

Mr Vincent Catania; Ms Meredith Hammat; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski; Ms Jessica Shaw; Mr Yaz Mubarakai; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr David Michael; Amber-Jade Sanderson

SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENTS REPEAL BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from 12 May.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [10.10 am]: I rise on behalf of the opposition to put on record our support for the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. This bill went through the last term of Parliament, but it never quite made it to fruition. However, it is great to see that the new Minister for Commerce has introduced this bill again at the start of this term. Hopefully, it will pass through. It is a commonsense bill.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I have another 60 minutes to go, members! I will try to make it a little bit more exciting than the member for Bassendean's speeches. Perhaps we can repeal him from this place!

This bill will repeal the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979, which was a long time ago. Although some members in this house, like the member for Bassendean, may know it better than others.

Dr A.D. Buti: Were you a member of the Labor Party in 1979?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: At two years of age, I probably was!

Members, I think we will get back to this very good bill that will repeal what we have —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Madam Acting Speaker, can we please tell the drip over there, the member for Bassendean, to stop dripping!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, thank you. Go ahead, member for North West Central.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker.

Obviously, the act restricts the keeping, opening or use of premises for paid entertainment or amusement on Sundays, Christmas Day or Good Friday unless the minister has issued a permit or granted a general exemption to allow a place to open on those days. That includes football matches and any amusement activities or concerts. Under the current legislation, those events need approval to go ahead. We are in a modern society and not everyone is religious. Time is critical in this day and age and people want to maximise their time, whether it be on Christmas Day or Good Friday. They want to enjoy it with their friends and family and go out but also have the ability to work. Businesses will be able to capitalise on the changing mood of the environment and trade on those days without having to go through the archaic process of having to get approvals. Clearly, this bill is overdue, which is why the opposition is right behind supporting the repeal of this act.

Mr P.J. Rundle: As we were in the last Parliament.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: We supported it in the last Parliament, and the member for Roe made some great contributions then. The member for Roe is clearly going to get to his feet to show some support for this bill, which he did in the last term of government.

Members, there is not much to this bill other than repealing archaic legislation from 1979. The process of having an exemption for places to open on Sundays is an unnecessary administrative burden on businesses and government resources. This bill will clean that up, and I congratulate the new Minister for Commerce for bringing in a sensible bill that will actually work! It will provide relief to businesses and the bureaucracy of government, and it will ensure that the modern practices of our society will be reflected. Therefore, the opposition fully supports this bill, as it did during the previous term of government, as the member for Roe said, who was a spokesperson for the Nationals WA then. We see no reason but to fully endorse and support this commonsense bill.

MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka) [10.15 am]: I rise to support the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. As we have already heard, the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979 reflects a different time in our society when Sundays, Christmas and Easter were considered very important for religious observation. It is clear that our society and our community have moved on since this act was made in 1979. The intention of the act was to restrict the use or keeping of premises for entertainment or amusement unless a permit was issued and permission granted by the government. I am advised that although this act was made in 1979, the restrictions on activities date back to about 1902. Between 1902 and 1979, a similar restraint was contained in a different act, and with the rewriting of the Police Act 1892, this provision was extracted and incorporated into the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979. For those of us who are old enough to remember 1979, that, perhaps, explains why even then there was already some change in community expectations and standards around what happens on these important religious holidays and on Sundays. These kinds of provisions reflect the changes in society over a long time, really dating back to 1902. Society now has quite different expectations about when and how we access entertainment, whether on Sundays or religious holidays. The observance of Christian faith has changed and we are, in fact, a more secular society these days.

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We are also a much more multicultural society, and it is now more common in our community and society to observe a wide variety of faiths. Christianity is important, but it is by no means the only prominent faith in our society. I often reflect on that in my electorate of Mirrabooka, which is one of the most diverse electorates in the state. Many different religions are observed by the people who live there. Islam is widely observed and many of my constituents have recently observed the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan features fasting between sun-up and sunset, with great gatherings of family and friends every evening to feast and celebrate the fast being broken. It is interesting to observe how clearly this religious festival impacts on the patterns of life in my electorate. The Minister for Sport and Recreation will be interested to hear this, because I know that he loves all stories sport-related. One of the soccer teams stopped training in the evening—they also have issues with their lighting—because they found that people would not stay because they wanted to go home to be part of the feasting and celebration as soon as the sun went down. Therefore, that soccer team did not train consistently throughout that time, as it prioritised its members' religious observance.

