

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT) RECURRENT 2011–12 BILL 2011
APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT) CAPITAL 2011–12 BILL 2011

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from 24 May.

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland) [12.25 pm]: This year's budget, like any budget, is only as strong as the foundations on which it is built. The foundations in this case are economic assumptions that provide the context for setting priorities, allocating funds and planning for the future. What is rapidly becoming apparent as the budget figures are carefully examined is that this budget is built on a set of assumptions that are fragile when they need to be robust, bold when they need to be careful, and wrong when those assumptions need to be right. It goes without saying that assumptions are the basis of economic calculations or predictions. Even so, no-one would be bold enough to claim that economics is an exact science or that the assumptions themselves are any more than, at best, guesses. The Premier knows this. He was once a lecturer in economics, and to him this is all foundations of economics ¹. But he also knows that wrong assumptions lead to badly distorted models and that badly distorted models are not reliable tools for economic planning. That is what makes this budget so bad. The Premier should have known better.

Let us look at just three of the assumptions that are built into this budget and outlined in budget paper No 3: the value of the Australian dollar against the currencies of our major trading partners; the degree of population growth forecast for Western Australia; and the participation and unemployment rates. All these will directly impact upon the budget over the next 12 months, and then into the out years. The budget assumes that the Australian dollar will fall in value to just 97.5c in 2011–12 and to just 76.9c by 2014–15. As of today, the exchange rate sits at an assumption of 97.5c for 2011–12. Today's exchange rate, though, is 7.5c higher, sitting at 105c, so Treasury expects the dollar to fall in value against the United States dollar by seven per cent in the next few months. Given the trajectory of the dollar over the past year or so, that is an extraordinary guess about what will happen, and it is certainly not consistent with the commonwealth government's modelling or that of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. The commonwealth Treasury and the Reserve Bank of Australia do not assume the dramatic devaluation of the Australian dollar that the Western Australian state government does. It is the view of the Reserve Bank that the Australian dollar will be worth \$US1.07 in 2011–12 and also in 2012–13, before falling to \$US1.06 in 2013–14 and \$US1.05 in 2014–15.

What is significant about this is that the level of the dollar directly impacts upon royalty revenue. A one cent fall in the value of the dollar against the greenback will see an estimated revenue increase of \$60 million. That means that the Treasurer is counting on the dollar to fall by 7.5c to provide him perhaps with an extra \$500 million in revenue this year. If the dollar stays high, as most others think it will, that revenue will simply not be there and the entire surplus predicted by the Treasurer will vanish. Moreover, the state budget forward estimates continue this trend with the result that the dollar might go to the lower value of 76.9c within a few short years. However, there is no sign of this outcome in our current economic climate. In the current climate, foreign demand for commodities is ensuring that the value of the Australian dollar is more robust now than at any time since it was floated in the 1980s. That means that the forward estimates of mining royalties income are without authority, and the assumption of levels of royalties income from mining may be as much as \$4.4 billion to the bad—that is, \$4.4 billion that the government is counting on to fulfil its program to run schools, hospitals, police stations, courts and prisons, build infrastructure and provide public amenities and so forth. That is a potential \$4.4 billion hole just sitting there ready to be a debt burden on the future generations of Western Australians.

A second flawed assumption in the budget is that population growth in Western Australia will contract and that while the population will continue to increase, the rate of increase will lessen in the years immediately to come. I wonder where the Treasurer and his department found the demographic studies to support this piece of flawed analysis. A proper understanding of the rate of population growth in Western Australia is critical to any kind of planning to provide housing, education, health, human services, policing and so on. Somehow, however, the Treasurer and his crew think—despite all the Premier's talk of a two-speed economy and Western Australia being the economic powerhouse of the nation and mining continuing to be the engine room of our thriving economy—that people will not want to move here. The Treasurer somehow thinks that young families would prefer to stay in the rust belt states of Victoria and New South Wales rather than come here, where the work is. There might continue to be a debate over the next few years on exactly how strongly population growth will continue in Western Australia, but the Treasurer is already prepared to bet the farm on the fact that population growth will moderate and contract. That is certainly a bold call, and one that is unique to him. Perhaps the Treasurer has some foreknowledge. Perhaps, similar to that group in the United States who proclaimed the end of the world last Saturday, he believes that there will be some kind of Chinese apocalypse, the economy will implode in a similar way to that of Iceland, and suddenly our order books will be empty or our mining sector will

suddenly collapse. People will keep coming here. People will keep living in our towns and using our public health and education systems. People will come in future years in ever increasing numbers. Perhaps this flawed analysis is founded in the expectation that demand for labour in Western Australia will suddenly flatten. I do not think anyone else is saying that either.

This leads to the third flawed assumption in the budget. The budget assumes that unemployment will remain at much the same rate in the foreseeable future. Everyone tells us how considerable the demand is for labour in the north west of our state. The north west is so hungry for labour that it has skewed wage rates. As the projects that are in preparation kick in, demand for labour will increase and there is no reason to believe that we might not return to the level of unemployment of only 2.8 per cent that we had in Western Australia under our state Labor government only a few short years ago.

This budget is in so many ways flawed and inadequate. The budget is not only a callous and misleading document through its conception and implementation of public policy, but also flawed at its heart. Although the assumptions about population, the dollar and unemployment rates are all so flawed that they generate uncertainty, the one area of certain revenue growth that the government can count on is the amount that it is ripping out of Western Australian households for fees and charges. In the course of his speech, the Treasurer lectured the house about the need to pay for the generation and delivery of electricity. He went on to note —

Undoubtedly that caused households pain ...

The Treasurer offered to reward households for having their electricity costs increased by 46 per cent by increasing the price by only a further five per cent. Having slugged households again and again, the government has decided to only slightly belt us this time. The householders of Western Australia are expected to be grateful that the government is not hitting them quite as hard this year, but they are still being hit very hard indeed. In three years, total government charges to a representative WA household have risen by \$1 073, with a \$231 increase in this year's budget. The cost of electricity for a representative household will increase by \$72 in 2011–12 and the cumulative increase since 2008 has been \$552. Increases in electricity rates to be handed down in the future of five per cent, 12 per cent and 12 per cent, take the cumulative six-year increase from 2008 to a massive 107 per cent. I say, shame on this government. Water tariffs, not inclusive of drainage and sewerage, will increase by \$67. That is a 13 per cent increase in 2011–12. The cumulative increase since 2008 has been \$180. That is an increase of 45 per cent. The emergency services levy will contain a cumulative increase since 2008 of \$45. That is an increase of 31 per cent. All these increases are well above the consumer price index.

Perhaps if these increases were simply about cost reflectivity, the government could at least argue the case, but they are not and the Treasurer knows it. The dirty little secret hidden in Western Australia's public finance is the dividend increase that the government is taking. In the course of the current financial year those dividends increased to between 65 per cent and 75 per cent of profits generated by water and power utilities. In the next three years, Treasury figures show that power companies will return something like \$1.7 billion to the government as income and the Water Corporation will return nearly \$700 million. That total of \$2.4 billion is not used to provide electric power or water. Instead, that money goes into the government coffers to be spent on other things. When householders receive their power bills or water rates, they are not simply receiving an account like any other; they are really receiving a tax demand. Every time we turn on a tap or flick a switch, the Treasurer slides his fingers into our purses and pockets and extracts a few more cents to go towards things such as the Premier's new palace.

