

Chairman; Mr Colin Barnett; Dr Geoff Gallop; Mr Bernie Masters; Mr John Hyde; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr Mark McGowan; The Chairman (mr A.D. Mcrae); Mr John Bowler; Mrs Cheryl Edwardes

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**Division 3: Premier and Cabinet, \$211 399 000 -**

Mr A.D. McRae, Chairman.

Dr G.I. Gallop, Premier.

Mr M.C. Wauchope, Director General.

Mr D.J. Stewart, Acting Director, Employment Branch, Public Sector Management.

Mr G.V. Klem, Director, Regional Policy Unit.

Ms R. Saffioti, Director, Economic Policy Unit.

Dr M.L. De Mel, Executive Director, Office of Multicultural Interests.

Dr B.E. Hobbs, Chief Scientist, Office of Science and Innovation.

Ms V.J. Bryson, Acting Executive Director, Office of E-Government.

Mr R.V. Mance, Executive Director, Functional Review Implementation Team.

Ms J.L. Sales, Assistant Director General, Corporate and Business Services.

Mr K.A. Jones, Principal Project Officer, Corporate and Business Services.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr A.D. McRae): This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard staff. The daily proof *Hansard* will be published at 9.00 am tomorrow.

The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated fund. This is the prime focus of the committee. Although there is scope for members to examine many matters, questions need to be clearly related to a page number, item, program or amount within the volumes. For example, members are free to pursue performance indicators that are included in the *Budget Statements* when there remains a clear link between the questions and the estimates. It is my intention to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point.

The Premier may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee, rather than ask that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. For the purpose of following up the provision of this information, I ask the Premier to clearly indicate to the committee which supplementary information he agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the Premier's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the committee clerk by 11 June 2004, so that members may read it before the report and third reading stages. If the supplementary information cannot be provided within that time, written advice is required of the day by which the information will be made available. Details in relation to supplementary information have been provided to both members and advisers and I ask the Premier to cooperate with those requirements.

I caution members that if the Premier asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice with the Clerk's office. Only supplementary information that the Premier agrees to provide and for which I have allocated a reference number will be sought by 11 June 2004.

I draw members' attention to the fact that this session deals with division 3, outputs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11, and divisions 4, 5 and 6 and will run through until one o'clock. Time management is in members' hands. It is most likely that we will take a break at about 11 o'clock.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Can the Premier explain what is a massive increase of 44 per cent in the budget for his own department? On page 62 it is indicated that expenditure for the Premier's own department has increased from \$144 million, which I would have thought was fairly adequate, to a massive \$211 million - a 44 per cent increase.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I take it that the Leader of the Opposition is asking me to compare the 2003-04 estimated actual with the 2004-05 budget estimate?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: That is correct.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The recurrent budget for 2004-05 is \$142.762 million compared with the current estimate in 2003-04 of \$117.548 million, an increase of \$25.214 million or 21.4 per cent. That significant movement reflects a decision to reduce the appropriation for 2003-04, mainly in relation to grant funding for science and innovation, native title and the crime prevention area. The reasons for this are as follows: science and innovation repositioned appropriations from 2003-04 to 2004-05 and the out years; expenditure on native title grants have

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been delayed by protracted negotiations with native title claimants; and crime prevention grants are also long term in nature and are drawn down over a period of several years. The amount of funds repositioned is \$36.833 million, of which \$10.383 million was cash flowed into 2004-05, a movement between the years of \$26.45 million. The increase in expenditure reflects a recent history of underspending on grants, which have previously been carried over. Treasury has advised that the appropriate treatment is to reposition these items and to reflect them in the out-year appropriations. This has the effect of being more transparent and saves costs associated with the capital user charge. In answer to the Leader of the Opposition's question, we are dealing primarily with the repositioning of the expenditures in the budget.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: If it is simply a question of repositioning, how does the Premier explain the growth in full-time equivalents from 779 to 804?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Which page is the Leader of the Opposition referring to?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The FTE figures.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Which page?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I think the Premier knows where the FTE figures are.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I seek the member's advice. I need to know which page he is referring to.

The CHAIRMAN: In my opening statement I indicated that the Leader of the Opposition needed to give a reference.

Mr B.K. MASTERS: The second last line on page 100 refers to an increase from 779 to 804.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: As I said to the Leader of the Opposition, it is mainly a repositioning of money, but he would be aware that this year in Western Australia we are engaged in a major functional review. The functional review implementation team is located in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and I believe 30 full-time officers are engaged in that process. There has also been some increase in the crime prevention team within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the science portfolio, which has always been there. We now do a full-time take up of people in that position compared with last year when it was just in the process of being formed.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I have a different issue. The first dot point on page 67 deals with significant issues and trends and refers to the whole-of-government emphasis being on service delivery. Does the Premier regard the power blackout on 18 February as an example of good service delivery, and does he regard the spending of \$750 000 by Western Power on consultants at \$4 000 per consultant per day as an example of service delivery in a whole-of-government sense?

[9.10 am]

The CHAIRMAN: That is not a matter that is covered by this division.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I am sorry, but it is whole-of-government service delivery. That is the Premier's role.

Mr J.N. HYDE: I refer to the first output at page 78. What role does the Department of the Premier and Cabinet play in the national counter-terrorism initiatives?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: There has been significant cooperation between all the States and the Commonwealth to deal with the threat of international terrorism that has clearly emerged. Such terrorism tragically led to September 11 and the Bali bombings. The National Counter-Terrorism Committee was established by an intergovernmental agreement signed by the Prime Minister and all the Premiers and Chief Ministers in October 2002. The NCTC membership includes state and territory representatives - normally a senior official from the first minister's department - a senior representative of the Commissioner of Police, the chair of the capability development subcommittee, the chair of the Australian secure network policy project group and a senior officer from a number of commonwealth agencies. Observers include a senior officer from the New Zealand Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and an officer from the New Zealand police and security services. There is significant cooperation across the Tasman on this issue. In effect, New Zealand is part of the process.

The role of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee is to maintain the National Counter-Terrorism Plan and associated documentation. That plan has been reassessed in the light of the tragic events of September 11 and in Bali. The committee provides expert strategic policy advice to heads of government and other relevant ministers. It will coordinate an effective nationwide counter-terrorism capability and maintain effective arrangements for the sharing of all pertinent intelligence and information between all relevant agencies and jurisdictions. It also provides advice on the administration of the special fund to maintain and develop the nationwide counter-terrorism capability. That fund is administered by the Commonwealth on the basis of advice

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of the NCTC. Meetings are held in the States and Territories in rotation and are hosted by the respective Government. Western Australia hosted the third biannual meeting in December 2003, with 27 members and 34 observers attending at a total cost of \$22 179.85. In effect, the intergovernmental cooperation is funnelled through the National Counter-Terrorism Committee, which was established in late 2002. The major areas we have been working on will ensure that our capacity to deal with emergencies is in place. As members know, simulated events have been held to determine the capacity of our departments to respond. We have had to deal with the issue of ensuring that proper infrastructure is in place in Western Australia. That means cooperation with the private owners and, in some cases, the government agencies that operate the infrastructure. The police services communicate with each other constantly and share information. That is crucially important. The Western Australia Police Service is the eyes and ears of government in dealing with terrorism, as indeed are the commonwealth agencies, most prominently the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the Australian Federal Police.

There have also been concerns expressed about hazardous materials. We announced last year that we were cooperating with the Commonwealth on the storage and transport of hazardous materials to ensure that any terrorism potential is properly dealt with. There are also significant issues concerning our ports and airports. I am pleased that Western Australia developed plans for its ports very early and I believe we are ahead of the other States in the work we are doing to ensure that all our ports have security plans. If the member wants to follow up on that, a question to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure would be of assistance. As I said, Western Australia has entered into an agreement on hazardous materials at the national level. I suspect there will be further decisions concerning some of the materials that can be used to make bombs.

Mr B.K. MASTERS: I speak to the Premier in his capacity as the Minister for Science. I refer to the ninth output at page 69, which is science and innovation promotion and support. I have no problems with funds being carried over from one year to the next when they are not spent. That is intended to occur this year as only \$16.598 million of last year's budget of \$32.276 million was spent. Therefore, money carries over to the forthcoming budget of \$26.860 million. Last year's budget is contained in volume 1 of the *Budget Statements* at page 93. The same thing happened last year. In other words, there was a commitment in the 2002-03 budget to spend an amount of approximately \$28.9 million, the total cost of the output, but the estimated actual was only approximately \$15.7 million. That is two years in a row that the Government has promised huge funding expenditure on science, but it has not happened. What confidence can an independent person from the public of Western Australia have that the Government will live up to its commitments in the forthcoming year? Why will the Government continue to not say that it has simply not met its expenditure targets?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Some of the money is committed and is being spent over the forward estimates. As the member knows, some moneys are not spent in one year; they are spent over a number of years. We will make an announcement this year about the State's major research facility, which is probably the most significant funding that will come from the innovation program the Government announced and has been carrying out since it was elected. That will be worth \$21 million. That money will not be spent in one year; it will be spent in the out years. There are two reasons for that. The first is that each item of expenditure takes time to expend. Some items have been pushed out into the forward estimates. However, the money is committed. The second reason is that, overall, we have been very careful to plan the projects. One of the tasks we have set the Science Council is to ensure that when we spend money we do it properly. I will illustrate that with the major science grant that will be announced later this year. The Science Council established a subcommittee to look at the criteria and the various applications. It has advised the Government of what it believes would be acceptable projects for Western Australia and ranked them. We have taken time to commit the moneys, but it is because we want to do it properly. One of the problems with science expenditure in Western Australia was that different ministers and agencies made decisions, many of which were not properly evaluated or based on the best advice available. We are bringing those processes together but it is taking some time. I dispute the member's point that an independent observer would believe that the Government is not carrying out its commitments.

Mr B.K. MASTERS: Following on from that, I have no doubt that the money is being spent very well. I refer again to the ninth output at page 69. There are no forward estimates for that, at least not in the documentation I have. By way of supplementary information, is the Premier able to give me an indication of what are the forward estimates for the three years after next year's budget?

[9.20 am]

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I am quite happy to do that. We will provide information to the member for Vasse on the projected timetable for expenditure on each of the projects we have entered into. Although the member has not asked me about it, the Centres of Excellence in Science and Innovation are also included. By way of

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supplementary information I am happy to provide information to the member on each of the projects that the Government has funded and the time line for the expenditure on those.

Mr B.K. MASTERS: That is expenditure for each of the next few years in each of those different areas.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: And the timetables for each of the projects. That is exactly what the member is after.

