

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN — PERFORMANCE

Motion

HON NICK GOIRAN (South Metropolitan) [10.16 am] — without notice: I move —

That this house —

- (a) expresses its grave concern about the sustained underperformance of senior ministers within the McGowan Labor government in 2021;
- (b) particularly notes —
 - (i) senior health officials have such little confidence in Minister Cook that they have not shared with him timely information about serious issues such as the bacterial contamination outbreak at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and the breach of SafeWA app data;
 - (ii) the calculated intervention of the Attorney General in the operations of the Corruption and Crime Commission, which resulted in more than 1 000 breaches of law, has led to orders from the Supreme Court declaring the actions involving the Premier's own department were invalid, while in the interim multiple promised law reforms have not occurred; and
 - (iii) the refusal of Ministers Ellery and McGurk to change their policy settings that continue to see victims forced to face their attacker at school or home will now be compounded by the extreme risk there will not be a teacher for every classroom at the commencement of term 1 in 2022; and
- (c) calls on the Premier to give serious consideration to changing the portfolio responsibilities of those ministers with a demonstrated track record of underperformance and no confidence.

The Parliament of Western Australia has a number of roles. Members will be aware that chief of those is to consider and pass or reject various laws proposed primarily, but not exclusively, by the executive. That is not the only thing that the Parliament of Western Australia has a duty and responsibility to do; it must also hold the executive to account. As we come to the end of our sittings for 2021, President, it is clear that the performance of senior ministers in the McGowan Labor government has been nothing short of abysmal.

The chief culprit is, of course, the Minister for Health. It is well documented that the health system is in crisis. Only this morning, the Australian Medical Association said that the latest plan proposed by the minister and department for when we open up to the arrival of COVID is all wrong. The Australian Medical Association has proposed remedial plans for that.

Members will be well aware that once upon a time Minister Cook was the shadow Minister for Health and he was extremely concerned when the figures for so-called ambulance ramping were in the realm of 1 500 hours. Ambulance ramping hours are now in the realm of four times that amount, yet the Minister for Health has had the best part of five years to do something about that.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: He hasn't had a pandemic to deal with!

Hon NICK GOIRAN: It is interesting once again that the Minister for Regional Development seems to think that there has been a pandemic for five years. Although that might be —

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon NICK GOIRAN: — some form of excuse —

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Members, that was the third time I called order. I expect order to be achieved the first time I call it. I understand this is a contentious motion, but I require the chamber to demonstrate respect to the member on their feet.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: This is a highly contentious motion because of the abysmal performance of senior ministers in the McGowan Labor government.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: He kept the state safe.

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Hon NICK GOIRAN: The Minister for Regional Development is obviously feeling some form of attention deficit syndrome because she is not mentioned in the motion. Rest assured, Minister for Regional Development, I have no doubt whatsoever that my colleagues will be quite happy —

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon NICK GOIRAN: I am sure, Minister for Regional Development, that my colleagues in due course will be quite happy to underscore your underperformance.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: But for the time being, Minister for Regional Development, this motion is about the Minister for Health.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: He has been consistently underperforming and it is well known —

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon NICK GOIRAN: It is well known and on the public record that the Minister for Health has been underperforming consistently.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: He's kept the state healthy.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: There is no better example of that, Minister for Regional Development, than the fact that a patient died from legionnaire's disease at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Was the Minister for Health informed about any of this? He knew nothing about it. The shadow Minister for Health asked the minister about it. He seemed all at sea. It took Hon Steve Martin to ask some questions in here before we finally got to the bottom of the matter. These are serious matters. The Minister for Regional Development might not agree, but in due course she will be able to stand up and defend the Minister for Health. We think he has been abysmal. If the minister thinks he has been fantastic, in due course she can get up and say so. But his performance has been shocking, and he has had five years to do something about it. In opposition he was quite happy to identify serious concerns, but then he realised, strewth, he actually has to do some work! It is amazing, Minister for Regional Development, that senior government ministers have not quite worked out that they have to do more than simply win an election. Once they win an election, the real work starts.

Hon Sue Ellery: You'll never know what that feels like.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Minister for Education and Training, do not worry; your turn is coming!

Not only have senior health officials —

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Not only have senior health officials chosen not to provide information to the Minister for Health about serious issues, including water contamination at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, but also we know, because of work undertaken by the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations, that senior health officials chose not to advise the Minister for Health about Western Australia Police Force requests to breach the SafeWA app data. During the second hearing of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations on Wednesday, 23 June this year, I asked: when did the Chief Health Officer first make the director general of Health aware of Western Australia Police Force requests for access to SafeWA data and when did the Chief Health Officer first discuss WA police requests for access to SafeWA data with the Commissioner of Police? The information that came back subsequently was that the earliest written documentation between the Chief Health Officer and the acting director general regarding the Western Australia Police Force request for SafeWA data was on 8 January 2021. Further, the Chief Health Officer noted in his diary that the WA Police Force request for SafeWA data was discussed informally with Western Australia Police Force staff on 13 January 2021. Senior health officials were discussing this breach as early as January, but the Minister for Health knew absolutely nothing about it. They had no confidence in sharing with him serious issues and serious information.

It was revealed recently—again, because of the work undertaken by the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations—that one of the senior health officials was sitting in the seat of the director general in an acting capacity during the course of January and February. He wrote to his superior, the director general, on 22 February to say —

When I was covering for you I (verbally) raised the issue of police access to the COVIDSafe app information (eg raceway shooting) with —

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The name of this particular individual, who is a person at the State Solicitor's Office whose name is redacted in the document —

... and his colleague who attends the Premier's meetings. There seems to be minimal judicial oversight of such requests and I think 2–3 were made in connection with that incident. I have repeatedly called this out as a cause for concern which could threaten public trust.

These guys talked about it themselves, but they did not mention it to the Minister for Health, such is their lack of confidence in that minister.

He is not the only minister with a demonstrated track record of underperformance and no confidence. I turn to the Attorney General of Western Australia —

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: Oh, my God. A work rate of about five million times his predecessor.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: It is interesting that the Minister for Regional Development, from the comfort of her chair, has decided to try to defend the performance of the Attorney General, which has seen the law of Western Australia broken more than a thousand times.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: From the comfort of my chair? Do you want me to stand up?

