

Mr Tony Dean; Acting Speaker; Mr Matt Birney; Mr Tony O'Gorman; Mr Bill McNee; Mr Paul Andrews; Ms Katie Hodson-Thomas; Mr Pandal; Mr Martin Whitely; Mr Max Trenorden; Deputy Speaker; Mr John Bowler; Mr Tony McRae

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (NO. 1) 2001

Third Reading

Resumed from 17 October.

MR DEAN (Bunbury) [10.28 am]: I shall continue from where I left off at four o'clock yesterday afternoon when I referred to the regionality of Bunbury and the problems that presents to the population of Bunbury. The people of Bunbury do not shy away from that mantle. However, it presents problems and the obvious one is the \$3 or \$4 subsidy provided by the people of Bunbury to the regional entertainment centre every time someone from places such as Busselton, Dardanup or Capel sits down in that venue for a live performance. Although Bunbury as a region is well catered for by the current Government, and has been by previous Governments, it has that regional responsibility.

I shall now refer to the budget. Obviously, the first Labor budget of the new millennium was built around the Bunbury 2020 proposals, which in turn built on the Bunbury 2000 proposals. It is a serendipitous occurrence that last week the Premier officially closed the Bunbury 2000 project. The final stage of Malston Hill was completed. We stood on the reclaimed foreshore of Koombana Bay where speeches were given, and the Bunbury 2000 project was officially closed.

Mr Masters: Did he also close the Bunbury tower?

Mr DEAN: A good time was had in Bunbury last week. It brought together 16 or 17 years of previous Labor and Liberal government planning for that area. During those speeches Ross Holt made it clear that \$22 million worth of government moneys was put into Malston Hill through LandCorp. Of that \$22 million input, with a multiplier effect of three, four or five, at least \$100 million worth of development has come out of that.

Mr Day: I trust that due credit was given to the previous Government for its role in the project.

Mr DEAN: A lot of due credit was given to the initial Burke years. Certainly, the former mayor of Bunbury, Dr Manea, paid particular homage to the previous Labor Government for getting this initiative off the ground. The Bunbury 2020 project further built on the Bunbury 2000 project. It would be remiss of me not to pay respect to some of the people who had a lot of input into that project. I refer to Councillor Steve Hill, Wayne Major, Marg Lane, John Whitelaw, Bob Thomas and Michael Whitaker, who all had a large responsibility in developing the Bunbury 2020 project. Obviously, I had some input into that as well.

The Bunbury 2020 project has had some major achievements to date and I will list them. We are not resting on our laurels; we are going ahead in leaps and bounds already. Last week, along with the Minister for Education, we announced the go-ahead of the development of reserve 9997, which is the reserve in front of Bunbury Senior High School, which will provide playing areas for the city of Bunbury and also the students at Bunbury Senior High School. That will be done in conjunction with the Back Beach project after 26 January next year. It will probably be locked into the same tender documents as the Back Beach project, so that a job lot can be done at the same time. That in itself is a marvellous development; it will allow the expansion from the hill down to the lowlands of Bunbury Senior High School.

We promised Bunbury initial funding for a museum, and \$1 million has been provided for that in Minister McHale's budget. It will go about one-quarter of the way towards the cost of the museum. It is a project that the City of Bunbury and the historians in Bunbury have grabbed with glee. Last weekend a workshop was held with people from the Western Australian Museum, interested citizens of Bunbury and the City of Bunbury. The museum committee has started to chart a course towards the eventual development of a Bunbury regional museum. Whether it will be a natural history museum or a social history museum has not been decided, but the museum will go a long way towards documenting the history of the south west. Bunbury is not an island, even though it tends to act like one sometimes. We believe that recognising the development of the hinterland of Bunbury, as well as Bunbury itself, is the best way to go. It will be a regional museum, not just a Bunbury museum.

This week's agenda of the Bunbury City Council listed an item to move on the electronic library and e-commerce centre. The Bunbury City Council wishes to shift its headquarters into a new development down by the Bunbury Entertainment Centre. That will be a \$9 million refurbishment. The City of Bunbury can incorporate the e-commerce centre and the electronic library into that development, so that the \$3.5 million we are providing for the library and the e-commerce centre this year can assist the City of Bunbury to do what it wants to do, but at the same time achieve an effective outcome for what we want to do as well.

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About \$7.8 million was provided for the inner harbour redevelopment. We all know that Bunbury is a port. Part of Bunbury's badging in the past few years was the "Port of Bunbury". That badge was put on the letterheads of the tourism bureau and the tourism board. We recognise that Bunbury is a port and must serve the hinterland within reason. I say within reason because there is currently a development for live sheep exports, which must be handled in a proper fashion.

Mr Barnett: Do you support the minister and her support for live sheep exports?

Mr DEAN: No. The minister does not support live sheep exports; she supports the people of Bunbury, which is important. The people of Bunbury will decide whether they want live sheep exports.

Mr Bradshaw: They said that they wanted it.

Mr DEAN: No, they did not say that.

Ms MacTiernan: Winston Crane said that. What does your deputy say?

Mr DEAN: I am pleased to say that the member for Mitchell and I are great partners in this. The member for Mitchell endorses my views; he dislikes live sheep exports. In fact, he won an election on that issue in 1996. I remember the public meetings we had in the Lord Forrest Hotel, when we filled the east and west ballrooms with hundreds of people rallying against live sheep exports.

Mr Barnett: More sheep go out through my seat of Cottesloe than from any other electorate in this Parliament, and I do not have a problem with it.

Mr DEAN: That is excellent! The member for Cottesloe wants more live sheep exports through the seat of Cottesloe. I understand that the people of Bunbury do not support live sheep exports.

Returning to my main thrust, the port of Bunbury will become the number 2 container port in Western Australia. There are other initiatives in the Bunbury 2020 project about which I could talk, but time limits me. I want to talk about the future of Bunbury. The Gallop Government has delivered on the Bunbury 2020 project agenda and will continue to deliver on other programs within the Bunbury 2020 project; for example, on the weekend we announced the establishment of the professorial chair in regional development at Edith Cowan University in Bunbury.

Mr Day: You did not go too well in getting a hospital built in Bunbury. You spent \$2 million in establishing foundations and that was it.

Mr DEAN: If the member for Darling Range were honest, he would know that we put down the foundations at the old hospital site. For the future of Bunbury, we must build on the Bunbury 2020 project. Obviously, the issues that are built around the Bunbury 2020 project currently are lifestyle and educational issues. We will continue to build on those in the future.

I will flag a couple of issues in the last moments of my speech, which I will be pushing over the next four to 12 years as part of the Bunbury redevelopments. Obviously, schooling and schools are a big feature in Bunbury. Unfortunately, a lot of the schools in Bunbury, particularly the primary schools, were built in the era of the baby boomers - in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. A few of them are a little tired, particularly the one closest to my establishment, the Bunbury Primary School. Incidentally, the previous Minister for Education told the parents and citizens association that it should sell part of it to help fund the preprimary school.

Mr Barnett: That is an untruth.

Mr DEAN: I have the letter.

Mr Barnett: You have misled this Parliament.

Mr DEAN: No, I have not.

Mr Barnett: Let us suspend standing orders and debate it. You have accused me of lying.

Mr DEAN: The Leader of the Opposition suggested in a letter that one way to fund part of the redevelopment of that primary school was to sell off part of its playing fields, of which it does not have an adequate number. Primary schools in Bunbury are tired and need some redevelopment in the area of student learning. They are showing their age and need redevelopment. I will put a program before the minister very soon on this issue.

A considerable amount of money has been poured into the beach and the surf club over the past few years. Over the past five or six years, close to \$600 000 has been spent in consultancy fees. I am suggesting that in the next two or three years the Government commit itself towards a -

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The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs Hodson-Thomas): The member for Bunbury's time has expired.

Mr DEAN: I thought it was not until the time stopped flashing.

MR BIRNEY (Kalgoorlie) [10.40 am]: I am pleased to be able to add to the debate on the appropriation Bill. I will address my comments to the issue of health generally, and more specifically to the issue of health in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. We are all aware that the health budget comprises about 25 per cent of the state budget. Some people may say that is not enough; some people will not be happy until our hospitals resemble five-star resorts, and I guess they cannot be blamed for that.

Mr Day: Some of them actually do, such as the new south west health campus; and Kalgoorlie hospital would have done had we been returned to government.

Mr BIRNEY: I happily take that interjection from the member for Darling Range.

It appears that the health monkey is firmly on the Government's back, and that it also has its arms fairly and squarely around the throat of the Minister for Health and is squeezing the political life from him. It is important that the 25 per cent of the state budget that is spent on health be administered in a reasonable and rational way, and that the priorities in our State today be addressed.

Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital is one of the busiest regional hospitals in Western Australia, with some 13 000 admissions per year. That hospital has a number of issues, and I have outlined those issues to the Minister for Health over the past four, five or six months. I have told the Minister for Health that our allied health services in Kalgoorlie-Boulder are sorely lacking, and that Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital is down by one paediatrician and no longer has a speech pathologist and an audiologist. Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital has had two surgeons for quite some time. However, I regret to inform the House today that one of those surgeons has decided to leave the region. One of the reasons that has contributed to that decision is the lack of beds at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital; 40 per cent of the surgical beds have been closed at that hospital, and that surgeon is fed up with that situation.

