of moving from the ERA to the AER. The minister could not outline what he was trying to achieve by changing the regulator.

I will draw the chamber's attention to two articles from *The Conversation*. The first one is dated 15 February 2016. It is by Joe Dimasi, professorial fellow in the Department of Economics at Monash University, and Peter Lambert, assistant researcher, Monash Business Policy Forum, Monash University. The authors analyse the AER in its role of regulating the fixed assets on the east coast. They make this point —

The length of regulatory decisions and associated documentation has grown by over 2000% in some cases. Decisions regularly take several years to make and are also more complex and hence less transparent with no clear benefits to customers.

...

Energy network owners appealed the regulator's decision 40% of the time since 2006. Not only does this lead to costs and delays, it also has increased the businesses' allowable revenue by an additional \$3 billion.

...

However, such an approach to regulation is proving to be too difficult and expensive. The information and expertise needed by the regulator is just too great. Utilities network owners (with more information and knowledge than the regulator) have the incentive to get regulatory approval for higher costs. This in turn allows them to charge greater prices.

To capture higher prices, utility network owners can try to game the regulatory system in various ways. For example they can provide excessively lengthy and detailed information backed up by a range of experts, or they can provide it late in the regulatory process. Not only does this slow the whole process down; the regulator can risk being appealed if it does not adequately consider the information put to it as we have seen in the electricity sector.

On the length of the decisions, the next to last paragraph states —

This increase cannot be explained by total electricity transmitted and distributed as this has declined since its peak in 2008. Nor can it be explained by number of customers or growth in peak demand. Some tightening of the reliability standards may have contributed to this expenditure but can hardly explain increased expenditure of this magnitude. Which begs the question—how can this cost be justified to users?

The point I am making is that the Australian Energy Regulator is not a success. We are going from one challenged regulator, the Economic Regulation Authority—there is no question there are challenges to the ERA—to another challenged regulator, the AER. The government cannot describe, ever, what is the advantage of moving from one regulator to another.

I also draw attention to an article in *The Conversation* of 8 March 2016 by Professor Stephen King from the Department of Economics at Monash University. Professor King explains in great detail how complex and difficult the decisions of the AER have become. He goes on to quote from the decision of the Australian Competition Tribunal, which hears matters on appeal from the AER —

*“The hearing of oral submissions by those opposing the AER’s decisions and from the AER occupied three weeks. The review-related material which the parties drew on making their submissions was said to extend to more than one million pages. Lengthy written submissions were presented to the Tribunal—on but one issue (the AER’s opex allowances) the parties’ written submissions were over 460 pages and their oral submissions occupied three and a half days filling over 250 pages of transcript.”*

Professor King goes on —

As the Tribunal notes the AER’s original Ausgrid decision “comprised an overview of 66 pages and 20 attachments totalling 1,470 pages”.

The decision of the regulator was over 1 500 pages. He goes on to state —

This problem is well known in regulation. Initially, a regulatory scheme is apparently simple and clear. But there are always loopholes and differences of opinion. These get debated and exploited. The rules are expanded to fix up the flaws. But this simply creates more debate and potentially new loopholes. These are exploited, and so on.

We are in danger of picking up a regulatory model that is itself about to be changed. The government has never explained the benefits of going to the AER. I have said before and I will say again that I am neither in favour of nor against the move from the ERA to the AER. However, if the government wants us to support the legislation, I need the government to explain what the advantages will be. The government has never done that. To make a glib statement that there will be a \$300 reduction in electricity costs is ridiculous. The government has never explained the advantages. That is particularly the case when Western Power has said there will be a 15 per cent increase in electricity prices if it moves from the ERA to the AER.

My final point is about renewable energies. There was an article in this weekend’s *The Weekend West* about how Horizon Power is using a new approach to buying electricity in the north of the state to enable a more efficient use of renewables. The article states —

Under a strategic revamp, Mr Tudor said Horizon would increasingly offer contracts that enabled it to “retire” fossil fuel-fired power plants if more efficient renewable alternatives emerged.

That is very interesting. On 29 July 2014, the Minister for Energy and the Premier put out a media release announcing how they had signed up for a 150-megawatt power station for a take-or-pay energy contract with TransAlta Corporation. Just two years ago, the government was running in the exact opposite direction to the one it is saying it is going to follow now. In October 2013, the Minister for Energy said at the Energy in Western Australia Conference, in respect of meeting the national renewable energy target obligation —

To build additional capacity on top simply to satisfy the RET ... is a sub-optimal approach and expensive for taxpayers. Western Australia can satisfy its RET requirement by purchasing certificates from projects in the Eastern States.

Now the minister says that he wants to build 500 megawatts of additional large-scale renewable projects. The problem is that the minister has only four years to go until 2020 when the full renewable energy target obligations need to be satisfied. If he had started in 2013, he would have made it easier. I make the point that the minister said on 17 April 2013 —

We are also being forced to buy windmills even if we do not need them ...

In 2013 we did not need windmills; now we do. This is the problem with the minister; he cannot keep to a straight line.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, Treasurer! The member for Cannington is not taking interjections.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** In June 2013, the minister said —

The comments related to the Commonwealth Renewable Energy Target requirements that are encouraging development of renewable energy generation facilities in a market that already has significant over-supply ...

On 19 March 2014, he said that he had announced that the Economic Regulation Authority would do a review of renewable energy, which has still not commenced. In 2015, only last year, in respect of the renewable energy target, he said —

This is a statutory obligation imposed by the Federal Government rather than a matter of State Government policy.

That was his excuse for having no policy on the topic. In May last year, he also said —

All I can say is that although we are supporting renewable energy greatly in the state—it is the fastest growing source—it is largely small-scale renewable energy that now exceeds 400 megawatts ...

He went on to say —

The small scale is doing fine and well; we do not need any more capacity in this state whatever the source of energy, whether it be wind, solar—in terms of large scale—or otherwise. Going forward, we have enough existing capacity and I think all additional capacity will be met by small-scale solar.

That was a ridiculous comment. It was technically against the rules in the electricity system and ignored the reality of the renewable energy target.

[Quorum formed.]

**MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler)** [12.12 am]: I rise to call for a public plebiscite on Roe 8. I do this because this government is committing to the most contentious of its infrastructure projects in its eight years of government. According to the former Minister for Transport, the member for Alfred Cove, Mr Nalder, it is committing \$2 billion on the promise of the federal government putting in \$1 billion. It was revealed recently in leaked correspondence that the federal government contribution was contingent upon there being a tunnel from, I think, Stock Road or thereabouts under White Gum Valley, and it is unspecified how the final crossing will be made to North Fremantle. Why I and the people of Butler are calling for a plebiscite on this —

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** Are they? How many of them?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Sorry?

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** How many have you asked about it?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I am not taking interjections from the monkey cage over there at the moment.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Butler. You do not have to go into those descriptions.

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I am just not taking interjections from the monkey cage; that is all.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Butler!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** We want a plebiscite. We do not even have a dual carriageway through the electorate of Butler, which—together with Baldivis—is one of the fastest-growing electorates in Perth. We have a series of broken promises by this government. We all remember that in 2012, the Minister for Transport before the last Minister for Transport, Mr Buswell, stood in this Parliament and promised rail through to Yanchep and that money was already being spent on that project out of the 2011–12 budget. Not only that, but also the Minister for Education at the time promised that \$10.5 million would be spent on Yanchep District High School, which remains in a shameful state of disrepair and there are no plans at all to upgrade it. It will remain the primary school for the Yanchep district. That promise was broken straight after the election. As I said, we do not even have a dual carriageway through the electorate. The single lane from Butler up to Yanchep is interspersed with little bits of dual carriageway at the access and egress points to certain subdivisions. With a state election looming less than six months away, it is the ideal time and ideal vehicle in which to vote on this. The government can take a firm promise to the election on this unwanted project—Roe 8.

Several members interjected.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The zoo is going off again, Madam Deputy Speaker!

**Mr J.M. Francis** interjected.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The zoo is going off, and I am not taking interjections from the monkeys over there!

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member!

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Jandakot! Member for Cannington! The member for Butler has the floor.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The ministers are bullying me again!

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Treasurer!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The ministers are bullying me again, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I seek your protection from these bullying ministers who interject with their untruths and bullying tactics, but, on behalf of the people of Butler, I will not be silenced!

The government cancelled the promised infrastructure in Butler and then came up with the idea of a \$2 billion road through to the harbour, including a tunnel.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** It doesn't get to the harbour.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The member is right; it does not get to the harbour. The \$2 billion gets towards the harbour. We now find out that unless the government signs up for the tunnel, \$1 billion —

**Mr A. Krsticevic** interjected.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I cannot understand the monkey language either, Madam Deputy Speaker, so I can understand the confused look on your face. It is disrespectful to you and quite bullying to me and the people whom I represent. I am absolutely shocked by the behaviour of members opposite.

The Liberal Party has form for signing up to infrastructure projects at the death knock to bind a future government. If a contract is signed before this election, it will be absolutely disgraceful. It will not advance Roe 8 any faster than if the government waited for a vote at a democratic election. It can be put before the people: "If you elect the Liberal government, you'll have Roe 8; if you don't want Roe 8, vote against them"!

**Mr J.M. Francis** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I understand that there will be people like the contributor to the letters to the editor page this morning on Wednesday, 21 September—a Mark Waters from Willetton. He says to get on with Roe 8. Why would Mr Waters of Willetton not say to get on with Roe 8? He sees the advantage of dual carriageways. He has one in Stock Road down in the southern suburbs. He has Leach Highway. He has the freeway. We do not have these in Butler. We do not even have a dual carriageway running through the electorate. It is an absolute —

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** They are bullying me again, Madam Deputy Speaker; can I seek your protection?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am doing my best to protect you, member for Butler. Will you please continue.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** There is another thing you can do: you can name them if they continue with this bullying, Madam Deputy Speaker. I invite you to do so, in case you had forgotten you have that weapon in your holster.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you; I know how to do my job.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** In Butler, we look at the budget and what do we see? We see \$1.5 million to buy a block of land for a future high school with nothing in the out years for the building of the high school at north Alkimos—nothing. The only commitment in the budget is \$1.5 million to buy a block of land. The houses of each of the ministers I am looking at across the chamber cost more than \$1.5 million. They came up with a miserable figure.

**Mr J.H.D. Day:** How do you know that?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I only look at the cut of a suit and the French silk tie the minister drapes around his neck to know that his house is worth more than \$1.5 million. The total commitment to one of the fastest growing electorates in Western Australia is \$1.5 million. Last week, for this month alone, I sent out 1 790 new electors' letters. At the redistribution, Butler was to be trimmed back from 34 500 people to the state's average of about 10 000 or fewer. No infrastructure is delivered by this government to this fast-growing electorate; it is a disgrace. The electorate of Butler, as has been pointed out by the commonwealth statistics, has the highest rate of unemployment in the metropolitan area, because there is very sparse public transport up there. Yes, the government did build rail. The government completed Labor's task to extend the rail line, but it took it from Clarkson to Butler—seven kilometres. That is less than a kilometre a year. If Labor was that sluggish and derelict in delivery of infrastructure, it would have taken 80 years to build the rail line to Mandurah. That is how long it would have taken if we were doing it at the rate that the Liberals deliver rail infrastructure. The Liberal Party promises it, but it does not believe in it and it cancelled it. If this contract is not signed or if it is signed in a way that has enough of an out for a future Labor government not to proceed with it, there is \$1 billion

at least to be spent on heavy rail infrastructure in the City of Perth to deal with congestion. It will cost about \$350 million to get from Butler to Yanchep. As I have said in this chamber before, we know that the Tokyu Corporation, together with Mr Wah Ang's family—the Yanchep Beach Joint Venture—are ready to proceed with job-producing enterprises in Yanchep, but will not open their pockets until the railhead reaches Yanchep. As I said before, I have been to Tokyu Corporation with Mr Gin Wah Ang and spoken to the chairman, Mr Nomoto. I was with the member for Mandurah and the member for Kingsley, actually, when we went there. Even the member for Kingsley said it was a no-brainer and that it had to happen. Does the member for Mandurah remember that?

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** As she snacked on the hors d'oeuvres.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** They were nice hors d'oeuvres up there, were they not, on the fifty-second floor of Tokyu's building? She had the frankness to say that it was a no-brainer with the jobs it would produce up there.

The government is trying to commit all future funding now so that there will be nothing left to build this necessary infrastructure and so it can commit to Roe 8. This is what it did with the convention centre—probably the worst architectural eyesore in this city. What did the government do? In about November or December 2000, it signed the contract so that Labor had to come in and build this awful-looking building on our foreshore. The government committed to it in an absolute affront to democracy. It knew that it was done like a dinner because of all that was happening during 1999 and 2000 with the absolutely atrocious behaviour of the ministers. It knew that it was going out so it signed it up to make Labor do it, and it is trying to do it again with Roe 8. It is absolutely disgraceful. We are saying that Roe 8 will not be delayed at all if the contract is signed in late March if the Liberal government was ever re-elected, which is what it hopes to happen. If it signs the contract in mid or late March after a vote, it will not delay the project. The government is only doing this now to try to foreclose on Labor's option to deliver heavy rail to this city because for that billion dollars, we could put the rail through to Yanchep and fund the dualling of Marmion Avenue. Then we would have in our electorate what all the other electorates have on their major roads going in and out—a dual carriageway. Whoop-de-do! As the police explained to me, at the moment emergency vehicles, ambulances, police and other emergency services have a devil of a job because there is one lane of heavy traffic and trying to move through that mess for an emergency is nigh on impossible. All the mothers coming out from Amberton and Shorehaven to do the school runs in the morning, trying to turn right onto Marmion Avenue into one lane as traffic is pouring down from Yanchep, are taking their children's lives into their own hands.

It is unconscionable of this government to try to foreclose on the solution for these families in Butler by trying to forward commit the last available money. Why do I say that? Here we are just months out from the budget from which Butler got this absolutely insulting paltry amount of \$1.5 million to buy a block of land for a future school that there is no commitment to build. We are back in this place with the government seeking to borrow \$1.8 billion because it is saying that it will be broke in 40 days and it will not be able to pay the public servants. As the Leader of the Opposition, Mark McGowan, pointed out, in eight years of the fiscally responsible Labor government, a total of \$250 million was borrowed in loan bills. Who will ever forget the night when we debated the first loan bill and the Premier, who was the then Leader of the Opposition, stayed here until two in the morning arguing about the name of the bill, saying it was Eric Ripper's rip-off bill. It was borrowing \$50 million, not \$1.8 billion. The Leader of the Opposition had gone into space land, freaking out over \$50 million; he was doing star jumps and acrobatics in the middle of the chamber, to everyone's astonishment. Then his government comes back to this place, not to borrow \$50 million, which caused him to have a flip-out right in front of the mace. Does the member for Mandurah remember it?

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** Yes, I do.

[Quorum formed.]

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I was coping interjections even during taking the quorum. I heard the Minister for Corrective Services complain that I had undervalued his house at \$1.5 million after he told the bank it is worth \$2.5 million. He said that I am on the record as writing down his assets. We know what these rich Liberals are like. They have no regard for the working people of Butler; they have done them in the eye again.

Several members interjected.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I know Madam Deputy Speaker is being distracted, but if she could continue to protect me from the bullies on the other side, I will be forever in her debt.

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, please allow the member for Butler to deliver his enlightening speech.

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr J.M. Francis** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Jandakot!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I know that this speech will be widely published in Butler and I know that the people of Butler will be offended by the guffaws of government members after they have ripped off Butler and have given them only \$1.5 million for a block of land. I know the people of Butler will be very interested that it was not the buyers' complaints of the local member, but that it was Madam Deputy Speaker who also witnessed this outrageous behaviour of the government to the problems we have in Butler.

As I said, it is unconscionable for the government to sign a contract for this amount of money with only days to go in this Parliament and with only months before the election when it would not delay Roe 8 at all, if it was ever to be, if the contract was held off until after the election and until there was a vote fair and square. We are now in a different situation than we were at the last election in which the government came out with all its filthy lies—fully funded, fully costed. The wealthy people from the Tories were saying it was all fully funded, fully costed yet none of it was funded. The government is again saying that it will be broke and unable to pay public service salaries if we do not approve tonight a loan bill for \$1.7 billion, which as the Leader of the Opposition pointed out takes the total amount of money borrowed —

**Mr A. Krsticevic** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Carine!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Sometimes he does not answer to that, Madam Deputy Speaker. I will tell you what he will answer to, but perhaps I will tell you after the house rises!