[*Supplementary Information No A31.*]

Mr B.K. MASTERS: That will be appreciated. I have a final question on the same matter. I refer to the statement of financial position on page 101 of the *Budget Statements*. About \$14.3 million is held as current assets. If funding for output 9 was underspent by \$16 million or thereabouts in the current financial year, where is the unspent money? I can see only \$14 million in current assets. I presume it is spread across all the outputs.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Where is the member referring to?

Mr B.K. MASTERS: I refer to the statement of financial position on page 101 of the *Budget Statements*. If the current year's budget for output 9 was underspent by \$16 million and will be carried over, where is it shown it will be carried over? Only \$14 million of current assets is shown on page 101, of which only \$3.79 million is cash. Where is that unspent money in the accounts to show that it will be included and made available to be spent in the next financial year and in future years?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: We have recashflowed - that is the answer I gave to the Leader of the Opposition's first question.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Is that a new word?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It is often used. It is not a new word. Page 104 of the *Budget Statements* outlines the forward estimates.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Is that when you go broke?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I know that the member for Vasse has an interest in this matter. I indicate to him how the output in the science portfolio is broken down. This will give the member a clear view of where the money is spent. The money will be spent on the executive director and administration of the Office of Science and Innovation; InnovateWA, which is the Government's major program funding; the science policy development; funding for the centres of excellence, Western Australia's science capability; Scitech Discovery Centre, which, as the member knows, the Government has not only invested in the upgrade of but also provided recurrent funding for; the Neville Stanley studentships, which have been carried over and which have been in the system for some time; and the Premier's Research Fellowship Program, for which I am pleased to announce that Professors Mackenzie and Gale will be working at Curtin University. The higher education contribution scheme reimbursement scheme is designed to get young students to take up science teaching. The money for output 9 will be spent also on international science and the low-frequency array project, for which, of course, there is no expenditure yet, but the Government is keen to get that in Western Australia. The Government is working with the people in the mid west to try to attract that to Western Australia. The funds for output 9 will be spent also on the Strategic Research Fund for the Marine Environment, which is a cooperative venture with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, and on executive and corporate services. The member has a real interest in this matter and I know he attends all our events. I am happy to provide that supplementary information. If the member wants to ask more questions today on any of these issues, or if the member wants to follow them up with the Office of Science, I am happy to organise it.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Rockingham.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Premier -

Mr P.D. OMODEI: I want to raise a point of order. It seems unusual that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier is asking the Premier questions.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is outrageous! I cannot believe that a member of Parliament can ask another member of Parliament a question; it is incredible!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: You asked me one once, remember?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will not have to worry about the Leader of the Opposition soon. I refer to page 68 of the *Budget Statements*.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: We have been here for 25 minutes and I have asked only one question.

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Mr J.N. HYDE: We did not vote for him, it is your side's fault. They should have sent a big hitter on the Opposition's side.

Mr M. McGOWAN: My question relates to the Anzac Day commemorations and the Anzac Day small grants scheme under major policy decisions on page 68 of the *Budget Statements*. I am interested to hear the Premier explain to the House and the people of Western Australia what steps this Government has taken to commemorate our Anzac heritage and how it differs from steps past Governments have taken in that regard.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I will answer the member's question in a number of ways. I will say something about the State's war memorial. On 11 November 2003 the Government announced it would allocate \$445 000 to refurbish the war memorial during the State's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. There are significant structural problems at the war memorial, which are mainly caused by water seepage. The State Government has sought funding from the federal Government, but we have yet to hear from it. I again wrote to the Prime Minister only two days ago to seek advice from him about whether the federal Government would supplement the funding provided by the State to restore the war memorial, and I hope to get a positive response from the federal Government.

The Government has allocated \$250 000 in 2004-05 for the small grants scheme. It is part of a wider initiative of the State to ensure that the observance of Anzac Day is continued and enhanced in the lead-up to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gallipoli in 2015. The purpose of the small grants scheme of \$250 000 is to assist with the refurbishment and restoration of dilapidated war memorials and honour rolls across Western Australia. It may include repair, protection and restoration works and also polishing and mortaring commemorative plaques. Grants to a maximum of \$10 000 will be made available. Each eligible project will be considered on its merits and in accordance with program priorities. Organisations and communities are expected to contribute towards the project financially and by providing in-kind support. Applicants will need to be incorporated or under the auspices of an incorporated body. Obviously that includes local government authorities, the Returned and Services League of Australia, youth groups, community organisations, special interest groups, parent groups and other not-for-profit organisations. They will be eligible to apply for funding. A lot of war memorials and honour rolls around the State are in less than perfect condition. The grants will encourage communities to apply for the money to upgrade the memorial and honour rolls so that into the future people can respect those Australians who have lost their lives either in wartime situations or sometimes in peacekeeping operations. The involvement of the community in this project has been excellent.

Recently, I reported to the House on a successful trip to Europe in which I was accompanied by the members for Murdoch and Rockingham. It was an excellent way to involve young people in preserving this tradition into the future. The State Government wants the war memorial at Kings Park upgraded and it wants federal support for that. I again wrote to the Prime Minister two days ago to seek support for that project, as I had not heard from him. The State Government is undertaking a refurbishment process. We want to organise an Anzac tour each year to Gallipoli and other important sites. We are keen to get our schools involved in this program to help our schoolchildren understand the background to the sacrifices made by Australians through those various theatres of war and peacekeeping operations.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Have any ceremonies been organised?

[9.30 am]

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The Anzac tradition is an important part of Australia's culture. Over the years I have observed that it is a day in which we honour the soldiers and the men and women of the services. Anzac Day is a good day in Australia. We honour those people for the role they played. In many ways an inversion occurs in our community. On many occasions we show respect for those in positions of authority in our society through the giving of various awards and in other ways. On this occasion we respect the many men and women of Australia who put themselves on the line. It is a wonderful day. We celebrate the traditions associated with that day; service, good humour, larrikinism, and the courage and bravery of soldiers. Those are all important features of our national character. They pass beyond any individual view on a particular war or a person's background. They are important parts of our view of Australia. It is important that we recognise that and carry it into the future.

The CHAIRMAN: Before the Leader of the Opposition asks his next question I will provide an explanation of the process, so that members understand what I am doing. The Opposition has now asked six questions to the three asked by government members. The Leader of the Opposition asked a third question on a non-appropriation matter and I disallowed it. The member for Vasse has also asked three questions, and supplementary information will be provided to him.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: He is an Independent member.

The CHAIRMAN: He is a non-government member.

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Mr C.J. BARNETT: How many questions has the Opposition asked?

The CHAIRMAN: Six altogether.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: That is not correct.

The CHAIRMAN: I am just trying to provide an explanation of the process that I am following. The Leader of the Opposition has been here a lot longer than I have. The Leader of the Opposition has made that point to me in previous years.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I have asked one question.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the Leader of the Opposition will find that *Hansard* will show differently. I am providing some information so that members can understand the process. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I make the observation that I will now ask my second question in 30 minutes. I refer the Premier to page 68. The tradition has always been that the Opposition is allowed to ask a series of questions.

Mr J.N. HYDE: You have no good questions so you are doing stunts again. Do some research.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The convention in this Parliament has always been that the opposition leader or opposition spokesman would ask a series of questions. However, the estimates committees are run differently under a Labor Government. I refer to page 68. The item on the Premier's office shows a budget overrun of \$460 000. What is the explanation for that?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Can the member be more precise?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I refer to the item on the Premier's office on page 68, which outlines an allocation of \$460 000 in additional money.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It is important that I know precisely to what the question refers.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The question is on the line item on the Premier's office on page 68, for which \$460 000 has been allocated.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I will answer the question. Additional funding has been provided for staffing increases in the office of the Premier. Funding for the strategic management unit has been re-established and two staff appointed. This unit provides strategic management advice to the Premier as head of government and chair of the Cabinet. An amount of \$235 000 per annum has been allocated for salary and other staffing costs. An additional senior policy officer has been appointed to assist with the expanding workload, and \$95 000 has been allocated for salary and other staffing costs for that position. Finally, a new function has been established to develop and maintain linkages between government and the Western Australian business community in the Premier's office. A contract to undertake that role has been awarded to Ms Barbara Wiese, who has extensive experience in that area. An amount of \$135 000 per annum has been allocated for that contract.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the Leader of the Opposition have any further questions on that matter?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: No. I refer to the item on the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, which is listed on the same page. As part of those celebrations, will the Premier support the private member's Bill to establish the Western Australian flag?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I have not looked into that matter. The Cabinet has not considered it. We will look at that.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: What is your view?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I have not looked into the Leader of the Opposition's legislation. When I do, I will provide a response.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: So you cannot answer that question?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Until the Cabinet has made a decision on it, no.

Mr J.N. HYDE: I refer to the fifth dot point on page 75, which refers to the European Office.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Which output?

Mr J.N. HYDE: It is under output 1 on page 75. I know that the Premier, as a former Geraldton boy, and the member for Geraldton are aware of the importance of the rock lobster industry. I would like to know the role of our European Office in winning concessions on rock lobster exports.

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Dr G.I. GALLOP: This has been an important success story for our European Office. I congratulate Mr Bob Fisher, the Agent General, and representatives of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council who were involved with us on this issue. I also express my appreciation for the support that we received from the British Government on this issue. I recently wrote to the British Government to thank it for the assistance it provided in facilitating our views within the European community. We liaised with European Union officials in an attempt to persuade them to grant tariff concessions for Western Australia's rock lobster. The 2 March 2004 edition of the official journal of the European Union announced that tariff concessions had been granted for 1 500 tonnes of lobster for the three-year period commencing 1 January 2004. The tariff rate for frozen lobster imported into the European Union from Western Australia will be reduced from 12.5 per cent to six per cent. The granting of the reduction could create a new market for the Western Australian lobster industry worth between \$40 million and \$50 million a year. As with all autonomous tariff quota concessions granted to fish products imported into the European Union, the imported item must be subject to some form of further processing. When the word "bureaucracy" was developed, I think they had Europe in mind. Nevertheless, this has been an important breakthrough. What is now needed is follow-up. It is one thing to win the concession and another thing to get the product into the market on the basis of that concession. That will now happen. The Agent General and members of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council will have ongoing negotiations with senior EU officials to address the issue of further processing, which is the limitation on the tariff cut. This illustrates the importance of overseas representation. In this case we got a specific Western Australian issue on the agenda of the European Union. Officers from our European Office in London worked on that. We received support from the fishing industry, which played a magnificent role in helping with the lobbying process. We worked the system to find out to whom we needed to talk to explain how it operated. We received great assistance from the British Government with that. This represents a new opportunity for everyone involved in the fishing industry. The key element for the fishing industry is to get a range of markets in order to provide diversity, which will reduce the risk of any one market going down and impacting savagely on the industry as a whole. Diversity of markets is an important objective. I am pleased that the European Office has been able to help.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I refer to output 1 and specifically to media and communications through the Government Media Office. Exactly what is transcribed by the Government Media Office? Specifically, are all radio interviews with ministers and all radio interviews with shadow ministers transcribed?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I am not aware of any changes to the transcription process that existed under the previous Government. I am happy to get a detailed response to the member if he wants that by way of supplementary information. I am not aware of any change in the policy that would mean that what was transcribed under the previous Government was different from what we now transcribe. I will look into that for the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I was not asking for that. I asked whether all interviews with government ministers and all interviews with shadow ministers were transcribed.