That surgeon is not the only person who is fed up with the health system in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The week before last, some 300 mothers saw fit to hold a rally at the Kalgoorlie Town Hall. That rally was addressed by me and by my colleague the member for Eyre. I think I would have been less nervous had I been addressing 300 bikies, and I will tell members why. Those mothers held that rally because they are very upset and angry about the situation at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital and in the northern goldfields health region. They are concerned also that the only obstetrician in Kalgoorlie-Boulder who is capable of dealing with difficult births has also indicated that he intends to leave the region. We must ask why is that the case. This obstetrician has been in that area for quite some years, and has become an integral part of the community. The expressions on the faces of the 300 mothers who were packed into that hall showed the level of support for that obstetrician in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

My colleague the member for Eyre also addressed that rally at the Kalgoorlie Town Hall. I regret to inform the House that on occasion the member for Eyre was howled down by a number of those mothers, who saw fit to direct their anger at him, because they saw him as the conduit to the Minister for Health, who will not come to Kalgoorlie-Boulder and address the issues that exist in the northern goldfields health region. The reason those mothers howled down the member for Eyre is that the Minister for Health had filled his head full of rubbish and had given him a pile of notes that he wanted the member for Eyre to talk about at that meeting. The member for Eyre jumped up and said it is not really a problem because any general practitioner can deliver a baby; therefore, it does not matter that Kalgoorlie-Boulder will lose its obstetrician. I am sure the member for Eyre was only reflecting the opinion of the Minister for Health. During that rally, I saw at least two children in that crowd who were holding up a placard that read, "Barney McCallum saved my life." This is the obstetrician who is considering leaving Kalgoorlie-Boulder. This man is far from being just any general practitioner who can deliver a baby; he is saving lives in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Therefore, the member for Eyre thought, "Perhaps I am looking a bit silly; the Minister for Health has given me a bum steer and has filled my head with rubbish", and he folded up his notes and proceeded to talk off the cuff, because the Government's line was not working in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

The issue of indemnity assurance is one issue facing that obstetrician in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. I will outline the situation with regard to health indemnity insurance. General practitioners pay one level of indemnity insurance that I am told is around \$8 000 a year, and surgeons pay between \$20 000 and \$22 000 a year. However, as a result of court actions over the past four to five years, the indemnity insurance levy for obstetricians has more than doubled, and that obstetrician in Kalgoorlie-Boulder is now required to pay \$54 000 in indemnity insurance. I am sure members would agree that is a fairly unreasonable impost on a regional health professional. When I

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raised this issue with the Minister for Health in this place about two or three weeks ago, his response was this guy earns all this money, so what is the problem. The minister had done a bit of homework and had pulled out the amount of money that this health care professional had earned last year. I find it extraordinary that the Minister for Health would put on the public record the income of this obstetrician last year and use that as his justification for turning his back on him. It is typical Labor Party philosophy that the Government will not help anyone who has gone to university and has spent many years studying, and then has had the gall to work in the goldfields for the past nine or 10 years, because that person earns too much money and deserves everything he gets.

Mr Barnett: It is not only typical; it is also improper.

Mr BIRNEY: Absolutely. My proposal is that the Government consider subsidising the indemnity insurance for all rural and regional obstetricians. I am not proposing that the Government subsidise 100 per cent of that insurance, because the surgeons and the general practitioners will then say, "What about us? Why not subsidise our indemnity insurance?". My proposal is that the Government consider subsidising the gap between the indemnity insurance that a surgeon is required to pay and the indemnity insurance that an obstetrician is required to pay. That will reduce the indemnity insurance bill for this obstetrician from \$54 000 a year to between \$20 000 and \$22 000 a year, which is the amount paid by surgeons in those areas. That will put everyone on a level playing field, in recognition of the fact that the situation for obstetricians is somewhat extraordinary and has developed as a result of a number of court cases in recent years.

We are, of course, dealing with the appropriation Bill, so I turn now to the budget as it applies to Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital. The Minister for Health has been trotting out rubbish that that hospital has had an increase in its budget. I guess if we were not too well informed and were not too close to the issue, we might just believe him and think that was good. During the election campaign, the Labor Party campaigned on the issue of health. In fact, every second brochure that we picked up during the election campaign was about how the Labor Party is the saviour of the health system. Therefore, when the minister came into town and told us that he had given us an increase in the local health budget, we could be forgiven for believing him. The reality is that the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital has had a reduction in its operating budget of some \$1.9 million. This is at a time when we have no audiologists and no pathologists. We are down one paediatrician. One of our two surgeons has decided to leave. We are 30 nurses short. Twenty of those 30 nurses' positions are now being filled by agency nurses, which puts a further impost on the local budget of the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital, and the minister has pulled \$1.9 million away from that hospital under the guise that in fact he has increased the budget.

I will tell members how this creative accounting comes about. This time round, the minister has stuck in superannuation entitlements, nurses' enterprise bargaining agreement entitlements, and some project-type work that in the past has been externally funded, or funded additionally to the local budget. I am told that one such program is the sexual health program. He has also stuck in things like annual long service leave loading. Clearly, today we are dealing with a Minister for Health who cannot get hold of his portfolio. The health monkey is on his back, it is squeezing him around the neck until he goes blue in the face, and he does not know what to do. What does he do? He tries to deceive the people of Kalgoorlie-Boulder into thinking that he has increased the budget, when all that stuff I have just mentioned has absolutely nothing to do with the day-to-day operation of the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital.

Mr Barnett interjected.

Mr BIRNEY: That was a very good comment from the Leader of the Opposition. We have lost 40 per cent of our surgical beds.

Another thing about which the 300 mothers at that rally were concerned was the supposedly imminent upgrade of the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital. Prior to the last election, the then Minister for Health, the member for Darling Range, made a commitment to the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital that totalled some \$14 million. That \$14 million was to provide a major and much-needed upgrade of the hospital. By election day, some \$6 million had been spent, and \$8 million was still quarantined for the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital. That further \$8 million would have provided us with a new medical imaging section, a new emergency department, a new administration area and a new medical records section. That would have allowed all those allied health workers, who are currently placed all over town, to be brought back into the hospital.

The first thing that the current Minister for Health did was to allocate \$30 million to the Geraldton Regional Hospital, and he knocked on the head the \$8 million for the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital. Geraldton has a Labor member, and Kalgoorlie now has a Liberal member. This is politics at its worst. The minister has taken

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\$8 million from the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital, and there is a \$30 million splurge in Geraldton, in addition to all the other things the Government is considering undertaking in that area.

I will touch briefly on what I consider to be an innovative solution to the shortage of nurses in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. My information is that a number of former nurses reside in the community of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. They are now full-time mothers and are attending to their motherly duties. Some of them would like to return to work, but there is no facility for an extended-hours child care centre. Therefore, they are faced with the issue of how to get their kids to school in the morning and pick them up later, which is, generally speaking, during working hours.

My proposal, which I believe will save the hospital a considerable amount of money on agency nurses over a period, is to introduce on site at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital an extended-hours creche. That creche could also involve somebody who is prepared to take the kids to school, pick them up and bring them back to the creche. That would work for an extended time. My opinion, and that of nurses in the community who are not necessarily working, is that this proposal would bring some nurses back to the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital and would save a considerable amount of the money that is spent on agency nurses, who would no longer be required.

In closing, I once again issue an invitation to the Minister for Health to come to Kalgoorlie-Boulder, to grasp the enormity of the crisis currently being faced, to talk to the health professionals, and to plan a way forward.

Mr Barnett: The Australian Medical Association did a survey and asked 300 doctors what they thought of the Minister for Health. Not one said that he was doing an excellent job. Normally, statistical error would have given him one vote.

Mr BIRNEY: Absolutely. In fact, I have the AMA's material here, and I am very sure the Minister for Health does not like reading it.

MR O'GORMAN (Joondalup) [10.55 am]: First of all, I congratulate the Treasurer, the Premier and the Cabinet on an excellent budget. I also thank the Department of Treasury and Finance officials for the explanation of the budget that they gave to all sides of this House in the time leading up to the budget. The budget recognises that the priorities have changed to those of the Labor Government. Western Australia is now heading in the correct direction for delivering services across the community. Police, education and health were exempt from budget cuts. In fact, disability services also received an increase in its budget.

My first experience of the state budget process was in the committee that dealt with the Parliament. That went fairly smoothly, with both sides being given an opportunity to ask questions of the Speaker. I found his answers detailed and helpful, and I started to understand the budget process, of which I was afraid before going into that committee hearing. It was a significant learning curve for me, as I am sure it was for a lot of the new members on this side.

The second committee hearing that I attended dealt with the Department of Treasury and Finance - division 8. That was a real eye-opener for me, because the Leader of the Opposition had an intimidating attitude. A couple of government members were new to the process, and the Leader of the Opposition intimidated us and tried to prevent us asking questions. He led us to believe that it was his right to ask as many questions as he liked. As a new member, I think it was pretty unjust and intimidating for the Leader of the Opposition to do that.

Ms MacTiernan: Member for Joondalup, this is a symptom of being born to rule.

Mr O'GORMAN: Exactly. However, the Leader of the Opposition did not and will not intimidate us. We will continue to argue with him and members opposite. We are in government, and we will put through our priorities as best we can.

A number of members opposite, in their speeches during this third reading debate, have criticised government members for not allowing them sufficient time to speak during the Estimates Committee hearings. I find that extraordinary, because in the final committee hearing, the Opposition could muster only one member to be present at the committee; that is, the member for Carine. I congratulate her. She conducted herself professionally in that committee. I was surprised to see only one opposition member. The Opposition had no great interest in disability services. Maybe it was because the Government increased the budget for disability services and the Opposition could not argue against it.

I also urge the Opposition Whip to take a lead from the Government Whip, who did an excellent job in making sure that each and every committee was attended by at least three members. Other government members were

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also present in reserve, just in case a member could not show up, for whatever reason. Therefore, I congratulate the Whip on an excellent job during the budget estimates period.

The budget provides a certain amount of money for the completion of the Joondalup Police Academy, which of course was started in the previous Government's time. The planning for that is excellent. I toured the site recently, and it looks as though it will be one of the premium police training facilities in the world. I congratulate the previous Government for having the foresight to place the academy in Joondalup. The Joondalup area will benefit greatly from it.

In the past few days we have heard many words about backflips etc on the premium property tax. We have heard many accusations that Hon Kim Beazley rang Hon Geoff Gallop, and Hon Geoff Gallop did a backflip together with the state Treasurer. Realistically, what happened was that the Western Australian public very vocally objected to the premium property tax. I am glad to say that the Government, the Premier and the Treasurer listened. As a result, they decided that maybe the tax was not such a good thing. That is contrary to what the previous Government did with its third wave industrial relations legislation. I was in this Chamber during the progress of that legislation. I was also at the front of the building, along with 10 000 other people, who were all objecting to the third wave industrial relations legislation. The then Government ignored them; it did not listen. That is why it is in opposition today. It did not listen when people said they were not happy with the third wave industrial relations legislation.

The premium property tax would have taxed people with homes on blocks valued at over \$1 million. The third wave industrial relations legislation sought to prevent workers and employees from purchasing houses in the first place.

Mr McNee: That is absolutely rubbish.

Mr O'GORMAN: It is not rubbish; it is a fact. I know people who have been affected. I also know people on workplace agreements who have been persecuted by their employers. The member is the type of dictator who believes in that.