Hon NICK GOIRAN: More than a thousand times the law of Western Australia has been breached because of your Attorney General. That is a decision that has been made as a result of the Supreme Court decision. The Minister for Regional Development might like to do one of two things: listen or read.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: Who are you protecting? Are you on the laptop?

Hon NICK GOIRAN: The executive summary of the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges report says quite simply that it is the PPC's view that at the heart of this matter is an entirely inexplicable sudden cessation of good faith negotiations between the PPC and the Corruption and Crime Commissioner.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: Good faith negotiations? You're running a protection racket!

Withdrawal of Remark

Hon TJORN SIBMA: I think the Minister for Regional Development absolutely slurred my colleague then, and I ask her to withdraw.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Further to the point of order, President, the Minister for Regional Development just referred to a "protection racket", and it was in response to a decision by the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges, which you chair —

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: That is not a point of order!

Hon NICK GOIRAN: It is absolutely out of order for this member —

The PRESIDENT: Order! I will decide what is a point of order. I ask the member to bring his comments back to the particular standing order he wishes to address.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: That is the point of order, President. The Minister for Regional Development has implied that you and your committee are some form of protection racket, and we, the opposition —

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, honourable member. We have one point of order before the house from Hon Tjorn Sibma, and I will not invite any further commentary on the matter.

Honourable members, I have considered the point of order and although I did not catch the full detail of the comment, I take it that the member is referring to standing order 45. Because I did not catch the comment, I am unable to consider whether improper motives were imputed. However, as the honourable member has taken offence, I invite the minister to withdraw the comment.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: I withdraw.

Debate Resumed

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Thanks, President. I was quoting from the executive summary from the standing committee that the President chairs, which has undertaken exceptional work, albeit that this particular report was from the previous iteration of the committee. Paragraph 5 of the executive summary continues to say —

This coincided with the bald usurpation of the powers and privileges of the Legislative Council through the calculated intervention of the Attorney General and State Solicitor's Office ... to the potentially unlawful benefit of the CCC.

This particular report goes on to say at paragraph 19 —

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In September 2019 the Attorney General commenced legal proceedings against the President of the Legislative Council. Purporting to be acting in support of the CCC, one of his portfolio agencies, the Attorney General's arguments as set out in his statement of claim are potentially highly destructive of over 300 years of parliamentary privilege and the immunities and powers generally of a Westminster system House of Parliament.

...

After more than a year of various things, including —

... unsuccessful attempts by the Attorney General to both strike out important aspects of the President's pleadings and avoid discovery of important evidence ...

The Attorney General of Western Australia has been avoiding the discovery of important evidence and has tried on multiple occasions to strike out important aspects of the pleadings of the President representing the Legislative Council of Western Australia. That is no small matter at all, as members know full well, because our standing committee has found —

1,120 records reviewed by the SSO and subsequently produced by the DPC to the CCC, in purported response to the first and second CCC notices, were in fact subject to parliamentary privilege.

In other words, the law of Western Australia has been broken more than a thousand times and it is the Premier's department that has done it. It has all been done because of the architect, the Attorney General, yet the Minister for Regional Development talks about his work rate. Stop breaking the law of Western Australia! That is not the kind of work rate that we want. He might be doing some other things, and on occasion I have acknowledged that the minister has done some good things, including the recent law that we passed earlier this week.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: But we are not going to support him breaking the law of Western Australia a thousand times, honourable member. We are simply not going to do that. If she wants to get up and support him breaking the law of Western Australia, she should get up from the comfort of her chair and go and do that.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: On 26 October this year, the Honourable Justice Hall, whom obviously the Minister for Regional Development does not agree with, made his final orders. Guess what? He is the umpire, Minister for Regional Development, and his final orders were to conclude this particular matter. That included, according to the statement the President issued only recently on 30 November this year —

... to declare that the receipt by the commission on 22 July 2019 of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's records in reply to the commission's various notices to produce documents was in contravention of section 3(2) of the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003 ... in excess of the commission's powers, rights or functions and invalid ...

Who is responsible for that? It is either the Corruption and Crime Commissioner or the Attorney General—or both of them. The Minister for Regional Development can absolutely get up and defend aspects of the Attorney General's performance, but this episode resulted in the law of Western Australia being breached a thousand times. Tell me how many other cabinet ministers who have been both engineer and architect of the law of Western Australia that has been breached a thousand times still get to keep their job. It is absolutely outrageous! The Premier should move this member on.

As I said, this is not the only problem with the Attorney General, because, as has been outlined in the motion, while he has been dabbling in trying to sue the Parliament, while he has been dabbling unsuccessfully to strike out proceedings, and while he has been busy trying to avoid providing evidence to a court, to the umpire, what has been going on? Multiple promised law reforms have not occurred.

Members will know that I have repeatedly called the McGowan Labor government out for the complete lack of progression with the elder abuse laws that were supposed to be reformed. When we come back at the start of next year, more than five years will have passed since Premier McGowan and the Attorney General promised the people of Western Australia that they would expedite the reforms. Here we are five years later, and there is nothing to be seen—not one bit whatsoever with regard to elder abuse. It is shocking.

Last year, more than 12 months ago, after the very tragic death of Annaliese Ugle, this same member, the Attorney General, whom the Minister for Regional Development loves to defend, said that the government would expedite reforms to the Bail Act. What has happened? The whole year has gone by and we have seen nothing whatsoever because he has been too busy dabbling in this nonsense in the Supreme Court. He has been found out. It has cost the taxpayers of Western Australia a massive amount.

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In the meantime, of course, the government had to make sure that it expedited the bill to make it as difficult as possible to extend Roe Highway—very important. Throughout the whole of the forty-first Parliament, there is no chance whatsoever that the McGowan Labor government is going to extend Roe Highway, but one of its most important tasks this year was apparently to expedite the passage of that bill. It is insane that this is the priority of the McGowan Labor government, the Attorney General and the Premier—senior ministers. This is no way to run a legislative program.