[9.40 am]

Dr G.I. GALLOP: As I said, I am not aware of any changes in the policy in respect of that matter. I assumed that given the Leader of the Opposition has shown interest in this matter, he may have been aware of what the policy was under the previous Government. If there are any changes, I will be happy to inform the Leader of the Opposition about them. However, I am not in a position to answer the question at the moment. I will provide that answer as supplementary information.

The CHAIRMAN: Will that be with regard to output 1?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The transcribing policy of the Government Media Office.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the Leader of the Opposition dealing with page 75?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Yes, with reference to media and communications.

The CHAIRMAN: And the Premier has agreed to provide supplementary information about -

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The transcribing of interviews on television and radio.

The CHAIRMAN: For ministers and opposition spokespeople.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Yes.

[*Supplementary Information No A32.*]

Mr C.J. BARNETT: What is the total budget and total staffing of the Government Media Office for the coming financial year?

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Dr G.I. GALLOP: The total budget of the Government Media Office has increased by \$14 000 over the current financial year. However, it is \$179 000 lower than allocated in the coalition Government's last budget of 2000-01. In 2000-01, the coalition Government spent \$3.35 million on the Government Media Office. The GMO budget for 2004-05 is \$3.171 million, and in 2003-04 it is \$3.157 million. From 2001 to 2004, the total number of GMO staff increased from 41 to 42. Within a smaller budget, we have improved the transparency and effectiveness of the GMO by establishing the strategic communications position in the community liaison unit.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Does the Premier have a strategic management unit within his office; and, if so, what is its function and its budget?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I have already answered that question.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: About a strategic management unit?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: With regard to the earlier question from the Leader of the Opposition, I indicated that it is part of \$465 000 that we are talking about.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: What is its function?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: To advise me on strategic issues of government.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: For example?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Strategic issues of government; all sorts of issues.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Such as how many branches have been stacked this week.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Come on!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The Premier must be able to give an example of what he would regard as a strategic issue.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Its function is to make sure that all parts of the Government of Western Australia are working together to achieve the objectives set by the Cabinet. Its function is to coordinate across government.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: For example?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: An example would be the Gordon Inquiry into Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities. The implementations from that inquiry require coordination across Government. The Reid review in health requires coordination across Government. They are good examples of where all parts of government have had to work together, and the strategic management units assists me to see that that happens.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: And to advise the Premier on the electricity blackout on 18 February?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: In relation to what?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It is a strategic issue of government. It is a fair question.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the Leader of the Opposition has got his answer. I have given him some latitude and he is now onto his fourth question.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I asked the Premier for examples of the work of the strategic management unit. I asked him specifically whether it advised him on the electricity blackout on 18 February.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that question has been answered.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: With respect, Mr Chairman, it has not been answered.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: With regard to the electricity blackout, I had to address many issues on that day. I faced a media conference and dealt with those issues. Of course, members of my staff would have been advising me on that issue on that day because I had to communicate to the public. The question being asked by the Leader of the Opposition is more about politics than about working out how our Government spends its budget money.

Mr M. MCGOWAN: I refer to page 86 of the *Budget Statements* and the table of output performance measures. It refers to the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations and celebrations this year. I am interested in the types of initiatives that this Government has taken and what sort of things it has done to commemorate this very important date in this State's history; 175 years since the establishment of the Swan River Colony in 1829. What sort of things has this Government done to involve the general public and what initiatives have been taken to utilise the worldwide web? It is very important that the public is aware of what this Government is doing in that regard.

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Dr G.I. GALLOP: We have approved two stages of funding for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. It is important that Western Australians focus on their history. When major dates like this come along, we should not lose the opportunity to think, talk and reflect upon this State's history. This Government has decided that it is important that we do that. We are very proud of our State. I think the people who live here are very proud of what we do, and this is a tremendous opportunity for us to provide focus for that.

There have been two stages of funding. An initial budget of \$1.25 million is being administered by the Western Australian Constitutional Centre. That centre has been an excellent innovation and I congratulate the previous Premier, Richard Court, for its establishment. It has worked really well and we are carrying on with the work that it has started. The second round of funding was approved after two years. In 2003-04, \$1.91 million in recurrent funding and \$500 000 in capital was provided for the migrant welcome wall. I thank the member for Rockingham for the role he is playing in that project and for the briefing I received last week on the proposed migrant wall at the museum in Fremantle. It will be an outstanding addition to what Western Australia can offer in terms of the interpretation of its history, part of which has been the migrant experience. For 2004-05, an additional \$365 000 in recurrent funding was provided for the John Curtin statue, which will be built in Fremantle, and we are cooperating with that council to do that. An allocation of \$150 000 has been made for support staff and \$15 000 for the indigenous footballers' event. We are going to celebrate the role of our indigenous footballers in Western Australia history, and I look forward very much to that event. In addition to the above allocations, \$445 000 was designated to the Department of Housing and Works to restore the state war memorial. This was announced as a 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary project and has been included in the total cost of the anniversary projects. Total funding allocated for the 175<sup>th</sup> celebrations and events is \$3.105 million. The major construction and restoration projects will be allocated \$1.365 million, which includes the migrant welcome wall, the state war memorial, the Albany Anzac Memorial Park, the John Curtin statue and the Midland railway workshops. The total funding with those two figures put together will be \$4.47 million, and we think that is an important allocation of money. The projects include the Western Australian heritage icons project that involves the Swan River, the Fremantle port, Kings Park and the Albany Anzac dawn service. Tremendous interest has been created in that icon project. We also have the community grants scheme. Last week I was very privileged to distribute one of the grants at the Perth Football Club. Somebody that everyone in this Parliament knows very well, Peter Kennedy, will be helping to write the history of the Perth Football Club. That is the sort of thing to which these grants can contribute. Round one last year saw grants of \$66 000. Round two this year will see 116 projects for \$345 000, which is allocated according to categories of the environment, heritage and general celebratory events. A commemorative birth certificate will be issued for all new Western Australians born this year, and we estimate that more than 20 000 certificates will be issued - a person never knows, Peter Costello might be encouraging a few more by the end of the year. We are holding a song contest in which we can showcase our diverse musical talent. The entrant forms have been submitted and we are now in the process of considering them. We are running an images of Western Australia competition in conjunction with the *Sunday Times* in which people can submit photos that they think are definitive images of WA.

In addition to the other activities being organised by Celebrate WA, money has been allocated to promote Foundation Day. A commemorative coin will be distributed to school students. We are very proud that another regional Parliament will be held. One was held in Albany and another will be held in the great city of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. I am sure it will be a very important occasion. Kalgoorlie-Boulder was chosen because of its crucial role in the foundation of the State of Western Australia. WA on Show will be an expo showcasing Western Australia to coincide with the opening of the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. A history conference will be held from 17 to 19 November. I am informed by the organisers of that conference that a tremendous response is being received and it will be a very important conference. A series of indigenous projects is being organised in the Kimberley, along with a tour of the Black Swan Theatre Company's production of the play *Yandi*, based on the stockmen's strike. Peter Coppin was a key participant in that strike, and he is still with us and playing a significant role in the Pilbara. The On-Track exhibition of Aboriginal art will also be held. The Art Gallery of Western Australia's exhibition of Nyoongah art held a year or two ago was one of the most outstanding exhibitions I had ever seen, and this will be a re-run of an indigenous art exhibition travelling all around the State to promote the culture of our indigenous people. I mentioned the indigenous footballers function. Money will also be allocated for television advertising to promote the State of Western Australia. I have taken too long, but there are other projects. Publications will be coming out on the history of His Majesty's Theatre, the migrant history of Western Australia, the history of the Perth Modern School, the history of the motor vehicle industry in Western Australia, the history of the West Australian Ballet Company, the history of the Greeks in Western Australia, and a history of football. This magnificent book written by Tony Barker will be published later this year, and we are supporting it. Money has been provided to the Midland railway workshops to convert the old timekeeper's office. The Western Australian Football Commission is involved, and members will have noticed a logo worn by all the Western Australian Football League players

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throughout the year. The partnership with the Football Commission has been fantastic, and there are various other minor funding items as well. I am sorry if I have taken a bit of time there, but it is a very significant year for Western Australia, and we believe that we ought to promote our State and its people, reflect upon its history and look forward to the future to deal with the challenges we face.

[9.50 am]

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I refer the Premier to output 2, management of matters of state. The fourth point is support for ministerial offices and leaders of opposition parties. Can the Premier explain what the government policy is on air travel entitlements for the Leader of the Opposition?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: That is administered by the department.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: By way of explanation, I make it clear that the Leader of the Opposition is supposed to have unlimited air travel within Australia, and certainly within Western Australia.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: When I was Leader of the Opposition, I certainly never had any difficulties on that issue, working with the department. Of course, we all still have a responsibility, as I accepted, to work within our budget, but within that framework there was full cooperation when I was Leader of the Opposition, and I would expect the same thing to be happening now.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: That has not been the case. It has not been honoured - that I have an air travel entitlement. I seek an explanation of the policy.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: That is not true. What the Leader of the Opposition just said is not true. When has the Leader of the Opposition applied for air travel and not been granted it?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I take it from that, that I have an unlimited entitlement to air travel as per the regulations.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Within the constraints of your budget, obviously. I had to work under that system.