Mr McNee: We should put you on a workplace agreement. You would not work in an iron lung!

Ms MacTiernan: How absolutely rude! What would you know?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr O'GORMAN: I will give a further example of this Government listening. The member for Ningaloo mentioned that the previous Government increased stamp duty from three per cent to five per cent. He admits that that Government should have listened and has asked us to fix up the wrongs that the previous Government committed. I do not know if we can do that, but I am sure that the Premier and Treasurer will examine ways of improving business competition in this State.

A couple of weeks ago I spoke in this Parliament about the Ansett call centre, its closure and the significant impact it would have on the Joondalup economy. The Premier listened. He said that a committee could be put together to plan a way forward with local stakeholders in Joondalup, to make sure that Joondalup continues to move forward significantly, as it has over the past eight to 10 years. I read in a newspaper yesterday that the City of Joondalup has employed a city coordinator to attract business to the area. The committee the Premier agreed to will incorporate stakeholders from Edith Cowan University, LandCorp and the Department of Industry and Technology, to make sure that Joondalup keeps moving forward. We will work together with the City of Joondalup to make sure that we continue to attract businesses into the area. I thank the previous Government for investing slightly over \$2 million in getting the Ansett call centre up and working. This Government has also pledged an equal amount to make sure that the call centre gets back up and running, either as an Ansett call centre or as a call centre operating for another business.

MR McNEE (Moore) [11.04 am]: When I see the charade that is this Government, it really makes me wonder. Its members are complaining because it took over the equivalent of a business with \$250 million of credit funds. They are whingeing. Here they are sitting alongside Arthur Daley for good used motors and Geoff and Eric who specialise in doublespeak, backflips and bellyflops. I have seen a few Governments come and go since I have been here. This bunch would be about the worst performers I have ever seen because they have no idea where they are going. How many months did it take them to have the guts to bring in a budget? I heard the now Premier say that there would be no new taxes. Of course, I heard somebody else say that it is in L-A-W - law! I thought to myself at the time that I would be interested to see what happened. What did happen? Within weeks of coming into government, it introduced a new tax called the premium property tax.

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The Treasurer said that those who can pay will pay. Of course, that is and always has been a great socialist line. Who would pay this tax to those opposite who would wring the last drop of blood out of them? I wondered who it was. It was the poor unfortunate people who have worked hard and invested their earnings carefully. I sincerely hope that members on the other side of the House do that too. I am sure that some of them have got \$1 million properties around the place. I congratulate them for it. I want to see people living in nice homes. I do not want to see people living in hovels and being underpaid. Those people who had worked very hard to achieve their homes were then punched. They were told not to worry because the tax could be taken out of their estates when they died; as if that were of any benefit. Of course, the Government forgot completely that people living in nearby suburbs, by the time they reached the end of their working lives, would be in like Flynn.

The Government also increased payroll tax. It put a tax on jobs. Many businessmen said simply that someone must go. Members on the other side of the House must understand that profit margins in business today are perilously small. Since that dreadful happening on 11 September, the world economy has had a major shake. The reverberations have not been felt here yet, but I assure members they will be. I noticed in the newspaper the other day that Rolls Royce was putting its workers onto a three-day week. Nobody wants to see that here.

The Government must understand that its financial management from here on in must be of an unparalleled standard. As the member for Kalgoorlie asked when he outlined the problems with Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital, what hope is there for a small hospital in his electorate? Nothing will happen with the hospital serving Moora. The Government plans another inquiry. Under our Government two inquiries took place and a decision was made. Now this Government will have another inquiry. What it will inquire into I am not too sure. The same applies to the coastal road. The Government will have an inquiry into its environmental aspects. I thought environmental considerations were completed. The Government's completion date for its inquiry is about 2006. The lime sands routes in my electorate can generate some income for the State, which is important, but the Government has given the red light to them.

This Government has shown a negative attitude to what we can achieve in this State. Based on how the Government is running the financial affairs of the State, it needs to reconsider its priorities. I am not opposed to doing up railway stations in the metropolitan area; that is fine. However, when things are at a standstill in the rural electorates one must ask why the rural areas cannot have some of that money. We could at least start working on some of the lime sands routes at the same time as the Government is working on the metropolitan railway stations, although it will take a little longer to complete the railway station projects. However, the Government is not prepared to look at that.

Ms MacTiernan: The former Government did not allocate money for those lime sands routes in its budget. Other than the Toodyay bypass, the former Government did not allocate any money for the lime sands routes. Did you know that?

Mr McNEE: That is what the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure says.

Ms MacTiernan: If the member can find an allocation in the previous budget papers, and if I am wrong, I will change the budget. If you are so smart, and we are so hopeless, you go and find it!

Mr McNEE: I understand the key to this Government's budget papers - it is the little book it did not give us. The minister should not talk nonsense to me about budget papers. The minister made no attempt to provide funding for the lime sands routes, which could have been a good project. The previous Government gave an undertaking that work would start on those lime sands routes, but the minister did not even bother to think about it. The minister could not make the decision quickly enough to get rid of it. That is because she did not care. That was the position of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Edwards): Order, minister! I do not want to rise to my feet.

Mr McNEE: The Australian Labor Party made an election promise.

Ms MacTiernan: We promised to review the lime sands routes, because there was a dispute over whether route 1 or route 2 was the best route. That was our commitment.

Mr Trenorden: There are six routes.

Ms MacTiernan: Other than the Toodyay bypass, not one route was funded in your forward estimates. We said we would review route 1 versus route 2, and that is what is happening.

Mr McNEE: The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has a funny way of saying no.

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The ACTING SPEAKER: The member for Moore is on his feet speaking to the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 1). However, we have a conversation across the Chamber, and I ask that that cease. The member for Moore has the floor.

Mr McNEE: The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has a funny way of saying no. I am aware of the situation with route 1. I am quite aware that route 2 has probably been the most reviewed lime sands route in the State. As the member for Avon pointed out, there are six routes, all of which are necessary. When the minister talks about election promises, we know exactly what that means: it means there will be no new taxes! Was that an election promise? I heard Dr Gallop say that there would be no new taxes. It did not happen! The ALP's election promises are worth nothing. How many of them have been broken? I have lost count of the number of election promises that have been broken. The minister need not worry.

Ms MacTiernan: You do not like it when we keep our promises either.

Mr McNEE: I am waiting with bated breath to see the Government keep some of its election promises. Members opposite have made a lot of promises - about \$1.5 billion worth - which is the real cause of their budgetary problems, and why the Government claims it has made budget cuts. However, the Government has not demonstrated where those cuts have been made, or where they will occur. I would have thought that would be pretty important. If members opposite want to go on living in a Disneyland government, that is fine by me, because they will not be on the government benches for long. The minister needs to have a close look at her portfolio, because it is important in the generation of capital and earnings in this State. We do not need someone like the minister wandering around at will stopping development. We do not need someone doing that. We need to get every mine, farm and gravel pit working to capacity with people who might want to work on workplace agreements. I know lots of people who were happy to work on them, and were doing very well on them. They are cross that the Labor Government will not let them continue with workplace agreements. Of course, that is what a Labor Government is all about: taking away freedom. The Labor Party cannot let people think for themselves. No, it wants to pull them under its control. As I said when Labor was elected to government, many government members will not be here after the next election unless they stand up in their party room and act like men and women and pull this bunch into line. The people will not tolerate what the Government is doing. Members opposite need not worry about that! Members opposite should use their brains in the caucus room to ensure that the Government is going in the right direction. Right now the Government is not, and members opposite are heading for oblivion.

The Government has increased charges everywhere, including vehicle registration and parking fees. The Government has put a burden on small business. Who in their right mind would widen payroll tax after all the work that has been done and representations made to get rid of it?

Mr Sweetman: That would have been offset if they had brought down the price of fuel! They were going to do that as well!

Mr McNEE: We all know that the price of fuel has gone up.

Mr Omodei: What is the price of fuel in your electorate? It was 89c a litre last night just down the road in Mandurah.

Mr McNEE: Where I live, it is close to \$1 a litre. If the member is buying it for 89c a litre, that is cheap. He ought to buy some and take it home.

Mr Carpenter: What is the price in Rockingham?

Mr McNEE: I usually fill up in Willagee; it is a lot cheaper there. I enjoy Rockingham; it is a good place to live. I am able to afford a place in Rockingham, but if this Government keeps going the way it is, I will probably have to flog it off to survive. That is the sort of thing this Government does. Who in these times would increase payroll tax?

The Government has also put a penalty on workers compensation insurance. This is the Government that says it stands for the small man. The Labor Government does not stand for anybody except the chardonnay-drinking socialists. If the Labor Party stood for the small businessman who employs those little Aussie battlers whom it likes to think it represents - which is rubbish; that went out years ago - it would be more honest in what it is doing. The Government has produced a budget that will do nothing for this State.

I fear the final outcome from this Government's management. The Government is whingeing now, but the Court Government reduced the previous Labor Government's debt from about \$10 billion to about \$4 billion, and left it a surplus of about \$250 million. What more can members opposite want? They are still complaining. They are complaining that we did not leave them enough to be extravagant with.

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Mr Omodei interjected.

Mr McNEE: It has blown out to \$1.5 billion. The Labor Government is a joke. Surely government backbenchers must be wondering where the Government is going. If I were a government backbencher I would be concerned about my seat. I would be urging the Government to act with restraint and commonsense. We need each and every small business to be trading profitably and well if we are to enjoy the standard of living that Western Australians want. I want Western Australians to have a good standard of living.

MR ANDREWS (Southern River) [11.18 am]: I will use this third reading stage of the Bill as a checkpoint against my maiden speech, which I presented in the first week of the Gallop Labor Government in this place. I have spoken before about the Gosnells town revitalisation program, and I wish to do so again briefly.

Over the past 10 years - I do not want to talk my electorate down - the Gosnells town site has degenerated to such a point that it has almost ceased to be a functioning business centre. Originally, Gosnells was a country town and, as I have said before, years ago when I used to make the trip from Bunbury to the city, it was the last place at which we stopped to get changed and do that sort of thing before entering the big smoke. The remnants of that country town can still be seen in the colonial architecture of the Gosnells pub, which I do not visit much these days because I am a teetotaler. However, I drive past it and it is a feature of the town. It still exhibits some reminders of the farming community that once existed there.