The Mirrabooka mosque is well known in my electorate. Many people observe their religion at the mosque and go there for prayers. I am very grateful to the imam of the mosque and one of its senior committee members, Aghmed, who recently welcomed me to the mosque. For people who are of the Islamic faith, Friday is their significant day of prayer and religious observance. On Fridays, the area around the Mirrabooka mosque becomes alive with people and activity. In fact, people come from all over the metropolitan area to worship at that mosque. Actually, I am told that thousands of people use it as their place of prayer. Even though prayer is observed every day of the week, it is particularly busy on a Friday. This highlights the contrast between the provisions of the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979, which the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill will repeal, and what happens today in our community at large.

I note that there is a greater proportion of people of Islamic faith in my electorate of Mirrabooka than in greater Perth. The latest census data, from 2011, tells us that 7.9 per cent of the Mirrabooka population nominated Islam as their religion, which compares with the 2.1 per cent of people in the greater Perth area who nominated Islam as their religion. There are nearly four times as many people of Islamic faith in my electorate compared with the greater Perth area.

It is also worth noting that Buddhism is widely practised in the electorate. I have been fortunate to visit the Dhammaloka Buddhist Centre, which is located just outside my electorate in Nollamara. Many of my constituents attend that Buddhist centre to observe their faith. I have also been fortunate to meet Ajahn Brahm, who is their spiritual leader. Recently, when I attended the centre, I witnessed a reception for new Buddhists. It was interesting to note that the centre was in fact welcoming new Buddhists from all around the world, who were participating via a Zoom teleconference. They had been called to this centre because of the teachings of Ajahn Brahm, who is based there. Again, by way of illustration, the 2011 census tells us that 7.1 per cent of constituents in Mirrabooka nominated Buddhism as their religion, which compares with the 2.5 per cent of people in the greater Perth area who nominated Buddhism as their religion. In my electorate, we can see the patterns of many different faiths that do not subscribe to the Christian calendar and the celebrations at Easter and Christmas and on Sundays. It is clear that our society is changing, and although the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979 may have once represented the majority of faiths in the community, there has been a significant change since that time.

It would be wrong to assume that because there is a great diversity of faiths in my electorate that it is not also a Christian place because, indeed, many people in my electorate are Christian. It is interesting to note that the number of people who nominated in the census that they observe Christian religion is about the same as that for the greater Perth area. It is not the case that there are fewer Christians because there are more people who practise Islamic, Buddhist or other faiths; it is almost entirely consistent with the rest of the greater Perth area. It is interesting to note that in my electorate, Christianity is overlaid with a great sense of different countries and cultures. By way of example, I had the honour to attend an Anglican church service on New Year's Day, which was spoken in Dinka, the language of the South Sudanese. As someone who went to an Anglican boarding school and attended a large number of Anglican church services, I can attest to the fact that although there were some similarities, there were many differences, including the very passionate sermon and the very joyful and soulful singing, rather than the hymns from my boarding school days with which I am more familiar. Throughout my electorate on Sundays and many other days of the week, there are large gatherings of people worshipping in churches, halls and community centres. They worship on not only a Sunday, but also many other days, drawing on a wide range of religions and different Christian traditions.

It is important to note the work of the churches in our area. There are many faith-based organisations that contribute importantly to the safety net in the electorate, including the Balga Salvos, MercyCare, St Vincent de Paul and the Edmund Rice Centre, which is now a more secular organisation but has its roots in a strong Catholic philosophy. They all provide important services and works. There are also many faith-based schools in my electorate, some of which I have recently visited, including John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School; Emmanuel Christian

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Community School, which is a Baptist school; and Majella Catholic Primary School and Our Lady of Mercy Primary School, which are important Catholic schools in the area.