Of course, as members will know, there is also the highly contentious matter of the Premier of Western Australia saying prior to the election that he would not dabble and tamper with the laws under which members of this chamber are elected—it was not on the agenda. Reporters wrote that the Premier grew increasingly exasperated at questions being asked of him, and he continuously said that it was not on the agenda. Here we are at the end of the first calendar year of the McGowan Labor government in the forty-first Parliament and guess what? It has been expedited through the Parliament. What about the elder abuse reforms the government promised it would expedite five years ago? What about the bail reforms after the tragic death of Annaliese Ugle? There has been nothing whatsoever. This type of defence that the Attorney General has, this fantastic work ethic, is all misdirected. It is directed to matters that are evidently not a priority.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan: They are not your priorities; they are our priorities.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Is the government not going to expedite the elder abuse law reforms it promised five years ago? It is a disgrace, Minister for Regional Development; it is an absolute disgrace.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon NICK GOIRAN: I turn to the final limb of the motion and I note a situation. Members will be well aware that children who continue to be forced to see their attackers at school or at home has been an ongoing concern of mine for a long time. I want to draw to members' attention a report from the Commissioner for Children and Young People from October 2020 entitled *School survey findings on student wellbeing*. Page 14 has the heading "What are the barriers to supporting student wellbeing?" and refers to access to support services.

At page 15, the report says —

Child protection concerns

Survey respondents also discussed the challenges in getting support to address child protection concerns, including a lack of follow up when schools have raised concerns, and limited capacity and resourcing of child protection services.

Page 18 says —

"The sheer volume of numbers of students who require a level of intervention and support beyond the capacity of the current resourcing of the school. A single student on a risk management plan for self-harm requires constant vigilance from approximately 6 staff on a daily basis from admin team to classroom teacher and EA support."

The question is: how many of these risk management plans exist? The Department of Education, through the Minister for Education and Training, has told us in supplementary information that, as at 25 October 2021, 69 of these RMPs are live and underway. According to the Minister for Education and Training, again in supplementary information, the genesis of these risk management plans is what is known as a notification that occurs when a student is charged or when a diversionary option is taken such as a caution or referral to a juvenile justice team. Throughout the year, I have constantly asked the Minister for Education and Training how many such people this applied to, particularly regarding alleged and convicted offenders attending the same public school as their victims. A good example was the response provided by the Leader of the House on 4 May this year that as at April 2021 there were six. There constantly seem to be five, six or seven students each day at the same school as their attackers. This is something I have been discussing for more than two years. Members will be aware of the motion I moved on 25 September 2019 in which I implored the government to abandon its policy that saw some victims of child sex offences attending school each day knowing they may be confronted by their abuser. It was only in August this year that this comment was made by the Leader of the House —

I am satisfied that at a macro level the policy settings are right around ensuring agencies talk to each other, around setting up the protocols for communication, and around constantly reviewing those and making sure that they are up to date.

The victims would not agree with the minister that the policy settings are right. The five, six or seven of those who are constantly in this situation are traumatised when this happens. The Commissioner for Children and Young People evidently does not agree and the survey produced from last year suggests the same. We continue to call on the

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government, whether it is Minister Ellery or Minister McGurk, to do something about this appalling set of circumstances. It is intolerable and, if they do not do something about it, the Premier needs to step in and do something about it.

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [10.41 am]: I need to indicate that I am not the responsible minister responding to this motion. I need to leave the house on urgent parliamentary business in a little while, so I want to make some comments now in response to paragraph (b)(iii) of the motion before us, which refers to me and Minister McGurk and our alleged refusal to do certain things.

There certainly is a refusal that the house ought take note of and be really thankful for, and that is the refusal by the WA electorate to elect a government that would have seen Hon Nick Goiran be a minister. This is a man who, if he were a minister, would adopt the following approach based on what we have seen of his performance in here. He knows better than everyone, he is driven by a deep ideology that blocks science and expert advice, and he spends his time stacking branches and attending clan meetings. He has never been a minister and he never will be a minister while he pretty much singlehandedly, although helped by some, focuses his energy and resources on alienating every single possible moderate Liberal voter across Western Australia and long may he reign—long may he reign.

I want to address the two issues. We have talked before about the claim Hon Nick Goiran makes that the government is doing something wrong by having our policy and implementing that policy as it relates to children who have been the subject of sexual abuse by other children. I have made the point before, and I am going to make it again: there is actually somewhere we should look to for advice on this and that is what this government has done. Volume 10 of the final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse, titled *Final report: Children with harmful sexual behaviours*, makes the following points —

Where a child has displayed harmful sexual behaviours, it is important that institutions respond in ways that promote the safety and wellbeing of all children involved ... Where appropriate and safe to do so —

Safe to do so —

children should maintain contact with the institution in which the incident occurred ... institutions should develop plans to ensure ongoing safety, to support victims and child witnesses, and to manage the behaviour of children who have exhibited harmful sexual behaviours. Planning therapeutic interventions ...

...

... experts advised that removing a child from school is likely to dislocate them from their supports, including peers and friendship groups.

The commission went on to make the following very important point —

There will most certainly be instances in which it is not appropriate for a child to remain at the same school as the children whom they have subjected to sexualised behaviours.

That is the advice that this government has followed. The advice is for each single circumstance to be treated on the particulars of the circumstances as they apply, that a case management approach be put in place, that judgements be made about what is in the best interests of the child who has been the victim of inappropriate sexual behaviours by another child, and that actions be taken accordingly. Hon Nick Goiran does not like that. That is the science; that is the experts' advice. That comes from the single biggest authority in the country on how to deal with child sexual abuse—the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Hon Nick Goiran is not interested in a sensible application of the policies that the royal commission recommends. He just has an ideological point of view and thinks he knows best, and therefore that is how the government should set its policies in place. There is the evidence of the kind of minister he would be if, at some point in the distant future, he is ever part of a Liberal government. Each case needs to be assessed on an individual basis, and that is exactly what happens.