It has been sad to see the town disintegrate over the past 10 years. I suppose part of the reason is that the Maddington Plaza and Carousel shopping centres are taking business away from the town, particularly service businesses such as the local butcher and the local drycleaner. Those businesses have hung on, but the bigger employer groups have moved to those other centres, which has caused problems for the city of Gosnells. The number of people going into businesses in the city has decreased, which means that the City of Gosnells has to operate on a tight budget.

Once businesses began leaving the town centre, the broken window syndrome developed. In other words, a broken window that is not replaced seems to invite vandals to break a few more! The city has degenerated because of that and people now think that the Gosnells town centre is not a safe place to shop and they have begun to go elsewhere, which is dragging more money out of the town centre.

A similar thing happened at the railway station. A dormitory suburb like Gosnells has a very low rate of motor vehicle ownership. Most of the residents in Gosnells have access to one motor vehicle only. Therefore, when mum or dad use the car for a day, it is expected that the other partner will use public transport. One would think that the Gosnells Railway Station would be one railway station in the metropolitan area that would be used a lot. However, it is located away from the town centre - not too far - and because there is a perception that it is a dangerous place and unsavoury characters are lurking there, people do not park their cars there. Therefore, it is not getting used and people are not travelling by train. Without talking down my electorate, the perception is that there is also a high level of crime.

The City of Gosnells has developed a program to revitalise the town. In my opinion it took considerable courage to do that, because state and local governments are always being pressured to provide services all over the place. However, the City of Gosnells decided that it would develop the town centre to bring in greater income, and make a wider range of resources available to other parts of the city. In my opinion that is an excellent strategy, but it did have some short-term pain.

In this budget, \$5 million has been set aside for the upgrading of Albany Highway. Traffic congestion in the town centre made it very difficult for people to get in and out of the shopping area. It even made it difficult for people to stop and shop on the way home from work or wherever. They found it very difficult to get in and out of the shopping area, which was a disincentive. I welcome that \$5 million, because it will provide an advantage to other electorates near mine, and it will certainly provide an advantage for the town centre.

Last Friday, the city celebrated the completion of the underground power program. No longer does the city have those unattractive lampposts all over the place. That was a great step forward. The Lotteries Commission has also played an integral part in the whole project. An amount of \$3.39 million has been provided to establish Lotteries House, which will be used by 13 or 14 not-for-profit organisations, and which will allow more social contact and more community access. That is a great step forward.

The allocation of \$6 million for the relocation and development of the new Gosnells Railway Station is welcome. It is important that we get people to use public transport. It is important that people have the confidence to leave their cars at the station all day so that they can catch a train to the city and be assured that there will be transit police on the train. The more people use the system, the safer it will become, and the more

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people will break through that psychological barrier about crime. Much of it is perception, so breaking down those lurking fears of crime is very important. The \$6 million will go a long way towards doing that.

We are debating the budget, but the budget only provides money to build physical things. From my point of view, the important part of it is the immediate psychological effect that this budget has had on the City of Gosnells. It has told local businesses to hang in there for just a few months because people will come back to the town. A week ago, I met with a group of 12 people at the first meeting of the Gosnells town site business group. The feeling was that if we hang in there a bit longer, things will turn around. Employment is important to me, particularly the employment of teenagers. My electorate has a high rate of teenage unemployment, and I asked these businesspeople how many of them employ kids after school. Not one said he did. These businesspeople work hard and have always worked hard. They have shown a considerable degree of courage just to hang in there for as long as they have. This is also a signal to the real estate sector that Gosnells is on the move. Property values have been so low that any change would cause an improvement, but it is distinct: the signage gives a clear indication that Gosnells is on the move. I welcomed what was in the budget for the Gosnells town centre, as I am sure the City of Gosnells does.

Another major issue is the Armadale Redevelopment Authority. Part of the City of Armadale is in my electorate, but the town site is outside my electorate. In many ways Armadale had similar problems to Gosnells. Establishment of the redevelopment authority will mean that people in my electorate will be employed in the city of Armadale. I welcomed that initiative.

Part of that redevelopment program includes the establishment of the Forrestdale business park, in association with the development of the Tonkin Highway. I have said before in this place that we must change our attitude to many of these dormitory suburbs. People should be employed close to where they live. The Forrestdale business park will provide that sort of employment. I congratulate the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure for establishing the Armadale Redevelopment Authority.

One of the other problems that I have in my electorate - my electorate is no different from many other electorates - is the heavy flow of traffic on the Tonkin Highway. The extension of the Tonkin Highway will certainly be beneficial because it will reduce the amount of heavy traffic that uses suburban streets, and I believe the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale will welcome that.

I turn now to policing in Gosnells. I recently explained the situation in my electorate in a grievance to the Minister for Police, particularly about the low number of police in the Gosnells area. I was happy when the minister announced that seven extra police would be stationed at the Gosnells Police Station where there are currently five probationary officers. That is a considerable step forward. I do not for one moment think that a police presence in itself is the answer to the problem of crime. However, a lack of that presence has created a deep sense of despair and frustration in my electorate.

I shall speak today about an elderly gentleman by the name of Paddy McWatters who is a very well-known local identity in Gosnells. He has featured in *The West Australian* many times. He entertains at the school. The kids love him. He rides around the street on a three-wheeled bike and performs at the aged people's homes. He is a great character in the City of Gosnells and is one of those people who really stands out. The other week he had his bike stolen for the third time. We hear stories about bikes being stolen, and there are thousands of bikes stolen every day. However, the effect that the theft had on him and on the community was extraordinary. People are really fed up with such thefts. I would not have liked to be the person who stole the bike if that person had been caught. To show the strength of the community, a number of people stepped forward and bought Paddy a new bike, and I salute those people. I believe that the City of Gosnells with its Safe City program is heading in the right direction. The Nyoongah patrol on the street again under the leadership of James Hansen is an excellent step forward. Sergeant Steve Byrne of Gosnells Police Station has been appointed permanently to that role now and takes a considerable pride in the police station, which came third in a recent competition. The Gosnells Police Station is no longer located at the end of the town but is part of the fabric of the city. I congratulate Steve on his appointment to that position.

I have only three minutes left. I have spoken previously about Gosnells Senior High School. A few years ago, back in the 1970s, it was a good high school but it disintegrated in the 1990s in many ways. When I went there, the light fittings were down, the brick paving was all over the place, which led to flooding. It was a 1970s school that was totally out of place at the turn of this century. There was no place for computers and it had all sorts of problems. I am happy to accept the money that the Minister for Education has put our way; that is, \$7 million over four years, which is absolutely fantastic. It will be not only \$7 million over four years but also a regular supply of money that will assist the school to rejuvenate and become a quality product so that the kids in my electorate will have much greater access to a quality education.

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The minister also spoke yesterday about the proposed new Canning Vale high school in conjunction with the proposed new Canning Vale east primary school at a cost of \$17 million. The decision by the minister to have years 8 and 9 by 2004 is a great bonus for the people of Canning Vale. The Canning Vale area is developing so quickly that those people will not have to take their kids over to Thornlie Senior High School, Lynwood Senior High School and so on. That is a magnificent job and I thank him for it.

I also acknowledge the work done by the previous Minister for Education, who is not present in the Chamber. He established a program under his ministry of airconditioning some of the primary schools in my electorate.

There is so much work to be done but what has been achieved in the first six months of this Government and through this budget is terrific for my electorate. A lot more must be done and I look forward to the next budget.

MRS HODSON-THOMAS (Carine) [11.34 am]: I first place on record my congratulations to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. She might be surprised to hear me for once commending her for something. However, I was pleased during the estimates hearings to find that the minister had committed funds to upgrade the asphalt surface of the Reid Highway in my electorate in the coming months; I acknowledge her efforts in that regard. I also place on record the fact that the Opposition did not get it right when we were in government. It should have been done in the first instance, which would have delayed any disruption to both motorists and residents in the area. We did not get it right and the minister has provided the funds for that project. Again I congratulate the minister, which will probably be the only time I do so.

Ms MacTiernan: No, you have done that already. You congratulated me on the Reid Highway citizens' jury, so you are getting into the habit.

Mr Pental interjected.

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: Member for South Perth, I am getting to the rail. I congratulated the minister in the first instance; however, I will have an opportunity to criticise her for a few other matters while I am on my feet.

Before I move from the Reid Highway project, there are a number of issues that relate to the project, namely the revegetation and vegetation along sections of the road. The previous Government proposed planting somewhere in the vicinity of 90 000 shrubs and trees along that stretch. The community is disappointed, as I am, with the planting that has occurred; more needs to be done in that regard. I hope the minister will take that on board and perhaps we can work together on that matter to ensure that it is completed over time.

Another issue I want to talk about is the infill sewerage program. I am disappointed that the program will be delayed. Instead of its being a 10-year program, it will now be a 14-year program. That delay impacts on the coastal belt in my electorate where a number of homes will be affected by that delay. I urge the Government to review that situation and consider facilitating the program in a much more expeditious way.

I was disappointed to see that the budget has limited funds for the southern rail link. I was more surprised to read in *The West Australian* of Monday 15 October that the minister delayed signing off on the rail tender project. An article in that paper stated that the State Government would buy 93 new electric rail cars to help service the south metropolitan railway and the planned rail extension to Clarkson. The article also stated that the former Liberal Government had proposed to lease the cars over 15 years but the minister said that excess cost could not be justified. Obviously, that decision will delay by four months until 2004 the provision of full services to Clarkson. However, the services to Mandurah, due to start by the end of 2006, will not be affected.

Ms MacTiernan: I will explain that to the member, if she would like me to.

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: Yes.

Ms MacTiernan: Basically, your mob messed it up when it went out to tender. There was supposed to be dual tendering in that people could tender for a "with finance" package and a "without finance" package. Ultimately, on analysing the submissions, Treasury said it could not justify paying the extra millions of dollars on a leasing program. I cannot, for probity reasons, declare how many millions of dollars were involved but it would have cost more to lease than to purchase outright. Treasury would not sign off on that; therefore, we said that we would take the non-finance option and finance it ourselves.

Mr Pental: Whose speech is this?

Ms MacTiernan: The member is actually interested, unlike you, Don Quixote. Don't tilt at your windmills.

Mr Pental: Make your own speech; you have mucked up everything else.

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Ms MacTiernan: The probity auditor and the State Supply Commission said that it could not be disengaged because of the way the tender had been structured and we had to go out to tender again. It is not what we want. It is a result of the way in which it has been progressed through the system.