As if to offset this de facto tax on households, this government has increased the hardship utility grant scheme budget from \$4 million to \$10 million. On one hand, the government takes a few extra hundreds of millions of dollars from households and on the other hand gives back \$6 million to the most distressed households as if that were some kind of favour. At least the government gives to charity. The government will give \$600 million to non-government agencies that deal with the most marginal and financially excluded people in our community. On the surface this seems very laudable. Who does not want to support Anglicare, the St Vincent de Paul Society or the Salvation Army? It would seem churlish to question it. Where does this money come from? It comes from Western Australian households, many of which are now forced to seek help from those agencies because of the very financial stress that this government has inflicted on them. It has taken from the poor to give to the poor. It has taken from middle income families and returned nothing to them. In the meantime, despite prating about financial restraint and good fiscal management, general government spending has blown out by a massive 36 per cent since Colin Barnett came to office. That is well in excess of inflation and reflects just how poorly, how lazily and how arrogantly this government is managing Western Australia's finances. It is lighting cigars with \$100 bills, throwing back five-cent pieces and calling it a good result.

The government deserves to be condemned for its arrogance and indifference to the needs of our community. The Premier is quick to point to Canberra and say, "Blame them; they're taking all our money," in an

environment in which revenue is actually increasing. He does this to divert attention from his raid on our wallets and our bank accounts, all to fund his expenditure blow-out and his debt blow-out. That is what he does not want people to see. That is why he is playing the Canberra card. Western Australians deserve better than this. They deserve better than politicians who play the politics of distraction and deflection to avoid confronting the ugly reality that they are inflicting more and more pressure on households, more and more profligate government spending and more and more public debt.

Nearly a week has passed since the Treasurer rose in this place to outline the government's priorities for the next 12 months, its strategies for achieving them and the future that this government is building for. He outlined the future that his blueprint was laying down. It is a blueprint of more pain, more increases, more spending and more debt. It is a callous, arrogant vision. It is a budget built on fragile assumptions. It is a bloated palace built on a foundation of sand.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Mindarie) [12.42 pm]: It is my unhappy task to inform the chamber today that my family and I have been the subject of several criminal offences that have led to great distress to my wife and family. In fact on Sunday night, I was unfortunate enough to find my wife in a foetal position in the bathroom, dry-retching into a bath mat, saying, "I can't take any more. I can't take any more." The Western Australian police force kindly, through the dignitary protection unit, attended and did a security assessment of our house. It has taken steps to secure the safety of my family and me, including installing a distress button by my wife's bed, which she can press should there be a break and entry into our house to threaten her safety.

I will have to take the chamber back through a little bit of history to put the matters in context so that members can understand what has led to this dreadful situation at our home, where my wife lives in utter terror, together with my two baby daughters. It was known that in the 1990s I had a relationship with Darryl Wookey, who went on to become a freedom of information commissioner. I ended this relationship in 1997 for personal reasons that I do not care to go into. Ms Wookey thereafter sought to establish a relationship with my 11-year-old daughter. She did so and fostered that over the next decade. As a non-residential parent, I did what I could to interfere with that relationship because I did not think it to be in my daughter's best interests. I was unsuccessful and became estranged from my daughter.

Things went on. I got cancer, as the chamber knows. I got married; I had children. I lost track entirely of where Ms Wookey was up to in life and whether she was working in Western Australia or not. I would not have had a clue. In the latter half of 2008 my daughter returned to live with her mother in the house behind me with her infant child, my grandson. At that time she visited me and we had an unspoken pact that we would not discuss Ms Wookey; we would just try to rebuild our lives. I did not know anything about Ms Wookey or where she was or whom she worked for or anything about her life.

The next thing I knew—and I was absolutely stunned—*The West Australian* newspaper published a series of articles on Ms Wookey, revealing her association with Western Australia's worst criminal, a man by the name of David Everett. David Everett puts David Hicks in the shade. I have a law report from the Australian criminal law reports 1994, which details his crimes. I seek leave to lay that on the table of the chamber.

[The paper was tabled for the information of members.]

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I table that together with the photograph of the security device that has been installed at my home. This law report will reveal that David Everett was before the court on 25 counts of terrorism and bombing. He was an ex-Special Air Service regiment soldier—just an incredible person and a diagnosed psychopath. The Director of Public Prosecutions was seeking to increase his sentence from 16 to 35 years. As the respondent, Everett, through his lawyer, put to the court that he was being held in solitary confinement in Casuarina Prison and that this was very cruel and unusual punishment. The court therefore limited his increase from 16 to 20 years. He subsequently wrote a book called *Shadow Warrior: From the SAS to Australia's Most Wanted* in which he detailed and boasted of his crimes. He said that he now saw the light and did not want to do that. Nonetheless, he was so dangerous, as he was putting out in this book, that he had to be held in solitary confinement. My information is that that is not entirely the case. They had to hold him in solitary confinement because he was under threat from other prisoners because he had used his SAS training and shotguns and automatic weapons to kidnap Western Australian families, Western Australian pregnant women and children. Even the prisoners really get angry at prisoners who do that. He was also held in solitary confinement because it became known within the prison that as an ex-SAS trooper who had gone rogue, he was fissing to other custodial officers who were also from the SAS, so he had to be held in custody for his own protection, which was not entirely successful because he was beaten within the special handling unit for those matters.

The next matter that came to my attention concerning Everett and Wookey was that on Christmas Eve 2008, as I arrived home with my final Christmas presents at 4.30 pm, getting ready to go to Christmas Mass with my wife and children and my extended family for sort of a rebuilding Christmas, I saw my wife running down the front stairs, crying. She handed to me, as she ran out, a letter from a very senior Perth lawyer called Martin Bennett. This letter from Martin Bennett, which I have here and will seek also to lay on the table, said that he acted for Wookey and that he knew that on or about 10 December I sent envelopes to the Australian Government Solicitor. These were very menacing envelopes that were sent to the office of the AGS. On one side was a photograph of Everett; on the other side was all this defamatory material about Wookey. This was sent to me on Christmas Eve.

The letter was written on the twenty-third. The letter was held back and delivered to me at 4.30 pm on Christmas Eve. It said that unless I responded within 24 hours, all these things would occur to me. Of course, this just blew the Quigley family Christmas to smithereens, as we were informed that we were under serious police investigation. The letter went on to say that for me to engage in such conduct as a sitting member of Parliament in the state of Western Australia is a disgrace. The letter itself constitutes serious professional misconduct by the practitioner who has made these assertions against me. To cut a long story short, I did not send any of these materials. There was a very high-profile police investigation into me that lasted for some months, during which I fully cooperated with DNA sampling, fingerprinting and the like. I seek to lay on the table for the rest of the day the police clearance of John Quigley of these allegations that I had committed these crimes. I seek permission to lay the police clearance on the table.

The SPEAKER: Before I make a decision with respect to that, can the member indicate to me whether those documents he is seeking to lay on the table at the moment are in fact simply private correspondence to yourself or to yourself and your wife?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I am sorry; the correspondence I now seek to lay on the table is a letter to me from the specialist crime division.