Mr J.N. HYDE: This is the Liberal Party's biggest concern about the budget: air travel for the Leader of the Opposition. This says a lot about priorities.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Considering that, for the first time in the history of the State, the Leader of the Opposition is not entitled to fly to destinations in Western Australia, it is a big issue.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I have been assured by the director general that the policy has not changed from one Government to the next, and I assure the Leader of the Opposition that I would always make sure that the rules and regulations relating to this applied to all members equally. I never had any problem -

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It is not all members; it is the Leader of the Opposition. It is not all members; it is the office of the Leader of the Opposition.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The Leader of the Opposition is one member, and he has specific -

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I am sorry, it is not as a member of Parliament, Premier; it is the position of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr J.N. HYDE: He wants his own jet, now.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: There has been no change in the policy, and the Leader of the Opposition's statement that the Government of Western Australia is discriminating against him is untruthful.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I would like a clear explanation as to whether the Leader of the Opposition has unlimited rights to air travel within Western Australia. I will forget the other States for the moment and concentrate on Western Australia. That is the question.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It has been answered.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It has not been answered. I want to know whether the Leader of the Opposition has unlimited entitlement to air travel within this State, as is available to every other Leader of the Opposition in Australia, including the leader of the federal opposition, who in fact has VIP planes. I am not asking for that; I am simply asking for entitlement to unlimited air travel within this State.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: As was the case when I was Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition's travel requirements will be met by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. If the Leader of the Opposition has not gone to that department and actually made an application for travel -

Mr C.J. BARNETT: We have written.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: When has the Leader of the Opposition ever been knocked back?

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Mr C.J. BARNETT: We have written seeking clarification as to whether the Leader of the Opposition is entitled to unlimited air travel.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The member is playing games. I advise the committee that the director general has informed me that he met with two members of the staff of the Leader of the Opposition and explained the system and how it operates.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I am sorry, but I am not satisfied. I want to know whether the Leader of the Opposition can get on a plane at any time and travel, with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet meeting the cost, or must I apply to the Premier to fly to places in Western Australia?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The member does not apply to me; he applies to the department.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I do not have to apply to anyone. Can I get on any plane, any time in this State as Leader of the Opposition and fly to any destination, as has always been the case in every Australian State, and the Commonwealth, for a Leader of the Opposition?

Mr J.N. HYDE: He wants to be able to kick women and children off aeroplanes so that he can get a seat.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: If the Leader of the Opposition needs to travel, he needs to travel. He needs to get the application into the department. That is not something I would consider as Premier.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I will take that to mean that I have entitlement to travel anywhere within the State as I see fit.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr A.D. McRae): Leader of the Opposition, standing orders require me to administer this process. I advise you that the question is now becoming repetitious. Unless you wish to move on to a related matter -

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I just want an answer.

The CHAIRMAN: I am just giving you the advice about my responsibilities for the management of the process. Unless you want to ask another question, in a related field, I will give the call to somebody else. The member for Eyre.

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: I will move forward four pages to the major achievements for 2003-04 for output 3 on page 80 of the *Budget Statements*. The first dot point refers to the Waterwise rebate scheme. As the Premier knows, I live at the end of a 550-kilometre long pipeline, so the Waterwise rebate scheme is very relevant to my electorate, and obviously to all Western Australians. Can the Premier tell me how the rebate scheme has gone in the past 12 months?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The Waterwise rebate scheme was launched on 10 February 2003. Over the term of the one-year project, 46 558 applications were approved, and \$6.48 million in reimbursements paid. Eighty-one per cent of the applications were from the metropolitan area, and 19 per cent from regional Western Australia. Rebates were offered for washing machines, garden bores, rainwater tanks, showerheads and domestic grey water re-use systems. The estimated annual water saving is 1.2 gigalitres. Due to the overwhelming success of the scheme, it has been extended for a further year until 10 February 2005. Under the extended scheme the rebate for grey water re-use systems has been doubled and rebates are now offered for additional products such as tap timers, in-tap flow regulators and soil wetting agents.

There are many issues that relate to water. The first issue relates to working with the industry and agricultural sectors to improve on water efficiency. Later this year the Government will be opening the recycling facility in Kwinana, and we are very proud of that initiative. The water used in Kwinana will now be recycled. The second issue relates to the provision of water by the Water Corporation; and the member would know the issues that we need to deal with in that area because of the declining run-off into the dams. The third issue relates to householders. This scheme has been a huge success with householders. Nearly 50 000 applications have been received. That demonstrates the interest that people have in being part of the solution. One of the themes that our Government has taken up is that it is one thing to deliver policy; it is another thing to involve the public. In a modern public Administration, we need to involve the public at the same time as we are delivering policy. The public wants to be involved, and this scheme is a good example of how the public can be involved.

[10.00 am]

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I refer to sustainability, which is in output 3, management of policy, at page 79. What is the time line for the implementation of the state sustainability strategy, what is the likely cost of implementation of the strategy, and what allocations have been made towards the implementation of the strategy?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The draft state sustainability strategy was released in September 2002, generating significant public interest and 170 written submissions. I then released the document titled "Hope for the Future: The

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Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy” in September 2003 as part of the International Sustainability Conference that was held in Fremantle. That conference was associated with the third conference of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development. That is an association of 17 regional governments. It was very good to have all those representatives in Perth and Fremantle for that occasion. The state sustainability strategy is the first comprehensive sustainability blueprint released by any Australian State or Territory Government. Sustainability is defined in the final strategy as “meeting the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity”. The strategy contains 336 actions for government agencies across 42 priority areas under six goals for government; namely, sustainability and governance, contributing to global sustainability, sustainable natural resource management, sustainability and settlements, sustainability and community, and sustainability and business. We have also indicated that we will create a sustainability Act, and work has commenced on that, to provide a framework across government for dealing with sustainability. The philosophy that we will adopt in the first instance is to outline the overall framework for sustainability and encourage all government agencies and departments to work on those principles, and we will do that by legislation. Secondly, we have established a Sustainability Roundtable to bring together leaders to oversee the implementation of the strategy. The cost of the final state sustainability strategy, including the editing, design, printing and advertising of the document itself, was \$62 128.

With regard to the initiatives to which the Leader of the Opposition referred, as I have indicated, there are over 330 separate actions. The department has established a monitoring and reporting framework to ensure that the implementation of the actions is coordinated and efficient. All agencies will nominate an executive-level contact to be responsible for future correspondence and to enable regular reporting on the implementation of the actions. Agencies will report twice a year on the progress of delivering the actions, using a simple spreadsheet containing all the actions in the strategy, separated according to the responsible agency. The first reporting round was initiated in December 2003. The information will be made available on the sustainability web site to ensure that the public is aware of how we are implementing the strategy. The department will also produce a newsletter to keep people informed of progress. The first newsletter, titled “Sustainability Let’s Take the Next Step” was issued in March this year. The Sustainability Roundtable is working to develop a code of practice for government agencies and a corresponding resource guide. The Government will, of course, be required to take the lead in this area, but industry is also keen to get involved. The member would know from his time as Minister for Resources Development that major companies such as Rio Tinto Ltd, BHP Billiton, Alcoa Australia Ltd, Shell Australia Ltd and BP Australia Pty Ltd now report on a sustainability basis. We believe we need to now report to the community on how we are integrating our economic, social and environmental objectives. It is anticipated that the Government will finalise the code and resource guide by mid 2004 so that government agencies will be able to prepare their action plans by December 2004.

To summarise, legislation is being prepared at the moment. The Sustainability Roundtable has been set up. The Sustainability Roundtable is chaired by Professor Peter Newman and comprises representatives from the Government, the private sector, local government, the environmental movement and non-government agencies. If the member is keen, I am happy to send him a list of who is on the sustainability round table.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Yes, please.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The members of the round table are developing the code. Within government we are also developing the protocols to ensure that the sustainability strategy is carried through. In answer to the question, this is a long-term project, but we have specific timetables along the way for its development.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Is it the case that parts of the sustainability report on which this strategy is based were prepared by students at Murdoch University; and does the Premier consider that report to be of sufficient quality?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: We are very proud of the fact that our universities were involved in the development of the strategy. Our universities took up the opportunity to get involved. It is not very often that we are in a position to involve our universities in these types of projects. With regard to the quality of the report, Dr Hunter Lovins, an internationally-renowned author who co-authored a famous book entitled *Natural Capitalism - Creating The Next Industrial Revolution* and was *Time* magazine’s Hero of the Planet in 2000, recently commented that our strategy is, “simply put, the best sustainability strategy that I have read in the world.” That is not a bad comment from a person who is a leading authority in this area.

Mr J.N. HYDE: One of the major initiatives for 2004-05 at page 80 is overseeing the Government’s commitments on the Carnarvon-Ningaloo coast. What role did the Department of the Premier and Cabinet play in developing the planning and management strategy for the Carnarvon-Ningaloo coast?

[10.10 am]

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Dr G.I. GALLOP: The Department of the Premier and Cabinet assisted the Western Australian Planning Commission in developing the draft strategy, titled "The Future Directions: Sustainable Tourism and Land Use Scenarios for the Carnarvon-Ningaloo Coast", which was released on 3 May 2004 for public comment over the next few months. I think most people would acknowledge that at last a Government in Western Australia is taking seriously that coastline from Exmouth through to Carnarvon and is providing a framework for the proper planning of that area. We are very proud of what we have been doing. We helped out with that draft strategy. The towns of Carnarvon and Exmouth will service the gateways to the Ningaloo, and coastal development in other areas will be limited to small scale, low impact development. We have put a moratorium on any further development in Coral Bay until the power, water and sewerage infrastructure is provided, and of course we have provided a long-term cap on the size of Coral Bay. A Ningaloo sustainable development authority will be established and, in the interim, we are getting an office up and running. We have allocated \$960 000 so that office can start its work. The Western Australian Planning Commission will establish immediate statutory planning controls through the preparation of a regional scheme and a regional interim development order. We want to protect the world-class natural values of the Ningaloo coast and enable sensible development to occur in that area. Of course, the department, through the regional policy and environmental units, has been assisting with that process. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of that coastline for Western Australia. We want to manage that in a sustainable way, if I can use that expression. We want future generations to know that the environmental values will be protected. We also want to provide access for people to go there. That is the big challenge for any government. We have provided a framework to allow that to occur. We are receiving comment at the moment. It will be interesting to see what comments we get on the draft strategy, but the department played a role in assisting with the development of that strategy.

Mr J.N. HYDE: The Premier referred to a Ningaloo sustainable development authority. Will that be an administrative office located in Perth or will it be on location?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: We intend to base that in Carnarvon.

Mr J.N. HYDE: So it will help local employment as well?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It will employ people in Carnarvon and it will obviously generate income for that community.

The CHAIRMAN: I notice that the member for Warren-Blackwood is not on the official listing, but if the Leader of the Opposition is prepared to give up his time for the member to ask questions, that is fine by me.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: I refer the Premier to major policy decisions on page 68 and the line item for ministerial offices with a budget estimate of \$775 000. Can the Premier explain the reason for the allocation of \$775 000 and where that money will be spent?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: That amount of \$775 000 will be spent on ministerial offices. Following the cabinet reshuffle in June 2003 there was an increase in the total number of staff in ministerial offices, with a corresponding increase in associated costs: salaries, superannuation, travel, accommodation, motor vehicles and consumables. The additional \$575 000 per annum will be allocated as follows: salaries and superannuation \$400 000 and lease of office accommodation \$175 000.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Will the Premier provide the names of the officers in each ministerial office and their salary levels, both in the ministerial office and in the Premier's office?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I am happy to do that by way of supplementary information. I am pretty sure I have answered a question on notice about that. However, we are happy to provide that information by way of supplementary information.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: I ask for supplementary information based on the number of increased FTEs for each ministerial office and the Premier's office, including names and level of salary.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I think we have answered that question, but I am happy to provide that by way of supplementary information.