I speak very strongly about what I observe in my electorate—that is, a changing pattern of faith. Although we have many organisations and many religions are observed, Christianity remains important, and that is certainly true in my electorate. The Sunday Entertainments Act, which this bill will repeal, reflects a different time when Christianity was more widely observed and our expectations about activities and entertainments on those important religious days were significantly different from today's expectations. Although Christianity continues to be an important and dominant religion in our society, a great many religions are now observed and our expectations about how we spend our time on weekends and public holidays has changed greatly. We do not look to government to issue permits for those who wish to embark on entertainments and amusements on the important days of Christian observance. However, like a great many matters, it is important that the government strike a considered and careful balance on these issues.

Although I support the repeal of the legislation and think it is important to acknowledge society's changing expectations about Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day, I do not subscribe to the view that these days should be treated as just any other day. Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday are important and unique days for our community at large. They are important, as I said, for people who choose to worship on those days; the many Christians in my electorate will attest to that. But I have long been a passionate advocate for the fact that these days are important for everyone in our community, even those who do not actively engage in Christian worship and those who observe different faiths. A great many people consider Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day important days to spend with their families that allow them to strengthen their bonds with family and friends. They are days when we engage in shared activities with our loved ones and when we lay down precious family memories. Therefore, I believe that it is of great importance that our community continues to recognise these days and the government should continue to support the measures that contribute to striking a fair balance. For that reason, I have always supported the role that penalty rates play in striking a proper balance for people who want to spend time with their families while allowing appropriate commercial activities and amusements for those who wish to partake in them. Penalty rates, in effect, provide a kind of price signal to ensure that we do not treat Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday as just another day. They provide an incentive and reward for those who are required to work and forgo precious family time on these days and they are an additional consideration for those who wish to pursue some type of commerce on those days, to assess whether it is really necessary and desirable that they operate at all.

Members, it is important to note that over many years, the Liberal Party has tried to wind back these important working conditions and penalty rates. Prior to the 2017 election, Colin Barnett and his Liberal Party shamefully committed, if they were re-elected, to cutting penalty rates for low-paid workers in hospitality and retail. I am glad to say that they were not re-elected; instead, the people of Western Australia elected the McGowan Labor government, which had committed to maintaining, preserving and defending penalty rates and which, indeed, it has done. It is worthwhile noting that the workers who were particularly targeted by the Liberal Party policy were overwhelmingly women, many of whom were employed on insecure employment contracts and almost all of whom were earning less than the average take-home pay.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Shameful.

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: It is shameful.

The Liberal Party shamelessly called for the penalty rates of these workers to be cut, arguing that Sunday should be treated like just another day. It is little wonder that the Liberal Party has been reduced to its current state; everyday people are not fools and they will not support a party that tries to cut their take-home pay.

Mr D.J. Kelly: They'd complain if we listed Parliament to sit on a Sunday.

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: They would indeed!

I do not agree that Sunday is just another day and I do not agree that Christmas Day and Good Friday should be treated as just another day. I support this bill, but I also argue strongly that we remain committed to recognising that these are important days in our community at large, whether it is for religious observance or spending valuable time with family. Penalty rates provide the all-important balance between recognising the importance of Christmas Day, Good Friday and Sundays to many in our community, some of whom are Christian and some of whom are not, and allowing business to operate while also providing additional compensation for those who are required to work on these most precious of family days.

I note that for the penalty rates that are outlined in many awards and agreements to apply, it is essential that specific days must first be declared as public holidays. Many members of this house may not be aware that WA has among the fewest number of public holidays of any state or territory in Australia. Members may also be unaware that

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Easter Sunday is not a declared public holiday in Western Australia. This is a little-known fact, although I can assure members that for anyone who has been required to work on Easter Sunday and not received penalty rates, it is both well known and much commented on. We would all agree that Easter Sunday in particular is a day of great importance to the community and to families. Over the years, many workers have expressed to me their surprise that they could be required to work and not receive additional pay for doing so. I hope this matter will soon be rectified and that Easter Sunday will be declared a public holiday, bringing WA into line with other states and territories, much to the joy of working people and their families in our community.

The kinds of permission and permits required by the Sunday Entertainments Act are no longer appropriate for these times. It is clear that the government has provided standing approval for some time and that the idea of issuing individual approvals for specific entertainments or amusements has passed. But penalty rates remain an important part of how we strike a fair balance. In my view, it is essential that we maintain a strong safety net for working people, and it must include penalty rates for those who work on the days and religious holidays that we might normally spend with family.