The SPEAKER: Is it directed to you?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: John Quigley, LLB, JP, MLA, Clarkson. Both of them are letters to me in which the police—I know that Mr Martin Bennett is a bit itchy about people being called suspects and the like —

The SPEAKER: Member for Mindarie, I will give you permission to lay those documents on the table. I provide some information to you, as I would to any member in this place, that when allegations are made or indications are that an allegation is about to be made about an individual, you need to be very careful about what you might say about that person, an organisation or other people. I provide you with that information, but I give you permission to lay those documents on the table.

[The papers were tabled for the information of members.]

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Those documents clear me of any involvement in this matter.

I then asked my lawyer, Mr Malcolm McCusker, AO, QC, to attend upon Mr Bennett to explain that I had been cleared and to get from him an undertaking that Ms Wookey and Mr Bennett knew that I had been completely cleared in these matters by Western Australia Police. Mr McCusker reported back to me that Mr Bennett said, “We know that Quigley lied to the police; we know that Quigley’s two eldest children lied to the police about their knowledge of Wookey going to Singapore”—he does not say whether “we” means he and Everett or he and Ms Wookey. By implication, Mr Bennett was saying to Mr McCusker that the shadow Attorney General for Western Australia perverted the course of justice and pressured his children into joining him in this perversion of the course of justice.

This letter from Mr Bennett is an incredible letter, given that, as we have proceeded, there is now a police investigation by Western Australia Police and the Australian Federal Police—which I will come to in a moment—and the Corruption and Crime Commission. I had the opportunity of at least discussing with the police Ms Wookey’s original statement to them. I have to say that the statement that she made to the police after Mr Bennett wrote to the police was only ever put to the police as a working statement. It is unsigned, but I can confirm that this is the statement given to the police. It is a remarkable document in itself because it reveals that when these menacing and defamatory materials were forwarded to the Australian Government Solicitor, they were intercepted by the security officer, Mr Adamov, who had a discussion with Ms Wookey about them and he encouraged her to take the materials and report the matters to the AFP and to the ACT police in Canberra, and she declined to do so because she said that the statements were anonymous and that she could not even consider who could be the culprit in this matter. Amazingly, Mr Adamov, the security officer for the AGS, told her to go home and to discuss it with David Everett, and to see what action David Everett would like to take, a person

whom Mr Adamov knew to be a psychopathic terrorist. It is unbelievable that the security officer of the AGS would do that and totally fail in his duty to report it himself to the AFP or to the ACT police.

The other issue about this document is that it, in no small part, undercuts the letter of Martin Bennett, which was delivered to me on Christmas Eve. That date of delivery was unprofessional in that the letter was written on 23 December and withheld from being given to me until 4.30 pm on Christmas Eve when there was no chance for me to get any legal advice. This was a malicious act to try to destroy the Quigley family, and those legal practitioners who have worked for Martin Bennett who know of this matter said that it was typical of this bully and that he had mounted a campaign of shock and awe upon my family.

Ms Wookey, after refusing to report the matter to the AFP and to the ACT police, and after being advised by the AGS security officer to go home and to discuss her concerns with a known psychopathic terrorist who was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 1992 and who is still serving those 20 years, went home and saw Everett. Nothing more happened for a week. Everett and Ms Wookey then decided to travel to Perth on the way to Bali and Singapore on a holiday on 21 December. They visited Mr Bennett's office on 23 December. The result of that visit generated that disgusting letter that was sent to my place on Christmas Eve. I wanted to know who else knew that Ms Wookey was going to Singapore, because Mr Bennett wrote in his letter to me that he knew I was the culprit because it mentions going to Singapore, and that I must have been told by my children that Ms Wookey was going to Singapore. My children denied any knowledge of her going to Singapore. Although the police refused to tell me for two years who else knew she was going to Singapore, she reveals in this document that not only did the security officer go home and discuss —

The SPEAKER: Member for Mindarie, I listen with very great interest and intent, as do many people in this chamber. There are a couple of important things I would like to clarify with you. Can you indicate to this house whether a legal case involving you and Ms Wookey might be proceeding in a court at the moment?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Yes there is, but I touch upon criminal offences that have been committed against me. I do not go into the pleadings of those cases. I am relating details of this criminal offence. The extortion note I received in March arrived way after any legal proceedings.

The SPEAKER: I thank the member for Mindarie for that information. I draw your attention, and the house's attention, to standing order 91 on the sub judice convention. The reason I draw your attention to it, and I give you and other members the opportunity to speak while I am on my feet, is that you need to be very careful about defamation and about what you are able to say in this place under the privileges we have as members of this house. I am sure that the member for Mindarie is aware of that, given the nature of your reply to the budget speech. You are absolutely entitled to give a reply of that nature. I just provide information about standing order 91 and ask that if you proceed with providing that information to the house, you do so in the full knowledge that if a case is currently before the courts, you will not prejudice the outcome of that case, and that you will not defame, either by incident or by accident, any body, any persons or any organisation.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I said, the other information that came to light was that Ms Wookey was travelling with Mr Everett to Indonesia and Singapore. In fact, if Mr Everett had gone to Singapore and committed any of these offences in Singapore, he would have been executed. The real issue now is that one of our bomber terrorists was chaperoned into Indonesia and into Singapore, while still under a 20-year sentence, by a senior practitioner at the AGS. Questions have to be raised in relation to that, and, perhaps in due course, the Prime Minister or someone can explain whether our bombers go away and have a little holiday in Indonesia chaperoned by the Australian Government Solicitor, and whether it is like us accepting in return some of their terrorists for a holiday or illegal boat arrivals. These are very serious matters. As a result of this case proceeding, and I do not want to go into the case, a very interesting and disturbing note was pushed through my letterbox. I came home from this Parliament to my crying wife. I asked her what was wrong and she pointed to a note on the bench. That note was an extortion note, which said that mediation on her part means "Big dollars or free rein on you". I will not read the rest of the note because I do not want to go into the civil litigation, but it is a serious extortion note. That note was then passed to the Western Australian police, where it is at the forensic analysis bureau being analysed. I cannot tell members how serious it is. As a result of these events, I went back to the Western Australian police department and said, "Would you properly investigate what is happening? My family is under threat. Would you really shake the tree hard?" The tree was shaken hard. This has nothing to do with me now, because out of the side popped the fact that the note was anonymous. I either am in mediation or have mediation coming up with only two women. One is Ms Gael Roberts from the Legal Practitioners Complaints Committee. I do not have any problem with being prosecuted. Ms Roberts is not going to send me an extortion note, for heaven's sake. The other person I am likely to be in mediation with is Ms Wookey. The police became so concerned about all this upon hearing the background to it that they sent out superintendents to see me. Through the Minister for Police, I pass on my thanks to the Commissioner of Police. He has spoken to me personally and sent Superintendent Barry Shelton and his team from the dignitary protection unit to assess our

house and install distress alarms that my wife has to have next to our bed. That is why she was having a total nervous breakdown and crying and vomiting at night.