The situation is that this \$1.8 billion takes the total loans, as mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition, to over \$23 billion, against eight years of a fiscally responsible Labor government —

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange:** Who did nothing!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Who what? Who did nothing! What a lot of lies. I am not calling the member a liar; I am just saying that I am hearing them.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Butler!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** We built a railway to Mandurah and fully paid for it. We dug a tunnel under the city and fully paid for it while these Neanderthals opposite us said, "If we tried to tunnel under —

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, members! We need Hansard to be able to record this. We just had a wall of sound, to quote Mr Speaker, so would you please desist.

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange:** It's a wall of noise.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:** Excuse me; do not argue with me at this hour of the night, thank you.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I am forever grateful for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker.

We did nothing? We dug a tunnel under the city, strengthened the Narrows Bridge, built a rail line all the way to Mandurah and paid for the whole lot in cash, yet members opposite have the temerity to say we did nothing. I will tell them what we did not do; we did not drive this state to the brink of bankruptcy. That is what Labor did not do. It did not come back here year after year with loan bills seeking billions of dollars upon billions of dollars while the outer metropolitan seats were being starved of infrastructure as has occurred in Ellenbrook after the government had lied about it. If Roe 8 does not go ahead, that billion dollars can go three-quarters of the way to solving all the city congestion. We congratulate the government for taking up the first step of Labor's MetroNet plan of building a rail line to the airport. That was our plan, which the government rubbished, but it has taken up that first step. What was not part of its fully costed plan was Roe 8. It did not end up in the bundle of lies. It was an afterthought by the former member for Alfred Cove. He said, "Let us dig a tunnel; that will solve all the problems."

**Mr T.K. Waldron:** He's still the member for Alfred Cove.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I am sorry?

**Mr T.K. Waldron:** You said the former member for Alfred Cove.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Yes; the former Minister for Transport. I am getting ahead of myself. I will say that in April, member.

Several members interjected.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Members opposite can laugh at that. I remember when the seat of Alfred Cove was not Liberal. For about eight years, Dr Woollard was the member. The people could not stand the Liberals so they went to Dr Woollard.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** The minister was voted out because of his involvement in corruption.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** That is right; the Liberal minister lost Alfred Cove because of his involvement in corruption.

**Mr T.K. Waldron** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Wagin!

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** There was a royal commission into it.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** That is right; remember, member, he was supervising the Department of Commerce or whatever it was in those days and the first person to get their money out with the collapse of the finance brokers scandal was the minister's father-in-law.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** Yes. There was a royal commission into it and the member for Albany offered his resignation to the Premier and the Premier said no. He was in up to his neck, as the member for Kalamunda should remember because he sat in cabinet with him. Kevin Prince down in Albany was giving advice to the bloody finance brokers —

**Mr T.K. Waldron** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

Several members interjected.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** We want his contribution too. This is helpful because they are reminding me now.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** We are talking about a royal commission into a Liberal government, which this member was part of. That man; the Leader of the House, was involved in a cover up.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** If we are going to go down that road, I mean to say —

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you members, can we return to the member for Butler, please.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** And the Premier. They were both involved in a cover-up. The Liberal member for Albany offered to resign because he knew he was guilty and the Premier told him not to.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I object to what the member for Cannington is saying because it is only half the story. When the Liberal Party was changing the workers' compensation legislation and the then member for Albany knew the government was going to do that, he rang up Albany and said, "For God's sake, issue 100 writs today because we are going to change the law on Tuesday." He was in cabinet. The member for Cannington under-narrated his misbehaviour.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington! Thank you.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let us return to some sensible order, please.

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let us have a debate. Order, members!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** We want —

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am on my feet. Thank you. I think we need to give Hansard a break at this hour of the morning. Can we all just be quiet and listen to the member for Butler, please.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I will calmly go back to the point.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That would be good; thank you.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** All the people in Butler will understand this: if this contract on Roe 8 is left until after the election, all the people in Perth can say that if they want Roe 8, they will vote Liberal.

**Mr M.H. Taylor:** That is what they did at the last election.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** No, they did not. The zoo is going off again, Madam Deputy Speaker. I need protection!

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members! The member for Butler is pleading protection.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I saw there is a picture of one of your relatives in the paper today: “Orang-utan set to go wild”!

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Butler!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** If you could just give me protection from this zoo over there, Madam Deputy Speaker, who wants to do this filthy act of spitting in the face of democracy again like it did with the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre by signing a contract to bind a future government. The Liberal–National government will not build Roe 8 in this term of government. If it went to the election with a promise to build it, which it did not, it had an obligation to do it. But the government has not done it. Now, on the eve of an election, the government is threatening to sign a contract so that it can sort of rule beyond the grave. When this government is buried, it can still rule beyond the grave on the argument of sovereign risk, the same as Napthine did in Melbourne when he tried to hogtie the incoming Labor government with a huge road, the east–west link. He signed it even though everyone knew that he was going down the tube, so that he could try to rule beyond the grave. It is absolutely unconscionable to rule beyond the grave of a government that is dead. He tried to lock in an incoming Labor government to build a road that the people of Victoria did not want. That is why they voted him out.

I am challenging the government on behalf of the people of Butler and West Swan and other outlying areas to leave this contract unsigned; put it on the table by all means and let the public see what the government is going to do, but then put it to a vote. What could be fairer in a democracy? Why is the government scared of the vote? Why is the government scared of the people of Western Australia? Why is the government scared of the people of Perth? The government does not trust the people of Perth. If it trusted the people of Perth, it would say, “Well, we have been in government for eight years and we have not built this blessed road yet, we have not signed a contract yet, but in the interests of propriety, in the interests of fairness, seeing as we have just about bankrupted you folks, we will show you the contract that we want to sign and that we will sign with your permission if you vote us back into government.” Then Labor will go out and say that we want to dual Marmion Avenue so that the people of the far north have a reasonable road to come down. We want to put rail through to Yanchep so that we can create jobs in the electorate of Butler. We want to build a rail line out to Ellenbrook to help with all the social problems and unemployment out there.

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The monkeys are going off again. I have been trying to communicate with you, Frankie. It is self-evident that the government is scared of the people of Perth. It is scared to go to the vote on this.

**DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Treasurer)** [12.45 am] — in reply: I will not keep us any later tonight. As usual, Labor leaves the worst for last—especially the member acting like a monkey at 12.45 at night, which is pretty silly. I assume that we will go to consideration in detail, and I will have the third reading debate to answer all the questions I need to answer. This Loan Bill is seeking \$1.7 billion. It is needed. It will leave a buffer of about \$1.5 billion. I gave the reasons for it in the second reading speech. Since the last Loan Bill was passed in this place, the government has lost \$9.3 billion in revenue. Members opposite say they predicted this, and that the government should have seen it coming. Of course, they only saw it after the fact.

The government has cut expenditure by \$2.6 billion, leaving a gap of \$6.7 billion. We have sat through this debate and listened to members opposite say that the government should have made up the difference; and without this bill that would have constituted a 23 per cent decrease in expenditure. The response of every member opposite, bar the member for Victoria Park, was to spend faster and more. The classic response came from the member for Butler who claims the government is spending only \$1.5 million in his electorate. If he had looked at the budget, which he probably never has, \$67.4 million was allocated for the construction of the north Butler senior high school. After the exhibition that we had from the member for Butler, maybe we should take it back! Every member who stood up on the opposite side said that they would spend a lot more. They said the government had not spent enough and they decried the way the government funded that expenditure, through debt. That is the task the government has.

Members opposite keep asking where the money has gone. To date, to 2016–17, the two Barnett governments have spent \$57 billion on new capital assets. That is over twice the rate of expenditure of the Labor government and at half the growth in expenditure. This Loan Bill is necessary to meet the revenue problems the government has, which are real and unpredictable, and have had the largest impact on any government since the Great Depression in the 1930s. Members opposite do not recognise that, but I guess that is what oppositions do, particularly Labor oppositions. The member for Victoria Park says that the solution in his fiscal policy is to restrain growth in expenditure going forward at the level that the government is doing now. From listening to members opposite, does anyone think they will show any restraint in the growth of expenditure? I have not heard an inkling of a commitment to anything but a substantial increase in expenditure. We will deal with that in the third reading stage.



I would like to show members this graph that represents a mountain of expenditure. The red bar represents Labor's expenditure and the blue bar Liberal expenditure. Labor's so-called good managers built up a mountain of expenditure and the Barnett government has been cutting it down. That is the real picture. We will go through this later on. Labor's mythology of good fiscal management is based on windfall revenue of unprecedented proportions, which allowed it to grow expenditure at an unprecedented rate but still be able to balance the books and pay down debt. They were glorious times, but they were also the easiest of times. I thank members for their contributions—at least most of them—and we look forward to consideration in detail.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Leave denied to proceed forthwith to third reading.

*House adjourned at 12.49 am (Wednesday)*

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# QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

## HEALTH — PUBLIC HOSPITALS — PRIVATE MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION SERVICES

### 5637. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Which public hospitals currently use the services of a private provider or providers for medical transcription services?
- (2) For each hospital outlined in (1):
  - (a) what is the name of the private service provider;
  - (b) since what date have services been provided;
  - (c) what has been the total cost of services provided by the private provider;
  - (d) what amount is currently paid “per line” or “per page”;
  - (e) when does the contract for services next expire;
  - (f) on what date will a new contract be tendered;
  - (g) do key performance indicators exist for services provided; and
  - (h) if yes to (g) above, what are those KPIs, and what has been the performance against those KPIs for the 2015–16 financial year or since the services were first provided?

### Mr J.H.D. Day replied:

- (1) [See tabled paper no 4570.]
- (2) (a)–(e) [See tabled paper no 4570.]
  - (f) The WA Health Chief Procurement Officer, in consultation with the Health Support Services (HSS), is progressing the procurement planning for an aggregated approach to providing transcription services, to be considered by the Health Service Providers (HSPs). The anticipated timeframe for the development of an aggregated Transcription Service procurement request is early to mid-2017.
  - (g)–(h) [See tabled paper no 4570.]

## CORRECTIVE SERVICES — WEST KIMBERLEY YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES BAIL HOUSE — BROOME

### 5642. Ms J. Farrer to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the West Kimberley Youth Justice Services Bail House located in Broome, and I ask:

- (a) how many youth can the bail house accommodate for at any one time; and
- (b) how many youth have stayed one night or more at the bail house:
  - (i) the total for each year, 2012 to 2016;
  - (ii) the total for each month in 2015; and
  - (iii) the total for each month in 2016?

### Mr J.M. Francis replied:

The Department of Corrective Services advises:

- (a) The West Kimberley Youth Bail Options Program (YBOP) can accommodate up to three young people at any one time.
- (b) The number of referrals accepted by the YBOP is provided. This does not necessarily reflect the number of separate young people who have used this service, as some young people may have been referred to the YBOP on more than one occasion during each year.

(i)

2012	26
2013	29
2014	46
2015	23
2016 (to 30 June)	24

- (ii)–(iii) This information is not available as the contracted service provider is only required to report on six-monthly basis.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT — CARAVAN PARKS AND CAMPING GROUNDS ACT — REVIEW

**5646. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Local Government:**

In respect of the *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995 Review*, when will the Government be responding to the review given the public consultation ended 30 November 2015?

**Mr C.J. Barnett replied:**

The Government was very pleased with the robust response to the public consultation, with more than 720 submissions received during the second consultation period. There have been more than 850 submissions in all. These are available on the Department of Local Government and Communities' website.

Given the limited time remaining in this term of Parliament, I have determined that a proposed new Bill to replace the existing *Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995* will not be progressed until after the election.

## EMERGENCY SERVICES — BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

**5649. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I refer to the Government's policy on Bush Fire Risk Management and ask:

- (a) has the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) been held accountable for their bushfire risk management programs when for the last ten years they have failed to meet their hazard reduction programs, and if not why not;
- (b) is the Commissioner for Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) responsible for bushfire risk management, and has DFES undertaken this responsibility, and if not why not;
- (c) how many bushfire risk management programs have been completed since inception of the program, and what areas do they cover;
- (d) what areas are the priority areas for bushfire management programs to be completed for the next three years;
- (e) what towns in WA have been identified as being at risk from major bushfires for this coming fire season; and
- (f) what role does the Office of Bushfire Risk Management have in monitoring and reporting on DFES and DPAW in terms of their bushfire risk management planning and treatment option being undertaken?

**Mr J.M. Francis replied:**

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (the Department) advises:

- (a) The Department of Parks and Wildlife fall under the responsibility of the Hon Albert P Jacob MLA Minister for Environment; Heritage I would recommend the Member direct his question to the Minister for Environment.
- (b) Under the emergency services Acts, the Commissioner's legislative responsibility for bushfire risk management is set out in subsections 35(1) and (2) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and is limited to:
  - (i) issuing a firebreak notice to an owner or occupier of land where the local government has failed to issue a firebreak notice under section 33(1) upon request by the Minister; and
  - (ii) authorising employees or agents to exercise all the powers which the local government may exercise to ensure a firebreak notice is complied with, in situations where the local government issues a firebreak notice under section 33(1) upon request by the Minister, but has failed to enforce the notice.

Outside of sections 33 and 35, authorised officers of the Department may enter the land for the purposes of inspecting fire precaution measures taken on the land pursuant to subsection 14(1)(h) and where the officer forms the view that those measures are inadequate, request the Minister to direct the local government to give the owner a notice under subsection 33(1)(a) specifying the fire prevention measures to be taken.

The Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner has not exercised these powers in the past.

The Department currently undertakes bushfire risk management on school sites in accordance with an arrangement with the Department of Education.

Historically the Department has also carried out bushfire risk management on unallocated crown land (UCL) and unmanaged reserves (UMR) in in the Metropolitan region, the Peel region, the Greater Bunbury region, and all town sites, aboriginal settlements and rural developments, in accordance with an arrangement with the Department of Lands. This arrangement is currently under review.

- (c) The Bushfire Risk Management Project (BRMP) is a process which provides local governments with the tools and knowledge to lead bushfire risk assessment and treatment decision-making in their area in order to manage and reduce risk. It is a process which local governments have adopted as part of their ongoing commitment to locally driven community safety. Such planning will always be ongoing and be based on local priorities. There are currently 16 local governments participating in the BRMP with their tenure blind bushfire risk management plans progressing for Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) endorsement by December 2016.

The 16 identified very high bushfire risk 'priority' local governments are:

Shire of Augusta–Margaret River;  
 Shire of Beverley;  
 Shire of Boddington;  
 Shire of Boyup Brook;  
 Shire of Bridgetown–Greenbushes;  
 Shire of Carnamah;  
 Shire of Chittering;  
 Shire of Collie;  
 Shire of Donnybrook–Balingup;  
 Shire of Irwin;  
 Shire of Jerramungup;  
 Shire of Nannup;  
 Shire of Northampton;  
 Shire of Ravensthorpe;  
 Shire of West Arthur; and  
 Shire of Woodanilling.

DFES is also providing Bushfire Risk Management planning support to an additional 22 "optional" local governments which were also identified in the project as having a very high bushfire risk with sufficient resources to undertake the planning process themselves. The 22 local governments are:

1. City of Albany;
2. City of Armadale;
3. City of Bunbury;
4. City of Cockburn;
5. City of Gosnells;
6. City of Kalamunda;
7. City of Mandurah;
8. City of Mundaring;
9. City of Rockingham;
10. City of Swan;
11. City of Wanneroo;
12. Shire of Busselton;
13. Shire of Capel;
14. Shire of Coorow;
15. Shire of Dardanup;
16. Shire of Denmark;
17. Shire of Gingin;
18. Shire of Manjimup;
19. Shire of Serpentine–Jarrahdale;
20. Shire of Toodyay;
21. Shire of Wagin; and
22. Shire of York.

- (d) The 16 identified very high bushfire risk 'priority' local governments are the priority areas for Bushfire Risk Management plans in 2016/17.

- (e) The majority of towns within the south west land division are potentially at risk from a major bushfire. However, any town or city in WA could be impacted by a bushfire.
- (f) Functions of the Office of Bushfire Risk Management include regulating prescribed burning in accordance with minimum standards and guidelines and auditing compliance with the process for prescribed burning.

OBRM review and report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of bushfire related risk as undertaken across Western Australia including by the Department and DPAW.

#### HOUSING AUTHORITY — RENTAL PROPERTIES

##### **5650. Mr P.B. Watson to the Minister for Housing:**

Can the Minister please provide the number of Department of Housing properties that were available for rent in the financial years; 2008/9, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16, and for each of those years:

- (a) how many of these properties were occupied;
- (b) how many of these properties were vacant; and
- (c) how many of these properties were available for women and children escaping domestic violence, and what was the level of occupancy for these properties?