*[Supplementary Information No A33.]*

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Will the Premier also include the names of any officers coopted from other government departments?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Everyone engaged in those offices will be on the list.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Under output 9, the final dot point on page 92 refers to the study of the marine environment. The fifth dot point from the bottom of that page refers to long-term research initiatives.

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Dr G.I. GALLOP: Under what heading?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Major initiatives for 2004-05, output 9. It has struck me over a long period - most of my life - that one of the most disturbing trends over the last century or so has been the loss of biodiversity on earth and the continued destruction of environments in which other living things live. Another issue concerns the pressures we put on the earth through over population and the loss of natural habitat for a range of living creatures.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Where is the question?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The loss of species is just awful. I wonder whether we are engaging in any research and development initiatives, as indicated in output 9, that will help address that loss?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: There is no doubt that research and development of Ningaloo is very important. We need to know more about the reef and how it operates. That was revealed in all of the submissions that we received as part of the consideration of the Mauds Landing development. I remember reading the submission from the Department of Conservation and Land Management when it raised seven or nine base-level studies that needed to be done but had not been completed. I am very conscious of the importance of research in that area. As the member would know, we have a science strategy and from time to time as part of the centre for excellence programs we receive applications relating to that area. Our work with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation is focused on marine environments. I am pleased that our budget contributes towards studies of the marine environment.

In response to the member's question, I take this opportunity to raise an issue that we do need to research more, and that is whale sharks. I will make this point in two ways. First, whale sharks have become the basis of a very important eco-tourism industry for Western Australia, and only since the mid-1980s has the potential of those sharks, which regularly visit that area, become clear to the people particularly in Exmouth, where an industry has developed. Secondly, the whale shark is a very gracious creature - if I can use that expression - which plays a role all over the globe, and it deserves protection, but tragically people in some parts of the world do kill whale sharks and use them for food. I refer the member to a program that appeared recently on *Catalyst*. The program was so interesting that I took notes down as I watched it. I have my notes here. That program looked at the whole issue of the whale sharks, whether we could be sure that their preservation as part of our wonderful world could be guaranteed. The program revealed that as the sharks moved beyond Ningaloo, some headed off to Christmas Island, some headed into South East Asia and, tragically, some very big whale sharks have been killed and used for food in Taiwan, for example. We need to know more about the whale sharks and how they move around the world.

I was very pleased to visit the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute in San Diego as an offshoot of my oil and gas trip to the United States last year. Dr Brent Stewart, an American researcher working on whale sharks, was visiting Western Australia only a few weeks ago and he took the opportunity to drop by and show me some of the work he was doing on tagging the sharks to determine where they travel. The Australian Institute of Marine Science is also working on whale sharks. Its work was very well presented recently on *Catalyst* on ABC television. We have an issue here; we need to know more about the whale sharks.

[10.20 am]

Mr C.J. BARNETT: All you have is a conversation.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is actually important, unlike the member's questions.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I am very concerned that the whale sharks continue to be the target of overseas fishermen. I have taken the opportunity to write to the Prime Minister to indicate that I am keen to develop a joint federal-state approach to protect whale sharks. It is not important just for biodiversity; it is important for our ecotourism industry. It is primarily the Commonwealth's responsibility to press for the conservation of a threatened species in the international arena. We need to take up the battle on behalf of the whale sharks, get the support of the Commonwealth and start to work at the international level to ensure that we preserve the species. At the same time we need research on whale sharks and how they travel around the globe. We support the work undertaken by the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the Hubbs institute in San Diego. This is an important issue for Western Australia. We have the chance in Western Australia because we know how important the whale sharks are to our ecotourism industry. We should use our success in this area as a platform to inform people in South East Asia that there is an alternative. Whale sharks are being used for food but they can also be used for an important industry. We would much prefer to the whale sharks to be preserved.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: This is an absolute farce.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, members!

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Mr C.J. BARNETT: I refer to the second last dot point at page 81.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Which output? It is just for my purposes; I am not having a go at the member.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Page 81. Last time I gave the Premier the output he wanted to know the page number. That is why I have given him a page number this time.

Mr J.N. HYDE: No wonder they had five deficits.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Mr Chairman, this is meant to be an estimates committee. It is not the opportunity for government backbenchers to heckle the Leader of the Opposition. It is the responsibility of the Chairman to chair the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: It is that.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I hope that the Premier can provide as full an answer for my question as he did for the question on whale sharks. The second last point states that the department will assist in developing a strategic policy on waste management and the establishment of new hazardous waste precincts. Specifically, which sites are being considered for a hazardous waste precinct? What funding has been provided for this task?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The department provides advice on the whole-of-government policy and processes and community engagement related to waste policy. As the member will know, a consultative process is proceeding for the establishment of new hazardous waste precincts. A review of the waste management and recycling fund is being undertaken. Other issues also arise from time to time, such as the ones at Brookdale and Kalgoorlie. We need a strategic direction in waste management. I am not aware whether any sites have been targeted by the committee. I think it is developing its criteria for that. I will need to take that question on notice because no advice has been given to me whether any areas have been targeted as possible sites for a waste management facility. If the Leader of the Opposition requires more detail, a question to the Minister for the Environment could provide that. I am not in a position to answer.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I seek that by way of additional information. The Premier is to provide information on which sites are being considered for hazardous waste.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I am not aware whether any are being considered at this stage.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Perhaps the Premier can provide additional information.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition would like an update on the work.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I would like to know what sites are being considered. I want them identified.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: If any are, they will be included in my response.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I seek that it be provided by way of additional information.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The Leader of the Opposition wants information on the work of the waste management -

Mr C.J. BARNETT: No. I want to know which sites are being considered.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Let me finish. A waste management committee has been established. It involves the community. I will report to the Parliament on the work of the committee. I would have thought that the Leader of the Opposition would like that because he will get a broader view of what it is doing, including whether it has identified any possible sites for waste management.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: And where the sites are.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: That is what I said. If any are being considered, they will be included in the answer.

[*Supplementary Information No A34.*]

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Perth has a question.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Is it a whale shark question?

Mr J.N. HYDE: It is in the same vein. The arts were attacked yesterday and today it is sustainability.

I refer to the major achievements for 2003-04 at page 88. The first dot point refers to the Government's anti-racism strategy. One of the objectives of the anti-racism strategy for Western Australia is the need to address factors that may contribute to systemic discrimination in the public sector. Is the Premier able to inform me how that is being developed and the status of the public sector program?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The anti-racism strategy is one of the Government's significant commitments to ensure that every Western Australian can achieve his full potential free from discrimination. That is extremely important.

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Racial discrimination and prejudice have no part in our modern society. Our society is multicultural and multifaith. We all have to learn to live together. It is important that the Government sets the direction in that area. The focus of the work we are doing is on organisational processes and practices that reproduce discrimination and reinforce systemic inequalities. It is the sort of thing that can happen in a way in which the people involved do not recognise. It is important that we address that element of racism as well as the day-to-day instances that can occur. A program team has been established. I am very pleased that the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Equal Opportunity Commission, the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, the Department of Indigenous Affairs and the Office of Multicultural Interests are working with us on this issue. They all have an overarching concern with issues of discrimination. To complement the role of those program partners a committee, which includes the program partners and other partners, has been formed. The agencies ensure there is access to the knowledge, existing initiatives and service priorities across the public sector. In addition to the program partners I just referred to, the program includes the Departments of Health, Education and Training, Justice, and Community Development, as well as the Western Australia Police Service, Main Roads and the Western Australian Local Government Association. It is important that we understand this and that we work together to ensure that everyone in Western Australia has the chance to fulfil their potential.

The Government has taken an initiative with four public service agencies - the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Department for Community Development, the Department of Justice and the Western Australia Police Service - to look at ways to eliminate racial discrimination that occurs in the provision of services. On the one hand we have the operation of government departments and issues such as selection policies and day-to-day practices in career development. On the other hand we have service delivery. The Police Service delivers very significant services that require sensitivity to differences. I have discussed this matter on many occasions with the Commissioner of Police, who is very supportive of the efforts we are taking and who has become part of the process. The Community Development and Justice departments also deliver services that are important. It is crucial to look at how we deliver them to make sure we are not discriminating against people. This project will build on initiatives already taken in the public sector. It is looking at mechanisms to ensure attention is given to the needs of diverse clients. Sometimes it is a matter of translating services or ensuring cultural sensitivity in the way that services are delivered to people. I am very encouraged that the public sector understands that this is an important issue. We must ensure that the public service has the knowledge and capacity to deal with it. Professor Charles Husband has been visiting Western Australia from the United Kingdom to help those four departments with this pilot project. We must go beneath the surface and make sure we are dealing with those systemic issues. Government departments must be conscious of those issues not only in the way they operate but also in how they deliver those services. On both those fronts we have programs in place.

[10.30 am]

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I refer to output 3 and the third last dot point on page 81 of the *Budget Statements*. It says that the department intends to create a greenhouse unit. When is that to be established, what will be the cost of that unit and how many FTEs will it consist of?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The draft Western Australian greenhouse strategy was released in December 2003 and the public comment period ended on 31 March 2004. It is anticipated that a final strategy will be approved in mid-2004. I provide that information as some background. The establishment of a greenhouse unit is a priority of that draft strategy. The establishment has begun with the creation of two new positions in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. There will be two positions in that department, the funding for which is listed under major policy decisions. It will be provided with \$734 000 in 2004-05, \$610 000 in 2005-06, \$410 000 in 2006-07 and \$410 000 in 2007-08. That money will be spent on a range of initiatives the Government has taken. Does the Leader of the Opposition want me to list those initiatives?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I asked about the unit.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I know, but that is the total expenditure; it is being spent on not only the people in the unit but also the initiatives that they will supervise. Does the member want that material?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The Premier can provide it if he wishes. I do not want it read out. The Premier can provide me with a copy of it.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: We will provide information on the money that will be expended on the WA greenhouse strategy referred to under output 3 on page 81 of the *Budget Statements*.