When I pressed the police on this threat, what came out sideways was the fact that there had been a previous threat to someone else. I need to lay my notes on the table because they are relevant. This other threat relates back to the original “Inside Cover” articles revealing all this. On that day, the author, Sean Cowan, rang Ms Wookey at the Australian Government Solicitor and sought confirmation from her that she was party to the asset confiscation proceedings in the Western Australian Supreme Court bought by the Western Australian Director of Public Prosecutions to confiscate a unit, house or realty that she and Mr Everett had acquired in Canberra when she got a job with the AGS. It is stated in Sean Cowan’s police statement that he rang Ms Wookey at 11.18 and that at 12.03, the first threat came from Curiosity1@live.com.au. The email reads, “Hi Sean, things do go bump in the night. Think about it. Regards, the cat.” Mr Cowan took this as a veiled threat that the writer would attack Mr Cowan at home during the night. Given the timing of the email, 45 minutes after he had called Ms Wookey, he assumed that it was from Everett. This was based on his knowledge of Everett’s extensive criminal record. He did not commit all his offences at night.

Mr Cowan, being a man’s man and staunch, nonetheless proceeded to write the article and it was published the next day. I congratulate Mr Cowan for his courage in writing the article in the public interest. I also congratulate the then editor of *The West Australian* and the editorial staff for having the guts to publish the article the next day. They had to take immediate security measures. They were liaising with the Western Australian police about the threats, and security measures had to be put in place for Mr Cowan. Several more articles were written. The next day, Mr Cowan wrote an article detailing that Ms Wookey’s boyfriend prior to Mr Everett was another criminal whom she had been visiting in prison, a thug from the racecourse. Mr Cowan wrote that IC was more than happy to not have to knock on the previous boyfriend’s door. The next day, Mr Cowan got another email saying, “Knock, knock”. Someone was trying to intimidate him. When he got the first email, he emailed Curiosity1 and asked him whether he was joking.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Mr Cowan wrote, “You have lost me, I’m afraid. I hope it’s someone playing a practical joke on me.” However, he got another email saying, “As I said, things go bump in the night. Have a think about it.” Mr Cowan took that as a reply to confirm that the author of the email was not a practical joker but wished to cause him fear. Another email was sent to Mr Cowan after each of his other articles was published in *The West Australian*. As I said, *The West Australian* had to take security measures. This has nothing to do with Mr Cowan now. I feel sorry for Mr Cowan in a way because things quietened down. If Mr Everett is going to get upset about and look for whoever is rattling the gorilla’s cage, he should not pick on Sean Cowan or Mr Brett McCarthy, the editor of *The West*; he should pick on me because I went to the Western Australia Police and said, “Really shake the tree and pull up everything you’ve got on Everett.” Someone said to me, “Boy, making this speech could leave you in real danger from one of the worst criminals in Australia who is still under a 20-year sentence, is a known terrorist and bomber, and is a psychopath.” I invite people to read the Wikipedia definition of “psychopath”, which is someone who has no empathy with any other person and who is unrestrained by conscience and can be restrained only in a custodial setting. What risk am I putting myself at? On page 562 and 563 of the judgement of the Court of Criminal Appeal are listed the 25 convictions Mr Everett was sentenced to that morning. Mr and Mrs Terpenis and the other Western Australian families did not do anything to goad Mr Everett into coming into their room with his Special Air Service mate wearing a balaclava and carrying automatic weapons. The poor pregnant woman woke up with a weapon in her face and was bound and gagged and taken hostage by this maniac, Everett. He is a terrorist bomber, who the AGS has seen fit to escort to Indonesia. Mrs Terpenis did not do anything to goad him, and Mr Sean Cowan did not do anything to goad him. Perhaps I am in further fear and danger today. Perhaps my lovely, beautiful wife and children are in further danger because I am standing in the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia and speaking the truth. Mr Sean Cowan was brave enough to publish those articles and do his public duty. The editor of *The West Australian* and its editorial staff were brave enough to publish the story and do their public duty. It would not be fitting of me if I knew all these things and went to water and failed to do my public duty because I was fearful. The biggest coward in all this is the SAS-trained soldier, Everett. He does not have a backbone. He has a tube of custard running from his head to his bum, because the only times he has ever used the weaponry he was trained to use by the SAS was inside the homes of Western Australian families as he took pregnant women and children hostage. Hicks is not in the same class as this fiend.

I seek leave to lay on the table for the rest of today’s hearing the true copy of the statement given to Western Australia Police by Mr Sean Cowan.

[The paper was tabled for the information of members.]

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The security measures that were taken have been excised and redacted at the bottom of that statement. A lot of people have a lot to answer for in this whole mess. There is one thing that we do know as we start to unravel all this, and that is that the Commissioner of Police and the specialist crime division have already found that I am innocent—not just not guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. A letter from the police to me states —

As you are aware, you were nominated as a person of interest in this matter. You cooperated with police by providing an affidavit to refute the allegations and samples of you handwriting, fingerprints and DNA.

I am no longer considered to be a person of interest. It is just as everyone writes about this: the member for Mindarie is a victim, and my wife, children and extended family are victims. As I said at the start of this speech, what has prompted me to go public is seeing my wife dry-retching into a bath towel on Sunday night in a total panic attack, and having to go to bed and sleep next to a big box with a distress button. It is a big box because there is a battery in it. The police explained to my wife that the big battery is there so that if Mr Everett comes in and cuts the electricity and the phone wires, she can still hit the distress button.

I have to stay in the chamber after the hours of darkness, as you know, Mr Speaker, doing my public duty, with my beautiful wife, aged 30, and our two gorgeous girls at home by themselves. My wife is petrified. I am petrified. But the Quigleys will not shirk it; we will do our public duty, because that is what I was elected to do. I am not going to take it from this twerp, Martin Bennett, that I am a disgrace in this chamber. That is for my colleagues to decide. That is for the members collectively assembled to decide and, beyond them, for the people of Mindarie to decide. It is not for some lawyer to decide on the basis of an absolute fabricated lie. One of the things being investigated at the moment is the letter that came out of Bennett's office. There were three people in that office, and we know Wookey's position before she went into that office; she has no clue who sent this stuff to her. We know her position vis-a-vis the police: "I don't want to complain to the AFP and I don't want to complain to the ACT police, because I don't know." We know what the security officer, Adamov, says: "Go and discuss it with Dave." Dave and Wookey go to Bennett and out of that office comes the product of crime—a perversion of the course of justice, we now know, because it was written without any belief that I am the guilty party. We can see now, as this ties into the extortion note that has come through our letterbox, that there was a plan afoot, not necessarily involving Bennett, to extort money from me—big dollars. What do they want, \$30 000 or \$40 000 that the Quigleys do not have to pay? My financial statements are registered in the Clerk's office. Everyone knows what my pay is. I gave up my big pay to become a member of Parliament to try to serve the public. I do not have \$30 000 or \$40 000 dollars to pay. There is the generosity, the absolute generosity, of Mr Malcolm McCusker, AO, QC, Governor-designate, and Mr Steven Penglis, senior partner at Freehills, and several other lawyers, who, in seeing what was happening, came to the Quigley family's aid. I have had to pay solicitors; it has cost me \$100 000 to instruct these people. It has cost me more money. So far, it has cost me more money than I earn in this place in a year. It is an absolute disgrace.

What has come out of Martin Bennett's office is an absolute disgrace. Where does all this leave us? On 13 January 2009, I wrote to the chief executive officer of the AGS alerting them to all of this, and I would like to lay a copy of my letter on the table of the house.