##### **Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

The Housing Authority advises as at 30 June each year:

2008–09 – 35,800

2009–10 – 35,950

2010–11 – 36,539

2011–12 – 36,749

2012–13 – 36,714

2013–14 – 36,668

2014–15 – 36,644

2015–16 – 36,403

(a) 2008–09 – 34,952

2009–10 – 35,183

2010–11 – 35,653

2011–12 – 35,770

2012–13 – 35,795

2013–14 – 35,919

2014–15 – 35,233

2015–16 – 34,805

(b) 2008–09 – 848

2009–10 – 767

2010–11 – 886

2011–12 – 979

2012–13 – 919

2013–14 – 749

2014–15 – 1,411

2015–16 – 1,598

(c) The below list is the number of applications housed each year from the priority waitlist on the grounds of family and domestic violence.

2008–09 – 149

2009–10 – 157

2010–11 – 160

2011–12 – 105

2012–13 – 146

2013–14 – 112

2014–15 – 97

2015–16 – 171

All public Housing properties are available for allocation to applicants on the priority waiting list on the grounds of family and domestic violence.

## HOUSING — PUBLIC HOUSING STOCK

**5651. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Housing:**

In relation to the State's public housing stock as at 1 August 2016, by region:

- (a) how many dwellings does the State hold;
- (b) how many of those dwellings outlined in (a) are tenanted;
- (c) how many of those dwellings outlined in (a) are vacant; and
- (d) how many of those vacant dwellings outlined in have been identified for sale?

**Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

The Housing Authority advises as at 1 August 2016:

- (a) 36,401
- (b)–(d)

Region	(b) Occupied	(c) Vacant	(d) For Sale
North Metro	11,316	340	7
South Metro	6,665	213	16
South East Metro	6,646	334	15
Great Southern	1,081	57	13
Southwest	2,455	103	12
Goldfields	1,023	73	8
Midwest/Gascoyne	1,613	96	6
Pilbara	1,232	225	21
West Kimberley	1,200	54	0
Wheatbelt	1,008	83	39
East Kimberley	520	64	3
TOTAL	34,759	1642	140

## SPORT AND RECREATION — PERTH MOTORPLEX — VENUESWEST INTERIM MANAGEMENT

**5652. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I refer to the Perth Motorplex and VenuesWest's interim running of the venue from 1 July 2016 as new management arrangements are sought, and I ask:

- (a) did the State pay either Kwinana Motorplex Pty Ltd, and/or Protrend Nominees Pty Ltd, any amount for equipment at the venue;
- (b) If yes to (a):
  - (i) what was the amount paid to each entity; and
  - (ii) what is the breakdown of the figure in b(i), in terms of the type of equipment purchased and the amount allocated for that purchase;
- (c) did the State pay either Kwinana Motorplex Pty Ltd, and/or Protrend Nominees Pty Ltd any amount for intellectual property;
- (d) if yes to , what was the amount paid to each entity; and
- (e) separate to any amount outlined above, what investment in dollar terms does the State of Western Australia have in the venue, and what is the breakdown of that investment?

**Ms M.J. Davies replied:**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i) Kwinana Motorplex Pty Ltd – \$63 553 (excl GST);  
Protrend Nominees Pty Ltd – \$346 289 (excl GST);  
Placide Pty Ltd – \$56 929 (excl GST).
- (ii) The equipment purchased was equipment deemed necessary to run Perth Motorplex, such as office equipment, billboards, sea containers, super screen, timing equipment, production equipment, audio equipment, mixing desk, cameras, signage, pumps, welding equipment, video mixing equipment, ticketing machine, motor vehicles, water trucks, tractors, rollers, graders, trailers, transportable buildings, IT equipment. The purchase price was based on the audited written down value of the assets purchased.

- (c) Yes.
- (d) VenuesWest made a payment of \$200 000 (excl GST) to Kwinana Motorplex Pty Ltd for intangible assets including proprietary software, processes and procedures, email database, Trademarks, web and social media.
- (e) As at 1 July 2016, the Perth Motorplex buildings were valued at \$18 750 600 (depreciated replacement cost) and the land was valued at \$11 200 000 according to Landgate valuations.

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING — VACANT PROPERTIES — HALLS CREEK**

**5657. Ms J. Farrer to the Minister for Housing:**

How many Department of Housing properties are currently vacant in Halls Creek:

- (a) of these vacant properties how many are:
  - (i) GROH (Government Regional Officer Housing);
  - (ii) Public Housing; and
  - (iii) Community Housing;
- (b) what are the addresses of these properties;
- (c) when were each of these properties vacated; and
- (d) how many people are currently on the Department of Housing wait list for Halls Creek?

**Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) As at 31 July 2016, there are 318 properties in Halls Creek (195 public housing properties; 108 GROH properties; and 15 Community Housing properties). Of these, 27 are vacant.
  - (i) 10;
  - (ii) 17; and
  - (iii) Nil.
- (b) Information on the identification of Housing Authority properties is publicly available via Landgate.
- (c)
  - Property 1– vacated 22/01/2016
  - Property 2– vacated 26/07/2016
  - Property 3– vacated 16/07/2016
  - Property 4– vacated 03/05/2016
  - Property 5– vacated 02/04/2016
  - Property 6– vacated 29/01/2016
  - Property 7– vacated 13/01/2016
  - Property 8– vacated 15/12/2015
  - Property 9– vacated 27/11/2015
  - Property 10– vacated 21/11/2015
  - Property 11– vacated 11/07/2015
  - Property 12– vacated 11/07/2015
  - Property 13– vacated 28/05/2015
  - Property 14– vacated 20/05/2014
  - Property 15– vacated 29/05/2014
  - Property 16– vacated 25/06/2014
  - Property 17– vacated 24/12/2015
  - Property 18– vacated 05/08/2015
  - Property 19– vacated 19/04/2016
  - Property 20– vacated 05/07/2016
  - Property 21– vacated 20/12/2014

Property 22— vacated 25/06/2016

Property 23— vacated 12/08/2014

Property 24— vacated 30/03/2016

Property 25— vacated 29/01/2016

Property 26— vacated 01/07/2015

Property 27— vacated 16/04/2016

- (d) 153 applications for Halls Creek.

COMMUNITY SERVICES — EDUCATION AND CARE REGULATORY UNIT —  
LONG DAY CARE, FAMILY DAY CARE AND OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE CENTRES

**5658. Ms S.F. McGurk to the Minister for Community Services:**

- (1) Please list the number of inspectors by Full Time Equivalent (FTE) in the Education and Care Regulatory Unit for the financial years:
- (a) 2015–16;
  - (b) 2015–14;
  - (c) 2013–14;
  - (d) 2012–13; and
  - (e) 2011–12?
- (2) Please list the number of long day care, family day care, and outside school hours care centres in WA for the financial years (by category):
- (a) 2015–16;
  - (b) 2014–15;
  - (c) 2013–14;
  - (d) 2012–13; and
  - (e) 2011–12?
- (3) How many places are at WA's long day care, family day care, and outside school hours care centres (by category) for the financial years:
- (a) 2015–16;
  - (b) 2014–15;
  - (c) 2013–14;
  - (d) 2012–13; and
  - (e) 2011–12?

**Mr C.J. Barnett replied:**

- (1) (a) 2015–16  
5.5 Investigation Officers  
35.9 Assessment Officers
- (b) 2014–15  
5.5 Investigation Officers  
35.9 Assessment Officers
- (c) 2013–14  
5 Investigation Officers  
24 Assessment Officers
- (d) 2012–13  
5 Investigation Officers  
24 Assessment Officers FTE
- (e) 2011–12  
5 Investigation Officers  
24 Assessment Officers



- (2) \*\*Please note, a fourth category has been added called 'Multi'; these are services that fell into more than one of the requested categories, ie Long Day Care (LDC) and Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)
- (a) 2015–16  
LDC = 574  
Family Day Care (FDC) = 64  
OSHC = 455  
Multi = 54
  - (b) 2014–15  
LDC = 573  
FDC = 65  
OSHC = 429  
Multi = 44
  - (c) 2013–14  
LDC = 568  
FDC = 55  
OSHC = 379  
Multi = 31
  - (d) 2012–13  
LDC = 563  
FDC = 33  
OSHC = 339  
Multi = 20
  - (e) 2011–12  
LDC = 572  
FDC = \*At 30 June 2012, FDC Services were not listed under the National Quality Framework; were recorded as individual educators instead of schemes.  
OSHC = 301  
Multi = 14
- (3) \*\*It is not possible to provide data on the number of places for FDC, details of individual FDC educators are held at the federal level.
- (a) 2015–16  
LDC = 32 419  
OSHC = 24 518  
Multi = 2 662
  - (b) 2014–15  
LDC = 32 004  
OSHC = 23 004  
Multi = 2 181
  - (c) 2013–14  
LDC = 31 190  
OSHC = 20 384  
Multi = 1 701
  - (d) 2012–13  
LDC = 30 526  
OSHC = 18 183  
Multi = 1 191
  - (e) 2011–12  
LDC = 30 397  
OSHC = 16 123  
Multi = 841

## DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES — OWNED AND LEASED LAND

**5659. Ms S.F. McGurk to the Minister for Community Services:**

Please list all the land owned and leased by the Department of Communities revealing addresses, current usages of the land, proposed use of the land, value of the land, and cost of the lease?

**Mr C.J. Barnett replied:**

[See tabled paper no 4574.]

The Government does not propose to change the purpose or use of the land.

The Government is committed to the delivery of effective and sustainable child care and community development services.

## HEALTH — HEDLAND HEALTH CAMPUS

**5661. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to Port Hedland Hospital and ask:

- (a) what was the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) midwife allocation for Port Hedland Hospital in the 2015/15 financial year, and how many of these positions were vacant in the 2015/16 year;
- (b) did Port Hedland Hospital apply for exemptions to fill some of these midwife vacancies, and were all of their applications to fill these vacancies granted;
- (c) were exit interviews undertaken/ or reasons for departure provided by staff who left in the 2015/16 year, and if so, what number were particularly associated in relation to stress;
- (d) how many times has the hospital needed to use agency staff to fill midwifery vacancies in the 2015/16 year;
- (e) how many babies were born at Port Hedland in the 2014/15 financial year, and the 2015/16 financial year;
- (f) did any pregnant women had any of their prenatal appointments, and/or delivery transferred to other hospitals due to understaffing at Port Hedland Hospital in the 2015/16 year; and
- (g) what is the FTE allocation of midwives for the hospital in the 2016/17 year, and how many of these positions are presently vacant?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a) The full time equivalent (FTE) allocation for midwives at Hedland Health Campus for the 2015–16 financial year was 11.2 FTE. The FTE utilisation for 2015–16 was 11.2 FTE which included the use of agency midwives and registered nurses for routine post-natal care and special care nursery duties which is within their scope of practice.
- (b) Yes, there was a blanket exemption for midwife vacancies state-wide.
- (c) Exit surveys are offered; however are not a mandatory requirement. The data collected is aggregated so as not to identify the respondent or specific workplace within a region. Results do not indicate specific reasons for departure but provide general indicators which staff rate on an “importance” scale.
- (d) Agency staff covered a total of 20% of shifts in 2015–16 financial year for leave replacement of existing staff and vacant shifts where there had been a resignation or retirement.
- (e) In 2014–15, 362 babies were born at Hedland Health Campus. In 2015–16, 361 babies were born at Hedland Health Campus.
- (f) No.
- (g) The FTE establishment allocation for midwives at Hedland Health Campus for the 2016–17 financial year is 11.2 FTE. As at 16 August 2016, there were 7.6 FTE vacancies. These vacancies have been covered by a combination of fixed term, casual and agency registered staff, while recruitment activities are underway.

## HEALTH — GRADUATE NURSE POSITIONS

**5663. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

How many graduate nurse positions has WA Health provided in the 2015/16 year, and how many graduate nurse positions has it budgeted to employ in the 2016–17 State budget, and in each of the forward estimate outyears:

- (a) is there currently a hold or ban in the international recruitment of nurse positions?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

Graduate nurse positions are determined by the Health Service Providers (HSPs) on a calendar year basis and recruited via GradConnect. HSPs are currently identifying the number of graduate positions they will recruit in 2017.

There is no forward estimate specifically for graduate nurse positions. This ensures that HSPs can offer the most appropriate number of graduate nurse positions year to year.

Please refer to the table below for the number of nursing and midwifery graduate positions that were recruited to in WA Health in the calendar years 2015 and 2016. The variation in positions offered is evidence of the flexibility HSPs are afforded to offer the most appropriate number of positions to meet the needs of the HSP.

Table 1: Number\* of nursing and midwifery graduate positions in WA Health

<b>Graduate positions in WA Health**</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Registered Nurse</b>	<b>Enrolled Nurse</b>	<b>Midwife</b>
2015***	567	73	50
2016***	496	68	54

\*Numbers are headcount not FTE. Majority are full time.

\*\*Excludes private providers.

\*\*\*Graduates successfully appointed as indicated within the Recruitment, Advertising, Management System (RAMS) platform.

- (a) WA Health does not have a hold or ban on the international recruitment of nurse positions.

**HEALTH — STATE BUDGET 2016–17 — INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS HEALTH PROGRAMME  
MULTIPLE SCHEDULE FUNDING AGREEMENT**

**5664. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1 in the 2016–17 State Budget, page 318, under the ‘Indigenous Australians Health Programme Multiple Schedule Funding Agreement’, the spending changes section of the budget indicates this was successful in obtaining an Indigenous Australian Health Programme Multiple Schedule Funding Agreement:

- (a) can the Minister provide more detail on what the money will be used for, where and when, etc..?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a) The Indigenous Australians Health Programme (IAHP) Multiple Schedule Funding Agreement 2015–18 provides consolidated funding to the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) for child and maternal health programs. The IAHP aims to contribute to closing the gap in life expectancy within a generation and halve the gap in mortality rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children under five within a decade.

Primary Health Care services under the IAHP are guided by the *Programme Guidelines for the Indigenous Australians’ Health Programme*. These cover the activities of primary health care including child and maternal health services.

Activities provided by the programs across WACHS comprise of clinical services and population health programmes. [See tabled paper no 4571.] for a full list.

The programs funded under the IAHP (1 July 2015–30 June 2018) are as follows:

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>WACHS Region</b>
Gascoyne Sexual Health	Midwest
Great Southern Sexual Health	Great Southern
North East Kimberley Primary Health Care Access Program	Kimberley
West Kimberley Sexual Health	Kimberley
Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service Primary Health Care	Wheatbelt
Fitzroy Crossing Healthy for Life	Kimberley
Great Southern Healthy for Life	Great Southern
Carnarvon New Directions	Midwest
Geraldton New Directions	Midwest
Wheatbelt Aboriginal Health Service New Directions	Wheatbelt

## HEALTH — STATE BUDGET 2016–17 — BENTLEY HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

**5665. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, page 336, under Works in Progress and the Bentley Hospital Redevelopment and ask:

- (a) can you provide details of the proposed redevelopment e.g. funding, timeframe, scope of works;
- (b) will the second theatre at Bentley remain/be opened to ensure there is always one dedicated theatre available for emergency c-sections at any given time; and
- (c) will any of the redevelopment work include a refurbishment of the maternity section?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a) The scope of works and timeframes for the Bentley Hospital Development will be established in a Business Case prepared following consultation by the East Metropolitan Health Service with stakeholders. The development will be in line with the *Clinical Services Framework 2014–2024*.
- (b) The second main theatre at Bentley Health Service remains open and functional. It is available within 30 minutes for an Emergency Caesarean Section, which aligns with the clinical recommendations of availability.
- (c) Project specific details will be determined during the development of the Bentley Hospital Business Case.

## HEALTH — STATE BUDGET 2016–17 — EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS

**5666. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, page 319 in the 2016–17 State Budget, which estimates a 4.3 percent increase in Emergency Department (ED) episodes of care in the 2016/17 year and ask:

- (a) has any modelling been undertaken as to the likely increase in ED presentations as a result of the Federal Government 2016–17 budget, which announced the freeze indexation on the medicare benefits schedule rebate for a further 3 years,;
- (b) what is the projected percentage increase in ED presentations for the forward estimate out-years; and
- (c) can you provide a breakdown across each of the hospitals (with EDs) for the projected episodes of ED care in 2016–17?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a) Modelling is undertaken using historical data so increases in ED presentations due to previous Federal Government decisions will influence the current projections.
- (b) While the Budget Papers include information on both ED episodes of care and Weighted Activity Units (WAUs), the WA Health system is funded and manages its activity around the delivery of WAUs. Targets are set in WAUs and apply to the bulk of WA hospital activity (Activity Based Funded hospitals).