[*Supplementary Information No A35.*]

Mr M. McGOWAN: I refer to output 2, management of matters of State, on page 77 of the *Budget Statements*. It indicates that the State has budgeted for \$285 000 to be spent on the State's Indian Ocean territory service delivery arrangements. My question is multipronged and relates to the arrangements for those Indian Ocean

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territories. I think that the State provides the administration arrangements - for example, local government services and so forth - for the Indian Ocean territories, which comprise the Cocos Islands, Keeling Island and Christmas Island. However, when those territories vote in elections, they vote in the Northern Territory at the federal level. I am not sure whether they vote anywhere in Australia in state elections. Does the Commonwealth Government reimburse the State Government for the funds it spends on the Indian Ocean territories, given that they are commonwealth territories and vote in the Northern Territory and do not vote in the Western Australian elections? Considering we have that longstanding involvement with the Indian Ocean territories, it strikes me that, in particular at the Cocos Islands - not so much Christmas Island due to other federal uses for it - there is an island paradise with a very interesting history close to our shores. The involvement of the Cocos Islands in the First and Second World Wars is very interesting. They have an interesting and diverse multicultural population. In light of events overseas, particularly in Bali, and the potential for further terrorist activity in countries that Australians visit, has the Government considered utilising the Cocos Islands as a holiday destination and a place to which Western Australians in particular but also other Australians might want to travel and enjoy a tropical island paradise in a multicultural setting in a completely safe Australian environment? Has any work been done on that and will the Government do any work on that?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The member asked two questions. The first relates to the Western Australian Government's service delivery arrangements with Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands. The State Government has 30 service delivery arrangements in place between the State Government and the Commonwealth Government. Eight service delivery arrangements for services delivered by state agencies were reviewed and renegotiated for a further four years with the Commonwealth in 2003-04. Western Australian taxpayers have not paid money for the delivery of those services; they are all funded by the Commonwealth. Therefore, there are no budget implications for Western Australia except that the State Government administers the arrangements through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The federal affairs division of the department has responsibility for that. The State Government spends no money on the delivery of those services. However, those arrangements are in place and Western Australians are located at those places and they deliver those services.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Is that reimbursed by the Commonwealth?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It is paid for by the Commonwealth because it is a commonwealth territory. I have not looked into the second issue that the member raised. As the member knows, a casino and resort was built on Christmas Island, but it failed. That is a matter for the Commonwealth; it is not something that the State Government has looked into. I have read a book about the mutiny that occurred in the Cocos Islands during the Second World War. However, if I had a discussion about that with the member now, it would be called a conversation and would not be allowed. During morning tea I will tell the member about the very interesting book written about the mutiny that occurred in the Cocos Islands during the Second World War. It was published by Fremantle Arts Centre Press and is an excellent book.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: I refer the Premier to major policy decisions on pages 68 and 80 of the *Budget Statements*. Towards the bottom of the list it is shown that a significant amount of funding has been provided for the state water strategy and the Premier's Water Research Foundation, particularly in the out years for the foundation. Will the Premier explain what the Premier's Water Research Foundation will do? With regard to the state water strategy - which I thought would have been undertaken by the Water Corporation or the Water and Rivers Commission, as has been done in the past - will the Government make a decision on the 45 gegalitres of water in the southern Yarragadee before the election?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The first question relates to the Premier's Water Research Foundation, which was established in November 2003 as an initiative of the state water strategy to promote and enhance water-related research and development activities. Cabinet endorsed the nominations for the board of directors on 6 October 2003. The board will be responsible for overseeing the selection of activities and the generation of new funds. It will act independently from the Government and will be responsible for ensuring the ongoing management of the foundation. The members of the board are Mr Charlie Welker, Chairman; Dr Thomas Hatton, Deputy Chairman; Dr Bruce Hobbs; Professor Bruce Elliot; Hon Ron Davies; Ms Rosanne Pimm; Mrs Wendy Pritchard; and Dr Vanessa Guthrie. It is anticipated that the grants scheme will be opened in late May 2004. If I am not mistaken, the board has worked out the criteria it will use to assess the applications of those grants. Very soon it will announce that so that applications can be received. The basic background to that is that the Government is keen to encourage research and development and to get new ideas on water strategies. The Premier's Water Research Foundation is in a good position to encourage that.

On the second question, work continues on the south west Yarragadee. We have made it clear all along that we will make sure we understand the science of those water formations, the connection between them and the river

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systems, and all the other water movements in that area. In other words, we need to be very confident about all those ecological and environmental issues before we make a decision. That work is continuing.

[10.40 am]

Mr P.D. OMODEI: The question was: will you make a decision on the southern Yarragadee before the election? I also have a follow-up question on the board. How were board members appointed, and do they receive a stipend? If so, what is the stipend?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It is a normal sitting fee. They were appointed by the Government, through the Cabinet, which is the normal process.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Can we be provided with details of the sitting fee?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: We will provide supplementary information on the sitting fees provided to members of the board of the Premier's Water Research Foundation.

[*Supplementary Information No A36.*]

Mr P.D. OMODEI: My other question was on the southern Yarragadee. Will you make a decision before the election?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The multicriteria analysis matrix - they are not my words, but that is what is apparently going on - resulting from various research studies into the viability of a 45-gigalitre water allocation from the south west Yarragadee aquifer into the integrated water supply system was launched in December 2003 by the Department of Environment for public comment. Submissions will be evaluated and a preliminary assessment is expected in late 2004.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I refer the Premier to page 81.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Could I just ask whether the last question will be answered? Will a decision be made in late 2004? Is that what the Premier said?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: That is when the material will come in. We will have to see what that material says. We cannot prejudge what the decision will be or when it will come.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: It was a simple question: will a decision be made on the southern Yarragadee before the election?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I have answered that question very clearly. Any decision on that will be premised on the scientific information that we have available, and the strength of that information.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: It is either yes or no.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Kingsley has the call.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I refer to the final dot point under major initiatives for 2004-05 under output 3 on page 81, which states -

The Department will co-ordinate the finalisation of the policy for Indigenous Ownership and Joint Management of Conservation Lands.

Will the Premier provide some indication of what will be contained within that policy? Have the conservation lands been identified? Will they be identified? What will be the process for implementation?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I cannot provide any indication because work is continuing. If the work were finished, I could; however, work in that area is continuing.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Can the Premier provide any information on the development of a policy, or on the guidelines or framework by which that policy will be developed?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The discussion paper went out. It is being considered. We have made no decision on that. We are not in a position to indicate what our policy is. Obviously, there is a general issue; that is, the relationship with our indigenous people. We have an excellent relationship in Karijini. We are looking at how to make sure that our indigenous people are properly involved in the future of the State. Beyond that, I cannot say.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Is there a time frame for when that will be finalised?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It is a complex issue. A lot of work has been done on that. There is no specific timetable.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: We obviously need to give the Premier a book to read on that.

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Dr G.I. GALLOP: The department is involved in that. Most of the day-to-day work in that area is the responsibility of the Minister for the Environment.

Mr J.N. HYDE: I refer to output 9 and page 91 and specifically to Scitech. Both the Premier and I are committed to Scitech. It has been one of the big successes of both this and the previous Government. Can the Premier provide some up-to-date information on the financial and other commitments to Scitech of the Government?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Scitech has been a great Western Australian institution. I have been very pleased to be associated with it ever since coming into Parliament. I remember a very important meeting held at the home of Mr John Stokes, who is a prominent Western Australian businessman who put together a group of people. Mal Bryce was minister at the time. His aim and dream was to have good science education in Western Australia. Scitech was established at City West. Since then it has proved to be a leader in science education. What is important about Scitech is that it delivers programs not just at Scitech but also in the community and schools. Secondly, it innovates; it develops new programs. It has a group of researchers who are looking at new ideas all the time. Scitech is a great Western Australian institution. Sir Lawrence Brodie Hall is another great Western Australian who was involved in making sure it was established. This is a great achievement for Western Australia. Sir Lawrence Brodie Hall has been a great enthusiast for it. He came along to the announcement. We have a new five-year agreement, as reported in the budget papers. It provides \$24.3 million over the term of the agreement, including \$10.2 million for the capital refurbishment of existing facilities at City West, and \$14.1 million for operational support. Funding for Scitech comes from the State Government, admission and other sales, and corporate sponsorship. State support for Scitech represented about 50 per cent of its income in 2002-03. It also has important business partners who help out with what it does. The Horizon planetarium is the first part of the capital refurbishment. I advise all members of Parliament and people in the gallery that the planetarium is absolutely first-class. People should take along their kids to learn a lot about our world and how it operates. The planetarium development budget was \$1.799 million. We are putting \$5.986 million into new science exhibits and \$2.019 million into visitor facilities and organisational effectiveness. I am sure the members for Eyre and Warren-Blackwood will also be pleased to know that we have allocated \$389 000 to regional science, including touring exhibits, to get science into the regions. I am sure the member for Bunbury will not mind me saying that the school at which he was formerly employed - Australind Senior High School - has been a leader in the development of school-based science projects. The interest in science in our regions is enormous. I congratulate all the teachers. We will make sure Scitech can play a role in that throughout the State.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: That is fantastic, Premier.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It is; it is great.

Mr J.N. HYDE: I have a further question. Are the City West premises of Scitech owned by the Government?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: They are owned by Gerry Harvey.

Mr J.N. HYDE: It is on a long-term lease.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Scitech is not a government organisation.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: I refer the Premier to output 7, which appears at the bottom of page 86 and on the next page. I refer particularly to the support for multiculturalism and multicultural interests in Western Australia. The net cost of the output for this year is down about \$220 000, which is about eight per cent in real terms, but the appropriation for delivery is up some \$100 000. Can the Premier explain how that comes about?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Mr Wauchope will answer that question.

Mr WAUCHOPE: There was a reallocation in the current financial year to reimburse the office for severances paid the previous year. It is basically a one-off payment reflected in this year's expenditure. Next year's expenditure goes back to normal.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Severance for?

Mr WAUCHOPE: Three officers from the Office of Multicultural Interests. That occurred in 2002-03.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: Thank you.