[The paper was tabled for the information of members.]

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The federal Attorney-General, Mr R. McClelland, will know about this. Indeed, I took the precaution of ringing his office to let him know that his office should be in contact with the AGS and to get onto it, but not giving him any details. Mr McClelland must know about this. Here we have a terrorist, who puts David Hicks in the shade, as the partner of the second senior lawyer at the AGS. What sort of security is that? Let us think about that. She is the legal practice manager for Mr Robert Orr, PSM, QC (Commonwealth). When the office of national security, the Defence Signals Directorate, the AFP and ASIO want legal advice, they go to the general counsel of the AGS. Who is the legal practice manager there? The wife of Australia's most feared terrorist—a man who is still under a 20-year sentence.

I am only the member for Mindarie. I am only the shadow Attorney General. I do not quite understand how the security of the nation works. I am lost. I am bamboozled—totally bamboozled. I am bamboozled by how the AGS can escort a terrorist into Indonesia. I have looked at the AGS website and it states that the organisation practises the highest degree of ethics. No doubt it has told the Indonesian government that it is taking in a terrorist. No doubt it has told the Singaporean government that it is taking in a terrorist. This is just breathtaking in its reach.

And then the federal Attorney-General comes to Western Australia during Law Week and hectors the local profession, saying that the legal profession in Western Australia should sign up to national regulation. I have a message for the federal Attorney-General. I say two things to the federal Attorney-General: firstly, coming over here to say that while there is this cancer in his own legal practice means he does not have any credibility; and,

secondly, until the federal Attorney-General can reassure me that the Quigley family is not under attack by or threat from the legal practice manager at his law firm, he has no credibility with the Quigley family. Until the Australian government comes out and tells our neighbours in Indonesia and Singapore what the heck it is doing taking a known terrorist, who is still under a 20-year sentence, into Indonesia and Singapore, the government has a problem. Everett has really done it this time.

I have to say that I know Darryl Wookey. When I used to go with my late friend Brian Singleton to weekday mass down at All Saints' Chapel behind bar chambers—the mass was held at 1.15 pm—I used to see Darryl Wookey. She had a conscience; psychopaths do not have consciences. I say my prayers and in my prayers are prayers for Darryl Wookey because she is so compromised now. She is in a dreadful situation. Everett is going to realise that Darryl Wookey is the biggest danger to him, because when they start investigating this threat against Sean Cowan, they will have to go to Wookey and ask, "After 11.18 am, when Sean Cowan rang you and recorded the phone call, did you ring Everett?" If the answer to that is yes, her evidence will jail Everett, because those offences carry three years each—that is four offences of three years each, plus the offence of creating a false transmission service. This is very serious and I worry for Ms Wookey. The penny will drop that her biggest danger is David Everett. I also worry that he has turned her mind. On a website is a research project called "The Psychopath—The Mask of Sanity" about women who fall in love with and who are manipulated by psychopaths. Clearly, the Attorney-General has to isolate Ms Wookey this afternoon, call in the AFP and find out whether she rang Everett after Cowan rang her. This is enormous in its security implications for Australia.

Tabling of Documents by Members — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr G.A. Woodhams): Before I give the member for Albany the call, members in the house will have observed the member for Mindarie ask whether he could lay papers on the table. There is not the opportunity in this place for a member to table a document without seeking the permission of the Speaker. Obviously, in the instances today, that has been enabled for the balance of this day's sitting.

I will provide some further information that I think is a good instruction for all of us in these circumstances, whether for the member who seeks to lay something on the table or the person who is interested to see the documents that have been laid on the table. Members will forgive me while I read this.

A decision about whether to give leave to a member to lay documents on the table is made by me, the Speaker, and is not a question put to this place. The Speaker can take into consideration any factor that he considers relevant in making that decision. One factor, for example, might be whether there is unreasonable interference with a person's private life in the absence of any outweighing public interest in the matter.

If leave is granted to lay the documents on the table, they may be copied by the staff of the house if any member requests a copy, and at the end of the day the original documents will be returned to the member—in this case, the documents will be returned at the end of this day's sitting to the member for Mindarie. No one other than a member will be given a copy of those documents by staff of the house. This is important information.

The documents, as such, do not form part of the records of the house and are not recorded in the Votes and Proceedings. They are not recorded in *Hansard*. If a member wants to give the documents to anyone who is not a member, he or she must do that personally. It does not form part of the proceedings of the house; nor is it covered by parliamentary privilege.

In providing that information, if members are interested and pick up either these particular documents or other documents that a member has asked the Speaker's permission to lay on the table, once they have access to those documents, might I suggest that they need to be absolutely careful with what they might do with those documents. I know that the member for Mindarie and I have had discussions and I appreciate those discussions. I know that certain things come through me as Speaker in this place and having had those experiences on a couple of occasions, I thought that it might also be timely, in this instance, to provide that advice to all members.

Second Reading — Cognate Debate Resumed

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [1.20 pm]: It gives me great pleasure today to reply to the budget on behalf of the people of Albany. It is a disappointing budget for the people of Albany. A lot of people in Albany wanted some relief from rises in water, power and gas prices. People are struggling at the moment. We live in a twin-edged economy. People in rural areas, not only seaside towns such as Albany, but also inland towns, are really struggling at the moment. When I doorknock and ask people whether they have any concerns, the first thing they say is, "I can't really afford to pay my gas bill, my electricity bill or my water bill." In some cases, husbands and wives are both working and they are now classified as the working poor. At one stage when husbands and wives were both working people, they were fairly well off; they could do the extra things they wanted, such as send their child to a private school, go to the movies or go out for a meal once a month. All these things have been

taken away. Some people are not letting their kids play sport anymore. A lot of children played two or three sports, but a lot are now playing only one sport because their parents cannot afford to get out and help them.

What else worries me about the future is our debt. Every year we must pay \$1.74 billion just in interest on our debt. We are setting that debt up for my grandchildren to have to pay off in the future. Another concern about the budget is that, after 2012, there is no money budgeted for the Albany Entertainment Centre. In my last speech I had a crack at the Mayor of Albany when I said that he did not really contribute much to the promotion of the entertainment centre. However, I have since checked my newspaper clippings. First of all he said that he was not 100 per cent behind it, but once he turned around his view, he did a great job. I congratulate the mayor on all the good work he did during the development of the Albany Entertainment Centre.

Mr J.E. McGrath interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: At the moment it is a real concern. I am looking forward to working with the council to resolve the issue of who will manage and maintain it in the future. The City of Albany said that it could not afford to take it over in 2012. It would like to see AEG Ogden (Perth) Pty Ltd, which is managing it now, take it on for a little longer. I know there is no money in the budget for it, but I am sure there is a very good chance that something like this can benefit from all the money in royalties for regions. The Albany Entertainment Centre is great for not only Albany, but the whole region. People from places such as Katanning, Mt Barker, Jerramungup and Denmark attend functions there. I have not heard one person who has been there come away without plenty of praise. It is a tremendous project. I congratulate Alannah MacTiernan, Alan Carpenter, Bruce Manning, Andrew Hammond, the Mayor of Albany and me—all the people involved in getting it built. People have various opinions on what it looks like, but it is a tremendous venue. When people come to Albany, they say, “The first thing I want to look at is the entertainment centre.” It is a bit like the Sydney Opera House. Initially there was a lot of bad publicity, but people are now starting to accept it.