I will make some points about the areas for which my colleague Minister McGurk is responsible. Hon Nick Goiran has made points in the past about the independent review into the Department of Communities' policies and practices for the placement of children with harmful behaviours in residential care settings. The government welcomed those findings and is acting on putting them in place. It is important to know that a number of actions have been taken by Communities, including a practice directive to frontline child protection staff that ensures that Communities must not knowingly place a child who is subject to reporting conditions under Communities' protection in residential care with other children. It is useful to know the example that the honourable member has used previously about this. Members may have seen the public reporting about Macie and Lee. It is important to understand a couple of things. It should be made clear that Macie and Lee were not placed in residential care arrangements together after the assaults occurred. The assaults occurred when Macie and Lee were no longer in a placement arrangement at the same location. It also needs to be made clear that it was under the previous Liberal–National government's policies and practices that the decision was made—not by this government but by the previous government—to place Lee and Macie together, but he never mentions that when he raises this issue. He just talks about this government.

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I have limited time, so I will now touch on the other element that, apparently, I am to be condemned for, and that is the notion that these children are further at risk because there is an extreme risk—is that the word that was used?—that there will not be a teacher for every classroom at the commencement of term 1. People need to understand the process. Every year in term 4 there is a process of recruiting new staff. New graduates come on, teachers move to other jobs, they move around the state and the recruitment process occurs. Members will be interested to know that this year there are fewer teaching vacancies to be filled at this point than there were at the same time last year because we are focused on making sure that there will be teachers in front of every classroom across Western Australia. We have a range of initiatives in place to tackle that.

It is also useful for people to note the circumstances that led to the current pressures—there is no question about that—and that was the decision made by the universities four years ago to change the teaching course structure from one year to two years. There are fewer graduate teachers coming out of universities as a direct result of that decision by the universities. Every year since then the department has had to put in place additional measures, and we have done so successfully, to ensure that there is a teacher in front of every classroom. Whether it is the LEAP program that Hon Peter Collier started as a way of addressing the transition of year 7s to secondary schools when he was the minister; whether it is the provision of limited registration; whether it is the more than 2 000 people in the teacher recruitment pool; whether it is the more than 2 400 teachers in the casual teacher pool; whether it is working with the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia to make it easier for retired teachers to re-register and come back to provide part-time services; whether it is Teach for Australia; whether it is the On-Country Education program training Aboriginal and Islander education officers to become teachers, which is a great program; or whether it is the Teacher Flying Squad—all those measures are in place. Right now in Western Australia there are fewer teacher vacancies for us to fill than there were at this time last year. Hon Nick Goiran has nothing to complain about with what we are doing to get teachers in front of classrooms.

He raised other matters. It would be to his interest if he paid attention to the people who put together the report for the royal commission and how a policy is put in place to ensure that children are safe at school. If members opposite are worried about the impact on teacher numbers from mandating vaccination, it would benefit everyone if they went back to their communities and encouraged everybody to get vaccinated. If they want to help, if they want to be positive, if they want to demonstrate to those moderate Liberal voters who are desperately looking for someone sensible inside the Liberal Party because they cannot stand the people associated with “The Clan”, they should go back to their communities and encourage everyone to get vaccinated.

HON MARTIN ALDRIDGE (Agricultural) [10.50 am]: I rise to support this motion moved by Hon Nick Goiran on the performance of government ministers. There are too many matters to canvass in the 10 minutes I have, but I will give it a red-hot crack. One of the things I found most surprising was that the cracks were emerging in the health portfolio at the last election, although they were disguised. The cracks were well emerging. For the past four and a bit years the government has blamed everything on the former Liberal–National government. It has now moved on. It has something new to blame, and that is the pandemic, although from time to time it likes to revert to the roles of previous governments. However, the day will soon come when it does not have either of those things to blame and it will have to defend and own wholly its decisions and performance and those of its ministers.

As I said, the cracks were well emerging before the last election. Despite that, it appears that since the election there has been a bit of a spat between Minister Saffioti, Minister Cook and the Premier over the Treasury portfolio. It has resulted in the Minister for Health, who was already under immense pressure, being given additional portfolio responsibilities. Can members believe it? The Minister for Regional Development said by interjection, “Don’t you know we are in a pandemic?” Her government has given the Minister for Health additional portfolio responsibilities—state development, jobs and trade; and science. They are not insignificant portfolios. If there was ever a time when we should have a dedicated Minister for Health, one would think it would be in an environment when there was a sustained public health emergency. One would think that would be the case. However, clearly there is a conflict, an internal war in the Labor Party, that has required this type of arrangement to be established, which has further burdened the Minister for Health in doing his job.

Members need only consider ambulance ramping as evidence of that. In August, there were 6 528 hours of ambulance ramping. Previously we have heard significant debate about ambulance ramping. In September, there were more than 5 000 hours; in October, nearly 5 500 hours; and in November, nearly 4 500 hours. We have to go all the way back to May 2020 to find a single month when the ambulance ramping benchmark was below Cook’s own crisis benchmark. That means there has been 18 months of ambulance ramping crisis. That is not my definition and not your definition, President, but the definition of Minister Cook, the Minister for Health and many other things. I have said in previous debates that this is not just a metropolitan issue. It is having an impact on regional hospitals and ambulance services and, as I have mentioned, it is even having an impact on the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Members would be aware of media coverage in the past fortnight of a Royal Flying Doctor Service plane sitting

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on the tarmac at Jandakot Airport while patients were cared for because an ambulance was not available to transfer those patients to hospital.

There is a staffing crisis in the health system. Members would be aware of hospitals in the Kimberley that have had to transition from being 24/7 emergency department hospitals to being 7.30 am to 7.30 pm hospitals, providing coverage only during the day. Could you imagine, President, what would happen if things got so bad and a hospital in the metropolitan area did that? Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital could say, “Because of the pandemic, we’re experiencing extreme workforce pressures, so we’ll have to reduce staffing to daylight hours.” Could you imagine how that would go down, President? It is not something that anyone has imagined because it would never happen. Yet for people who reside in Wyndham and the Kimberley, that is an acceptable response: we cannot staff the hospitals, so we are going to shut them!