[10.50 am]

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I refer to the major initiatives for 2004-05 under output 4 on page 84, and to the shared corporate services model. That dot point refers to the fact that the Department of the Premier and Cabinet will manage and monitor the implementation of the shared corporate services model across the whole of the public

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sector. The team involved in that is called the functional review implementation team - referred to colloquially as FRIT. Can the Premier tell us how many people in the department have been set aside to carry out this work of managing and monitoring the implementation; where they are located; what are the levels of those officers; how the implementation is going for FRIT at the moment; how many people in FRIT have been transferred across from other agencies; and are we on target to meet the time frame to implement that shared corporate services model?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It may be that we cannot answer some parts of that question today, for example, the question about levels, but we will come to that.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I will be happy to have that by way of supplementary information.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I will provide the general answer first. This reform involves departments sharing corporate support services, including financial services, human resources and information services, in a bid to reduce duplication and costs through increased economies of scale. Thirty people are involved in this process.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Within the department?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Yes, and I gave that information earlier when the Leader of the Opposition asked a question.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: My apologies if the Premier is having to repeat himself.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: No, it is okay. The shared service centres will be semiautonomous business units delivering a range of corporate services to a group of client agents, I think the member knows that. Five of these shared service centres will be established to support all Western Australian government departments and agencies. Two will cater for education and training and health, and the other three will cater for the needs of groups or clusters covering all the remaining state government agencies.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Where are they located?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I will come to that. The three shared service centres will be located in Cannington, which we have announced. Eventually, up to 900 public servants will be located at this site. The two specialist centres are likely to be located within existing health and education and training premises. The following implementation work has been completed, and the member asked that question. A shared corporate services program officer has been created to guide implementation.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Yes. Governance boards and employing authorities have been established. Interim general managers have been appointed for the five SSCs and have commenced visiting agencies within their clusters. Reference groups have been established to determine the final designs for the various services to be provided by the SSCs. On top of that, work has already begun to draft a governance charter for the governing boards for the following reasons: to create a service level agreement framework to be used by each SSC and their respective agencies; to develop high level costing and pricing models for the SSC; to outline the approach for adjusting agency budgets; to develop strategies for the transition of corporate services staff into the SSCs along with planning other staffing matters, ranging from training and development to management of surplus staff; and, to map standardised business processes, particularly in the areas of finance and HR. An investment of \$82 million is required from 2003-04 until 2007-08 to implement the reforms. This investment will deliver an ongoing minimum benefit of \$50 million per annum from 2006-07. A request for proposal for the development of the corporate services business system to be used by the SSCs was released. The program officer is currently evaluating the submissions. The initial procurement process for the corporate services business systems is scheduled to conclude in August/September 2004 with the letting of contracts. It is anticipated that staff will start moving into the Cannington premises in early 2005, and the SSCs will start providing services to their first agency clients from 1 July 2005.

This comes out of our functional review. It is part of our ongoing process of improving efficiency in the public sector, so that taxpayers get value for money by making sure that we do not spend more money on the bureaucratic side of government than we need to. That money can then go into helping nurses, teachers and police officers. I am very pleased to say that Mr Ron Mance, who is with us today, has been in charge of the implementation of this project. I cannot answer the member's question about the levels of staff; however, we will provide by way of supplementary information the different levels of staff involved in the FRIT team within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: And where they are located?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: They are located at the May Holman Centre at present.

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Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Do they cover one or two floors?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Two floors.

[*Supplementary Information No A37.*]

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Will the Premier make available the Functional Review Taskforce report that went to Cabinet in December 2002?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: We have made available the Government's response; that is, what we are doing. That report was an advisory document to Cabinet.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Given the amount of money that was paid for it, why will the Premier not make that report available?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: It was advice to the Government; we have taken it on board and are implementing it.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Not every recommendation has been implemented. Why will the Premier not table that report in the interest of accountability?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: There was a report to the Cabinet and a report to the Government. Just as all the submissions that were made to the previous Government through the cabinet process were -

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: We released our functional review reports. Why is the Premier hiding behind cabinet secrecy?

The CHAIRMAN: This is not a question on the budget papers. I wish to point out that morning tea finishes in five minutes. I propose to adjourn until the ringing of bells.

*Sitting suspended from 10.56 to 11.16 am*

[Mr A.D. McRae took the Chair.]

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I refer the Premier to output 4, which refers to support for the Premier as Minister for Public Sector Management. Part of the minister's responsibility is the whole-of-government reporting on public sector work force demographics, trends, management issues, and, in particular, the development of public policy for dealing with those management issues. The figures published by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet on its web site relating to these issues show that the number of full-time equivalents has gone up from 86 555 at December 2000 to 91 513 as at June 2003. That is an increase of 4 958 FTEs in the public sector. The indicator on the report says that that the increase is mainly due to the health, education and training area, yet the supporting statistics do not back that up. Can the Premier give a breakdown of the increase for education and training from December 2000 to June 2003, and for health for the same period? This would give some indication that those areas account for only about 2 000 of that increase of nearly 5 000 in FTEs. The Government was elected on a platform of smaller government, reduction in the senior executive service etc. I acknowledge that the Government is moving towards meeting that figure, but this is a huge increase in the level of public sector employment. Can the Premier comment?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The Government has delivered on its promise to have a leaner and meaner public administration and more nurses, teachers and police officers. I can add that we have also dealt with the crisis in child protection. We have more child protection workers. We also have more enforcement officers in the environment area to make sure that our Environmental Protection Act works properly. The Government has done exactly what it said it would do. The numbers have been published and are there for all to see. I think they are on the web site now.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: There are nearly 5 000 more FTEs in the public sector. I am talking about FTEs.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: That is right. As I said, the Government has delivered on the health, education and police sectors. What page is the senior executive service on?

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I am not talking about the SES.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The member raised the SES. I just wanted to report -

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I am talking about nearly 5 000 extra public sector employees. The report says that it is mainly due to health, education and training. That is not exactly correct. Less than half of that figure might be attributable to those two sectors.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I will answer the member's question by way of supplementary information. I do not have the detailed information with me. I will provide supplementary information on extra numbers in the public sector in Western Australia and how those numbers relate to health, education and policing.

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Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: No, to health, education and training. The comment does not refer to police, and there are 35 fewer of them, so I would not bother about finding out about police. The report says that the increase relates to health, education and training.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The member does not want to talk about what is not convenient. However, we will do that.

*[Supplementary Information No A38.]*

Dr G.I. GALLOP: In February 2001 there were 422 members of the senior executive service. Presently there are 339 SES members. I just report that to the Parliament.

Mr J.N. HYDE: My question relates to output 4 on page 82. One of my priorities, and that of most other members, is training. In terms of human resource management in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, can the Premier provide information on the number of trainees employed in the public sector over the past three years?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The strategy was formulated between the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the former Department of Training, which is now part of the Department of Education and Training. A circular was issued in December 2001. Each department was given a minimum allocation of training placements in 2002, based on a nominal FTE as at the December 2001-02 quarter. There are 754 traineeships in the public sector. The progress to date is: from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, 134 traineeships were allocated; from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, 397 traineeships were allocated; and from 1 July 2003 to 30 March 2004, the number is 223. This is an important issue. I am very pleased that we are delivering on what we said we would do.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I refer to output 7 on page 86. There has been a real cut to the overall budget for -

Dr G.I. GALLOP: We have dealt with output 7. The question was asked earlier.

The CHAIRMAN: If the Leader of the Opposition wants to move to another subject, that is fine.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I refer to -

The CHAIRMAN: Order, member for Kingsley! There is an order for members to be given the call. I was actually deferring to the Leader of the Opposition. I give the call to the member for Rockingham.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I refer to output 9, science and innovation promotion and support, and to the funding for Scitech on page 91.

The CHAIRMAN: Leader of the Opposition, do you wish to say something to me?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The question that I wanted to ask has been asked. In that case it would have been courteous, Mr Chairman, to allow me to defer to the other member of the Opposition.

The CHAIRMAN: If the Leader of the Opposition wants to deal with the process, he knows that there is a formal way of doing that. The Leader of the Opposition does not need to speak in sotto voce and make a critique to try to get his point across.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It is just a matter of courtesy.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think the Leader of the Opposition is being courteous. I gave the Leader of the Opposition the opportunity to ask an alternative question, and he did not take it up. I then deferred to the other members in the order in which they have sought the call.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I deferred to my colleague.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not for the Leader of the Opposition to give the call.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Clearly.

The CHAIRMAN: That is my job. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to challenge it, it is well within his power to do so, and I leave that open to him. Member for Rockingham.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I refer to output 9, in particular Scitech.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: That question has been asked also. We are doing all right - two questions in a row repeated!

Mr J.N. HYDE: This is the efficiency dividend, Premier!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am really interested in knowing what impact it has on whale sharks!

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Kingsley.

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Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I refer the Premier to output 4 at page 82 and to the whole of government reporting on public sector workforce demographics, trends and management issues. It is clear from the web site that the total current and non-current leave liability as at 30 June 2003 is \$1.230 million. That is an increase of \$113 million, or 10.1 per cent, compared with 2001-02. The current leave liability is \$783 million, which is an increase of \$88 million, or 9.5 per cent, compared with 2001-02. The average liability per full-time employee for 2002-03 is 10.7 weeks. Eighteen agencies, plus the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, which just falls over the line, exceed the current average annual leave and long service leave liability. Given that that huge debt is accruing and is increasing at an enormous rate, what strategies is the Premier putting in place to reduce that debt, and, in particular, to target those agencies that are over the average? Main Roads Western Australia is over 20 weeks per FTE. Challenger TAFE is just over 16.5 weeks. The Department of Agriculture is over 15 weeks. The Forest Products Commission is 15 weeks. Eighteen departments, plus the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, exceed the average leave liability per FTE.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: That is a very detailed question that deals with a range of agencies. I think the best way to deal with the question is by way of supplementary information. The member has asked me to outline the strategies that will be developed by the Government to deal with leave liability in the major departments concerned. I will provide the answer by way of supplementary information.

*[Supplementary Information No A39.]*

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I refer to page 93, output 10, state road safety initiatives.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The Minister for Police will be dealing with that output.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I want to ask the Premier a question.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: That has been allocated to that minister as part of the estimates. She is the responsible minister.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I want to ask the Premier a question as Premier.

The CHAIRMAN: For the guidance of members, we are dealing only with division 3 outputs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: This is output 10 in that division.

The CHAIRMAN: I will read it again. We are dealing only with division 3 outputs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11, so neither output 8 nor output 10 is allocated to this part of the estimates process.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: So are you saying, Mr Chairman, that I cannot ask the Premier a question about a function within his department?

The CHAIRMAN: As the Leader of the Opposition knows, the standing orders require that each estimates committee deal with the appropriation vote before it. The appropriation votes for outputs 8 and 10 are not part of this committee's work.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: They come under the Premier's department.

The CHAIRMAN: Leader of the Opposition, I have just given as clear an explanation as I possibly can about the appropriation question that is before this committee. There is no appropriation question before this committee on output 10.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: So you are not allowing me, Mr Chairman, to ask a question of the Premier. Can I ask a question or not?

The CHAIRMAN: Let me finish. I have just told the Leader of the Opposition that this committee can deal only with matters for which there is an appropriation question before it. There is no appropriation question before this committee with regard to outputs 8 and 10.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: So I cannot ask the Premier a question about his department? I want to ask the Premier a question.

Mr J.N. HYDE: If you had turned up to the briefing you would have known that.