Getting away from that for a minute, I was invited to the Anzac service at Gallipoli by the Mayor of Gallipoli, the sister city to Albany. My attendance there was probably one of the most moving times of my life. Every member of Parliament should go to Gallipoli to see what our young soldiers went through in the First World War. We stood on the beach on Anzac Day in the cold at four o’clock in the morning and looked at the cliffs behind and saw what those young men had to face. Obviously, we were there under much different circumstances. It took two and a half hours from the time they were lowered into the boats to the time they got to the beach. I went across on the ferry from Çanakkale to Gallipoli, and as I looked over the water I wondered what it would have been like for those young men when those boats came up to the beach. Some people would have been very fearful and some very excited. They would have been thinking of their families. Some of the old diggers who were not in that battle but in later battles said, “The main thing was you just didn’t want to let down your mates.” We heard stories when we were there about the bravery of some of the soldiers. During the first 10 minutes of the service, films were shown of soldiers from various parts of Australia who had been there. There was one of an Albany man—I cannot remember his name—which brought home to me that people from Albany in Western Australia had fought there. We go to the war memorial every Anzac Day and every Remembrance Day. Seeing the film of that young Albany man who went to Gallipoli and did not come back created a sense of not ghosts but the presence of those people.

I also had the opportunity to lay a wreath at the Lone Pine Memorial on behalf of the people of Western Australia and the Western Australian Parliament. It was probably one of the proudest things I have ever done in my life. I wept openly and I know that other people there did the same. We represent just a small drop in the population when we go across and remember these people. Being there and seeing what they went through had an impact. I have written “Lest We Forget” on I do not know how many wreaths and said it at various functions, but after being at Gallipoli, it means much more to me. I was lucky enough to meet up with my son over there, who was travelling through Europe. It was special to see someone so young be visibly very moved. I think it is great that we can remember those young men who died in Gallipoli. As I was laying the wreath, I thought of Albany Primary School where I went to a function just before I left Albany. Young children from every classroom brought in flowers that they had put together and a boy and a girl together laid a wreath and bowed. This memory will continue for a long time.

One thing I realised when we were there was how nice the Turkish people are. Although we invaded their country and killed 50 per cent more of them than they did of us, they welcomed us back with open arms. The Mayor of Gallipoli was tremendous in the way he looked after us there. Everywhere we went the people said, “You must be our friends; we must never forget.” I am going to write to every school in Albany and offer them a Turkish flag. When we remember Anzac Day, we have to remember the Turkish people too. We invaded Turkey, and all the Turkish people were doing was defending their country. We should remember them, too, for what they did.

I would also like to talk about our buy-local policies. I am pleased to see that the Minister for Regional Development, whom I wrote a letter to about buy-local, set up a committee, which the member for Kalgoorlie chaired. I notice that \$1 million has been allocated in the budget. I am very passionate about the buy-local policy, and I know that the other members on the committee feel the same. There are lots of issues. We have radio stations that cannot get advertising, including Radio 1611. We cannot compete with Perth-based businesses. I have a meeting with the minister tomorrow about the committee. We have to change the culture of the big buying groups in Perth, including state government agencies. They should be looking after people in regional areas, but they find excuses. They have to show a profit in their bottom line. They seem to be trying to get around looking after regional areas because it is cheaper for them and looks better in their bottom line. I congratulate the minister for giving us that support.

Grange Resources is a great bonus to our region. Things are going very well. It is looking at having things going by 2014. It will provide a lot of jobs in our region. I congratulate Grange Resources for its dedication in continuing with a task that looked to be lost a few years ago. It has continued with that and I think it is looking very good for the future.

In sport, the Albany Basketball Association celebrated the end of another good season, with Justin Benson winning his sixth men's division 1 most valuable player award, while Parris Laurie won the women's division 1 MVP award. Daniel Leary and Jorden Tester were joint winners of the junior sportsperson of the year award. Greg Cowie won the prestigious Reside family trophy for an outstanding contribution to the association. His contribution included coaching the winning men's division 1 team at the country championships. Umpire of the year was Chloe Goodall. The men's all-stars team includes captain Justin Benson, John Santia, Graeme Simpson, Corey Hill, Tom Powell, Kelvin Santia and Daniel Abbott. The women's all-stars team includes captain Ronnie Williams, Parris Laurie, Katie Wignall, Kathryn Jennings, Sharni Kittow, Jacinta Anderson and Rhiannan Lloyd-Deeley. It was also great to see that Daniel Leary and Will McSweeney were selected in the state under-16 team to compete in the national championships. A lot of people in the city would not realise how hard it is for parents and for young people to get into these state sides. They have to travel to Perth every weekend. I remember when my daughter got into the state basketball team and we went to Perth 11 weeks in a row. We dared to ask whether they could come down to Albany one weekend, and we were told, "No. All these kids have their friends up here and they have their study", yet country kids have to travel every week.

Albany Lever Action Rifle Club member Steve Hurley won the New South Wales state two-gun grand championship for the second time and set a New South Wales record in the process. Steve was the only Western Australian representative, competing against shooters from all around Australia.

After having a great start to the season playing for the Claremont Colts, North Albany Football Club player Marley Williams has been selected in the squad for the state under-18 team to be picked to play in the national championships in the coming month. Fellow North Albany player and state under-18 coach, Brad Wirra, has described Marley as a very exciting talent. Let us hope he goes to Collingwood! Four-time North Albany premiership player Brett Hall became the club's league games record holder after passing the 242-game record held by club legend Murray Wynne. Brett started his career at the Kangas and spent three years in Perth playing footy before coming back to resume at North Albany.

Great Southern Grammar was successful at the interschool equestrian championships, winning awards for champion secondary overall school, for the second year in a row; reserve champion secondary dressage school, champion secondary three-phase school, and champion secondary rural school community. The team consisted of Gabby Pither, Sheriden Weinert, Rebecca Gordon, Natalie Fretton, Bronte Van Helden, Josette Fretton, Sienna Bergersen, Indianna Weinert, Imogen Crump, Bethany Rainbow and Edwina Squire and junior riders Evie Milne and Lilly Barton. Gabby was awarded champion rural rider and, along with Bronte, Natalie, Sienna, Indianna and Edwina, will represent WA at the National Interschool Championships in Victoria later this year.

Albany Pony Club member Ashleigh Dowsett and King River Pony Club member Leah Bennett each received the Vetsearch International citizenship award. This award is given to only six WA pony club members each year and is in recognition of their commitment and practical contributions to their clubs.

Albany Athletic Club members Amy Braimbridge and Lachlan Fehrman each won a gold medal at the Little Athletics Western Australia Championships. Amy ran a personal best time in the 200 metres to get the gold and also won a silver medal in the 100 metres and a bronze medal in the 400 metres. Lachlan won his gold medal in the 1 500-metre walk, with a personal best time, and also won a silver medal in the shot-put. They are now in the state under-14 and under-15 teams that will travel to an international event in Kuala Lumpur in July.

After crashing out and dropping a heat race in the Australian 360 Sprintcar Championship two weeks earlier in South Australia, local speedway ace Greg Hall won the Western Australian 360 Sprintcar Championship in Kalgoorlie. It was Greg's first title win and came 25 years after he won the WA junior sedan title.