We have also seen executives of the WA Country Health Service admit in emails to imminent service failure at some of our largest hospitals in the Pilbara. Emails have gone out to staff in the wheatbelt and the metropolitan area with the words “name your price” to try to lure staff to those areas to avoid imminent service failure. The Minister for Health has the portfolio responsibilities of state development, jobs and trade, and science whilst his health system is in crisis.

In a similar vein, I move on to another issue relating to workforces. We have to go only as far as Geraldton to see the significant pressures that are faced by our largest public hospital north of Perth. Geraldton Health Campus has a staffing level of 281 FTE nurses, yet only 200 FTE nurses are permanently engaged. For the fortnight 27 October to 10 October, more than a quarter of the health workforce was rostered for overtime; 88 staff were rostered to work more than 80 hours and seven of those staff were rostered for more than 100 hours.

I saw this issue emerging during the field day season. Nurses came up to me in a significant emotional state, saying they could no longer cope. They are leaving the profession they love because they can no longer meet the demands placed on them by the public health system. That is a staggering and concerning admission.

I turn to vaccination rates, about which I just heard the Leader of the House challenge us all. Some areas of the state are significantly underperforming on vaccination rates. We know that the government signed up to the national transition plan of 80 per cent of people being fully vaccinated. Obviously, this government decided to take that rate to 90 per cent. We are very close to 80 per cent—I think yesterday’s figure showed that 78.6 per cent of people over the age of 12 are double dosed—at which time the Premier will announce a date to reopen when we reach 90 per cent. That was his commitment. We will see whether it transpires.

Earlier in the year during question time, the Leader of the Opposition in the other place challenged the government to start thinking differently about the vaccination strategy. She challenged the government to start taking vaccines to people instead of setting up centres and waiting for people to arrive. She was ridiculed by the government for making that suggestion ahead of the commencement of many country shows and agricultural field days. She said that we should establish pop-up vaccination clinics. She was ridiculed by this government and the Minister for Health. What is happening now? We are seeing exactly what the Leader of the Opposition asked for.

It was interesting to see the response from the government, particularly the State Emergency Coordinator and the Premier, who are singing from the same hymn sheet on this issue. They are saying that if parts of the state do not reach 90 per cent vaccination, they will ring fence them; they will not let those areas open up when the state opens up because they have not met the 90 per cent target. I find this most interesting.

I draw members’ attention to the eighth report of the Auditor General, tabled on 18 November 2021, which provided some interesting facts. It states —

Vaccination rates among Aboriginal people in WA are consistently low throughout the State ... Aboriginal people 18 years and over have been eligible for vaccination since April 2021. On 9 November 2021, only 31% of Aboriginal people in WA are reported as fully vaccinated, compared to an overall rate in WA of 67.8%.

...

At the current rate of progress, around 40% of Aboriginal people will be fully vaccinated by December 2021, and 80% of Aboriginal people will not be fully vaccinated until mid-2022, almost 6 months after the target date.

This is a nonsense—this ring fencing proposition by the State Emergency Coordinator and the Premier. The Auditor General made it clear during her briefing to members last week that the rate of Aboriginal vaccination in the Pilbara is no different from the rate in Perth; it is in the low 30 per cents. This is an identified priority, a vulnerable cohort, yet somehow these facts are not getting through to the decision-makers.

Hon Sandra Carr interjected.

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Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: The member will get her time shortly.

These facts are not getting through to the decision-makers. What are they doing about this?

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: The Auditor General found that the government has no implementation plan to deal with these vulnerable cohorts. It is just chasing this high-level target: “Don’t worry about the vulnerable people in the community; we’ll just ring fence you from Perth.”

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: It is a nonsense; but what more can we expect from a minister who has so many portfolios and has a track record of failure, and from government members who are not prepared to admit their own failings?

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon MARTIN ALDRIDGE: They are not prepared to admit their own failings and fess up to the challenges that are facing our health system—a health system that is in crisis and is not going anywhere quickly.

HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan) [11.00 am]: As we conclude the year, I think the government is looking pretty wobbly.

Hon Alannah MacTiernan interjected.

Hon TJORN SIBMA: I love this! The Minister for Regional Development, on a Thursday morning when she is rostered on non-government business, is the gift —

Hon Dr Steve Thomas: She’s on the reserves bench today!

Hon TJORN SIBMA: She was chaperoned earlier.

Hon Dr Steve Thomas: Yes, she’s on the reserves.

Hon TJORN SIBMA: I take her to be usually the gift that keeps on giving. A dismissive response to very obvious failings in the health system is met by that minister and every single member of the government with derision. It is as though the problem is not occurring. Some government members might have to put their brain outside the door before they enter the chamber or the caucus room, but the vast majority of Western Australians do not. If they want to keep it up, just keep it up. I have never seen a government grow so arrogant and so disconnected so rapidly. It is extraordinary. The half-life deterioration of this government is proceeding apace. I have never seen anything like it.

It is not only in areas of critical service delivery or in matters of high policy. The fundamental business hygiene of managing a department seems to be beneath the elevated minds of cabinet members. It just does not trouble them. I want to address particular aspects of this motion specifically. The first is paragraph (b), which refers to the “timely” provision of information. In the last Parliament, we talked quite consistently about the contempt that this chamber was treated with in both questions on notice and questions without notice. There was a reluctance to provide information; and, if information was provided at all, it had to be eked out. The provision of information to this house has deteriorated even since the low benchmark of the last Parliament. It is true. Let me explain it. From time to time, I do base level assessments of the performance of functional attributes of government departments. One of them is expenditure; another might be leave provision.

On this occasion, I want to talk about credit card spend across all government agencies. Earlier this year, in a question on notice, I asked fundamental questions about how many people in government departments have credit cards, how much expenditure they put on credit cards, what are the thresholds and what are the items of spend. Sometimes we get interesting information back; sometimes we do not. It is just a test of fundamental business hygiene across government. When I put that question for the 2019–20 financial year, we learnt that about \$311 million of government transactions had occurred over the plastic. That understandably is a common sort of level—a baseline level—of transaction value. But it does not explain variation. The majority of that spend came from the health services. Out of about \$311 million worth of expenditure, nearly \$48 million was undertaken by the various health services.

Hon Dan Caddy: But \$48 million is not a majority of \$300 million.