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: I take all of the minister's comments on board. The member for South Perth has said that I have the floor, and he is right. However, I am interested in what the minister has to say. I am also disappointed that in the eight months that the minister has had to do this, she has not got it right and it will be delayed further. I wonder whether it has a great deal to do with the fact that the Treasurer has done a backflip on the premium property tax and the minister does not have the funds and must delay it further. Having a -

Mr Marshall: You don't know what you're doing.

Ms MacTiernan: No; you don't know what you're doing.

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: No; the minister does not know what she is doing. Interestingly, I spent all day yesterday at the forum on passenger rail transportation in the city of Perth, which was opened by the minister. I listened to all the speakers. I was quite surprised that only one speaker spoke with an open mind on the minister's proposed plan to run the railway down Wellington Street. Everyone else was gravely alarmed at what the minister is proposing to do to the city.

Ms MacTiernan: Did they want it via Kenwick?

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: No.

Ms MacTiernan: No; that's right.

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: They were talking specifically about the city of Perth.

Ms MacTiernan: I acknowledge that there are vested interests. There are powerful retailers in this State who want 80 000 people to come past their doors before they go past anyone else's door. I agree; that will always be the case.

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: I do not know that that is their view at all.

Mr Logan: There is certainly a lot of lobbying going on there.

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: There may well be a lot of lobbying, but many issues need to be considered and thoroughly investigated. It is a shame that the minister was not in attendance for the whole day. I understand that she had parliamentary commitments and that her advisers will pass on all the information to her.

Ms MacTiernan: You had a motion before the House. The Opposition decided that it wanted me to address an issue at four o'clock in the afternoon, so I came back to address it.

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: I just said that I understand that the minister had parliamentary commitments. However, this is a very important infrastructure project for the State.

Ms MacTiernan: Of course it is an important issue. The other issue was a heap of nonsense, because it was all about the hypocrisy of the mob on the other side. I came back because that is my obligation. I came back to address it.

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: I recognise that. However, the minister should have been there to listen -

Ms MacTiernan: I should have been there and I should have been in Parliament! I know I am good, but I cannot be in two places at once!

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: The minister is not that good.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Edwards): Order, members! The member for Carine has the floor.

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: I take on board the comments that the member for South Perth placed on the record; that is, there needs to be a great deal of community consultation in this regard.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I have taken some liberties in allowing interjections. I am quickly coming to the conclusion that I will stop allowing those interjections. I understand that the member for Carine may be seeking some interjections, but if she no longer wishes to take them, I am prepared for her to ask for the protection of the Chair.

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Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: I will take reasonable interjections always, if it lends to the debate. Having said that, the member for South Perth has a valid concern about the railway. It impacts on his community, as it does on many. I was referring specifically -

Mr Trenorden interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: I wanted to focus specifically on the city, largely because I attended the forum yesterday. I found it very interesting. A large number of people spoke, including engineers and planners. It was absolutely fascinating. People need to have an open mind when dealing with public transport infrastructure. I understand that the minister made the comment that we all need to keep an open mind, but we also need to get it right. If that means that we need to stop and listen to retailers and property owners in the city, we must do that. We must consult with them widely, just as we must consult -

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! If the Leader of the National Party and the member for Cockburn wish to have a conversation, they should take it outside.

Mrs HODSON-THOMAS: I was talking about wide community consultation with people in the city, property owners, retailers, commuters and residents in the southern suburbs. I hope that during the planning process, the minister engages in good public consultation in this regard. It is critical to the success of the project, and I think she understands that. She has always advocated public consultation. We will watch her over the next few months to see whether she engages in good public consultation. That means engaging with the member for South Perth's community, as well as with retailers and property owners in the city.

I will not make any further comments apart from the fact that I do not believe the minister will be able to deliver on the southern rail link in the time she proposes. I will be watching her closely over the next few months.

MR PENDAL (South Perth) [11.46 am]: I had not intended to talk on the third reading of this Bill, but I have been effectively prompted, or invited, to do so by some of the remarks that I have heard about the southern suburbs rail extension by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure in my electorate since 16 July, in the public media in that time and this morning by way of prolonged interjection to the member for Carine. One of the things that I cannot fathom is the notion that the Government has been spending a lot of time listening to what the community wants. The Government has made a merit out of the backflip that it did on the premium property tax. I thought it was rather unprofessional and childish of the Premier to have said that the reason the Government backflipped on the premium property tax was that it is a listening Government; it listens to the people.

Mr Dean: And we are.

Mr Trenorden: Be fair; they listened to Kim Beazley.

Mr PENDAL: I will say it did. That in itself is no reason to do a backflip. Government often is about making difficult decisions. Government often is about being on the horns of a dilemma and having to determine what will be the least impact of its decisions on a community. That is not a reason. It might well be that, for example, the Government does a backflip because it determines that the pain it is going through is not worth the gain of a miserable \$12 million. My point is that the Government is attempting to persuade all of us that it listened to people in that case. I will tell members what it listened to; it listened to the political barometer. The southern suburbs railway will have its own impact on the next political barometer in the seat of Swan. It is interesting that I have been berated by members of the Labor Party, the minister and the Premier for no more, nor less, than being an advocate for my community. The federal Labor member for Swan has publicly supported my position. At the protest meeting at the South Perth Civic Centre early in September, at which I was one of the speakers, he was asked what his position was, and he said, "I support the member for South Perth." He knows the impact this railway will have on that part of the federal electorate of Swan. He is not bound by that rigid party discipline that says that somehow or other he has to support an indefensible position on the southern suburbs railway.

Mr Logan: But he is not part of a Government that will have to pay for it to be sunk, either.

Mr PENDAL: That has not even become an option, because the current Government is so narrow in its focus that it will not put that on the table for consideration.

What really sticks in my craw is the interjection that we heard this morning from the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, in which she was singing her own praises about what the Government had done by holding a citizens jury in the northern suburbs. I invite the minister to hold a citizens jury on the southern suburbs railway and how it will affect South Perth, Como and Mt Henry, not just because that railway will affect my electorate, but because of the impact that it will have on the wider metropolitan area and the tourism industry in the future.

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I have just come back from the United Kingdom, and I have seen increasing evidence that Governments around the world are doing everything they can to undo what this current Government is about to do in South Perth and Como. The best possible evidence of that is a government decision that was made a few weeks ago in Geraldton. In this little bit of doctrinaire class warfare in which the Government is engaging, I have been criticised by the minister and have been told that all I am doing is sticking up for the views of the rich people in South Perth. That is the sort of attitude that has come from this minister. I find it interesting that the minister wants to blame me for wanting to stick up for those people who have been able to establish themselves in suburbs like South Perth and Como and wants to belittle my attempts to represent those people, yet she has the gall to live not in her working class electorate of Armadale but in a suburb that is a mirror image of my own; namely, Mt Lawley.

Ms MacTiernan: I do not live in Mt Lawley.

Mr PENDAL: Where does the minister live?

Ms MacTiernan: I share my time between Highgate and Kelmscott.

Mr PENDAL: The minister does not live among the working class people whom she claims to represent.

The greatest evidence and support for the position that I am maintaining for South Perth comes from the philosophical standpoint of the Premier himself. This week, because it was referred to me, I picked up the September issue of *Engineers Australia*, civil edition, in which the Western Australian Government brags, as is its entitlement, about its commitment to an \$88 million package to provide the City of Geraldton with a modern transport corridor. I am sorry that I do not have the quote from the Premier with me - I left it in my downstairs office, not thinking that I would be speaking this morning - but the spirit of the words was, "We will be spending in the order of \$88 million, and one of our focuses will be to remove from the Geraldton city foreshore the railway that for so long has been a blight on the Geraldton landscape, and we will allow Geraldton to have returned to it its greatest natural focus; that is, its ocean front."

Ms MacTiernan: We will be putting the rail down the middle of the road!

Mr PENDAL: The minister should not shout at me like some fishwife. My complaint is that it is good enough for the Premier to say to the people of Geraldton that the urban environment of their town is worth protecting, and it is good enough for the Premier to return to the people of Geraldton a seascape that is second to none in Australia, yet the Government is proposing to do the exact reverse in South Perth and put down a new railway at ground level -

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

Mr PENDAL: The minister should not shout over me. I will shout her down any time she likes.

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

Mr PENDAL: The minister acts like a fishwife and gives all the evidence in here that she is one.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Andrews): Order! I am sure the minister will have the opportunity to reply to the member for South Perth, but because the minister who is interjecting is sitting fairly close to me, I am finding it difficult to hear the member.

Mr PENDAL: My point is that if it is good enough for the Premier to go to Geraldton and make a public announcement and a virtue about returning the seascape to the people of that city, the Government cannot go across the river a couple of miles from here and destroy the river scape that belongs not just to me but to all the people of this State.

Mr Whitely: What was the alternative?

Mr PENDAL: The member should get out his imprest account and travel around the world to study the urban environment and what is happening in any advanced city, country and province in the world, and he will find that Governments are getting rid of that sort of urban blight and black mark against the landscape. Governments are also getting rid of overhead powerlines. This Government, to its credit, and the previous Government, to its eternal credit, has been spending millions of dollars in the Perth metropolitan area to underground urban powerlines. This Government and the previous Government have been doing that for one reason alone; namely, that it is acknowledged the world over that overhead powerlines are a blight on and an insult to the urban landscape, and in a society like ours we should do our best to preserve that urban landscape. The people of South Perth and Como have committed themselves to and completed a program, I think at a cost of \$15 million, to get rid of overhead powerlines. However, this silly and erratic minister has the temerity to undo all of that in

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order to satisfy the likes of Professor Peter Newman and a couple of other crackpots, who are unelected and have been waiting in the wings for the chance to do what they are now doing.

Several government members interjected.

Mr PENDAL: If the Government and the government members who are so vocal at the moment really believe in what the local people are saying -

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

Mr PENDAL: The minister can interject all she likes. I will not take a scrap of notice. I challenge government members to put their philosophy where their mouth is and conduct a citizens' jury in South Perth and Como. If the Government was so confident of its position, and if it thought it was so good at consulting the local people, why did the minister give the City of South Perth only two hours notice of her announcement on 16 July? When this silly and erratic minister decided to announce this flawed plan at a press conference at 1.00 pm, did she call in the South Perth City Council to consult it and tell it that within three hours, she would announce that their city and landscape would be changed forever by this silly and ill-considered burden that will be visited upon the people of South Perth and Como? Is that a citizens' jury? Is that asking people for their opinion?