North Albany hockey player Kelly Burlikowski played her 200th game for the club in a decorated career that has seen her win A grade fairest and best awards, as well as state selection. Without a doubt, she is one of the best players Albany has produced and continues to be in fine form. Another talented hockey player, Bryce Philpott, competed for WA at the under-18 hockey player national championships, and the team came fourth. He now has the goal of making the men's Country Week team and, from there, getting picked in the men's state country team.

Talented cricketer and Royals footballer Brendon Abbott has been selected to play in the NAB AFL Under-16 Championships later this year. After a good display in the West Australian Football League under-16 development carnival, he was the only player from the Great Southern selected and described the weekend induction camp as the hardest thing he has ever done.

Middleton Beach Bowling Club members Devina Edwards and Beryl Cooper are the first women from the club to win a Country Week pairs title. They competed against 225 other teams over three days. After getting off to a flying start, they held off a strong comeback by their opponents, Dudley Park, to win with a final score of 19–14.

Merrifield Park Tennis Club won its third champion of champions trophy in four years. The winning team of Les Bairstow, Sam Capararo, Eileen Bairstow, David Kerr, Sally Partington and Robert Partington played a high standard of tennis in windy conditions to take the trophy.

A round of the Australian Bream Tournament was held in Albany, with locals taking out the top three prizes in this national catch-and-release competition. Jack Dawson took out first place in the boater, or skipper, section; Colin Gunning took out first place in the non-boater, or crew, section; and Charlie Sakayo won the biggest bream prize. Charlie also did well in the boater section, as did Vern Pascoe. Ben Scott and Callum Dowell finished well in the non-boater section.

After 30 years raising money for the Albany community and providing weekly entertainment for many people, the Amalgamated Bingo Association has made its last call. Founders Kevin Arnol and Evelyn Savage have decided that it is time to close the doors as rising rent and a lack of volunteers have made it harder and harder to continue.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P.B. WATSON: Since starting, they have raised nearly \$400 000 to donate back to local charity groups by providing regular entertainment and a social outlet for people over that time.

Another volunteer looking to retirement is Silver Chain Albany president, June Hodgson. June has been a volunteer at Silver Chain since 1975 and president since 1981. She did this at the same time as being active in many other community organisations, including a stint as Mayor of the then Town of Albany, raising children and being a grandmother. Always a fierce advocate for people in need, Albany will miss the contribution she has made to many community groups.

As a self-described “recycled teenager”, Ruby Metcalf has been changing flowers at Albany Regional Hospital for 25 years. Every Friday she does the ward rounds and clears away old flowers on patients' tables and takes the time to have a chat to those who may be feeling low. At 85, Ruby still likes to do things for our community as a way of keeping active and involved.

Former Great Southern Grammar student Chloe Hart was chosen as one of 14 young Australians to take part in a two-week intensive art program in Los Angeles, coordinated by the Australian Institute for Performing Arts. As Chloe describes it, she has been in school plays “since forever”. She hopes that the opportunity to learn from some of the best teachers and courses in the industry will help her goal of going to the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

Albany Senior High School student Brydie Creagh has been selected to represent Western Australia at the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation forum. She is one of eight students selected from across Australia to deliver a speech to the heads of various industry groups at the national agricultural education forum in Canberra.

Local general practitioner Mark Zafir won the 2010 Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship mentor award in recognition of his outstanding work in mentoring young medical students. His unique hands-on teaching style and real passion for medicine was a big influence on his former students, who nominated him for the award.

Local physiotherapist Lilli Cook won the National Paediatric Group WA Chapter and Australian Physiotherapy Association prize for fourth-year physiotherapy students. Having moved to Albany from Perth last year, Lilli was honoured to win the award after following in her mum's footsteps as a paediatric physiotherapist.

After the death on 2 April of yet another recreational fisher on the rocks at Salmon Holes, local fishing identity Andrew Jarvis took it upon himself to raise awareness of the dangers of fishing at Salmon Holes by supplying free personal flotation devices for people wanting to fish from the rocks over Easter. Andrew coordinated the plan to supply the vests for free through the Nathan Drew Memorial Trust. With the help of the Albany Sea Rescue Squad, 20 volunteers were rostered from Good Friday to Easter Monday to hand out the flotation devices, along with fishing safety awareness flyers and information on local shop locations where flotation devices can be hired when rock fishing at other spots.

Every year one or two people will be washed off the rocks in Albany and in Walpole. A lot of people think that they can just look out for a king wave and that they will see it coming in, but king waves come up on the rocks and then carry people out to sea as they wash back. If fishers are not wearing a vest or are not tied to the rocks, they run that risk. Some photos appeared in *The West Australian* of people fishing out on the rocks, right near the edge, wearing boots and heavy clothing. That is a recipe for disaster. Members of the Albany Sea Rescue Squad have to go out there and risk their lives; it is very dangerous. If one falls into the water on the west coast, one can probably swim back, but on the south coast there are steep rocks and the undercurrent pulls people under. It does not matter how good a swimmer one is; if someone falls off the rock and hits their head, they will come up dazed and their natural reaction will be to swim back. The few people who have survived such accidents are the ones who let themselves be taken out; they have to jettison as much of their clothing as possible and kick away from the rocks, because it is not possible to get back on the rocks. If they can find a beach, they have a chance, but if they try to get back on the rocks they will find that they are slimy and steep. Many people have gone to the edge to fish or to grab a sinker and have been washed away and never seen again; one sometimes wonders what goes through people's minds. The Nathan Drew Memorial Trust has done a tremendous job by providing floats. In the past they have provided mobile phone towers, but people would damage them. One has to wonder about the mentality of people who damage life-saving equipment. We also used to have safety tubes out there, but people would damage them all the time. It is a huge issue, and I congratulate the Nathan Drew Memorial Trust, but there should be more education; we cannot keep losing people every year. This is an issue that will not go away, and I will work closely with the trust and local fishers to make sure that these sorts of things do not happen again.

Albany music teacher Mike Hyder won the passion for playing award in the 2010 Music in Communities Network awards, presented by the Music Council of Australia. Mike and Margaret Gunson co-founded the violin group Just Fiddling, and Mike has always had a passion for developing and teaching other players to bring out their best.

University of Western Australia Albany campus student Linda Warren won the prestigious Heidi Szasz Scholarship, which she says will be of great help to her as a mature-age student studying at a regional campus.

People in Albany are disappointed with the budget; I went to the budget lunch, and I know that the Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry was disappointed with what Albany received. However, I would like to congratulate the Minister for Sport and Recreation for his initiative in providing funding for young people whose parents cannot afford sporting fees; a grant has been put in place for such young people. It is very important for us to encourage young people to play sport; this issue really concerns me. I have been going to primary school graduations for the past 10 years, and there is an increasing number of young people with obesity problems. It concerns me that a lot of them are young girls. We have to get young people into sport and encourage the idea that if they want to lose weight, they should not just starve themselves; they should get out there and exercise. We have a culture in which young girls, in particular, will starve themselves to lose weight, and next thing they have bulimia. We have to find the middle ground; we do not want people to stop eating, but rather get them on a proper diet and engaging in exercise so that they feel better in themselves.