I note that New South Wales repealed similar legislation in 1983, and Victoria in 1993. I am also advised that no other state in Australia has similar legislation. I think we would agree that it is time, and well due, that this matter be dealt with in Western Australia as well.

Before I conclude, I commend the public servants who worked on this legislation, particularly for their consultation with the community on this matter, which I know they undertook during the fortieth Parliament.

In conclusion, I confirm that I support this repeal bill. I agree that the time has long passed since we needed the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979. It reflects a different age, when Sundays, Christmas and Easter were considered to be of particular religious importance. For those reasons, I commend this bill to the house.

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [10.32 am]: Acting Speaker (Mrs L.A. Munday), I congratulate you on your appointment as an Acting Speaker. I think this is the first time I have stood in front of you in this new Parliament. I would also like to congratulate the member for Mirrabooka for her very compelling contribution. I agree wholeheartedly with her sentiments; I think she hit all the points perfectly. I fear that I will be a pale imitation in following her, but I will give it my absolute best!

I obviously stand in this place to support the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. The main purpose of this bill is to preserve the sanctity of days that are usually set aside for religious observance by Christians. Being a Christian myself, I thought that made sense and I can understand why it was done in the past. I wanted to look into it because I am very aware that we need to acknowledge the growing multiculturalism that is occurring not so much in my electorate but across Western Australia. I found out how many people in Western Australia identify as Christian. Using the profile.id 2016 data, I found that only 49.8 per cent of the 2.4 million people in Western Australia identify as Christian. That may seem like a lot of people but we still need to acknowledge that half of our population—or 0.2 per cent over half—do not identify as Christian. Interestingly and significantly, 32.8 per cent state that they have no religion. I admit that it seems archaic for us to tie a piece of legislation to a Christian observance. I understand why it was done. I understand that observing religion on Sundays is very important to lots of Catholics like me. I choose to send my children to a Catholic school—in fact, I am very much looking forward to my daughter being confirmed in a couple of weeks—but I do not feel that this Parliament should be imposing Catholic or Christian views on our entire population when over half of them are not Christian.

I have the great privilege and joy of being married to a Macedonian, who observes Macedonian Orthodox traditions. That means that my children enjoy having two Easters and two Christmases because Macedonian Orthodox people always celebrate Christmas on 7 January and Easter moves around much like the Catholic Easter; sometimes it falls on the same day and sometimes it falls a couple of weeks later. It means that my children get extra family time, going around to Baba and Dedo's house—their grandparents' house—to partake in a feast, a celebration. Unfortunately for them, we do not give two lots of Christmas presents, much to their disgust, and we sometimes do not give two lots of Easter eggs; it depends how close the two Easters fall. This demonstrates the fact that we are not a society of one single religion. Even within that band of Christianity, a number of different religions deviate from what was the norm back in 1902, when the legislation originally came in, and 1979, when the Sunday Entertainments Act was introduced.

I firmly believe that, in practice, this act is not needed now. It is no longer relevant because successive governments have given standing permits and exemptions to businesses to be able to trade and for sporting events to be able to be held on these days. For me, it is just regulatory process for regulatory process's sake. As a government that is looking to slash red tape to make it easier for businesses to conduct business, I commend the Minister for Transport; Planning for the reforms that were put through last year to make it easier for businesses to conduct business. For example, the "change of use" reforms meant that businesses did not constantly come up against red tape.

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This legislation is another step in the right direction. It acknowledges that we do not have to be over regulatory to have a good working society. The McGowan government's commitment to slashing red tape is really important as we move forward and as we move out of the COVID-19 pandemic, looking after small businesses, in particular mum-and-dad businesses, and people like me. I used to own a party hire business in Osborne Park. It is really hard being a small business person. It is time consuming—in fact, it is all consuming—because we do not operate between nine and five; we operate between nine and five to the public and then we work after hours doing the books, getting permits and making sure that all the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted. If we can make any small change for those small businesses, those small mum-and-dad businesses, and say, "You do not need to do this", that is good. For example, a lot of people think cinemas are big businesses. Having the Warwick cinemas in my electorate, I know for a fact—I talk to the owners—that they are not big businesses; they are family businesses. They employ a lot of casual and part-time people, but the businesses are run by small family groups. If we can cut any of that red tape for them, that is entirely important.