The table below shows weighted activity and growth between financial years for ED services at Activity Based Funded Hospitals as specified in the Department of Health Service Agreements for the forward estimates:

WA Activity Based Funded Hospitals Emergency Department Targets

Financial Year	Weighted ED Presentations (WAUs)	Growth %
2016–17	116,402	
2017–18	120,866	3.8%
2018–19	125,376	3.7%
2019–20	129,886	3.6%

From 2014–15 to 2015–16 actual ED services provided grew by 3.2% under the same measure.

- (c) [See tabled paper no 4572.]

## MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM — PORTFOLIOS — LOST OR STOLEN EQUIPMENT

**5667. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Small Business:**

For each department, agency and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, I ask:

- (a) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (c) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost computers, laptops or tablets;
- (d) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen computers, laptops or tablets;
- (e) how many mobile phones have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (f) how many mobile phones have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (g) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost mobile phones; and
- (h) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen mobile phones?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**Small Business Development Corporation

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e) Nil.
- (f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

The Department of Mines and Petroleum

- (a) 1.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) \$800.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) 1.
- (f) 1.
- (g) \$800.
- (h) \$240.

Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e) Nil.
- (f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

## MINISTER FOR HOUSING — PORTFOLIOS — LOST OR STOLEN EQUIPMENT

**5670. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming:**

For each department, agency and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, I ask:

- (a) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (c) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost computers, laptops or tablets;
- (d) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen computers, laptops or tablets;
- (e) how many mobile phones have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (f) how many mobile phones have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (g) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost mobile phones; and
- (h) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen mobile phones?

**Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**The Housing Authority:

- (a) 11.
- (b) Two.
- (c) \$7,600.
- (d) \$1,500.
- (e) 15.
- (f) Eight.
- (g) \$4,250.
- (h) \$4,350.

Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) One.
- (f) Nil.
- (g) \$910.80.
- (h) Not applicable.

Burswood Park Board; Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) Nil.
- (f) Nil.
- (g) Not applicable.
- (h) Not applicable.

Racing and Wagering Western Australia:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) One.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) \$1,200.
- (e) Nil.
- (f) Four.
- (g) Not applicable.
- (h) \$2,480.

## MINISTER FOR WATER — PORTFOLIOS — LOST OR STOLEN EQUIPMENT

**5673. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Water; Sport and Recreation; Forestry:**

For each department, agency and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, I ask:

- (a) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (c) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost computers, laptops or tablets;
- (d) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen computers, laptops or tablets;
- (e) how many mobile phones have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (f) how many mobile phones have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (g) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost mobile phones; and
- (h) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen mobile phones?

**Ms M.J. Davies replied:**

Aqwest, Busselton Water, Combat Sports Commission and Department of Sport and Recreation

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

Department of Water

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e) Two.
- (f) Two.
- (g) \$0.
- (h) \$565.

Forest Products Commission

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e) Two.
- (f) Two.
- (g) \$1 000.
- (h) \$1 200.

VenuesWest

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e) One.
- (f) Nil.
- (g) \$750.
- (h) Not applicable.

Water Corporation

- (a) Three.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) Estimated \$3 800.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) 19.
- (f) Four.
- (g) Estimated \$1 900.
- (h) Estimated \$1 200.

Western Australian Institute of Sport

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e) One.
- (f) One.
- (g) \$1 200.
- (h) \$1 200.

## MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES — PORTFOLIOS — LOST OR STOLEN EQUIPMENT

**5674. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Emergency Services; Fisheries; Corrective Services; Veterans:**

For each department, agency and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, I ask:

- (a) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (c) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost computers, laptops or tablets;
- (d) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen computers, laptops or tablets;
- (e) how many mobile phones have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (f) how many mobile phones have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (g) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost mobile phones; and
- (h) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen mobile phones?

**Mr J.M. Francis replied:**

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services advises:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) 1.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) \$2,027.
- (e) 3.
- (f) 1.
- (g) \$1,830.
- (h) \$1,080.

The Department of Fisheries advises:

- (a) 1.
- (b) 5.
- (c) \$870.
- (d) \$4 200.
- (e) Nil.
- (f) 2.
- (g) Nil.
- (h) \$1 200.

The Department of Corrective Services advises:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) One.
- (c) Not Applicable.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) Nine.
- (f) Three.
- (g) \$1963.
- (h) \$640.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet, on behalf of the Veterans portfolio advises:

- (a)–(h) Nil.

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Secretariat advises:

- (a)–(h) Nil.



## MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT — PORTFOLIOS — LOST OR STOLEN EQUIPMENT

**5675. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Environment; Heritage:**

For each department, agency and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, I ask:

- (a) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (c) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost computers, laptops or tablets;
- (d) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen computers, laptops or tablets;
- (e) how many mobile phones have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (f) how many mobile phones have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (g) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost mobile phones; and
- (h) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen mobile phones?

**Mr A.P. Jacob replied:**Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

Department of Environment Regulation

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

Department of Parks and Wildlife

- (a) Nil.
- (b) One.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) \$0
- (e) Nil.
- (f) One.
- (g) Not applicable.
- (h) \$200

Office of the Appeals Convenor

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

Office of the Environmental Protection Authority

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

Perth Zoo

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

State Heritage Office

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

## TREASURER — PORTFOLIOS — LOST OR STOLEN EQUIPMENT

**5678. Mr M. McGowan to the Treasurer; Minister for Energy; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:**

For each department, agency and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, I ask:

- (a) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (c) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost computers, laptops or tablets;
- (d) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen computers, laptops or tablets;
- (e) how many mobile phones have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (f) how many mobile phones have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (g) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost mobile phones; and
- (h) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen mobile phones?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**Department of Treasury

- (a) One laptop.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) \$1,719 (ex GST).
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) One iPhone 5.
- (f) Nil.
- (g) \$600.
- (h) Not applicable.

Economic Regulation Authority

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e) One.
- (f) Nil.
- (g) Purchase Price \$829.09 (GST Exclusive) on the 27 October 2011. Estimated value \$100.
- (h) Not Applicable.

Government Employees Superannuation Board

- (a) One.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) \$773.22 (including GST) – please note this was the acquisition value on 28 February 2013.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

Horizon Power

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e) 3.
- (f) Nil.
- (g) \$880.
- (h) Nil.

Independent Market Operator

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

Insurance Commission of Western Australia

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e) One.
- (f) One.
- (g) \$550.
- (h) \$550.

Office of Multicultural Interests

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

Office of the Auditor General

- (a) Nil.
- (b) 1.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) \$ 1,670.00.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

Public Utilities Office

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

Synergy

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

Western Australian Treasury Corporation

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not applicable.

Western Power

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Thirteen.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) \$12,221.
- (e) Nil.
- (f) Three.
- (g) Nil.
- (h) \$600.

## MINISTER FOR HEALTH — PORTFOLIOS — LOST OR STOLEN EQUIPMENT

**5679. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Health; Culture and the Arts:**

For each department, agency and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, I ask:

- (a) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (b) how many computers, laptops or tablets have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (c) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost computers, laptops or tablets;
- (d) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen computers, laptops or tablets;
- (e) how many mobile phones have been recorded as lost for the financial year 2015–16;
- (f) how many mobile phones have been recorded as stolen for the financial year 2015–16;
- (g) what is the actual or estimated value of the lost mobile phones; and
- (h) what is the actual or estimated value of the stolen mobile phones?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**Animal Resources Authority

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not Applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not Applicable.

Department of Health

- (a) One
- (b) 19
- (c) \$1,500 (actual value)
- (d) \$24,285.70 (estimated value)
- (e) 38
- (f) 17
- (g) \$11,592.50 (estimated value)
- (h) \$5,304.60 (estimated value)

Health and Disability Services Complaint Office

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not Applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not Applicable.

Healthway

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not Applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not Applicable.

Art Gallery of Western Australia

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not Applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not Applicable.

Department of Culture and the Arts

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Two.
- (c) Not Applicable.
- (d) \$933.91.
- (e) Nil.
- (f) One.
- (g) Not Applicable.
- (h) \$896.50.

Perth Theatre Trust

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not Applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not Applicable.

Screenwest

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not Applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not Applicable.

State Library of Western Australia

- (a) Four
- (b) Nil.
- (c) \$2,204.28
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) Nil.
- (f) One
- (g) Not applicable.
- (h) \$749.00

State Records Office

- (a)–(b) Nil.
- (c)–(d) Not Applicable.
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not Applicable.

Western Australian Museum

- (a) Nil.
- (b) One
- (c) Not Applicable.
- (d) \$1,400.30
- (e)–(f) Nil.
- (g)–(h) Not Applicable.

**PELAGO EAST, KARRATHA — WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE**

**5684. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Health:**

In regard to the 24 apartments in Karratha's Pelago East transferred to the WA Country Health Service from the Department of Housing, I ask:

- (a) how many of the 24 apartments are currently occupied;
- (b) what is the apartment number of each apartment not currently occupied;
- (c) for how many weeks has each apartment outlined in (b) been unoccupied;
- (d) what is current valuation of each of the 24 apartments by apartment number; and
- (e) what is the date or dates of the valuation/s outlined in (d)?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a) All 24 apartments are currently occupied.
- (b)–(c) Not applicable.
- (d) Please refer to table provided.

<b>Unit No.</b>	<b>Fair Market Value</b>
5	\$196,000
14	\$143,500
18	\$196,000
22	\$196,000
28	\$194,000
37	\$143,000
41	\$194,000
45	\$194,000
50	\$143,500
52	\$197,000
55	\$197,000
60	\$194,000
63	\$194,000
66	\$194,000
75	\$195,000
78	\$195,000
126	\$197,000
137	\$194,000
141	\$194,000
144	\$194,000
156	\$195,000
158	\$195,000
166	\$195,000
168	\$195,000

- (e) The date of valuation for the above apartments from Landgate Valuation Services is 21 June 2016.

**HEALTH — CAPITAL WORKS — JOHN HOLLAND**

**5685. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to health capital works the State Budget for 2016–17 and the forward estimates period in the budget and ask:

- (a) have any new health capital works projects been awarded to John Holland, if so, which projects; and
- (b) have any of the existing health capital works in progress (in addition to the Perth Children's Hospital) been awarded to John Holland, if so, which projects?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a) No new health capital works projects have been awarded to John Holland.
- (b) No existing health capital works in progress (in addition to the Perth Children's Hospital) have been awarded to John Holland.

**HOUSING — WYNDHAM PROPERTIES****5687. Ms J. Farrer to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the Department of Housing properties in Wyndham and ask:

- (a) how many Department of Housing properties are current vacant in Wyndham;
- (b) of these vacant properties how many are:
  - (i) GROH (Government Regional Officer Housing);
  - (ii) public housing; and
  - (iii) community housing;
- (c) what are the addresses of these properties;
- (d) when were each of these properties vacated;
- (e) will new tenants be allocated to these vacant properties;
- (f) if no to (e), why not;
- (g) will any of the vacant properties be demolished;
- (h) if yes to (g) will new houses or units be built to replace them;
- (i) if yes to (h) when will construction begin; and
- (j) how many people are currently on the Department of Housing waitlist for the following:
  - (i) Wyndham;
  - (ii) Guda Guda Community (Wyndham); and
  - (iii) Wariu Community (Wyndham)?

**Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) As at 31 July 2016, there are 129 properties in Wyndham (comprising of 86 public housing properties; 42 GROH properties and one community housing property). Of these, 22 are vacant.
- (b)
  - (i) 11;
  - (ii) 11; and
  - (iii) Nil.
- (c) Information on the identification of Housing Authority properties is publicly available via Landgate.
- (d)
  - Property 1 – vacated 23/07/2016
  - Property 2 – vacated 05/07/2016
  - Property 3 – vacated 02/06/2016
  - Property 4 – vacated 24/01/2015
  - Property 5 – vacated 09/09/2014
  - Property 6 – vacated 11/05/2016
  - Property 7 – vacated 16/09/2015
  - Property 8 – vacated 16/01/2016
  - Property 9 – vacated 18/12/2015
  - Property 10 – vacated 14/12/2013
  - Property 11 – vacated 05/09/2013
  - Property 12 – vacated 15/03/2016
  - Property 13 – vacated 14/06/2016

Property 14 – vacated 28/06/2016

Property 15 – vacated 15/07/2016

Property 16 – vacated 23/05/2014

Property 17 – vacated 24/12/2013

Property 18 – vacated 23/11/2013

Property 19 – vacated 30/03/2016

Property 20 – vacated 20/02/2016

Property 21 – vacated 23/12/2013

Property 22 – vacated 23/09/2015

- (e) Eight of the 11 currently vacated GROH properties will be either allocated to government agencies or assessed for use by the Transitional Housing Program.

Five of the 11 currently vacated public housing properties are undergoing maintenance and will be offered to applicants on the Housing Authority waiting list.

- (f) Two GROH properties are under consideration for demolition and redevelopment, and one property is under consideration for sale.

Three public housing properties are pending demolition; two properties are being offered for sale; and one property is under consideration to be demolished or sold.

- (g) See answer to (f) above.

- (h) Yes.

- (i) Consultation is continuing with client agencies.

- (j) (i) 27.

(ii) See (i).

(iii) See (i).

#### WATER — SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT CONNECTION COST REDUCTION

##### **5688. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister for Water:**

I refer to the reductions in costs to developers for connecting a subdivision or development to water supply infrastructure from 1 July, 2016 and ask:

- (a) what is the estimated cost per year 16/17, 17/18, 18/19, 19/20 of this reduction in charges; and  
 (b) what is the estimated cost per year 16/17, 17/18, 18/19, 19/20 of the decision to apply the standard infrastructure contribution to rural residential subdivisions rather than full cost recovery?

##### **Ms M.J. Davies replied:**

- (a) Nil.  
 (b) \$271 000 per annum.

#### HOUSING — HOUSING FOR WORKERS — AVON VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

##### **5691. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the 20 dwellings associated with the Housing to Key Workers in the Avon Valley project, and ask:

- (a) has practical completion been achieved;  
 (b) what was the total cost of the project;  
 (c) did the Housing Authority fund the project in its entirety and, if not, what was the amount of funding from other sources and what is the name of those other sources;  
 (d) what is the amount of any payments made to the Avon Community Development Foundation Inc to administer the project;  
 (e) how many of the dwellings are currently occupied; and  
 (f) of those dwellings occupied, how many are occupied by:  
     (i) government employees; and  
     (ii) non-government key workers?



**Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) \$4.233 million.
- (c) No. A land contribution of \$500,000 was made by the Avon Community Development Foundation. The remaining \$3.733 million was funded by Royalties for Regions.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) Ten of the fifteen dwellings constructed are occupied.
- (f) (i) Nil.  
(ii) Ten.

**HOUSING — SERVICE WORKERS ACCOMMODATION****5692. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the Newman, Onslow and Exmouth Service Worker projects and ask:

- (a) how many of the ten \$6.60 million Newman dwellings are currently occupied;
- (b) for which company, companies or organisations do the workers occupying the dwellings in (a) work for;
- (c) how many of the twelve \$4.83 million Onslow chalets are currently occupied;
- (d) for which company, companies or organisations do the workers occupying the chalets in work;
- (e) how many of the twenty \$8.82 million Exmouth dwellings are currently occupied; and
- (f) for which company, companies or organisations do the workers occupying the dwellings in (e) work?

**Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) Ten.
- (b) Department of Education, Western Australian Police, Department for Child Protection and Family Support, WesTrac and BHP.
- (c) Ten.
- (d) Shire of Ashburton, Onslow General Store, Onslow Service Station, Children's Service Support Unit.
- (e) Not applicable. The construction has not been completed.
- (f) Not applicable.

**HOUSING — PELAGO APARTMENTS — VALUATION****5693. Mr F.M. Logan to the Minister for Housing:**

- (1) When was a valuation of Pelago West and Pelago East apartments last conducted?
- (2) If the most recent valuation differs from figures outlined in the answer to Question on Notice 4574:
  - (a) what is the unit number and most recent valuation of each apartment owned by the Department in Pelago West and Pelago East?

**Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

The Housing Authority advises:

- (1) Valuations were provided by the Valuer General to the Housing Authority in June 2016 and reflect the market value of the apartments as at 1 July 2015.
- (2) (a) Pelago West
  - Unit 2 \$250 000
  - Unit 6 \$250 000
  - Unit 10 \$250 000
  - Unit 11 \$250 000
  - Unit 21 \$260 000
  - Unit 25 \$260 000
  - Unit 28 \$260 000

Unit 30 \$260 000  
 Unit 31 \$310 000  
 Unit 32 \$310 000  
 Unit 34 \$310 000  
 Unit 35 \$310 000  
Pelago East  
 Unit 7 \$320 000  
 Unit 10 \$320 000  
 Unit 11 \$320 000  
 Unit 20 \$330 000  
 Unit 32 \$350 000  
 Unit 35 \$340 000  
 Unit 39 \$340 000  
 Unit 68 \$345 000  
 Unit 73 \$365 000  
 Unit 82 \$350 000  
 Unit 86 \$365 000  
 Unit 90 \$300 000  
 Unit 92 \$300 000  
 Unit 95 \$360 000  
 Unit 103 \$300 000  
 Unit 105 \$300 000  
 Unit 110 \$350 000  
 Unit 120 \$355 000  
 Unit 124 \$360 000  
 Unit 129 \$295 000  
 Unit 134 \$345 000  
 Unit 139 \$365 000  
 Unit 148 \$345 000  
 Unit 153 \$365 000  
 Unit 161 \$360 000  
 Unit 172 \$350 000

#### HOUSING — OSPREY VILLAGE, COTTIER APARTMENTS AND HEDLAND 125 — OCCUPANCY

##### **5694. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Housing:**

As at 16 August 2016, what was the occupancy of:

- (a) Osprey Village;
- (b) Cottier Apartments; and
- (c) dwellings associated with the Hedland 125 house service worker intervention package?

##### **Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

The Liberal–National State Government’s investment in the Pilbara was not a speculative property play intended to secure a capital gain from the investment. The investment was a response to the strong demand for housing in Port and South Hedland. This was exacerbated by an undersupply of developed land in the town. An important focus of the Liberal–National State Government’s Affordable Housing Strategy is increasing housing quality and diversity in regional Western Australia, to provide affordable housing and rental opportunities for key workers. Regional Western Australia has unique challenges. To be able to attract a teacher you need to be able to offer them a quality home. Developments like these help attract teachers, child protection workers and other vital community service employees to regional areas. Our Affordable Housing Strategy is not just a metropolitan strategy, it is a strategy for the regions as well.

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) 40%. Since the village was completed, the Hedland property market has normalised. This has led to key workers being able to afford housing in the local market.
- (b) 80%.
- (c) 8%. The Hedland 125 Service Worker Intervention Package (Hedland 125) was a two year intervention by Government to ensure the availability of affordable housing for service workers and local businesses. Current market conditions do not support the immediate sale of all properties and a staged release is being implemented. Housing is repurposing a number of properties for alternative use, including transitional housing and affordable home ownership opportunities through shared equity.

#### HOUSING — OSPREY VILLAGE, COTTIER APARTMENTS AND HEDLAND 125 — OCCUPANCY

##### **5695. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the answer to Legislative Council Question Without Notice 644, and ask:

- (a) what was the valuation of Osprey Village following the valuation undertaken in July 2016; and
- (b) when was the most recent valuation of the Cottier Apartments undertaken, and what was the valuation of the apartments?

##### **Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

The Housing Authority advises:

- (a) The valuation for Osprey Village received in July 2016 was \$85,286,381.38, comprising;

Land	\$365,000.00
Capital Improvements	\$84,921,381.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$85,286,381.38</b>

- (b) The valuation for the 44 units owned by Housing Authority in Cottier Apartments as at last valuation on 1 July 2015 was \$8,100,000.00, comprising;

Land	\$2,310,000.00
Capital Improvements	\$5,790,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,100,000.00</b>

#### MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM — BIRNEY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS — MEETINGS

##### **5698. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Small Business:**

- (1) Has the Minister and/or any staff member or placement within the Minister's Office, had any contact or meetings with representatives of registered lobbyist Birney Corporate Communications, since 1 September 2015?
- (2) If yes to (1):
  - (a) what were the dates of the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (b) what was the name of the client being represented during the contact;
  - (c) what was the nature or subject of discussion during the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (d) were other people present during the contact(s) or meeting(s); and
  - (e) what were the names of all people present?

##### **Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

## MINISTER FOR HOUSING — BIRNEY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS — MEETINGS

**5701. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming:**

- (1) Has the Minister and/or any staff member or placement within the Minister's Office, had any contact or meetings with representatives of registered lobbyist Birney Corporate Communications, since 1 September 2015?
- (2) If yes to (1):
- (a) what were the dates of the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (b) what was the name of the client being represented during the contact;
  - (c) what was the nature or subject of discussion during the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (d) were other people present during the contact(s) or meeting(s); and
  - (e) what were the names of all people present?

**Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

- (1) As of 15 August 2016 in my role as Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming I have had no contact or meetings with representatives of Birney Corporation Communications.

As of 1 September 2015 the following staff within the ministerial office have had contact with representatives of Birney Corporation Communications.

(2)

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
19/9/2015	Kim Loxton Sulcon Pty. Ltd. Loxton Properties	Develop and operate international standard gaming and entertainment complex adjacent to the Karratha Hilton Hotel development.	No (contact was by telephone)	Donna Kennedy
21/9/2015	Kim Loxton Sulcon Pty. Ltd. Loxton Properties	Develop and operate international standard gaming and entertainment complex adjacent to the Karratha Hilton Hotel development.	Yes	Donna Kennedy, Ben Killigrew, Hon Colin Holt

## MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT — BIRNEY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS — MEETINGS

**5702. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Local Government; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Youth:**

- (1) Has the Minister and/or any staff member or placement within the Minister's Office, had any contact or meetings with representatives of registered lobbyist Birney Corporate Communications, since 1 September 2015?
- (2) If yes to (1):
- (a) what were the dates of the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (b) what was the name of the client being represented during the contact;
  - (c) what was the nature or subject of discussion during the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (d) were other people present during the contact(s) or meeting(s); and
  - (e) what were the names of all people present?

**Mr C.J. Barnett replied:**

- (1) No.
- (2) (a)–(e) Not applicable.

## MINISTER FOR WATER — BIRNEY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS — MEETINGS

**5704. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Water; Sport and Recreation; Forestry:**

- (1) Has the Minister and/or any staff member or placement within the Minister's Office, had any contact or meetings with representatives of registered lobbyist Birney Corporate Communications, since 1 September 2015?
- (2) If yes to (1):
  - (a) what were the dates of the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (b) what was the name of the client being represented during the contact;
  - (c) what was the nature or subject of discussion during the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (d) were other people present during the contact(s) or meeting(s); and
  - (e) what were the names of all people present?

**Ms M.J. Davies replied:**

Between 1 September 2015 and 16 August 2016 the Minister and her current Ministerial staff have had no contact or meetings with representatives of Birney Corporate Communications related to government business. The Minister and her Ministerial staff may have had contact with representatives of Birney Corporate Communications for administrative purposes only or may have had incidental or irregular social contact in which case this is not listed below.

- (1)–(2) Not applicable.

## MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES — BIRNEY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS — MEETINGS

**5705. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Emergency Services; Fisheries; Corrective Services; Veterans:**

- (1) Has the Minister and/or any staff member or placement within the Minister's Office, had any contact or meetings with representatives of registered lobbyist Birney Corporate Communications, since 1 September 2015?
- (2) If yes to (1):
  - (a) what were the dates of the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (b) what was the name of the client being represented during the contact;
  - (c) what was the nature or subject of discussion during the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (d) were other people present during the contact(s) or meeting(s); and
  - (e) what were the names of all people present?

**Mr J.M. Francis replied:**

- (1) No.

However, contact has been made with Mr Matt Birney in his capacity as Director of Cannings Purple. Mr Birney was present at a briefing on Clever Buoy on Thursday, 16 June 2016.

- (2) (a)–(e) Not applicable.

## TREASURER — BIRNEY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS — MEETINGS

**5709. Mr M. McGowan to the Treasurer; Minister for Energy; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:**

- (1) Has the Minister and/or any staff member or placement within the Minister's Office, had any contact or meetings with representatives of registered lobbyist Birney Corporate Communications, since 1 September 2015?
- (2) If yes to (1):
  - (a) what were the dates of the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (b) what was the name of the client being represented during the contact;
  - (c) what was the nature or subject of discussion during the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (d) were other people present during the contact(s) or meeting(s); and
  - (e) what were the names of all people present?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**

- (1) Between 1 September 2015 to 16 August 2016 the Treasurer and his Ministerial Staff have not had any contact with Birney Corporate Communications related to Government Business. The Treasurer and his current Ministerial Staff may have had contact with representatives of Birney Corporate Communications for administrative purposes only or may have had incidental or irregular social contact in which cases this is not listed below.
- (2) (a)–(e) Not applicable.

**MINISTER FOR HEALTH — BIRNEY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS — MEETINGS****5710. Mr M. McGowan to the Minister for Health; Culture and the Arts:**

- (1) Has the Minister and/or any staff member or placement within the Minister's Office, had any contact or meetings with representatives of registered lobbyist Birney Corporate Communications, since 1 September 2015?
- (2) If yes to (1):
- (a) what were the dates of the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (b) what was the name of the client being represented during the contact;
  - (c) what was the nature or subject of discussion during the contact(s) or meeting(s);
  - (d) were other people present during the contact(s) or meeting(s); and
  - (e) what were the names of all people present?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (1)–(2) There has been no contact between Birney Corporate Communications, the Minister and/or any staff member or placement within the Minister's Office since 1 September 2015.

The Minister and his Ministerial staff may have had incidental or irregular social contact with representatives of Birney Corporate Communications in which case these are not listed.

**HEALTH — GENETIC SERVICES****5715. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to Genetic Services WA and ask:

- (a) what is the average waiting time for testing of priority patients;
- (b) what is the average waiting time for testing of non priority patients;
- (c) how many patients in total are on the waiting list with genetic services (both priority and non priority);
- (d) can you provide a breakdown of how many patients on the waiting list are priority, and how many are non priority;
- (e) what genetic conditions are generally considered non-priority;
- (f) what genetic conditions are generally considered priority;
- (g) are there other criteria taken into consideration in determining priority status (apart from the condition being tested for) for example, other co-morbidities the patient might have or other factors, eg. patient might be wishing to start a family but is unsure whether they might be passing on a genetic condition, etc.; and
- (h) what is the criteria for determining priority testing?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a)–(b) Please refer to the table provided.

<b>Genetic Service</b>	<b>(a)</b> <b>Category 1</b>	<b>(b)</b>	
<b>Category 2</b>	<b>Category 3</b>		
Familial Cancer Program	< 1 month	< 1 month	9–12 months (Genetic Counsellor) 6–7 months (Geneticist)
Paediatric Genetics	< 1 week	< 2 months	< 18 months
Obstetrics and General Genetics	< 1 week	< 1 month	< 6 months

- (c) 1125, as at 16 August 2016.
- (d) 56 are priority referrals (Category 1) and 1,069 are non-priority referrals (Category 2 and Category 3).
- (e)–(f) The priority of a case is not generally assessed in relation to a particular Genetic condition, but on the timeframe imposed by the current health status where clinical management decisions depend on the outcome of genetic review.  

Patients with malignant cancer, anticipated chemotherapy, cancer related surgery, paediatric oncology, and current in-patients (paediatric and neonatal) are generally priority referrals (Category 1).
- (g) Families known to Genetic Services WA (GSWA), particularly with a confirmed diagnosis, may be processed more quickly as the time and effort to compile the family history information is much less and GSWA are more likely to have original documentation of the relevant condition for that family.  

Clinical urgency for other family members who may be impacted by the clinical evaluation or testing outcome is considered in the prioritisation decision.
- (h) Clinical Priority Access Criteria (CPAC) are used to select and prioritise patients for outpatient services in WA hospitals, the guidelines are available from the Department of Health General Practice website.

#### HEALTH — REDUNDANCIES

##### **5716. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, Page 340, footnote (b) to the line item Employee Benefits, and ask:

- (a) are the 717 redundancies that have been announced for WA Health included in the Full Time Equivalents for 2015–16, or 2016–17;
- (b) will all of these redundancies be voluntary redundancies; and
- (c) if not, how many redundancies are anticipated to be involuntary?

##### **Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a) No. The 717 full time equivalent (FTE) was an estimate of the excess FTE within the South Metropolitan Health Service, based on workforce modelling. It was not a planned voluntary redundancy target.

At the time of finalising the 2016–17 Budget Statements in late April 2016, the FTE estimates for 2015–16 allowed for anticipated voluntary severances of 563 FTE, for WA Health as part of the Voluntary Severance Scheme. Estimates for 2016–17 did not include any anticipated Voluntary Severances.

- (b) Yes.
- (c) No involuntary redundancies are anticipated.

#### HEALTH — AGENCY EXPENDITURE REVIEW

##### **5717. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, Division 30, under the sub heading, savings measures, 'Agency Expenditure Review' (AER) and ask:

- (a) when is the AER of WA Health occurring, and when will it be completed;
- (b) is all of WA Health subject to the AER review, or are there some parts of the agency exempt (I understand hospitals are exempt, is this the only exemption);
- (c) who is undertaking, or has undertaken the review eg. is it being done internally, or externally;
- (d) if it is being undertaken externally, is it being undertaken by another Government Agency, such as the Auditor General or Treasury, etc. or has it been contracted out to a private company;
- (e) if it has been contracted out, to whom, and what is the cost of the AER of WA Health; and
- (f) where does the Government anticipate it will find the savings of \$148.2m identified over the forward estimates period?

##### **Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a) The Agency Expenditure Review (AER) process has commenced and its recommendations will be considered by Government as part of the 2017–18 Budget process.
- (b) Only non-hospital services provided by WA Health are within the scope of the AER. Hospital services are exempt. The WA Health savings target is \$148.3 million for the three years to 2019–20, with all savings achieved to be reinvested into frontline health service delivery.

- (c) The AER is being undertaken internally under the guidance of a Project Board. The Project Board comprises of Mr David Tune (Independent Chair), the Director General of the Department of Health, the Under Treasurer, the CEO of the Insurance Commission of Western Australia, and senior executives from the Public Sector Commission and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
- (d)–(e) The cost of engaging Mr Tune in 2016–17 for the WA Health AER is being met by the Department of Treasury.
- (f) Savings will be identified from within WA Health's non-hospital services. Savings measures will ensure that programs delivered by WA Health align with Government priorities and the needs of the WA community.

#### HEALTH — KALAMUNDA HOSPITAL — STAGE 2 REDEVELOPMENT

##### **5718. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the \$8.147m Stage 2 redevelopment of Kalamunda Hospital and ask:

- (a) what are the scope of works proposed in the Stage 2 redevelopment;
- (b) is the business case announced in the December 2015 mid year budget review regarding the future of the Stage 2 redevelopment completed, if not, when will it be completed, if completed, will you release a copy of the business case;
- (c) what was the total cost of the business case;
- (d) has the cost of the business case been funded out of the budget for the Stage 2 redevelopment; and
- (e) has the cost of the business case been funded out of the Kalamunda Hospital operating budget?

##### **Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a)–(e) Longer term planning and development needs for Kalamunda Hospital are being assessed and this will inform the scope of works required for future services.

#### HEALTH — FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL — SECURITY STAFF

##### **5719. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, page 340 under Private Sector Contracts Expenses, and note part of the contract with Serco at Fiona Stanley Hospital is for the provision of security guards, and ask:

- (a) is it true that the Department of Health also employs its own security guards at Fiona Stanley Hospital, in addition to those employed by Serco;
- (b) how many security guards Full Time Equivalent (FTE) are employed by Serco, and how many by the Department at Fiona Stanley Hospital;
- (c) why are there two types of security guards at the hospital;
- (d) are Serco security guards permitted to respond to Code Black security incidents at the hospital; and
- (e) if not, why not?

##### **Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a) No, Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) does not employ its own security guards.
- (b) Serco provide a security service to FSH based on a specific resource requirement. Nil are employed by FSH.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Serco security officers respond to all code black security incidents at FSH.
- (e) Not applicable.

#### HEALTH — GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES — PATIENT TRANSPORT

##### **5720. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 2, page 143 under Details of Controlled Grants and subsidies, 'Patient Transport,' and ask:

- (a) why is there such a sharp difference between the 2015/16 budget allocation and the 2015–16 estimated actual expenditure; and
- (b) what is the source, and can you provide a breakdown of who are the recipients of this funding eg. what level of funding is provided to St Johns Ambulance, and what level of funding is provided to the Royal Flying Doctors, and so forth, etc..?



**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a) The apportionment of total Controlled Grants and Subsidies by service (published in 2016–17 Budget Paper 2, Volume 1 on page 340) has been derived by the Department of Health based on the estimated total cost of services and other modelling assumptions. This methodology continues to evolve to achieve refinement of the reporting for Controlled Grants and Subsidies in future Budget Papers and therefore estimates may not be strictly comparable year-by-year.