As I said at the beginning of my speech, Albany is struggling at the moment. Albany relies a lot on local farmers, and the farmers have been doing it tough out in the hinterland. Hopefully we will have a good season this year, and that that will feed back into Albany. Albany is struggling a bit. However, it is a strong city; we have had issues in the past, such as the closing of the wool mills and the whaling station, but Albany always survives. It is a tough town. We have a new CEO at the City of Albany who is doing a very good job. It is a very big job, but she has the right attitude and is getting out there and communicating with people; the biggest problem in the past was that nobody communicated. She is having a very good effect on people's confidence in Albany.

MR I.M. BRITZA (Morley) [1.47 pm]: I rise to give my support to what I consider an outstanding social budget. I realise that it is very easy to criticise budgets and to find fault, but I do not think there has ever been a perfect budget. I listened with interest to all the comments that were made last night and today. I am delighted to have been able to go back to my electorate with this particular budget; it was outstanding, particularly for schools. Like many other members, I fought for air cooling in my schools. For some people, that may not be a big priority, but it is for parents, teachers and students. So often in education it appears that the people who get

left behind in the decision making are the children. This budget is a caring budget in that sense, and I was delighted to contact my schools immediately to tell the principals that they had air cooling. All the primary schools in my electorate are getting air cooling in the first round, about which they are all delighted. To add to the blessing of air cooling was the fact that Morley Senior High School got \$171 000 to complete its training centre. Dianella Heights Primary School got \$558 000, and Morley Primary School got \$200 000 to complete works valued at almost \$2 million. In addition, Hampton Park Primary School received \$187 000, Noranda Primary School received \$104 000, and Camboon Primary School received \$98 000 to complete its \$2.5 million works. I was absolutely delighted. It was a joy to let those schools know that our budget takes care of them.

Our government has targeted spending to deliver quality human services for all Western Australians. Of course the centrepiece of our budget was the \$1 billion social services package to support those most in need in our community. Importantly, the package included an extraordinary sum of \$604 million for sustainable funding and contracting with the not-for-profit sector. The government supports many hundreds of non-government organisations that work every day to deliver services and to care for those in most need of assistance.

Yesterday in my electorate, I visited, along with the Minister for Disability Services, Hon Helen Morton, a gentleman who had eyesight and slight mental intellectual disabilities to see how he was sustained in his home. It was wonderful to know that almost \$95 million has been given to the disability services sector. It is something we can be proud of; I certainly am. The \$1 billion social service package also includes initiatives for social housing and disability support services. Importantly, we have increased the hardship utility grant scheme by a further \$6 million, taking the total funding to \$10 million this year. The government has also expanded Seniors Card eligibility to encompass seniors who work 25 hours or less a week—up from the previous limit of 20 hours—and increased the seniors cost-of-living rebate from \$104 to \$150 for singles, and from \$157 to \$225 for couples. This is important for my electorate because the majority of people in Morley are aged over 50. This is a big issue for them. I have no doubt that a great many seniors are on fixed incomes and find it difficult to pay for the genuine utility price increases, especially those who have not budgeted adequately. Many seniors in my electorate have re-budgeted and are able to maintain a very reasonable lifestyle. This does not take away our responsibility to acknowledge the difficulty experienced by many men and women. We will do whatever we can to not only pay the state electricity bill we inherited from the previous Labor government but also assist those in real need. This government is doing just that with the social budget it brought down this year.

A few weeks ago in my electorate we secured a win for the environmental group Friends of Lightning Swamp. This really became a win for the whole Perth metropolitan area. We secured at least another 12 months of state government funding, after federal funds ceased earlier this year, for the important work of monitoring the toxic content of stormwater. By working closely with the local environmental group Friends of Lightning Swamp, led by John Williams, I was able to bring the group's grievance successfully before the Minister for Water in Parliament a few weeks ago, which resulted in an assurance of continued funding for the stormwater quality monitoring project. The project can now retain its officer. The level of information and collected data has been immensely beneficial to this group, who work tirelessly to preserve and manage the area's wetlands. I continually acknowledge this group as it is of enormous importance not only to the electorate but also to the people who care about the environment in this area. Last year, the pollution levels in the swamp were so high that residents were warned against allowing their pets to play in the toxic water. If it were not for the past sampling and analysis reports generated by the quality of water improvement program officer, toxic pollutants in the stormwater would have gone undetected to the detriment of the swamp and, of course, local people. I am pleased to confirm that when federal funding stops in June 2011, our government has agreed to fund the QWIP officer. The program will continue at the current level in the next financial year until long-term funding is secured. The Friends of Lightning Swamp group wants to congratulate the Minister for Water for allowing us that privilege. We were all delighted, and rejoiced in that outcome.

Constituents in my electorate are delighted with a budget that supports their only high school, and various primary schools, not only with air cooling, but also the extent of finances to finish works programs. They are also pleased about the increasing frequency of bus services. That was an area of concern in an electorate that does not have frequent bus services. Buses are the primary means of public transport. That is very important to us. My constituents are also pleased about increases in social services. Law and order issues are never far away in my electorate. There was a spike in burglaries over the Christmas period involving daylight encounters in homes, which of course upset many people. Some members will recall that only last week a grandmother's home was broken into in the middle of the day. It was a dreadful time for her. I have just moved into the Morley electorate. While I was directing the furniture guys where to put my furniture, all of a sudden two men rushed up to me and asked, "Have you seen this young bloke, this tall and wearing this?" I said, "No. What has happened?" They told me that a person had just robbed their grandmother in the next street behind me. It is a real issue that we need to be on top of.

I have been in regular contact with the local sergeant. He has been of enormous help. I would like to congratulate the police force. They have been of tremendous help to me. There is still much to do. I support the appropriation bills. I am delighted to continually present the budget to my electorate. It is not an irksome thing to do—in fact it is a real pleasure. I trust this will continue to be a budget that we can claim a lot of credit for. It is a budget that I find particularly easy to present because I am not ashamed of having a social conscience. I am delighted that struggling people can come to me and I am happy to raise my voice on their behalf. Many who come into my office have come grumbling and complaining, but it has not taken long for them to settle down, relax, have a cup of tea, and just sit and listen to other matters. I have not found it difficult at all to explain why we have done what we have done. It has been a very simple budget to explain. The people who have come to my office quite upset have not taken long to calm down as I begin to share with them the strength of this budget.

I want to acknowledge the Minister for Police. My electorate has really been taking a hammering, like some others. Increases in daylight burglaries are causing seniors concern. They are concerned for their safety. They want to know where their police are. It is a good question to ask, and one I feel they ought to ask. The police have been in constant contact. I am receiving regular updates. The processes have been explained to me so that I can disseminate information to the people in my electorate; at least to give them an explanation of why things happen and the way police work to provide a little bit of security for the people. I held a fundraiser function a couple of weeks ago. While the fundraiser was on, a couple of cars were broken into. It was very discouraging to acknowledge this incident. However, within a minute of making the call, the police were there. In fact, two other patrols came and for the rest of the evening they patrolled the area, looked after us and told the two guys what to do. Of course, they felt very secure because the police were doing their job, and I was very happy to see the police. I know that the people of Morley are very conscious that the government wants to make our streets secure.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 3984.]