I agree with the member for Mirrabooka that we need to ensure that in doing so, we also acknowledge that penalty rates should be paid for the workers in these businesses. We need to ensure that all people in our community benefit from the changes we make to legislation, not just a small percentage of our community. I also agree with her that Sundays are traditionally seen as family time. Regardless of whether someone observes their religion on a Sunday, a majority of families still try to gain some family time. As a society that works incredibly hard—a lot of us work more than our standard 38 hours a week—quarantining some of that Sunday time to be with family is very important. That does not necessarily mean just sitting at home with family. It can mean partaking in entertainment with family or watching sport with family.

My family sponsors the Warwick Senators. When they have Sunday games, which usually start at noon, the kids love it because they can come along to the games with my husband and I to watch the Senators play. When they are playing in the evenings, they do not finish until nine o'clock and my five-year-old does not cope very well with it! For our family, being able to attend the basketball game—which is a ticketed, paid event just like other sporting events such as cricket, tennis and football—to see those women and men on the court on a Sunday, is something that my kids and my husband and I really look forward to. This repeal bill will address some issues by allowing us to do those things on a Sunday. People want family time; sometimes they want to take their kids out for a treat. People want to take their kids to the movies or to sport, and people with younger kids in particular want to take them to play centres, which will be captured under this legislation as well. I have a five-year-old child, but having had two kids go through that really young stage when play centres were the thing to go to, I know that this legislation is really important.

I would like to go back to penalty rates and what the member for Mirrabooka was talking about. I have been a small business owner. We did not open on a Sunday, but we made the conscious decision that the staff who worked Monday to Friday were paid a certain rate and the staff who just worked a Saturday were paid at an additional rate. As a small family business, we acknowledged that in coming to work for us on a Saturday, those people were not with their families. We employed a lot of teenage girls between the ages of 16 and 19 to work in the shop for us. Actually, we employed girls and boys—we had quite a few boys come through the shop as well. They had been at school or university all week. Although they may have felt as though they did not need to see their parents at the time, we understood that in working for us on a Saturday, they were sacrificing time to enrich those bonds that they had with their parents or siblings. We paid accordingly. I know that others do not do that—there are lots of others who do not—but we felt as a family business that we needed to ensure that when we took people away from their families, we were compensating them appropriately. It is really important to acknowledge that although we do not think the Sunday Entertainments Act is relevant any more, we will protect penalty rates for those who work on a Sunday.

I have been a casual worker. I have worked in supermarkets and restaurants. I have worked in all those places that stay open on a Sunday. It does make a difference to what a person takes home in a week. If a person chooses to work on a Sunday and is paid penalty rates, it makes a difference. Sometimes it is the difference between—especially for someone who lives on their own and is not that great at cooking—whether someone eats baked beans for dinner or whether they have something a bit nicer, or whether they put food on the table at all. Sometimes penalty rates make all the difference between feeding a family and not. It is really important to acknowledge, in moving forward with this bill, that we are saying that the Sunday Entertainments Act is not required but that we will protect our penalty rates moving forward.

I would like to commend this bill to the house. I thank the minister for bringing this bill to the house. It is a sign of our times that we are acknowledging that we are a multicultural society and that we are embracing that multicultural society and not saying that Christian or Catholic traditions are the only things that we recognise. It is important that we do not link our legislation to specific religious observance.

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MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills — Parliamentary Secretary) [10.45 am]: I rise to speak to the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. It might surprise some of my constituents to know that the law as it currently stands restricts public entertainments on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday. Section 3 of the act provides —

- (1) Subject to this section, a person who, except with statutory authority —
 - (a) knowingly keeps, opens or uses any place or any part thereof for public entertainment or amusement on any Sunday or on Christmas Day or Good Friday in any year and to which persons are admitted by payment of money, or by tickets, programmes, objects or tokens sold for money, or in which, or in respect of which, a charge is made for seats, or a collection of money is made; or
 - (b) being the owner of any place ...