Mr Trenorden: It is ALP consultation.

Mr PENDAL: Yes. Those people will not forget. They will vote a certain way in the upcoming federal election. Because of the contempt that is inherent in this process -

Mr Logan interjected.

Mr PENDAL: My friend has a few shocks coming. I make no apologies for standing in this House and sticking up for the people who have elected me to this Chamber. The view that somehow this will most adversely affect the rich people of South Perth and Como is wrong. The only people who own properties close to the freeway - there are something like 1 200 of them within a 300 metre radius - are the relatively modestly placed in society. People do not buy expensive properties near the freeway. Therefore, the people who will be most affected by this are more likely to be Labor voters than Liberal or some other form of non-Labor voters.

Finally, if the Government is so confident and cocky and believes this rhetoric about community consultation and citizens' juries, let it go to South Perth, Como, Manning, Mt Henry and everywhere else in that area -

Mr Logan interjected.

Mr PENDAL: The member who interjected has got it wrong. I have never objected to the railway going through South Perth and Como. I have said to this and the previous Government - I campaigned on it in 1996 - that if they want the railway to go through that area, which makes some sense, they should do what London did, for God's sake, 100 years ago and put it under the ground. Whether it be in Sydney, Hong Kong, Toronto or anywhere in the continent, the rail line is buried. That should be the subject of a citizens jury.

MR WHITELY (Roleystone) [12.02 pm]: I will talk about the budget specifically. However, before I do that, I will comment on the remarks of the member for Carine and the member for South Perth about the Mandurah rail link. The member for South Perth knows that I am an old Manning boy. In fact, I learnt to swim at Como Beach. I would like Como Beach to be returned to the sort of river beach it was during my parents' generation. The member seems to be portraying the argument that the two options - that is, the option preferred by the previous Government under which the rail to Mandurah would have gone through Kenwick, and the freeway option - somehow have a different result for the Como foreshore. That is absolute nonsense. Under the Government's proposal, a rail line, instead of a bus transport lane, will go down the centre of the freeway. It makes absolutely no difference to the amenity of the people of South Perth.

It is interesting that the member for Carine, who is the opposition spokesperson on transport matters, has such strong opinions about the route that the rail line should take, but she is blissfully ignorant of the consequences and effects on my electorate of the rail line going through Kenwick and Beckenham on the way to Mandurah. To educate members, I indicate that if the Kenwick route had been chosen, the number of train movements up and down the Armadale rail line would have gone from eight to approximately 20 an hour.

Mrs Hodson-Thomas: You interjected on me and told me that in one of my speeches recently.

Mr WHITELY: I suggest the member listen, because it is important. It highlights the reason that I am standing here. In the polling booth at Beckenham, I achieved a 19.1 per cent swing. That is because those opposite would not listen. I suggest to them that they listen and be educated. The change would have been an increase in train movements from eight to 20 an hour. That would have meant that people who live in Beckenham and who have to use William Street, which the Court Government effectively left as an extension of Roe Highway for

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eight long years, would be stuck for an inordinately long time at the boom gates that currently control traffic on William Street. There would have been absolute chaos. A heavy transport route that was controlled by boom gates would have had suburban traffic mixed with heavy freight, with 20 train movements an hour. It would have been an absolute disaster. It is already a disaster, and has been for 10 years, because of the broken promises of the Court Government. The previous Government's proposed route, which had no provision for a flyover at William Street, would have been a complete disaster for the people of Beckenham and Kenwick.

Those opposite can pretend that those people who live near the freeway are good, solid Labor voters. That is absolute rubbish. I know that area. A person could buy five houses in Beckenham and Kenwick for the price of a block of land in that area. The people of Beckenham and Kenwick are the battlers who were neglected. I am in this place because those opposite, when in government, ignored the people in the south east corridor.

The member for Southern River is a good friend of mine. We work closely together and with the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. I am an absolute fan of the minister's work. Effectively, she was previously the de facto member for Roleystone and Southern River. She did her job as the member for Armadale and the opposition spokesperson on planning and infrastructure, as a front liner for the Labor Party, and as the de facto member for Southern River and Roleystone for years. That is why the member for Southern River and I are in this place.

Mrs Hodson-Thomas: We will see for how long.

Mr WHITELY: The reason the Liberal Party lost the last election is that it did not deliver on its promises. I will address these issues specifically. It made promises about Roe Highway, Tonkin Highway and Jarrahdale Road, on which it failed to deliver. It had eight years in government, and it failed to deliver on those promises. This budget has delivered on them.

As a political candidate, I could not believe the level of distrust of politicians and political candidates when I entered this arena. That came from the absolute neglect and - I am not allowed to say "lies" in this place - the misrepresentations of the truth by the previous Government. It has taken time to start to rebuild that trust. However, this Government is well on the way to rebuilding it, and that is as a result of the sorts of measures outlined in the budget.

I applaud and echo the member for Southern River's comments about the work done by the current Government, and particularly by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure on the Gosnells and Armadale redevelopments, and on the south east corridor getting its fair share of police resources. This Government is already building a reputation for listening, being honest and delivering on its promises in the south east corridor.

I will talk specifically about some road transport expenditures and commitments that relate to the budget. They reflect the commitment of this Government to the south east corridor, and they contrast markedly with the previous Government's record of broken promises. First, I will deal with Roe Highway stages 4 and 5. Then I will talk about the commitments the Government has given on Tonkin Highway. Finally, I will talk about the commitment, which is not a financial commitment - the previous two matters are financial commitments - to protect the community of Jarrahdale from the plans to turn its sleepy town into a truck stop on a four-lane highway.

Mr Trenorden interjected.

Mr WHITELY: I will talk about those later. The Roe Highway currently terminates at the top of William Street, Beckenham. It has been that way since the early 1990s. Had Carmen Lawrence's Government been returned in 1993, Roe Highway would have been completed in 1994. Subsequently, the Court Government promised that, as early as 1997, Roe Highway stage 4 would be completed. That would have linked Welshpool Road to Kenwick Link. It would have got the heavy trucks and traffic off William Street, Beckenham. It was promised for completion in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000, but it was not delivered.

People finally lost faith in the previous Government and realised that the route would not be delivered. Despite the fact that the money was put into the forward estimates, it was always reallocated, and the following year it would be back in the forward estimates again. The previous Government tried that before the election, and the people of Beckenham did not believe it. That is why I achieved a 19.1 per cent swing at the booths in Beckenham.

Our commitment, which is outlined in the budget, is that the Roe Highway stage 4, which joins Welshpool Road to Kenwick Link, will be completed by the end of 2002. The Roe Highway stage 5, which will connect Kenwick Link to Nicholson Road, will be completed by the end of 2003. That goes beyond our election commitment, which was to construct only stage 4 from Welshpool Road to Kenwick Link by the end of 2002. Wherever the

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Roe Highway is terminated, it makes sense to connect it to a major transport route. William Street is not a major transport route but a suburban road. People living on William Street have had to put up with intolerable traffic movements over the past 10 years. They are absolutely fed up with it.

That spells out the clear contrast between our Government and the previous Government: we made a clear election commitment and have delivered the money, not in the forward estimates but in the actual budget. The Roe Highway should never have been allowed to terminate at the end of William Street but should have been extended at least to the Albany Highway or Nicholson Road. The previous Government chose to pick up on other road projects, like the Polly pipe. I am not saying that is not a good road project, but such projects should never have been started until the Roe Highway was finished and connected to a major road instead of being left hanging off the end of a quiet suburban street. As I have said, that is one of the reasons I am standing here representing the people of Roleystone. The previous Government made a promise and failed to deliver, in sharp contrast to this Government, which has made a promise and has delivered.

The people of Beckenham formed a group called the William Street action group which was ably led by a community representative, Mr Paul Gane. The group ran a campaign that included public meetings, slow drives with the cooperation of the police, petitions and, finally, when the group realised it would get no joy out of the Government, signs along William Street, encouraging people to make sure that I was the member for Roleystone. The campaign was extremely effective because it delivered a 19.1 per cent swing to me in Beckenham, which is a substantial part of the reason I am here. Those people delivered for me, and I am very pleased that this Government and this budget has delivered for them. I thank them for their trust. The Government has gone some way, at least in Beckenham, to restoring faith in people's elected representatives.

The second issue is the extension of the Tonkin Highway to Armadale Road by 2004 and to the South Western Highway near Mundijong by 2006. We are delivering on this promise, which we announced before the election. This contrasts sharply with the previous Government's failure to deliver. It undertook that construction would begin in 2000. The last information available when it left office was that the project had been put back to 2004. It had no commitment to deliver transport justice to the people of the south east corridor. A north-south heavy haulage route at the foot of the Darling Scarp is urgently needed. The Tonkin Highway extension will take a lot of pressure off the Albany Highway and the suburbs of Gosnells, Martin, Kelmscott and Armadale and off the South Western Highway and the suburbs of Armadale, Wungong, Byford, Cardup and Mundijong. Currently, there is a very dangerous mix of heavy transport and domestic vehicles. The problem is not quite as dramatic as that of William Street, because at least the Tonkin Highway currently terminates on the Albany Highway. Correspondingly, it does not have the same priority as the extension to the Roe Highway, but I am very pleased to see the money that is committed in the current budget to purchase land to facilitate the project and the money that is allocated in the forward estimates. This is another example of a broken promise by the previous Government and our delivering on our promises. It is also another example of the people in the south east corridor beginning to have their faith restored in their elected representatives.

Those two promises about the Roe Highway stages 4 and 5 and the Tonkin Highway extension were monetary promises. I am also pleased to say that in government we have delivered on other, non-financial, road transport promises. One was the promise to protect Jarrahdale Road. The work of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has been phenomenal. Our commitment was that no part of Jarrahdale Road between Blue Rock, which is about five kilometres east of Jarrahdale, and the South Western Highway, would be incorporated into a southern link road, because it would destroy the amenity of the heritage town of Jarrahdale. Our commitment was also to get the B-double transport trucks off Jarrahdale Road by February 2002. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure delivered on that second promise eight months early. That is a great credit to her. She did it by convincing the transport operators that rather than letting their permits expire on a gradual basis, they should play on a level playing field. She got them all to retire their permits early. I congratulate her for that inspirational work. It did not cost a cent and it delivered an early result to the people of Jarrahdale. One can contrast that with the previous Government's promises that were made to the people of Jarrahdale and broken. The first promise was that B-double trucks would not be permitted to use that route. The previous Minister for Transport broke that promise. Breaking the second promise was even more stupid. It was made by the now Leader of the Opposition who promised that the haul roads, which Alcoa used, and could possibly provide an alternative route for the southern link road, would not be revegetated. The roads were fantastic and had been used by Alcoa for 20 years. They provided an option that was definitely worth exploring.