Hon TJORN SIBMA: I mean in terms of agencies. Let me go into it. One of the interesting facets was that the WA Country Health Service spent \$29 million on purchasing cards out of a total health spend of \$48 million.

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Hon Dan Caddy: Which is the biggest agency?

Hon TJORN SIBMA: This is interesting. Let me go into it. A follow-up question then presents itself. What sorts of categories of expenditure is the money being spent on? “We cannot possibly answer that question.” The government can provide me with the number of card holders, the values of transactions, the transaction limits and the volume of transactions, but it cannot group the spending categories. That, to me, is very odd. The government must have a system that permits it to do that. I know that the government has a system that permits it to do that because an obligation is placed on the CFO and the CEO of an agency to report on credit card misuse in every annual report. How could agencies possibly report on credit card misuse if they cannot compartmentalise categories of expenditure? Somebody going down to JB Hi-Fi and buying themselves a new smart speaker or pair of headphones should be easily detectable because it would be aberrant in terms of the categories of expenditure that are ordinarily used. But I was told that that information was too hard to get.

I followed it up a few months later and I asked the government a simpler question: for each agency, what were the top 10 transactions that occurred in a financial year? When I started to get answers dribbling back, as they do through the questions on notice system, I was continually referred to the same answer. I was referred to question on notice 338, but I never got the answer to question on notice 338 until the end of that process. Question on notice 338 was as I have outlined. It was to the Treasurer. He refused to answer the question and said it would be an unnecessary diversion of resources. That is absolute rubbish. The government’s system permits it to answer these questions. This is not high policy. This is fundamental business hygiene, and the Treasurer of this state—who refuses to share the Treasury portfolio with any of his senior cabinet ministers, because he does not trust them—refused to answer the question. I note Hon Dan Caddy’s interest in this issue, because I understand one of his previous roles was in the coordination of answers provided to questions on notice. I think the collusion that goes on is extraordinary.

Hon Dan Caddy interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon TJORN SIBMA: They must miss him there! But his replacement, whoever that might be, is not answering questions harder and stronger than even Hon Dan Caddy managed. Government standards have deteriorated. It is obvious that there is an answer to that question, and it is actually not a politically loaded one. I am not after any minister’s head. I am just asking ministers to take an interest in what is going on in their portfolios and they are just refusing to do it. I absolutely stand in support of the motion moved by Hon Nick Goiran today. Another statement was made about a completely different and more serious issue earlier in the week. The standard you walk past is the standard you accept. That also has to be the case with the standard of responses and the quality of information provided to this chamber, whether it is in the chamber or through the questions on notice process.

Hon Darren West: I think Liberal voters would agree with you.

Hon TJORN SIBMA: Another sterling contribution!

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon TJORN SIBMA: It suggests to me that underperformance of ministers is the expectation. The lowest of lowest standards has been set in this jurisdiction for the performance of a health minister. What now is the measure of failure if 6 000 hours of ambulance ramping are not enough to move the Minister for Health on, if a 50 per cent blowout in elective surgery waiting lists is not enough to move the minister on, or if the utilisation of code yellows as the default daily management mechanism is not enough to move the minister on? We know that the minister is canvassing journalists, saying, “I don’t like my portfolio very much. Let me write an op-ed in the portfolio I really want.” Western Australians deserve better; this chamber deserves better.

I absolutely stand in support of this motion, and it is time that the government took motions like this a little more seriously and treated the Western Australian public with a modicum of respect. I think some members opposite still have it in them, but for others it might be a bit too late.

HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN (South West — Minister for Regional Development) [11.11 am]: It is an extraordinary proposition that has come before us, with two extremely talented ministers under attack. I ask members to take their minds back to the glory days of the last years of the Barnett government and the sorts of performances that we were getting out of those ministers—ministers were coming into and going out of portfolios! I note that although they were scraping the bottom of the barrel at the end, Hon Nick Goiran was still not able to break through and stack enough branches at that stage—but we will get back to him later.

Singling out two very able and capable ministers really is just an exercise in, I guess, a pure lack of situational awareness. We have a worldwide pandemic. What has our Minister for Health been able to achieve in this state during that worldwide pandemic? With the Premier, he has been overseeing a situation in which we have the lowest rate of death and disease in this country and, indeed, one of the lowest rates of death and disease across the entire world.

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At the same time, they have been able to keep a functioning economy and a state where people can have a great degree of freedom and liberty. I would have thought that is an extraordinary achievement.

Quite clearly, the members who raised this stuff do not want to hear the answers—they are going off doing “Clan” business!

That is really an extraordinary performance, and one that should be celebrated. The people of Western Australia actually had the opportunity to express whether they thought what had been done by the health minister, with the Premier, during that pandemic had been a good job. If we look at the result of that election, we see that it was a landslide of a proportion that has never been experienced anywhere else in Australia! That tells us that the people of this state absolutely appreciate the work of the health minister in keeping Western Australians safe. It is extraordinary that, notwithstanding that amazing performance, the opposition has come in here and talked about underperformance.

No-one has ever suggested that being health minister is easy. I have been in Parliament for 25 years and it has always been an incredibly challenging job to get this portfolio right. We all understand the challenges not only in our health industry, but also right across the country in getting sufficient staff—the staff levels that we need—to fill the jobs in whatever area. That is not new or surprising. This struggle is also being experienced in South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales. If we look at some of the data, we see that the number of FTE employed in WA Health increased by 2 487 between the March quarter of 2020 and the June quarter of 2021. Even in this time of great constraint, we have actually been able to get a 6.7 per cent increase in staff. Since January 2021, 1 158 nurses and 440 doctors have been recruited to work in the WA health system. An additional 1 200 graduate nurses are expected to be employed in 2022. These are pretty significant figures. Let us look at the relative performance of our government. Since we came to office in March 2017, there has been a 14.7 per cent increase in the number of FTE in WA Health. That is an increase of more than 5 000 people. Just to give members an idea, in the last three years of the previous Liberal–National government, the number of FTE declined by 900. It was on a trajectory down. We came in and increased that number by over 5 000. We are spending \$10 billion per year on Health. That is one-third of the state budget! Indeed, WA spends more per capita on public health and hospitals than any other state; it is 18 per cent higher than the national average. On every metric, we are keeping the population safe. We are also going out and recruiting staff. We would all like to recruit more. We have a \$2 million recruitment program. With the closing, quite rightly, of the national border by the federal government, we have not been able to get the normal volume of international staff. We have put a huge effort into increasing the number of FTE being engaged generally.