A person who enables any of those things is guilty of an offence. I do not know that many people in Swan Hills would be aware of that. Turning up to a local football field or clubrooms, people often pay a gold coin donation for a program for the football, or whatever sport they happen to be going along to watch, and at the moment it is an offence to enable that, at least. Obviously, there is a provision that clubs and event holders can apply for an exemption. I understand that an exemption is always given. Nonetheless, there is this red tape that sits there. I was looking through the history of this. It stems from the Sunday Observance Act 1780. This is a British statute before Australia had even been settled! It was certainly from a long time before Perth had been founded. It has been carried over to this day. It is long overdue that this particular statute be repealed.

I understand that this is the third Parliament into which this bill has been brought. Two Parliaments have had a crack at repealing the act and have not managed to do it. It reflects the fact, as other speakers have noticed, that society has rolled on: how we come together is different; the way we celebrate is different; and whom and how we worship, if we worship at all, is completely different. It is my sincere hope that we will be able to repeal this act.

I have been giving a lot of thought to what we do with our weekends. One of the most contentious aspects of this bill over time—not just here in Western Australia but in other places as well—is whether AFL games should be played on Good Friday. That has been a very contentious issue. I fail to understand why. I decided, with the time I have available today, to reflect on the importance of community sport and why it is so important that the facilities we have across the state are able to have public entertainment on Sundays and Christmas Day and Good Friday, if they so choose. Community sport is vital to enabling friendships, helping people keep fit and creating that sense of community. It is not just the sporting events that are held; it is all the fundraisers, the drinks that people go out for, and the family days—the picnics and the barbecues—all around sporting groups. It is not just to the benefit of the players of the sport. It is for the benefit of the volunteers who support that: the coaches; the mums who turn up; the volunteer officials; and the umpires, even though everyone often gives the umpires a tune-up!

All these people come together in ways that are so different from 1780, when a piece of legislation like this was first introduced in the United Kingdom. This came home to me particularly in the wake of the Wooroloo fires. The Wooroloo fires affected my entire electorate. We are very aware that homes were lost in Wooroloo and Gidgegannup, and my heart breaks for those communities, but there was barely a community in my electorate that was untouched. People were evacuated from Chidlow, Mt Helena, Brigadoon, Bullsbrook, Upper Swan, the Vines, Swan Valley, Morangup, Aveley and Ellenbrook. Everybody was either evacuated or put on red alert. That is a 1 400–square kilometre electorate. When the potential pathways of the fire were traced, everybody was required to either evacuate or be placed on standby. Tragically, Wooroloo and Gidgegannup bore the brunt of the fires, but I found it remarkable that in the immediate wake of those fires people, particularly the folk in Ellenbrook, looked up into the hills, saw what the community was going through and decided to do something about it.

Not long at all after the fires, our local community radio station, VCA 88.5FM, an absolutely fantastic community station, got involved. It has a sporting program on Wednesday evenings called *In the Sheds*, with “Alby”, “Brucey”, “Donny” and “Greeny”. They pitch themselves as “local sport by local idiots”, and they are good. They are genuinely funny. It can be a bit random at times—you have to strap yourself in for some of the commentary—but it is hilarious. They are great—great guys! The program focuses on all our local sporting teams—what is going on in our local sporting community. The guys came to see me and said that they were sitting around having a few beers with some of the captains of the local cricket clubs and they decided they would like to schedule a charity cricket match because they would love to raise money for the folk in the hills who were going through such hardship and asked whether I would help them. Of course, I did as much as I could, but it was very little in the scheme of things.

I want to take my hat off to those guys and the clubs involved, the Ellenbrook Rangers Cricket Club and the Swan Valley Cricket Club. They were the feature clubs. They had kids’, women’s and seniors’ games—three games. It absolutely bucketed with rain. It had been beautiful weather on the weekends either side, but in the lead-up, the forecast just got worse and worse. I do not know whether the kids got 10 minutes out on the pitch. They were like drowned rats! Afterwards, they went into the clubrooms saturated. Nonetheless, the clubs all got on with it and all