Total Estimated Actual grant expenditure in 2015–16 is lower than the corresponding budget estimate as a result of reclassification of expenditure during the year from Controlled Grants and Subsidies to other expense categories. This reclassification has in turn resulted in corresponding reductions within the individual service line items, including Patient Transport, as they are derived from the total grant expenditure. The change in grants and subsidies expenditure on Patient Transport between the 2015–16 Budget and Estimated Actual therefore does not reflect an underspend in patient transport.

The 2015–16 estimated actual total Controlled Grants and Subsidies expenditure is estimated to have increased by 2.5 percent relative to the 2014–15 actuals, with a corresponding increase of 2.9 percent in the Patient Transport line item.

- (b) As a forecast methodology is used to attribute expenditure, a reconciled service-line position that provides a breakdown of funding or recipients is not available. However, included within the grant expenditure in the 2015–16 estimated actual is an amount of \$436,475 that was provided to St John Ambulance Western Australia Limited for the provision of paramedics at the Emergency Departments of Tertiary Adult Hospitals. The Patient Transport line item of Controlled Grants and Subsidies does not include any payments to the Royal Flying Doctors Service in 2015–16.

**HEALTH — ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS — UNSPENT MONIES****5721. Mr R.H. Cook to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to Budget Paper 2, Volume 1, page 318, Health under Royalties for Regions and the \$11.9m of unspent monies in 2015–16, and the reduction in the forward estimates period of \$9.3m and ask:

- (a) what is the reason for the reduced expenditure in 2015–16, and the reduced allocation across the forward estimates period?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a) The reduced expenditure in 2015–16 (\$11.9m) has been caused primarily by re-cashflows of expenditure to reflect the timing of approvals, the revision of project timelines and implementation of new expanded services. Expenditure in 2015–16 is also adjusted to reflect forecasts in allowances based on actual expenditure.

There has not been a reduced allocation across the forward estimates period in the specific Royalties for Regions Programs. A number of these programs have been re-cashflowed to the out years to reflect revised project timelines, but the total value of these programs have not diminished. The four negative items on the Table in the Budget Papers (totalling \$9.3m) are offset by positive adjustments in the Table across the forward estimate period. The projects have not been reduced, merely adjusted within the forward estimates to reflect updated timelines.

**TREASURER — ECONOMIC CONSULTING SERVICES****5722. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Treasurer:**

Has the Minister, or any of his agencies, engaged Economic Consulting Services, to perform any work during the 2015–16 financial year:

- (a) if yes, what work or project has Economic Consulting Services been engaged to perform, over what period, and at what cost?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**

No.

- (a) Not applicable.

**MINISTER FOR ENERGY — ECONOMIC CONSULTING SERVICES****5723. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

Has the Minister, or any of his agencies, engaged Economic Consulting Services, to perform any work during the 2015–16 financial year:

- (a) if yes, what work or project has Economic Consulting Services been engaged to perform, over what period, and at what cost?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**

No.

- (a) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS —  
ECONOMIC CONSULTING SERVICES

**5724. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:**

Has the Minister, or any of his agencies, engaged Economic Consulting Services, to perform any work during the 2015–16 financial year:

- (a) if yes, what work or project has Economic Consulting Services been engaged to perform, over what period, and at what cost?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**

No.

- (a) Not applicable.

TREASURER — PERTH STADIUM — CONTRACT PARTICULARS

**5725. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Treasurer:**

I refer to “The New Perth Stadium DBFM Project Design, Build Finance and Maintain (DBFM) Project Agreement”, and specifically to Schedule 1 – Contract Particulars, tabled by the Treasurer on 28 June 2016 and I ask:

- (a) in respect of items 2 to 7 that was not disclosed, are any of these persons engaged as a term of government employee; and
- (b) in respect of items 2 to 7 that was not disclosed, are any of these persons engaged in a Ministerial office?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**

These items include direct contact details for personnel from the WESTADIUM consortium.

- (a)–(b) No.

SPORT AND RECREATION — PERTH STADIUM — CONTRACT PARTICULARS

**5726. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I refer to “The New Perth Stadium DBFM Project Design, Build Finance and Maintain (DBFM) Project Agreement”, and specifically to Schedule 1 – Contract Particulars, tabled by the Treasurer on 28 June 2016, and ask:

- (a) in respect of items 2 to 7 that was not disclosed, are any of these persons engaged as a term of government employee; and
- (b) in respect of items 2 to 7 that was not disclosed, are any of these persons engaged in a Ministerial office?

**Ms M.J. Davies replied:**

These items include direct contact details for personnel from the WESTADIUM consortium.

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

TREASURY — PERTH STADIUM — DEFERRAL OF LIFECYCLE SERVICES

**5727. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Treasurer:**

I refer to Clause 27 – Deferral of Lifecycle Services of “The New Perth Stadium DBFM Project Design, Build Finance and Maintain (DBFM) Project Agreement”, tabled by the Treasurer on 28 June 2016, and ask:

- (a) if the State provides an approval in accordance with Clause 27 (b) of the Agreement, will Project Co:
  - (i) be obliged to provide a rebate to the State; or;
  - (ii) be obliged to discount the State’s financial obligations; and
  - (iii) will financial settlement be a matter for negotiations between Project Co and the State?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**

- (a) (i)–(iii) No; this mechanism operates such that the risk and converse benefit rests with Project Co, with no cost impact on the State.

For example, if the Perth Stadium and Sports Precinct require lifecycle maintenance services prior to the dates set out in the Estate Services Plan, then Project Co must fund these services without an increase in payments from the State. Further, should the State provide approval in accordance with Clause 27(b), Project Co must continue to ensure that the Perth Stadium and Sports Precinct is fit for purpose or monthly service payments will be abated. At the expiry date, Project Co must also ensure the Perth Stadium and Sports Precinct satisfies a suite of handover conditions and carry out any refurbishment works required to meet these handover conditions without any additional payments from the State.

## SPORT AND RECREATION — PERTH STADIUM — DEFERRAL OF LIFECYCLE SERVICES

**5728. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I refer to Clause 27 – Deferral of Lifecycle Services of “The New Perth Stadium DBFM Project Design, Build Finance and Maintain (DBFM) Project Agreement”, tabled by the Treasurer on 28 June 2016, and ask:

- (a) if the State provides an approval in accordance with Clause 27 (b) of the Agreement, will Project Co:
  - (i) be obliged to provide a rebate to the State; or;
  - (ii) be obliged to discount the State’s financial obligations; or; and
  - (iii) will financial settlement be a matter for negotiations between Project Co and the State?

**Ms M.J. Davies replied:**

- (a) (i)–(iii) No; this mechanism operates such that the risk and converse benefit rests with Project Co, with no cost impact on the State.

If the Perth Stadium and Sports Precinct require lifecycle maintenance services prior to the dates set out in the Estate Services Plan, then Project Co must fund these services without an increase in payments from the State. Should the State provide approval in accordance with Clause 27(b), Project Co must continue to ensure that the Perth Stadium and Sports Precinct is fit for purpose or monthly service payments will be abated. At the expiry date, Project Co must also ensure the Perth Stadium and Sports Precinct satisfies a suite of handover conditions and carry out any refurbishment works required to meet these handover conditions without any additional payments from the State.

## MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM — 500 CLUB EVENTS

**5729. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Small Business:**

During the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the Minister attend a 500 Club event:

- (a) on what date was each event conducted, and where was each event located; and
- (b) for each event, who attended?

**Mr S.K. L’Estrange replied:**

One occasion.

- (a) 25 May 2016 at Gershwin’s Restaurant, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 99 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth.
- (b) The Member will need to direct this question to the 500 Club.

## MINISTER FOR HOUSING — 500 CLUB EVENTS

**5732. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming:**

During the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the Minister attend a 500 Club event:

- (a) on what date was each event conducted, and where was each event conducted; and
- (b) for each event, who attended?

**Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

As of 15 August 2016 in my role as Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming, I have not attended any 500 club events.

- (a)–(b) Not applicable.

## MINISTER FOR WATER — 500 CLUB EVENTS

**5735. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Water; Sport and Recreation; Forestry:**

During the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the Minister attend a 500 Club event:

- (a) on what date was each event conducted, and where was each event located; and
- (b) for each event, who attended?

**Ms M.J. Davies replied:**

Nil.

- (a)–(b) Not applicable.

## MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES — 500 CLUB EVENTS

**5736. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Emergency Services; Fisheries; Corrective Services; Veterans:**

During the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the Minister attend a 500 Club event:

- (a) on what date was each event conducted, and where was each event located; and
- (b) for each event, who attended?

**Mr J.M. Francis replied:**

- (a)–(b) The Minister for Emergency Services; Fisheries; Corrective Services; Veterans did not attend a 500 Club event during the 2015–16 financial year.

## MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT — 500 CLUB EVENTS

**5737. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Environment; Heritage:**

During the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the Minister attend a 500 Club event:

- (a) on what date was each such event conducted, and where was each event located; and
- (b) for each event, who attended?

**Mr A.P. Jacob replied:**

- (a) During the 2015–16 financial year, the Minister attended 500 Club events on 8 September 2015 and 24 November 2015. Both events were held at Gershwins Restaurant, Hyatt Hotel, Perth.
- (b) The Member will need to direct this question to the 500 Club.

## TREASURER — 500 CLUB EVENTS

**5740. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Treasurer; Minister for Energy; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:**

During the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the Minister attend a 500 Club event:

- (a) on what date was each event conducted, and where was each event conducted; and
- (b) for each event, who attended?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**

- (a)
  - (i) 25/08/2015 – Hyatt Regency Hotel
  - (ii) 17/11/2015 – Hyatt Regency Hotel
- (b) The Member will need to direct this question to the 500 Club.

## MINISTER FOR HEALTH — 500 CLUB EVENTS

**5741. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Health; Culture and the Arts:**

During the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the Minister attend a 500 Club event:

- (a) on what date where each event conducted, and where was each event located; and
- (b) for each event, who attended?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**

- (a) During the 2015–16 financial year the Minister for Health; Culture and the Arts attended three 500 Club events. Details of these events are listed in the table below.

Date	Location
10 November 2015	Hyatt Regency Perth
16 February 2016	Hyatt Regency Perth
31 May 2016	Hyatt Regency Perth

- (b) The Member will need to direct this question to the 500 Club.

MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM — PORTFOLIOS —  
MARKET RESEARCH AND POLLING AGENCIES**5746. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Small Business:**

For each agency within each of the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, please provide the following information:

- (a) during the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the agencies engage market research or polling agencies;

- (b) what are the names of these market research or polling agencies, and how much was paid to each such business;
- (c) what is the title and date of each report prepared by these market research or polling agencies;
- (d) if a copy of any such report was provided to the Minister or the Minister's office, which reports were provided and on what date; and
- (e) did any such market research or polling agency provide a verbal briefing to the Minister or to the Minister's office:
  - (i) if yes, on what date or dates; and
  - (ii) if yes, who was present during this verbal briefing?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC)

- (a) Two occasions.
- (b) Research Solutions – \$49,800.00 and Advantage Communications and Marketing – \$19,466.71
- (c) Research Solutions – “The State of Small Business Survey 2015”. The report was presented to the SBDC on 21 October 2015.  
  
 Advantage Communications and Marketing – “Small Business Development Corporation Client Survey 2016”. The report was presented to SBDC on 21 June 2016.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) No.
  - (i)–(ii) Not applicable.

Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP)

- (a) One occasion.
- (b) EY Sweeney – \$35,610.00
- (c) EY Sweeney – Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey. The report was presented to DMP on 4 May 2016.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) No.
  - (i)–(ii) Not applicable.

Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR HOUSING — MARKET RESEARCH AND POLLING AGENCIES

**5749. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Housing; Racing and Gaming:**

For each agency within each of the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, please provide the following information:

- (a) during the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the agencies engage market research or polling agencies;
- (b) what are the names of these market research or polling agencies, and how much was paid to each such business;
- (c) what is the title and date of each report prepared by these market research or polling agencies;
- (d) if a copy of any such report was provided to the Minister or the Minister's office, which reports were provided and on what date; and
- (e) did any such market research or polling agency provide a verbal briefing to the Minister or to the Minister's office:
  - (i) if yes, on what date or dates; and
  - (ii) if yes, who was present during this verbal briefing?

**Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**The Housing Authority:

Nil.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

The Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor:

Nil.

(a)–(e) Not applicable.

## MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT — MARKET RESEARCH AND POLLING AGENCIES

**5750. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Local Government; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Youth:**

For each agency within each of the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, please provide the following information:

- (a) during the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the agencies in the Minister's portfolio engage market research or polling agencies;
- (b) what are the names of these market research or polling agencies, and how much was paid to each such business;
- (c) what is the title and date of each report prepared by these market research or polling agencies;
- (d) if a copy of any such report was provided to the Minister or the Minister's office, reports were provided and on what date; and
- (e) did any such market research or polling agency provide a verbal briefing to the Minister or to the Minister's office:
  - (i) if yes, on what date or dates; and
  - (ii) if yes, who was present during this verbal briefing?

**Mr C.J. Barnett replied:**Department Local Government Communities

(a) Nil.

(b)–(e) (i)–(ii) Not applicable.

Metropolitan Cemetery Board

- (a) One (1).
- (b) Research Solutions \$15 034.
- (c) Metropolitan Cemeteries Board Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey June 2016.
- (d) Yes – Executive summary provided to Minister on 9 August 2016.
- (e) No.
  - (i)–(ii) Not applicable.

## MINISTER FOR WATER — MARKET RESEARCH AND POLLING AGENCIES

**5752. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Water; Sport and Recreation; Forestry:**

For each agency within each of the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, please provide the following information:

- (a) during the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the agencies in the Minister's portfolio engage market research or polling agencies;
- (b) what are the names of these market research or polling agencies, and how much was paid to each such business;
- (c) what is the title and date of each report prepared by these market research or polling agencies;
- (d) if a copy of any such report was provided to the Minister or the Minister's office, which reports were provided and on what date; and
- (e) did any such market research or polling agency provide a verbal briefing to the Minister or to the Minister's office:
  - (i) if yes, on what date or dates; and
  - (ii) if yes, who was present during this verbal briefing?

**Ms M.J. Davies replied:**

Aqwest, Busselton Water, Combat Sports Commission, Forest Products Commission and Western Australian Institute of Sport

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) (ii) Not applicable.

## Department of Sport and Recreation

- (a) One occasion during 2015–16. The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) undertakes an Annual Client Survey (i.e. sport and recreation organisations, local governments and camp users) that contribute to formulation of the agency's effectiveness measures in annual reporting.
- (b) Research Solutions, at a cost of \$31 262.
- (c) The 2015/16 Department of Sport and Recreation Annual Client Survey.
- (d) The Minister will be briefed on the Annual Client Survey via Ministerial correspondence in September 2016. The information will also be published in the Department of Sport and Recreation Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2016.
- (e) Not applicable

## Department of Water

- (a) Two.
- (b) Patterson Research Group – \$21 857 including GST.  
Research Solutions – \$36 366 including GST.
- (c) Key Stakeholder Survey – 24 March 2016.  
Survey of Domestic Garden Bore Users in the Perth, Busselton, Bunbury and Esperance Areas – 1 June 2016.
- (d) Information from the key stakeholder survey is used as a key performance indicator in the Department of Water Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2016.
- (e) No.  
(i)–(ii) Not applicable

## VenuesWest

- (a) Five market research agencies were engaged to undertake 16 projects.
- (b) Platinum Global Business Solutions – \$4 445.25.  
University of South Australia – Centre for Tourism & Leisure Management – \$530.  
Thinkfield Research – \$1 100.  
Polite Social – \$3 263.70.  
Catherine O'Sullivan – \$2 660.
- (c) Agencies provided fieldwork services only – analysis and reporting completed internally.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) No.  
(i)–(ii) Not applicable.

## Water Corporation

- (a) Four market research agencies were engaged to undertake 15 projects.
- (b) Painted Dog – \$349 555.  
Metrix Consulting – \$345 836.  
IPSOS – \$86 670.  
Quintessential Marketing – \$74 497.
- (c) Groundwater Replenishment tracking – August 2015.  
Builders and developers website redesign – September 2015.  
Customer Performance Index – Sept 2015, Dec 2015, March 2016 and June 2016.  
Pressure Management – December 2015.  
Service disruptions research – December 2015.  
Dry season response – January 2016.

Partnerships research – March 2016.

Farmlands research – April 2016.

Advertising campaign testing – May 2016.

Customer strategy research – June 2016.

Non-residential segmentation – June 2016.

In addition there was various fieldwork undertaken throughout the year.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) No.

(i)–(ii) Not applicable.

\*All figures include GST.

#### MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES — MARKET RESEARCH AND POLLING AGENCIES

#### **5753. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Emergency Services; Fisheries; Corrective Services; Veterans:**

For each agency within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, please provide the following information:

- (a) during the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the agencies in the Minister's portfolio engage market research or polling agencies;
- (b) what are the names of these market research or polling agencies, and how much was paid to each such business;
- (c) what is the title and date of each report prepared by these market research or polling agencies;
- (d) if a copy of any such report was provided to the Minister or the Minister's office, which reports were provided, and on what date; and
- (e) did any such market research or polling agency provide a verbal briefing to the Minister or to the Minister's office:
  - (i) if yes, on what date or dates; and
  - (ii) if yes, who was present during this verbal briefing?

#### **Mr J.M. Francis replied:**

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) advises:

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not applicable.

The Department of Fisheries (DOF) advises:

- (a) One.
- (b) Morgan Research Pty Ltd, \$135 745 over a five year period (2014 to 2019; i.e. \$27 149 per year) for the Department of Fisheries Annual Community Survey.
- (c) Results are published in the Department of Fisheries Annual Report – Key Performance Indicators.
- (d) As per (c) above.
- (e) No.

The Department of Corrective Services (DCS) advises:

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not applicable.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet, on behalf of the Veterans portfolio:

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not applicable.

The State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat advises:

- (a) Once.
- (b) Patterson Research Group \$18,675.
- (c) State Emergency Management Committee Stakeholder Survey 2016 Report. 12 July 2016.
- (d) Not provided.
- (e) Not applicable.



## MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT — MARKET RESEARCH AND POLLING AGENCIES

**5754. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Environment; Heritage:**

For each agency within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, please provide the following information:

- (a) during the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the agencies in the Minister's portfolio engage market research or polling agencies;
- (b) what are the names of these market research or polling agencies, and how much was paid to each such business;
- (c) what was the title and date of each report prepared by these market research or polling agencies;
- (d) if a copy of any such report was provided to the Minister or the Minister's office, which reports were provided, and on what date; and
- (e) did any such market research or polling agency provide a verbal briefing to the Minister or to the Minister's office:
  - (i) if yes, on what date or dates; and
  - (ii) if yes, who was present during this verbal briefing?

**Mr A.P. Jacob replied:**Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

- (a) One.
- (b)–(c) Alex Stuckey was paid \$9,820 for submitting the *Report for 2016 Visitors to Kings Park* on 13 June 2016.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) No.
  - (i)–(ii) Not applicable.

Department of Environment Regulation

- (a) Three, on behalf of the Waste Authority.
- (b)–(c) Monash University was paid \$18,182 for research to identify food waste behaviour change strategies for WA Schools:  
*Research and Practice Review: Avoidable food waste behaviour change in schools (Interim report), 1 March 2016.*  
*Tackling Avoidable Food Waste in Western Australian Schools: Summary of behavioural insights from parent and student surveys (Interim report), 9 August 2016.*  
 Equilibrium was paid \$10,725 for research to identify suitable infrastructure for waste reduction in WA high schools, and for the preparation of survey questions provided 25 May 2016.  
 Online Research Unit was paid \$18,840 for 600 student and 600 parent surveys as part of research with Monash University.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) No.
  - (i)–(ii) Not applicable.

Department of Parks and Wildlife

- (a) One.
- (b)–(c) Patterson Research Group was paid \$22,528 in May 2016 for research into community awareness of targeted Western Shield baiting of feral animals with the poison 1080.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) No.
  - (i)–(ii) Not applicable.

Office of the Appeals Convenor

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e) No.
  - (i)–(ii) Not applicable.

Office of the Environmental Protection Authority

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e) No.
- (i)–(ii) Not applicable.

Perth Zoo

- (a) One.
- (b)–(c) Painted Dog Research was paid \$47,630 for preparing the Perth Zoo Annual Quantitative Research 2016 Presentation on 31 May 2016.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) No.
- (i)–(ii) Not applicable.

State Heritage Office

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(d) Not applicable.
- (e) No.
- (i)–(ii) Not applicable.

## TREASURER — MARKET RESEARCH AND POLLING AGENCIES

**5757. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Treasurer; Minister for Energy; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:**

For each agency within each of the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, please provide the following information:

- (a) during the 2015–16 financial year, on how many occasions did the agencies in the Minister's portfolio engage market research or polling agencies;
- (b) what are the names of these market research or polling agencies, and how much was paid to each such business;
- (c) what is the title and date of each report prepared by these market research or polling agencies;
- (d) if a copy of any such report was provided to the Minister or the Minister's office, which reports were provided, and on what date; and
- (e) did any such market research or polling agency provide a verbal briefing to the Minister or to the Minister's office:
  - (i) if yes, on what date or dates; and
  - (ii) if yes, who was present during this verbal briefing?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**Department of Treasury

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not applicable.

Economic Regulation Authority

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not applicable.

Government Employees Superannuation Board

- (a) Thirteen.
- (b) Painted Dog \$64 836 (ex GST)  
Research Solutions \$6 255 (ex GST)  
Optimal Workshop \$149 (ex GST)

- (c) GESB Member Services Satisfaction Pulse July 2015  
 GESB Member Services Satisfaction Pulse August 2015  
 GESB Member Services Satisfaction Pulse September 2015  
 GESB Member Services Satisfaction Pulse July – September 2015  
 GESB Member Services Satisfaction Pulse October 2015  
 GESB Member Services Satisfaction November 2015  
 GESB Member Services Satisfaction December 2015  
 GESB Member Services Satisfaction July 2015 to December 2015 Topline Measure  
 GESB Member Services Satisfaction Pulse January to March 2016  
 GESB Member Services Satisfaction Pulse May to June 2016  
 GESB Member Services Annual Satisfaction Survey 2015–16 Annual KPI Summary  
 GESB Employer Annual Satisfaction Survey 2015  
 Website Project (Responsive & Accessible Website {RAW}) Information Architecture Survey  
 June 2016
- (d) No copies provided.
- (e) No.  
 (i)–(ii) Not applicable.

Horizon Power

- (a) Two.
- (b) Metrix Consulting – \$159,660.
- (c) Brand value and product demand research report – 24 June 2016.  
 Solar Credit Scheme Research report – 20 May 2016.
- (d) No.
- (e) N/A.

Independent Market Operator

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not applicable.

Insurance Commission of Western Australia

- (a) Three.
- (b) Faster Horses (\$23,750) and Painted Dog (\$29,366).
- (c) Campaign Evaluation: Expansion of Motor Injury Insurance, 3 March 2016.  
 RiskCover: Injured Workers Satisfaction Survey, 17 September 2015; and  
 RiskCover: Customer Satisfaction Survey, 17 September 2015.
- (d) Campaign Evaluation: Expansion of Motor Injury Insurance. 1 March 2016.
- (e) No.

Office of Multicultural Interests

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not applicable.

Office of the Auditor General

- (a) Three.
- (b) Orima Research. Total fee payable was \$75,900 (inc GST).
- (c) Office of the Auditor General for Western Australia – 2015–16 Survey of Assurance Audit Clients –  
 June 2016  
 OAG WA 2015–16 Survey of Parliamentarians – July 2016  
 Office of the Auditor General for Western Australia – 2015–16 Survey of Performance Audit Clients –  
 August 2016.
- (d) No reports were provided to the Minister.
- (e) No.

Public Utilities Office

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not applicable.

Synergy

- (a) Eight.
- (b) Thinkfield – \$15,984.  
Faster Horses – \$157,300.  
Painted Dog – \$29,990.  
Ipsos – \$167,707.  
Fifth Quadrant – \$29,950.
- (c) Synergy brand tracking program, July 2015 – June 2016  
Direct debit by instalment omnibus, July 2015  
Synergy pre-testing, August 2015  
Ad concept testing, October 2015  
EConnect online omnibus, October 2015  
Synergy voice talent evaluation, February 2016  
Synergy website observation, June 2016  
Channel optimisation project, June 2016
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) No.
  - (i) Not applicable.
  - (ii) Not applicable.

Western Australian Treasury Corporation

- (a) One.
- (b) Peter Lee Associates, \$22,000.
- (c) WATC Client Review, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016.
- (d) A copy of this report was not provided to the Treasurer.
- (e) No.
  - (i)–(ii) Not Applicable.

Western Power

- (a) Eleven.
- (b) Ipsos Pty Ltd – \$393,314.85  
Faster Horses – \$85,932.00
- (c) Residential Corporate Reputation Q5 – September 2015  
Residential Corporate Reputation Q6 – December 2015  
Make the Safe Call Winter 2015  
Make the Safe Call Summer 2016  
Residential Corporate Reputation Q7 – March 2016  
Residential Corporate Reputation Q8 – June 2016  
Stakeholder Corporate Reputation 2016 FY
- (d)–(e) Copies were not provided to the Minister or his office, and he received no verbal briefings.

## MINISTER FOR HEALTH — MARKET RESEARCH AND POLLING AGENCIES

**5758. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Health; Culture and the Arts:**

For each agency in the control of the Minister, please provide the following information:

- (a) during the 2015-16 financial year, how many occasions did the agencies in the Minister's portfolio engage market research or polling agencies;
- (b) what was the names of these market research or polling agencies, and how much was paid to each such business;
- (c) what was the title and date of each report prepared by these market research or polling agencies;
- (d) if a copy of any such report was provided to the Minister or the Minister's office, which reports were provided and on what date; and
- (e) did any such market research or polling agency provide a verbal briefing to the Minister or to the Minister's office:
  - (i) if yes, on what date or dates; and
  - (ii) if yes, who was present during this verbal briefing?

**Mr J.H.D. Day replied:**Animal Resources Authority

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not Applicable.

Department of Health

- (a)–(c) [See tabled paper no 4573.]
- (d) No.
- (e) No.

Health and Disability Services Complaint Office

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not Applicable.

Healthway

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not Applicable.

Art Gallery of Western Australia

- (a)–(c) [See tabled paper no 4573.]
- (d) No.
- (e) No.

Department of Culture and the Arts and Screenwest

- (a)–(c) [See tabled paper no 4573.]
- (d) No.
- (e) No.

Perth Theatre Trust

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not Applicable.

State Library of Western Australia

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not Applicable.

State Records Office

- (a) Nil.
- (b)–(e) Not Applicable.

Western Australian Museum

- (a)–(c) [See tabled paper no 4573.]
- (d) No.
- (e) No.

**HOUSING AUTHORITY — VACANT UNITS — ELECTORATE OF CANNINGTON AND  
SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN REGION**

**5763. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to Housing Authority Housing Units and ask:

- (a) how many Housing Authority housing units are currently vacant in the State Electorate of Cannington; and
- (b) how many Housing Authority housing units are currently vacant in the South East Metropolitan region?

**Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

The Housing Authority advises:

The Electorate of Cannington includes Cannington, East Cannington, Beckenham, Queens Park, Wilson, Lynwood, Langford, Ferndale and parts of Thornlie.

For tenancy management purposes, the Housing Authority divides the metropolitan area into twelve 'zones'. The majority of the suburbs within the Electorate of Cannington fall within the Housing Authority's Southern Districts zone, which is made up of Beckenham, Cannington, East Cannington, Forrestfield, High Wycombe, Kalamunda, Kenwick, Langford, Maida Vale, Queens Park and Thornlie.

As at 31 July 2016:

- (a) Of the 1,168 public housing properties in the Southern Districts zone, 37 are vacant; and
- (b) of the 6,980 public housing properties in the South East Metropolitan region, 329 are vacant.

**ENERGY — WESTERN POWER — APPRENTICESHIPS**

**5764. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

Does Western Power plan to take on any apprentices in the 2016–17 financial year, and if so, in what trades are they planned to be hired?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**

Western Power has a long and proud history of employing apprentices, with 222 employed since 2011.

Western Power is currently considering its staff needs for the 2016–17 financial year.

**ENERGY — HORIZON POWER — REGIONAL LOCATIONS AND STAFF**

**5765. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

In respect of Horizon Power, in which towns does Horizon Power maintain a regular presence, and how many employees are based in each of these locations?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**

Region	Location	Number of employees
Kimberley	Broome	22
	Beagle Bay	1
	Bidyadanga	1
	Fitzroy Crossing	1
	Kununurra	11
	Kalumburu	1
Pilbara	Karratha	22
	Port Hedland	13
Mid-West	Carnarvon	19
Goldfields Esperance	Esperance	21
		112

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — MINES SAFETY INSPECTORS — METROPOLITAN AREA

**5766. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

In respect of the Mines Safety function, how many inspectors are based in the Metropolitan area, and what is their classification?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016

There are 43 inspectors based in the metropolitan area. They are classified as follows:

- 1 Inspector – Specified Calling Level 6,
- 2 Inspectors – Specified Calling Level 5,
- 2 Inspectors – Level 8,
- 22 Inspectors – Specified Calling Level 4,
- 4 Inspectors – Level 7,
- 1 Inspector – Specified Calling Level 3,
- 9 Inspectors – Level 6; and
- 2 Inspectors – Specified Calling Level 1.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — MINES SAFETY INSPECTORS — SOUTH WEST REGION

**5767. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

In respect of the Mines Safety function, how many inspectors are based in the South West, and what is their classification?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016

There are six inspectors based in the South West. They are classified as follows:

- 1 Inspector – Specified Calling Level 4;
- 1 Inspector – Level 7; and
- 4 Inspectors – Level 6.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — MINES SAFETY INSPECTORS — GOLDFIELDS

**5768. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

In respect of the Mines Safety function, how many inspectors are based in the Goldfields, and what is their classification?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

There are 13 inspectors based in the Goldfields. They are classified as follows:

- 1 Inspector – Level 8;
- 4 Inspectors – Specified Calling Level 4;
- 1 Inspector – Level 7;
- 1 Inspector – Specified Calling Level 3;
- 5 Inspectors – Level 6; and
- 1 Inspector – Level 5.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — MINES SAFETY INSPECTORS — KIMBERLEY

**5769. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

In respect of the Mines Safety function, how many inspectors are based in the Kimberley, and what is their classification?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016

There are no inspectors based in the Kimberley. This area is serviced by inspectors based in the Metropolitan area.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — MINES SAFETY INSPECTORS — PILBARA

**5770. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

In respect of the Mines Safety function, how many inspectors are based in the Pilbara, and what is their classification?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016

There is one inspector based in the Pilbara classified as Level 5. This area is also serviced by inspectors based in the Metropolitan area.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — MID WEST PIPELINE — EXAMINATION

**5771. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping of the Mid West Pipeline, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.); and
- (b) what was the total length of pipe that was examined as part of these inspections?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Mid West Pipeline is managed under the Petroleum Pipelines (Management of Safety of Pipeline Operations) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the pipeline operator to have a safety case in force for the pipeline operation.

The safety case for the Mid West Pipeline, which is a buried pipeline, requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for buried pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — FORTESCUE RIVER GAS PIPELINE — EXAMINATION

**5772. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping of the Fortescue River Gas Pipeline, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.); and
- (b) what was the total length of pipe that was examined as part of these inspections?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Fortescue River Gas Pipeline is managed under the Petroleum Pipelines (Management of Safety of Pipeline Operations) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the pipeline operator to have a safety case in force for the pipeline operation.

The safety case for the Fortescue River Gas Pipeline, which is a buried pipeline, requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for buried pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — TELFER GAS PIPELINE — EXAMINATION

**5773. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping of the Telfer Gas Pipeline, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.); and
- (b) what was the total length of pipe that was examined as part of these inspections?



**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Telfer Gas Pipeline is managed under the Petroleum Pipelines (Management of Safety of Pipeline Operations) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the pipeline operator to have a safety case in force for the pipeline operation.

The safety case for the Telfer Gas Pipeline, which is a buried pipeline, requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for buried pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.

MINES AND PETROLEUM — PARMELIA GAS PIPELINE — EXAMINATION

**5774. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping of the Parmelia Gas Pipeline, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.); and
- (b) what was the total length of pipe that was examined as part of these inspections?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Parmelia Gas Pipeline is managed under the Petroleum Pipelines (Management of Safety of Pipeline Operations) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the pipeline operator to have a safety case in force for the pipeline operation.

The safety case for the Parmelia Gas Pipeline, which is a buried pipeline, requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for buried pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.

MINES AND PETROLEUM — PILBARA ENERGY PIPELINE — EXAMINATION

**5775. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping of the Pilbara Energy Pipeline, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.); and
- (b) what was the total length of pipe that was examined as part of these inspections?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Pilbara Energy Pipeline is managed under the Petroleum Pipelines (Management of Safety of Pipeline Operations) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the pipeline operator to have a safety case in force for the pipeline operation.