One of the first things the Minister for Health did when we came to government was to get Perth Children’s Hospital open, which had languished for quite some time under the previous government as it was unable to make progress. We have allocated the money for a mothers’ and babies’ hospital. That money has been set aside. Since the budget came down, more money has been allocated. Everyone knows that we cannot get as many staff as we want.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, members! I am struggling to hear the Minister for Regional Development.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: The Minister for Health not only has kept us safe and overseen a massive increase in the number of staff, but also is engaging with the recommendations of the sustainable health review and looking at how we can deal with some of these systemic problems in the industry. At the same time, he has managed to do other things that are very important to the community. This was probably not very important to Hon Nick Goiran, who is completely out of touch with the community, but getting a system of voluntary assisted dying in place, which was supported and wanted passionately by over 80 per cent of Western Australians, was a great achievement.

Obviously, we are working on looking at how we can use the emergency services more strategically. All of us would be aware that many, many people who are using ambulances and emergency departments have moderate health issues that could be dealt with more appropriately elsewhere. The challenge has always been: how do we get those people properly triaged out of the system? There is no lack of endeavour or ability to make the case for an enhancement of expenditure of \$10 billion a year in the health area.

Hon Nick Goiran is quite obsessed with the Attorney General. We note that his colleague in the last Parliament Hon Michael Mischin was likewise very obsessed with the Attorney General. The Attorney General is a colourful figure who has achieved a great deal. It is ironic that the member should be talking about the lack of law reform. We have had not only law reform in areas like the one vote, one value electoral equality legislation, but also a whole heap of stuff that has been really important. Let us stack up what was done in law reform in the Barnett government with what has been done under this government. We have the bikie no consorting legislation that we are currently dealing with. We passed the Sentence Administration Amendment Bill—the no body, no parole bill—the Criminal Law Amendment (Intimate Images) Bill and the Sentence Administration Amendment (Multiple Murderers) Bill. We tasked the Corruption and Crime Commission to pursue unexplained wealth. We removed the statute of limitations from

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civil claims against historical sex abuse. We are implementing the custody notification system, the Fines Enforcement Registry reform and the overhaul of the family violence act.

But all that Hon Nick Goiran can focus on is the laptops. His colleague became agitated when I talked about running a protection racket on those laptops, but it is very clear that there is a lot to hide. I look at these former members: Mr Edman, Mr Hallett and Mr Ellis, and we know subsequently about Mr Chown. Where do you guys get these people from? We talk and laugh about the Australian Sex Party in Victoria; we have the “Sex Pest Party” here! Seriously! How do you get—out of such a small collection—so many people? Who knows what Mr Edman was referring to when he was telling members that there was enough stuff on that “bleep” computer to bury “bleep” a lot of people and ruin their political careers forever, not that there are probably many left with political careers! He went on to say that there were videos, pictures and lots of lovely little collections that he had on there. Therefore, there is stuff on that computer and that, of course, is the big issue for Hon Nick Goiran. The big issue for Hon Nick Goiran is not to have that material come forward.

I will just read a little bit of the note here. When this matter went before the Honourable Justice Stephen Hall of the Supreme Court, he found that the mechanism that was adopted at the State Solicitor’s Office for examining approximately 70 000 emails was not a valid method; however, although the process was misconceived, he found that there was nothing sinister behind it. He also acknowledged that Darren Foster found himself in an invidious situation because he had these competing notices to produce made against him. It was a complex and unprecedented case. I am pleased to note that now —

Hon Dr Steve Thomas interjected.

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN: This is not a black-and-white issue. As the Honourable Justice Stephen Hall acknowledged, these were very complex matters. The judgement continues —

No doubt those who developed this process did so in good faith and in an effort to resolve a seemingly intractable impasse.

Members opposite were not there trying to help that impasse, were they? They were worried about what was going to be on the laptop.

HON STEVE MARTIN (Agricultural) [11.25 am]: I rise to make a brief contribution on this excellent motion moved by my colleague Hon Nick Goiran. I will use the brief time I have to concentrate on the health issue; in particular, the performance of Minister for Health, Roger Cook; and, in particular, a regional health issue around Geraldton Health Campus. Before I get to that, I will make some comments on the recent performance of the health minister regarding bacterial infections in the water in the North Metropolitan Health Service and particularly at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. I am keen to see where this leads.

We have heard from members opposite that the Minister for Health is doing an outstanding job. He will not be resigning or getting sacked. Was there somebody in that department who did not tell the health minister about the *Legionella* contamination at that hospital? Was it a level of miscommunication or did the minister not want to know? I have no idea what happened and, quite clearly, neither did the health minister. Let us keep an eye on that. Whose head will roll after that disagreement? We have heard from Hon Martin Aldridge about the 6 000 hours of ambulance ramping. We are almost immune to that number now; it just seems normal. Month after month, there are hours and hours. We have seen the elective surgery cancellations, but the Minister for Health is doing a good job, according to the minister opposite.

I will briefly talk about Geraldton Health Campus. I recently asked a question about how that hospital is travelling and how many intensive care unit beds in Geraldton regional hospital are available for use. Of course, the answer was nil—there are not any. I believe that the minister has been telling the local Geraldton media about staffing levels there: “Nothing to see here! We’re going okay. We need a certain number of FTEs to run it safely, but we’re topping them up with casuals and agency staff, so it’s all fine.” As we heard again from Hon Martin Aldridge, that sounds sort of okay until we realise the workload that is putting on the 80 per cent of full-timers who are left. Agency staff in the midwest are hard to find. By the way, they are almost impossible to find in the Pilbara and the Kimberley, and even in the wheatbelt. The 80 per cent of staff who are staffing that hospital are under enormous pressure because they are relying on casuals and agency staff, who are difficult to find. Over time, those staff are working longer shifts and extra days.