MR TRENORDEN (Avon - Leader of the National Party) [12.19 pm]: I will address the two Bills and run through a few issues relating to the finances of the State. I will do so by using the second reading speech of the Treasurer who likened the State's economy under the previous Government to the *Titanic*. He would have been

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right if he had been talking about his own budget in 12 months time. The indications are that there is no way in which this State Government can keep to a \$50 million surplus.

The Government has not talked about some of the positives for the state budget, but I will talk about those in a few moments. The Government has forgotten to tell the public about the new taxing revenues it has on the side. However, there are a couple of areas where it is impossible for the Government to maintain the budget. The Treasurer made seven points. He said -

This budget represents the first instalment in a four year plan to achieve the strategic objectives of:

1. honest, accountable and inclusive government;

We already know that has gone out of the window. Every health provider in rural WA is screaming about the cuts in the health budget.

Mr Dean: That is a bit over the top.

Mr TRENORDEN: It is not; it is true. The member should come into my office and take the calls that come in constantly, many of which are unsolicited by me, although some are.

About 10 or 15 per cent of those calls are solicited. Public servants who have responsibility for these things are calling me about what has happened to the health budget in Western Australia. I will talk about the second point, "sound financial management" in a moment, because that is in doubt. The third point is "a growing and diversified economy". All members hope that will be the case. However, the events of 11 September have put a cloud over this year. The projected growth rate in the budget of four per cent is unlikely to be met. I am not saying that will be the fault of the Government or members to my left. The circumstances that exist right now are outside the control of a small State like Western Australia. The fourth point is "strong and vibrant regions". I presume that is a joke. The fifth point is "safe, healthy and supportive communities". I hope that is correct. In some areas I have great hopes for better communities in Western Australia. I support some of the rhetoric of the Gallop Government. I hope those things are followed through, because it is important that people feel secure, whether they live in my electorate or that of the member for Kimberley. However, much of that is about attitude, and some is about infrastructure and state support.

I saw the Minister for Education glance at me. I support what he has done. I had a go at what had been done in the Northam region before the current minister was appointed. The minister's actions in supporting non-teaching activities in some of these high schools is first class. We need that extended into the community to ensure some of the divisions in the community can be worked on and are not just papered over as has been done for so many years. Many people want to get on with life, particularly in the current climate in which none of us feel as secure as we did before 11 September. There can be no better time to be building stronger communities, and I hope that happens.

The sixth point is "an educated and skilled future for all Western Australians". At this stage, I do not have any argument with the Labor Party on education, even though I had a few run-ins with the Minister for Training - if that is his title. I do not intend even to try to work out the current ministerial titles, because they have changed so dramatically. I had a valid concern about technical and further education colleges outside the metropolitan area. I can now see that the Minister for Training has done the right thing, and I am happy. I tested the minister in that process. However, at the end of that process I said that I was pleased with the outcome. It is critical that the independence of those colleges remains. We need locals to drive education and training. We need their passion in our institutions to make them viable. If the Government moved the TAFE system into the metropolitan area, it would kill it. That is not a Dreamtime statement, because it has been demonstrated time after time. Centralisation of those activities will mean death to education and training in the regions.

The seventh point is "a valued and protected environment". Again, though it is early days, I have no real arguments with the Government on that. I hope some of the issues are progressed.

I am disappointed that the planned infill sewerage program has been scrapped. I have some worries about that, but I will not talk about that because I will run out of time.

A key issue is Western Australia's AAA credit rating. The review of railways was postponed, because if the Government had put the Mandurah rail project into the state budget the liability would have kicked down the State's AAA rating this year. The Government would have lost the State's AAA rating based on future liabilities. The Government should have been honest about that, instead of playing games.

The Treasurer referred to a modest general government surplus of \$51 million. That is directly under threat in two areas. One is in health. It is projected that after four months operation the health budget will blow out by

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\$100 million. The Government will have to do something really remarkable in the next eight months to turn that \$100 million projected deficit into a surplus. The fact is that the Government will not do it, and it should have recognised that before the budget process commenced. This is the first year of the Gallop Government's four-year term. We have a brand new Government, and it could have been honest and open to the Western Australian public about that. Why the Government chose not to be open about this, is beyond my comprehension. I have no personal argument with the Minister for Health; I think he is a genuine person who wants to do a lot in health. However, he is travelling roughly at the moment, especially in country areas. If there is one area in which we should have bipartisan support, it is in health. By the time we get to May or later in June or July of next year, health will be in crisis. We will be fighting issues in a bitter manner, and institutions in this State will be severely hurt.

Mr Kucera: That is a direct contradiction. You said there should be bipartisan support, and I would welcome that - instead of denigration of the system, particularly the country system.

Mr TRENORDEN: I am not the problem; it does not come from me, although at that stage I may cause the minister a problem.

Mr Kucera: It already has come from you, member for Avon, with respect.

Mr TRENORDEN: The Minister for Health is slaughtering health. The minister has a slash and burn attitude to country health issues.

Mr Kucera: I cannot believe you are saying this.

Mr TRENORDEN: It is a fact. I am saying it because it is true.

Mr Kucera: Your own managers are saying they have the money.

Mr TRENORDEN: The minister's department is saying that to the minister; the managers are not saying it. The department - I hope it was not the minister - has told managers that if they make any comment their contracts will be terminated. That is in writing.

Mr Kucera: Will you produce that to me, if you have that? Would you like to table that?

Mr TRENORDEN: I have seven minutes, and I want to talk about many things. We will debate this issue a lot. I want to make that point about health.

I refer to the issue of reining back expenditure by \$852 million. That is a Dreamtime story. The minister will find that it will not be possible, in many programs, to slash and burn as he wishes. Even if the proposed cut is ineffective, at only 10 per cent, that is \$80 million. The Government has a problem.

On the positive side, the Government will benefit from extra taxes. In land tax, land valuations are roaring up. After 1 July next year there will be two new brackets in land tax. The Government has created the situation in which bracket creep will become a major part of land tax. That will raise tens of millions of dollars for the Government. The Government will benefit from the growth in the Busselton and Kalgoorlie areas.

The other area in which the Government will get \$30 million more than it has estimated is from pinging contractors for payroll tax. That will raise about \$30 million more than the Government has estimated. It will cause havoc in not only rural Western Australia but also metropolitan Western Australia, when contractors have to load that cost onto a range of construction projects. That is where the Government stands in that area.

Mr Kobelke: That is not in this current budget.

Mr TRENORDEN: People are looking at this right now. Of all the people who could interject, the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection should understand that business people look forward; they cannot sit still.

Mr Kobelke: The reason that it is not in this year's budget is that it will be discussed with all the stakeholders and worked through. Your estimate of that extra income is well wide of the mark. Let us have that discussion and get it organised.

Mr TRENORDEN: I was trying to be kind. If the budget estimates are right, the Government will be further down the tube than I had estimated.

Mr Kobelke: There is no money in this year's budget for that tax.

Mr TRENORDEN: The minister is saying that on his estimation the budget will be further in deficit than I thought.

Mr Kobelke: That measure does not come into play.

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Mr TRENORDEN: The attitude of the Australian Labor Party is that anyone who holds a trust is a criminal.

Mr McRae interjected.

Mr TRENORDEN: It is in the tax papers. The word is “equality” in the tax system. They will tax people who own houses in trusts. How many farmers will that affect?

Mr Logan interjected.

Mr TRENORDEN: If a farmer wants succession of ownership, what does he do? He places his house on the property and the two houses he owns in town in the trust.

Mr Logan interjected.

Mr TRENORDEN: It states that they will be taxed.

Mr Logan interjected.

Mr TRENORDEN: No, it has not. I am talking about farmers. Is the member trying to tell me that putting assets into trust affects income tax?

Mr Logan interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Cockburn!

Mr TRENORDEN: It is absolutely minor. They either pay tax in the trust or they pay tax when it is distributed. They are not avoiding tax. There is no avoidance of the tax procedures in trusts any more. If the member thinks that, he is going back to the bottom-of-the-harbour days of 20 years ago. Money flows into the trust and tax is either paid in the trust or it is passed on. If it is passed on, the tax is paid when it is passed on. I agree that there is an advantage in that for some people, but it is not about avoiding tax any more. The thousands of professionals who are doing that sort of work know that people are not setting up trusts any more; that has been wiped out for income purposes. They are doing it only if they want to control their capital. That is a different issue. If they want to control their assets and manage them differently, trusts provide a very substantial advantage, but not for tax purposes. The member can check that. That was the way I earned my income for 20 years.

Workers compensation is bowling along but, as I have run out of time, I will not talk about it further.

The agricultural budget has been increased because farmers are being taxed more. The revenue has been pulled from farmers and put into agriculture. The actual consolidated fund contribution to agriculture is less. The regional situation is looking very ordinary, but the point I really want to make is that this budget cannot be sustained. I have had a good, hard look at this, and it is not in my interests for this budget not to be sustained. There are two issues that I do not believe can work: one is the blow-out in the health system, and the other is that the Government will not be able to achieve the savings it says it can.

MR BOWLER (Eyre) [12.33 pm]: All members at some time have faced their first budget, and I had some trepidation before this budget was delivered. I was particularly scared about this budget because the Labor Party had made so many promises in the goldfields that I was sure some would be broken. I pay tribute to my predecessor, Julian Grill, who worked so hard in developing many of the policies for the goldfields, which were the basis of the promises, and also the former member for Kalgoorlie, Megan Anwyll. Megan, Julian and I worked hard over many months to get many promises from the Labor Party. There were so many promises that we called the document “Working for the goldfields”, and I have with me the executive summary of those promises. As members can see from this document, there were many promises. I thought we would be hard-pressed to meet all those promises. One promise had been broken several months earlier; that is, that a mounted police force would be based permanently in Kalgoorlie. When the Government costed it at \$4 million, it recognised that it was far too expensive, and I conceded that it could not be sustained on a statewide basis. The Government was up-front, and the Minister for Police said it could not be done. I had to support the decision that \$4 million was far too much for the potential benefits. However, so many other promises had been made that I thought I would get a bit of a hiding because the Government would have to break a few of those promises. I know that in some areas of the State not half as many promises were made.