The safety case for the Pilbara Energy Pipeline, which is a buried pipeline, requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for buried pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — GOLDFIELDS GAS PIPELINE — EXAMINATION

**5776. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping of the Goldfields Gas Pipeline, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.); and
- (b) what was the total length of pipe that was examined as part of these inspections?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Goldfields Gas Pipeline is managed under the Petroleum Pipelines (Management of Safety of Pipeline Operations) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the pipeline operator to have a safety case in force for the pipeline operation.

The safety case for the Goldfields Gas Pipeline, which is a buried pipeline, requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for buried pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — DAMPIER–BUNBURY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE — EXAMINATIONS

**5777. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping of the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.); and
- (b) what was the total length of pipe that was examined as part of these inspections?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline is managed under the Petroleum Pipelines (Management of Safety of Pipeline Operations) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the pipeline operator to have a safety case in force for the pipeline operation.

The safety case for the Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline, which is a buried pipeline, requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for buried pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) Not applicable.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — MONDARRA GAS STORAGE FACILITIES — EXAMINATIONS

**5778. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping at the Mondarra gas storage facilities, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.)?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Mondarra gas storage facilities is managed under the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Management of Safety) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the operator to have a safety management system in force for the facility operation.

The safety management system for the Mondarra gas storage facilities requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — DONGARA GAS FACILITIES — EXAMINATIONS

**5779. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping at the Dongara gas facilities, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.)?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Dongara gas facilities is managed under the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Management of Safety) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the operator to have a safety management system in force for the facility operation.

The safety management system for the Dongara gas facilities requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — BEHARRA SPRINGS GAS FACILITIES — EXAMINATIONS

**5780. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping at the Beharra Springs gas facilities, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.)?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Beharra Springs gas facilities is managed under the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Management of Safety) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the operator to have a safety management system in force for the facility operation.

The safety management system for the Beharra Springs gas facilities requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — MACEDON GAS FACILITIES — EXAMINATIONS

**5781. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping at the Macedon gas facilities, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.)?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Macedon gas facilities is managed under the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Management of Safety) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the operator to have a safety management system in force for the facility operation.

The safety management system for the Macedon gas facilities requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — DEVILS CREEK GAS FACILITIES — EXAMINATIONS

**5782. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping at the Devils Creek gas facilities, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.)?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Devils Creek gas facilities is managed under the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Management of Safety) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the operator to have a safety management system in force for the facility operation.

The safety management system for the Devils Creek gas facilities requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — NORTH WEST SHELF GAS FACILITIES — EXAMINATIONS

**5783. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping at the North West Shelf gas facilities, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.)?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The North West Shelf gas facilities is managed under the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Management of Safety) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the operator to have a safety management system in force for the facility operation.

The safety management system for the North West Shelf gas facilities requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.

## MINES AND PETROLEUM — VARANUS ISLAND GAS FACILITIES — EXAMINATIONS

**5784. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

During 2016, on what specific dates did inspectors from the Department of Mines and Petroleum physically examine the piping at the Varanus Island gas facilities, and:

- (a) on each of these occasions, what methods were used for these physical examinations (e.g. x-ray examination, visual observation, spectral camera analysis, etc.)?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 16 August 2016:

The Varanus Island gas facilities is managed under the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Management of Safety) Regulations 2010. Division 2 of the Regulations requires the operator to have a safety management system in force for the facility operation.

The safety management system for the Varanus Island gas facilities requires the operator to have a defined physical program of work that addresses inspection and corrosion issues. This includes the coating and cathodic protection systems in place for pipelines during its considered lifetime of operation. The inspection program also includes the agreed routine of inspection and reporting to the Department of Mines and Petroleum of the outcomes of these programs.

- (a) Not applicable.

SMALL BUSINESS — GOVERNMENT PROJECTS — CONTRACTORS —  
RECEIVERSHIP OR ADMINISTRATION

**5785. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Small Business:**

I refer to the situation where prime contractors on Government projects have entered receivership or administration and I ask:

- (a) have any small business sub-contractors approached the Minister or his office regarding this situation, and if yes:
  - (i) who has approached the Minister or his office;
  - (ii) on what dates did each person approach the Minister or his office;
  - (iii) in what manner was the approach made (personal meeting, phone call, letter, etc.); and
  - (iv) if the approach was made in person, who attended any such meeting; and
- (b) have any small business sub-contractors approached the Commissioner for Small Business or his office regarding this situation, and is so, who has approached the Commissioner or his office and on what dates and in what way:
  - (i) who has approached the Commissioner or his office;
  - (ii) on what dates did each person approach the Commissioner or his office;
  - (iii) in what manner was the approach made (personal meeting, phone call, letter, etc.); and
  - (iv) if the approach was made in person, who attended any such meeting?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer provided for the period 31 March 2016 to 16 August 2016:

- (a) Yes.

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
Mr Roger Ward	29 June 2016	Email 29 June 2016 and personal meeting on 7 July 2016	Hon Sean L'Estrange MLA, Mr David Eaton, Mr James Campbell-Everden, Mr Daryl Pranata, Mr Roger Ward, Mr Terry Delane, Mr John McMahon and Mr Greg Verlinden
Mr Chris Rafanelli	13 August 2016	Email	Not applicable
Mr Wayne Hundermark	13 August 2016	Email	Not applicable
Mr Otto Mueller	Received 13 July 2016	Letter	Not applicable

- (b) Yes.
  - (i)–(iv) One sub-contractor contacted the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) by telephone on Friday 8 July 2016 in relation to a prime contractor working on government projects entering administration. The SBDC maintains client confidentiality.

MINES AND PETROLEUM — MINING SECTOR INVESTMENTS

**5786. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

I refer to page 885 of Budget Paper number 2 and I ask if the Government of Western Australia ever expects investment in WA's mining sector to return to the amount of \$46.2 billion that was achieved in 2014, and if yes, in what year does it expect investment to return to this level or more?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

The Western Australia economy is export driven and cyclical in nature. It is therefore difficult to predict medium to long term mining investment with any certainty.

MINES AND PETROLEUM — PLANNED MAJOR PROJECTS

**5787. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

I refer to page 885 of Budget Paper number 2, and I ask if the Minister can specify the projects that are included in the statement that there are \$94 billion worth of major projects planned or under construction, and a further \$44 billion identified as planned over the coming years?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**Committed and under construction projects

Thunderbox Project  
Sino Iron Project – Lines three to six  
Western Turner Syncline Stage 2  
Mt Marion Lithium Project  
Fraser Range – Nova–Bollinger Deposit  
Mt Cattlin Project  
Prelude  
Greater Western Flank Phase 2  
Ichthys  
Julimar  
Wheatstone  
Collie South West Hub – carbon capture and storage (CCS)

Planned and possible projects

Pilbara Copper–Zinc Project  
Bullabulling Gold Project  
Mt Henry Gold Project  
Deflector Gold Project  
Matilda Gold Project  
Cataby HMS Deposit  
Deception Deposit  
Parker Range Iron Ore Project  
Buckland Project – 4mtpa to 8mtpa  
Marillana Iron Ore  
Pilbara Iron Ore Project (PIOP)  
Silvergrass  
Yandicoogina Pocket & Billiard South Mine  
Browns Range Rare Earth Project  
Yeelirrie  
Mulga Rocks Project  
Wiluna Uranium Project  
Barrambie Vanadium Project  
Thaduna Project  
Gt South Project – Kundip/Munglinup  
Katanning Gold Project  
Thunderbird Mineral Sands Project  
Coburn Zircon Project  
BBI Project (Balla Balla Port and Rail)  
South West Creek Development up to 50mtpa  
Ophthalmia Deposit 15Mtpa  
Iron Bridge Stage 2 –10 Mtpa of 68% iron magnetite

Karara Magnetite Project Stage 2 to 16Mtpa  
 Balmoral South Magnetite Iron Ore Project (stage 1)  
 NiWest Nickel Laterite  
 Central Musgrave Project (Wingellina)  
 Kalgoorlie Nickel Project (KNP)  
 Nimbus–Boorara  
 Sorby Hills Project Stage 1  
 Balla Balla (Phase 1) 6 Mtpa  
 Persephone–1  
 Scarborough

ENERGY — 2030 CARBON REDUCTION TARGETS — ENERGY SECTOR IMPACTS

**5789. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to my previous questions to the Minister regarding the announcement by the former Prime Minister to set a target of 26 percent to 28 percent carbon reduction by 2030 and I ask:

- (a) has the Minister received a briefing from any agency on the impact of this target on the energy sector in Western Australia, and if yes:
  - (i) which agency has provided this briefing;
  - (ii) when did you receive this briefing;
  - (iii) did the briefing canvas the impact on electricity prices, and if so, what is the expected impact; and
  - (iv) did the briefing canvas the impact on CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in the energy sector, and if so, what is the expected impact?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**

- (a) (i)–(iv) Since the announcement by the former Prime Minister to set a target of 26 percent to 28 percent carbon reduction by 2030 in August 2015, the Minister has had numerous meetings with the Public Utilities Office and Synergy on the impact of this target on the energy sector in Western Australia.

ENERGY — AUSTRALIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY — MINISTERIAL OFFICE — MEETINGS

**5791. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

On how many occasions has the Minister or members of his Ministerial Office met with representatives of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency:

- (a) on what dates did these meetings occur; and
- (b) who attended each such meeting?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**

- (1) The Treasurer and his current Ministerial Staff may have had contact with representatives of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency for administrative purposes only or may have had incidental or irregular social contact in which cases this is not listed below.
  - (a) 28/11/2013
  - (b) Greg Bourne, Ivor Frischknecht and Simon Helm

MINISTER FOR ENERGY — CLEAN ENERGY FINANCE CORPORATION — MEETINGS

**5792. Mr W.J. Johnston to the Minister for Energy:**

On how many occasions has the Minister or members of his Ministerial Office met with representatives of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation:

- (a) on what dates did these meetings occur; and
- (b) who attended each such meeting?

**Dr M.D. Nahan replied:**

The Treasurer and his current Ministerial Staff may have had contact with representatives of Clean Energy Finance Corporation for administrative purposes only or may have had incidental or irregular social contact in which cases this is not listed below.

- (a) 16/02/2016.
- (b) Minister Nahan, Sonja Tasovac, Oliver Yates and Nick Williams.

**WATER CORPORATION — ECONOMIC REGULATION AUTHORITY  
PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT — POST-AUDIT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**5793. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister for Water:**

In relation to the Economic Regulation Authority Performance Audit Report (released in October 2015), specifically the Post Audit Implementation Plan:

- (a) has the Corporation rolled out a formalised 'make good the road' process, in order to fulfil obligation number 75;
- (b) has the Corporation established a formal process to ensure all changes in ownership are appropriately notified to the Corporation (through the North West Region), in order to fulfil obligations number 161 and 190;
- (c) has the Corporation established a formal process to update the Corporation's record and ensure all irrigation customers receive the required water quality notifications, in order to fulfil obligations number 161 and 190;
- (d) has the Corporation rolled out a formalised breaking the road 48 hour notification process to all regions, in order to fulfil obligation number 34; and
- (e) has the Corporation developed and implemented a work instruction outlining the process for reviewing and updating the Financial Hardship Policy (including the approval process and the documents that are to be approved and published), in order to fulfil obligations number 128 and 183?

**Ms M.J. Davies replied:**

- (a)–(e) Yes.

**RACING AND GAMING — GREYHOUND RACING INDUSTRY — BREEDING**

**5795. Ms L.L. Baker to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:**

I refer to the greyhound racing industry in WA, and ask:

- (a) how many Greyhounds were whelped in WA every year since 2005;
- (b) how many registered breeders were there in WA every year since 2005;
- (c) how many Greyhounds were whelped by each registered breeder in (a), each year since 2005; and
- (d) of the greyhounds whelped each year since 2005, how many went on to race?

**Mr B.J. Grylls replied:**

Please see answer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice No. 5368.

**MINES AND PETROLEUM — USED TYRES — ON-SITE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL**

**5797. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

I refer to the practice of disposing of or storing used tyres on mining sites by burying them on-site, and I ask:

- (a) which mining companies operating within the Collie region hold licences which allow them to dispose of, or store used tyres by burying them on-site, and what are the requirements for the storage and disposal of tyres using this method;
- (b) what ongoing monitoring requirements are the company operating the mine site subject to for tyres disposed or stored using this method; and
- (c) what limits are in place for the amount of disposed or stored tyre material allowed to be buried within a given area of land, and which entity monitors this requirement?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

- (a) The Department of Mines and Petroleum does not issue licences for companies to dispose of or store used tyres on mine sites. The Department of Environment Regulation regulates this type of waste management. This question should be directed to the Minister for Environment.
- (b) See response to (a).
- (c) See response to (a).



ENVIRONMENT — SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP —  
CLEARING PERMITS AND VEGETATION REMOVAL

**5799. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:**

- (1) In relation to the Boxwood Hill–Ongerup Road in the Shire of Jerramungup, in the last five years has the the shire submitted Clearing Permit Applications for all road works involving any vegetation removal, and if so, how many?
- (2) In the last five years how much road works has the Shire of Jerramungup undertaken without valid Clearing Permits, and:
  - (a) in the last five years has the Shire of Jerramungup applied for a clearing permit after the clearing has taken place?
- (3) In the last five years has the Shire of Jerramungup undertaken flora surveys for all road works involving any vegetation removal, and if so, how many?
- (4) In the last five years has the Shire of Jerramungup undertaken road works which resulted in the removal of any threatened or declared or rare or priority species, and if so, which ones and how many?
- (5) In the last ten years have there been any death or serious injury accidents on the Boxwood Hill–Ongerup road south/east of Oakdale Road, and if so, when and how were they caused?

**Mr A.P. Jacob replied:**

- (1) Since 2011, the Shire of Jerramungup has submitted ten clearing permit applications to the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) and the former Department of Environment and Conservation, of which four were granted, two withdrawn, one refused and three are currently under assessment.

Two of the ten clearing permit applications included Boxwood Hill–Ongerup Road. One was received and withdrawn in September 2013 and one was received in June 2016 and is currently under assessment.

- (2) Clearing for the purpose of maintaining an existing road is exempt from the requirement to obtain a clearing permit. DER does not maintain records on exempt clearing activities conducted by the Shire of Jerramungup. Any extension, widening or realignment of an existing road that involves the clearing of native vegetation however, may require a clearing permit.

DER has received the following reports of alleged unlawful clearing for the Shire of Jerramungup:

- (i) ICMS 38597 was received on 11 November 2015 regarding approximately 4.2 km of road work clearing along Devils Creek Road, Gairdner. A letter of advice was provided to the Shire as a result; and
  - (ii) ICMS 41181, received 7 June 2016; 41624, received 18 July 2016; and 41834, received 8 August 2016 regarded approximately 8 km of road work clearing along Boxwood Hill – Ongerup Road, Needilup. The alleged unlawful clearing of native vegetation in the Boxwood Hill – Ongerup Road reserve is currently being investigated by DER.
- (a) Yes. The Shire of Jerramungup applied for a clearing permit (CPS 7129/1) to clear Boxwood Hill – Ongerup Road, Needilup which included part of an area that had been cleared and this area was excluded from the assessment.
- (3) Flora surveys were provided with three of the ten clearing permit applications.
- (4) DER and the Department of Parks and Wildlife are not aware of the Shire of Jerramungup impacting any declared rare or priority flora during roadworks in the past five years. Parks and Wildlife has not issued any permits to take rare flora under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

Of the three clearing permit applications that had a flora survey, the survey for CPS 4881/1 was undertaken at the wrong time of the year and DER's assessment determined that it may contain rare flora species. This application was withdrawn by the Shire of Jerramungup.

The flora and fauna survey submitted with clearing permit application CPS 6566/1 did not identify any rare or priority species. This permit was granted.

The flora and fauna survey submitted for application CPS 7129/1 did not identify rare or priority flora. This application is under assessment.

Six clearing permit applications were assessed as unlikely to impact on rare or priority flora and one is yet to be determined.

- (5) This question should be directed to the Minister for Road Safety.

## MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM — MANHATTAN CORPORATION — MEETINGS

**5800. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

- (1) Could the Minister advise if he, or any staff member or placement within the Minister's Offices, has had any contact or meetings with representatives of Manhattan Corporation, and if yes, what was the nature of those meetings?
- (2) Has the Minister received similar requests from the Conservation Sector to meet about the Manhattan Corporation's project, and if yes:
  - (a) did the Minister accept the request, and if not why not?

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange replied:**

Answer as at 17 August 2016:

- (1) Yes. Manhattan Corporation provided an overview of their tenements and sought support for development of their eastern goldfields deposit.
  - (2) Yes.
  - (a) Yes.
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