I will get to my point about Geraldton hospital. I have a press release from Hon Roger Cook dated 21 February 2020. It states —

- The ... design of the \$73.3 million Geraldton Health Campus redevelopment has been finalised

Good news! There are upgrades coming. That was an election promise—how long ago, Hon Darren West?—in 2017. We are now at the end of 2021. In early 2020, the design had been finished, a tender-for-works package had

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been released and, according to Hon Roger Cook, the Geraldton Health Campus redevelopment had reached two significant milestones.

The press release has some comments from Hon Darren West —

“After many years of dashed promises and waiting, the Geraldton Regional Hospital is finally being upgraded.

“We promised this upgrade at the last election and the McGowan Government is once again delivering for the people of Geraldton and the Mid-West.

Those comments are from 21 February 2020. Roll on 4 June 2020, and another press release reads —

Premier Mark McGowan and Health Minister Roger Cook today turned the sod to mark the start of construction of stage 1 of the redevelopment.

Excellent work! What did stage 1 entail? It was a car park. It is an outstanding car park. It is one of the finest car parks in the Western Australian health system! The government did extraordinary work on the car park, and there was good news for the citizens of Geraldton and the midwest in that funding for a new intensive care unit was included in the \$73.3 million. It has been on the books since 2017, it was spruiked in early 2020 and it is coming in the middle of 2020—it is nearly there. Hon Darren West said, “We promised it.” A few short days later, I believe it was 8 June, there was bad news for the citizens of Geraldton and the midwest. ABC news at 7.33 am on 8 June reported —

Long-awaited upgrades to the Geraldton hospital have been delayed again and now the project is set to be completed in 2024.

The car park was done, but we will see whether that happens.

The intensive care unit has not been completed. I asked the minister last week what would happen if there was a COVID case in Geraldton. The minister responded that a patient would be treated in Geraldton, unless they got really sick, of course. Then, where would they go? They would go to the city. Geraldton Health Campus is the biggest hospital north of Perth, and, as members for the Mining and Pastoral and Agricultural Regions would know, it is a long way north of Perth. The only serious large hospital north of Perth does not have an ICU bed and will not have one soon.

Hon Kyle McGinn: Karratha and Port Hedland have got pretty good hospitals.

Hon STEVE MARTIN: Do they have ICU beds?

Hon Kyle McGinn: Karratha and Hedland have got pretty good hospitals.

Hon STEVE MARTIN: They have great hospitals but —

Hon Kyle McGinn: Don’t run them down.

Hon STEVE MARTIN: I did not run them down. Hon Kyle McGinn will find that Geraldton —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon STEVE MARTIN: I will ask the Minister for Health how many ICU beds there are in those two hospitals. I thank the member for the prompt. I will follow-up in that regard. I am guessing there are none.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon STEVE MARTIN: I look forward to the upgrade at Geraldton hospital from this minister. I hope it happens quickly and that the citizens of Geraldton and the midwest get the facility they deserve from this minister. Thank you.

HON DR STEVE THOMAS (South West — Leader of the Opposition) [11.32 am]: My issue with this motion is that it gives me too much scope. It is too hard to work out which government ministers I want to put on the list of the most incompetent and underperforming, and so today I have decided to focus on the worst three. This is my personal view, so I am prepared for some debate.

There is some room on this, but falling from silver to bronze, the third-worst minister today has to be the Minister for Forestry. The Minister for Forestry who shut down the timber industry. The Minister for Forestry who two years ago said —

The native forestry industry injects \$220 million into the Western Australian economy each year and supports more than 800 jobs in the forestry industry.

He said the McGowan government is committed to the forestry industry. It is only a bronze medal. He is surely the most anti-forestry Minister for Forestry we have ever had because he shut down virtually the entire industry.

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You would think that would have come first, surely? No; he has been relegated to third position; he is on the lowest step of the podium.

Let me move to second position. Pip, pip! Jumping to second-worst performance—based on today’s performance alone—has to go to the Minister for Agriculture and Food, surely! She has been relegated; she is only second.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS: She has moved to second position. Even the Leader of the House did not trust her with the government’s response today. The Leader of the House had to lead her in and relegate the minister to second place. The most anti-agriculture minister —

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Hon PETER COLLIER: With respect, Deputy President, you made a ruling about interjections. I cannot hear the Leader of the Opposition as a result of interjections.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Members, I have called the house to order on a number of occasions. I ask members, particularly given the limited time that is left, to hear the member in silence. I invite the member to address his remarks through the chair.

Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS: Thank you, Deputy President; I will do precisely that.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: The Leader of the Opposition is being very inflammatory this morning, so perhaps if he were less inflammatory —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is no point of order.

Debate Resumed

Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS: Thank you, guys. We were up to silver position. Even the government’s response was superseded by the Leader of the House today. Obviously, the B-team was rolled out—the most anti-agriculture minister this state has ever seen—not the farmer’s friend, the farmer’s foe.

I move now to the gold medal position. The gold medal—well out in front, without doubt—has to go to the Attorney General of Western Australia. I remind members of the evidence of the Corruption and Crime Commissioner to a parliamentary inquiry this year, which I read to the house. He said in no uncertain terms, and his staff confirmed this, that the Corruption and Crime Commission was always prepared for Parliament to determine parliamentary privilege. We heard rants earlier about Hon Nick Goiran’s motion and the focus on the Attorney General. Hon Nick Goiran is absolutely right. The Corruption and Crime Commissioner and his staff told a public hearing that the CCC was always prepared for Parliament to determine parliamentary privilege, but that somebody got in the way. It would have been useful had the commissioner named that “somebody”—that external force—who got in the way. In my view there is only one person it could possibly be, and it is perhaps by inference, but I do not want to put words into the commissioner’s mouth. The Attorney General exceeded his authority and broke the law. When the Attorney General of this state tried to take over due process, it resulted in a thousand-plus infractions of the law. We have talked about due process before. The Attorney General in this state wins the gold medal for incompetency for not doing his job properly and, in my view, for hoodwinking the Legislative Council. Those three ministers should be removed. This is a disgrace.

Motion lapsed, pursuant to standing orders.