The Liberal Party in the goldfields was embarrassed about the lack of promises it received from its leaders, Richard Court and company, compared with the number of promises made by the Labor Party. The blank piece of paper I am holding lists the Liberal Party’s promises for the goldfields, whereas the Labor Party’s promises covered five pages. The member for Kalgoorlie conceded to me that he was battling to get a promise out of his

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mob, and he knew the Labor candidates had all these wonderful promises for the goldfields. I know he was embarrassed that he could not get any.

I also expected there to be leaks about the budget. As a journalist, I know there were always leaks about a state or federal budget, but on this occasion there did not seem to be any. There were no indications that we would get this or would not get that. I was a bit scared when I entered the House that day at two o'clock with everyone else, but by half past two I was a relieved person. All the promises were kept, and I will take that document back to the people of the goldfields before the next election and say, "We promised that, we have delivered on it; during the next term we will promise this and we will deliver once again."

Mr Barnett: Including the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital?

Mr BOWLER: Exactly. I suspect that next time the Liberal Party may give the member for Kalgoorlie a few promises to put on that piece of blank paper, because he did not receive one promise out of that mob. I do not think they expected him to win.

As I said earlier, I must pay tribute to Megan Anwyl and Julian Grill, my predecessor, who worked very hard on those issues. The first thing I noticed was country incentives. The member for Kalgoorlie and I both campaigned strongly on law and order. Part of the reason was that law and order had got out of hand in the goldfields, and for years the number of police in the goldfields was below strength. I think it was supposed to have approximately 100 officers, and it was always running at about 90 or 95. It was no good increasing the number of officers allocated to the goldfields, because we could not get to the nominated strength anyway. I was very pleased that \$2 million had been allocated for country incentives. For the first time in decades - even during the term of the previous Labor Government - as a result of country incentives, there is now a waiting list of officers wanting to transfer to the goldfields. As a matter of fact, that has caused a problem; because it has always been so hard to attract new officers to that area, a number of officers in Kalgoorlie have exceeded their maximum tenure and now have to justify why they should stay in the goldfields. I am supporting them, and I hope that the senior police officers in the goldfields can see their way clear to allowing those officers to stay. They have put down their roots in the goldfields, they are involved with the community and they were there before country incentives were introduced; therefore, I think they should get some of the incentives. It is great news that there is a waiting list of police officers who want to transfer to the stations at Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie and Kambalda. Coolgardie and Kambalda are in my electorate.

The 44-hour week in the country incentive scheme means that the number of officers will effectively be increased by 10. Together with the allocation of an additional five to 10 officers, that means an extra 20 officers will be in that area. For the first time, rather than running around being reactive, in the next few months goldfields police can hopefully start being proactive to try to prevent crime and nip it in the bud. As I have conceded, the member for Kalgoorlie did a survey of 3 000 houses in Kalgoorlie, and law and order was the number one issue in that survey. However, I notice that he did not mention it once in his contribution to the budget debate; I suppose because the Labor Government has delivered on its law and order promises in the goldfields. It is something that the residents in the goldfields appreciate a lot.

Mr Barnett: I think he made a significant issue of it in the electoral campaign.

Mr BOWLER: We both did. I will speak further about that later. On the subject of education facilities in the goldfields, I must concede that the previous Minister for Education, the now Leader of the Opposition, started the redevelopment of the Eastern Goldfields Senior High School, and I praise him for that. The development of a senior campus at Curtin University will in time prove beneficial to the education system in the goldfields. However, I was pleased to see that our budget included another \$1.6 million to complete that work. There is also further funding for the Norseman District High School.

I turn now to health. I have always been a bit overweight in my life, much like the Minister for Health. I often say, "I was a good boy today; I missed breakfast, didn't have afternoon tea and didn't have a cake." Someone once said to me, "Don't talk about what you didn't have; talk about what you had. Your stomach doesn't know what you didn't have. Your stomach doesn't know that you missed out on that snack, John, or that you skipped breakfast today. The only thing your stomach knows is what went down your throat and, at the end of the day, that's what matters." It is the same with health. The Opposition bleats a lot about what is not in the budget; I want to talk about what is there.

This Government promised funding for a new sobering-up shelter in the goldfields; there is \$280 000 in the budget for that shelter. This ties in with law and order. The member for Kalgoorlie campaigned on the issue of fringe dwellers who cause a great deal of social disorder and other problems because there is nowhere for them to go, particularly late in the afternoon if they become inebriated. Now, with this funding, there will be

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somewhere for them to go. The sobering-up shelter will more than double the number of beds of the old shelter and will be a much better, more modern and more effective facility.

We have also provided \$300 000 over four years to the Wunngagutu group patrol; that is an increase on the previous funding. Members of the patrol visit the area daily, talking to the people, helping them and taking them from home to town and vice versa. It is a wonderful facility. Despite the funding of \$300 000, it operates basically on a voluntary basis and I praise and commend the people who run that service. I am looking forward to accompanying that patrol soon; I have been told it will be an eye-opener.

There are other initiatives in the health budget. As I said, I will not talk about what we did not get; I will talk about what we did get. We got \$100 000 for a drug detoxification unit, \$880 000 for stage one of the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital and \$200 000 over two years for a men's health study. That may sound a bit like feel-good stuff and the sort of stuff that members might think Megan Anwyl, the previous member for Kalgoorlie, would have advocated; however, in fact I was the one who pushed for the study. The member for Kalgoorlie and I are members of a committee studying this issue. Some members might say, "The goldfields is a blokey area; why do the men there need a men's health study?" They need the study because the lifestyle and work regimes that have developed in the past decade have created serious health problems for them. There has been a lot of anecdotal evidence about working rosters causing serious problems to men's health and their family and social relationships without any concrete evidence of it. This funding will initiate a health survey that we hope in the next 18 months will prove once and for all the impact of some of these rosters and work regimes on men's health. Happily, I must report that some companies in the goldfields have realised that some of the rosters the men are working under are not sustainable. One company recently reduced its work hours per day from 12 to eight and another from 12 to 10. The manager of a big company like Delta Gold Ltd, Brad Gordon, said his next step might be to reduce them from 10 to eight. The problems are caused not so much by the hours worked but by the fact that the mining industry is becoming a 24-hour business and in some cases 12-hour shifts are unavoidable. However, what is not unavoidable is the roster on which these men work, such as 13 days out of 14 on 12-hour shifts; that is absolute rubbish. We must use this health study - as I said, the member for Kalgoorlie is a member of this committee and supports it fully - to prove that these rosters and hours are not sustainable and that in the long run we must reconsider some of the rosters that have developed for the good of the workers, the companies and the mining industry. As I said, some companies are going away from them but, I am afraid, not enough. Therefore, the \$100 000 in both this year and next year's budget is welcome, not only by the workers but also by the mining industry in general.

When talking about the mining industry, I must praise the establishment of the \$75 million regional development fund. I am sure that much of that money will go to the Goldfields-Esperance region. In addition, many members may not realise - the members for Geraldton, Albany and Bunbury may be jealous - that there is a \$1 million fund over the next four years. In other words, we will have our very own special development fund of \$250 000 this year and the next three years for regional projects in the goldfields area. We are already considering how to establish those projects. A number of job-creating schemes and ideas have arrived in my office and the regional development authority in Kalgoorlie for ways in which people can get their hands on some of that money. The goldfields are not doing well right now and we must create some jobs.

The good news for me in the budget continues because there is \$1 million over three years for recreational and youth facilities in Kalgoorlie-Boulder; that was welcomed by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder council. There is \$1.5 million to improve the quality of water in Leonora; that was a promise that this Government and the previous Government made. We are carrying out that promise and I know that the people in Leonora are very appreciative of that.

Finally, I want to talk about mining and exploration. In my maiden speech in this place, I said that I would be a friend of the mining industry and, God knows, the mining industry needs as many friends as it can get.

Mr Barnett: You support the retention of workplace agreements, I assume.

Mr BOWLER: Provided that they produce a fair and equitable workplace. The problem is, as I said, that many of the workers and mining companies are beginning to realise that some of those agreements are not fair, which goes back to working hours.

I will be a friend of the mining industry. There have not been enough friends of the mining industry on the other side of this place, and it needs every friend it can get. This Government promised to put 11 case officers into the former Department of Minerals and Energy - now the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources - in Kalgoorlie to overcome the bottleneck created by native title. People from the mining industry and the department considered this issue and concluded that putting 11 officers into Kalgoorlie would only move the

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bottleneck from there into the various land councils. Therefore, six were put into the department and five into the land councils. We therefore funded those 11 people, which we hope will remove the bottleneck in the mining industry caused by native title. I am looking forward to that because it will help to get the drilling rigs back into the bush and open up the land that for too long had been tied up by native title and the attitude of the previous Government. The previous Government spent \$20 million trying to fight native title rather than getting on with the job, realising that native title is here to stay and we must make the best of it. We must get the rigs back into the bush. I have put a proposal before the Minister for State Development on how to further encourage exploration that will provide more revenue in the budget, so that we can have further good budgets like this.

MR McRAE (Riverton) [12.48 pm]: I will refer to a couple of issues that are emerging from the Gallop Labor Government's first budget and I shall reflect on the impact that the budget will have on the community I represent in the district of Riverton. From there I will draw out the threads that are informing this Government's approach to its task as a new Government and where it wants to embed the principles of sustainable development, sustainable communities and a growing and diversified State and economy.

There is no doubt that I am standing in this place as the new member for Riverton because of the dissatisfaction by the electorate with the priorities of the previous Government. Members need only look at the *Hansard* of the past few months to read of the disagreements about whether there was a budget blow-out. If one casts one's mind back to the televised debate between the leader of the Liberal Party - then Premier - and the leader of the Labor Party - now Premier - one of the questions directed at Hon Richard Court related to the management of the overall state budget deficit and the failure of the Government of the day, first, to acknowledge there was an underlying problem and, secondly, to offer any option other than privatisation as a way of avoiding what were projected deficits in the out years from 2000-01. One need look only at the *Budget Overview: Getting the Priorities Right: 2001-02 Budget* to see the net operating balance sheet for general government and the projections that were identified in the pre-election financial projections statement.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

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