[11.30 am]

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I want to be clear. I do not need an answer from the member for Perth.

Mr J.N. HYDE: It is on the agenda.

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Mr C.J. BARNETT: I am addressing the Chair. I want to clarify that this is an output within the Premier's office that I cannot ask the Premier a question on. I do not mind if another minister has dealt with it, but I want to ask the Premier a question about it. Is the Chairman ruling that I cannot do that?

The CHAIRMAN: No. I am ruling that the standing orders give very clear guidance that our task, and the standing order requirement for the definition of that task, is that we deal with the appropriation before the committee.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Could you clarify that for me, please? Did the Premier respond to questions on output 10 in the other estimates committee?

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot give the member that answer.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Is he available to respond?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: No, it is up to the Minister for Police to deal with it.

The CHAIRMAN: I will give the Leader of the Opposition the opportunity to ask an alternative question, but we are not dealing with output 10. Does he have a question?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I had a question and it was on output 10.

The CHAIRMAN: If he has no other questions, I give the call to the member for Perth.

Mr J.N. HYDE: I refer to the Office of E-Government on page 95 under output 11. What has the Government done about improving telecommunications services for education, training and health in regional WA?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Under a commonwealth-state funding agreement signed by me in June 2003, the State Government will provide contributions worth in excess of \$60 million over eight years for the improvement of regional telecommunication services in the key government priority areas of health and education. This will be supplemented by an \$8 million national communications fund grant from the commonwealth Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. Under agreements signed with Telstra in March 2004, broadband services will be implemented in 308 health, education and training sites in 57 regional towns across the nine regional development commission areas. The towns covered range from Wyndham in the Kimberley to Esperance in the south. This is a significant improvement on the 19 regional towns and 58 sites that the Government committed to in the original funding agreement with the Commonwealth. Bandwidth upgrades ranging from two megabytes a second to 10 megabytes a second will be implemented. For many sites this will mean up to 80 times more bandwidth than they currently have access to under the original agreement with Telstra. The broadband services will also be available at the government discount price to small business, local government and the community. The project has the potential to vastly improve the range, efficiency and quality of health and education services available in the regions. Network WA will further bridge the gap between metropolitan and regional health and education and will also be used to complement other programs running in schools, hospitals and TAFE colleges. I have recently written to the federal minister, Daryl Williams, and other federal and state members, including the member for Eyre - I signed a letter to him this morning - in the hope they will be able to come to the launch of this program in Kalgoorlie-Boulder in June.

Mr J.N. HYDE: My understanding is that a large section of the State - the Ngaanyatjarra lands, consisting of some 250 000 square kilometres - has not had access to broadband. There are some 17 communities in that area. If this policy is to apply to that section, the community development, health and education departments and other government services will be able to empower the Western Australians who live within those 250 000 square kilometres just through them getting access to the Internet.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I will ask Ms Jo Bryson, the Acting Executive Director of the Office of E-Government, to answer that question.

Ms BRYSON: A recent announcement was made that those lands have received some telecommunication upgrades through separate funding, which as I understand it is joint funding between the Commonwealth and this Government. That is being handled by the Minister for State Development.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: If the member wants to take up that matter with the Minister for State Development, I am sure he will respond. It is a big issue and I am pleased the member has raised it, because getting that bandwidth up there is important for our regions.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I refer the Premier to the fifth dot point under output 4 on page 84 dealing with the recruitment advertising management system. The Government has established a new web-based portal for redeployment, government career opportunities and entry-level recruitment. Has the Premier cut back on advertising in newspapers for jobs as a consequence of the establishment of this web-based portal? If not, is the

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Premier planning to cut back on advertising in newspapers? There are a lot of people who are illiterate about information technology but who may be well qualified for jobs within the government sector, and they could be discriminated against. How will the Premier deal with them?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I will just explain the scheme to provide the background. In January this year the Department of the Premier and Cabinet implemented its new online electronic recruitment advertising management system, RAMS, for the Western Australian public sector. RAMS module 1 integrates redeployment, voluntary severance, entry-level recruitment and recruitment into one streamlined system. The system is proposed to be enhanced so that from July 2004 agencies will be able to introduce module 2 to manage job applications electronically throughout the system. That will enable agencies to fully integrate into a seamless system the advertising applications and appointments of staff within the public sector. The system is very flexible and it will fit into the shared services that will be implemented by about mid 2005. The Western Australian Government job board, where jobs are advertised, went live in January this year. A Western Australian company was contracted to implement the system. I think it won an IT industry award for developing the system. Implementation of RAMS has been achieved by reducing lengthy recruitment press advertisements in the Saturday newspaper to small pointer ads directing job seekers to the WA Government job board. The estimated annual savings from reduced recruitment advertising costs will be approximately \$2.5 million per annum. This estimate is supported by the actual savings achieved since the introduction of the new advertising system. The implementation costs include the implementation of both modules at \$1.23 million in 2004-05, and the ongoing operational costs, including user licences, at approximately \$810 000 a year. The projected savings from recruitment advertising each financial year are approximately \$2.5 million. After implementation costs have been met, from 2005 to 2006 onwards, net savings to government will be in the order of \$1.8 million each year. The new system has been very well received by the people of Western Australia. In March the number of unique visitors to the job board exceeded 34 000. By comparison, in February this year the Victorian Government job board, which has been operating for several years, had only 28 000 unique visits during the same period. In addition, in Western Australia over 9 000 job seekers are registered with RAMS and have their unique search profiles on the job board - they are there all the time. When jobs within the public sector arise that meet the profiles of those people, they will be e-mailed the details of those jobs. The establishment of the Jobs WA Government web site at [jobs.wa.gov.au](http://jobs.wa.gov.au) allows the Western Australian public sector to be promoted as an employer of choice and ensures that we have a far more efficient and effective way of advertising and placing people into jobs in the Western Australian public service.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: What are you doing for -

Dr G.I. GALLOP: Hang on! The advertising campaign, also funded from recruitment advertising savings, is being undertaken to create awareness of the new WA job board among all job seekers and promote the Western Australian Government job board as the primary point for finding a job within government. The allocated advertising campaign budget for that is \$350 000.

We think we are harnessing new technology, which is becoming an important part of all government. At the same time, we are very confident that we are getting out to people in the community who need to know. We are allowing job seekers to put their profiles into the system so they will get a better and quicker response. We are very confident that people are not being discriminated against by this new system; quite the reverse.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: I think the Premier is wrong. I think he is discriminating against those people who are not computer literate. Is the Premier saying that those people who are not computer literate do not deserve jobs within the public service? What is the Government doing for those people?

[11.40 am]

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The advertisement in the paper -

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Says what? Go to the web site?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: They can ring up.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: What if people do not have a computer?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: There is a phone number.

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Is the number going to be maintained? The figures produced show that there is a cutback on advertising.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I cannot agree with the member. I think the member is behind the times in her thinking.

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Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Many people do not have a computer at home. The Government is discriminating against those people. The Government is saying that they do not deserve jobs in the public service. The Premier is not looking after them.

Dr G.I. GALLOP: That is not true.

The CHAIRMAN: I believe the Leader of the Opposition has a question.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: There is no point; the last three have not been answered.

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: I refer to the ninth dot point at page 81, which concerns the Inquiry into Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities. In my electorate, and with the new boundaries, the outcome of the Gordon inquiry is having a huge impact. I am already dealing with some of those issues. Is the Premier able to give me an update?

Mrs C.L. EDWARDES: Could you not be a bit more specific? Any criteria? Just an update, Premier. We will sit back and relax.

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: Does the member not want to hear about it?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The second progress report was tabled in Parliament on 10 March 2004 and showed that a large majority of the initiatives announced in 2003 have been fully implemented. Some delays have occurred in order to ensure the inclusion and involvement of local indigenous people in the process of implementing services and staffing. There was some criticism of that but we made it clear that we would involve the communities so that when we deliver the programs they meet their requirements. The following new staff have been employed: 23 child protection workers, eight child protection and family violence officers in the Western Australia Police Service, 12 Aboriginal support workers, 12 strong families program coordinators, and four Department of Justice program officers, who will establish in collaboration with Aboriginal communities programs that deal with perpetrators. The following programs have been expanded: the strong families program, the child protection unit at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and the victim support and child witness services. The Child Death Review Committee has been established and new child protection legislation has been proposed in the Children and Community Development Bill 2003. I refer the member to a question on notice asked by Hon Derrick Tomlinson in the Legislative Council on Wednesday, 31 March 2004. It concerns specific issues related to the Gordon inquiry. The answer outlines how much the Government has spent and where the money is going. I think that will provide information for the member to take back to his community concerning what the Government is doing to ensure that the question of child sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities is dealt with properly in Western Australia - as it should have been but was not in the past.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I refer to page 99. I seek elaboration of the two major items of capital works for the coming year; namely, \$7.72 million for the Office of Science - InnovateWA - and a further \$42 million for corporate services and procurement implementation. What are those items of capital works?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: The first capital works item is the Scitech Discovery Centre. In answer to the question to the member for Kingsley, I outlined a contract. I will ask Mr Mance to outline the allocation.

Mr MANCE: The capital provision is for the business systems to support the five shared service centres: education and training, health, and the three general agency centres. For example, health will be replacing its finance and human resources systems. A request for proposal is in the marketplace at the moment to replace hardware, software, configuration, network and communications. The negotiations should be concluded around September this year.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The second dot point under major achievements for 2003-04 at page 84 indicates that the department has taken a lead role in public liability, civil liability and professional indemnity insurance issues. I think there has been a lack of recognition of what has occurred in the State and how much the Government has done on this issue compared with all previous Governments. The previous Government did absolutely nothing in this area and this Government has taken up the issue and done more in a legislative sense than any other Government in the State. What is the Premier's view of what has occurred?

Dr G.I. GALLOP: I will give a quick summary. The Civil Liability Amendment Act commenced operation on 1 December 2003. The department is currently providing drafting instructions concerning further amendments planned for 2004 to refine the proportionate liability provisions. The department coordinated a series of free risk management seminars, which were presented by the Department of Sport and Recreation across the metropolitan area and in regional locations. Further seminars are planned. The department coordinated the development of risk management software with the Insurance Commission of Western Australia. The software assists organisations in identifying and managing risks. It is available free of charge on the Internet. A total of 12 000 copies of a booklet titled "Can You Risk It?" have been distributed. The guideline is also available free on the

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Internet from the Insurance Commission and Department of Sport and Recreation's web sites. The Community Insurance Fund is not part of this budget but it has provided a very good backdrop for many organisations that were battling. One such organisation was with me only yesterday, and that was the Royal Agricultural Society.

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that division 3, outputs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11, be recommended.

**The appropriation was recommended.**

[11.50 am]