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went out there. Despite the torrential rain, the turnout from the community was absolutely remarkable. The event was held at the Ellenbrook District Open Space. A whole heap of local businesses turned out. Food vans turned out and there was face painting—you name it. There were little side events. VCA 88.5FM set itself up under the verandah and live streamed the event and provided us all with music and entertainment. The Premier came, and that was quite an experience for me, because he was absolutely mobbed. It was really quite remarkable. He was interviewed live on 88.5. He took the time to meet each of the clubs. He went out to the centre of the ground. The women's teams were playing at that stage and he went and said hello to the women players. It was absolutely fantastic. Despite the torrential rain, it was an absolutely fantastic community event. At that community event the Premier signed a cricket bat, which was auctioned off. That single autographed cricket bat raised thousands of dollars. It was absolutely crazy. I loved seeing the McGowan phenomenon at work at the Ellenbrook District Open Space.

Despite the torrential rain, that single event raised over \$29 000 for my community. I just want to say how truly grateful I am to all the people who were involved in organising that event and participating in it. With your indulgence, Acting Speaker, I want to acknowledge the businesses, the clubs and the community members who were donors to the event and supported it. I want to give a shout-out. I acknowledge radio VCA 88.5FM, obviously; Ellenbrook Rangers Cricket Club; Ellenbrook Eels Football Club; Ellenbrook Dockers Junior Football Club; Swan Valley Cricket Club; Swan Valley Community and Sporting Club; Swan Athletic—Caversham Cricket Club; Midland Guildford Junior Cricket Association; Upper Swan Junior Football Club; Western Australian Cricket Association; Perth Scorchers; Ellenbrook Returned Services League; Ellenbrook Lions Club; City of Swan; Josh McGuire, who gave us an absolutely beautiful welcome to country, as they always are, so thank you, Josh, it was gorgeous; Jessica Batton, our face painter; and Bernie and friends, who did our bake sale that raised quite a bit of money. Music was provided by Tim and Sage The Duo and Less than Zer0. I also acknowledge the West Australian Football Commission, Swan Districts Football Club, East Perth Royals Football Club, West Swan Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and Perth Party Animals. They were all the community groups that came together.

I also acknowledge the incredible generosity of businesses. We really need to acknowledge the local businesses, because they support our sporting groups, our P&Cs and all sorts of community associations. The ones that came behind this event were the Local Loan Company; MCC Custom Concrete; Renteca Expert Equipment Solutions; Westcourt Family Business Accountants; Kevrek Pty Ltd; Aaron Diss Designs; BWS Ellenbrook; Wayan's Kitchen; Shiraz Soft Serve; Hot Jam Donuts; Harry and the Boys; Bake King; Total Work Wear, Midland; Williams Meats; and Proform Productions Pty Ltd. We can see why this was so successful.

A whole heap of other businesses also donated raffle items. We have a lot of breweries and wineries in our electorate—I just want to put it out there!—and they were extraordinarily generous. I think our clubs are still enjoying the generosity of our local breweries and wineries. The donations were astonishing, including cases of fine Swan Valley wines and beers. I thank Feral Brewery; Mash Brewery; the Henley Brook; Yahava KoffeeWorks; Ugly Duckling Wines; Olive Farm Wines; John Kosovich Wines; Ellenbrook Central, and that is Vicinity Centres, which runs our local shopping centre; Slater Gartrell Sports, Midland, a big provider of sporting equipment in my community; Soak and Soothe; Swan Valley Cuddly Animal Farm; Lot Six Zero, Aveley—I have to give a shout-out to their coffee, as it keeps me going; Woolworths, Mundaring; Laneway Seven, another fantastic small coffee business on Main Street in Ellenbrook; Coles, Midland; Officeworks, Midland; Repco, Mundaring; Perth Hills Barber—I do not go near there too often!; Bike Force, Ellenbrook; Caffeinated; the Vines Resort and Keishi Spa; Aura Hair Salon; Harris Organic Wines; Resin Treasures by Sharee; and Casting Keepsakes Perth.

Then there were some other donations made by CJD Equipment, Manufacturers Agency, Precision Carpets, Perth Glory, Perth Wildcats, West Coast Eagles, Melbourne Football Club, Manildra Flour, Kewdale Tavern, Aussie Floorcovering Distributors, Kevmor Trade Supplies, Badge Partners in Construction and St Vincent De Paul church.

That one event alone, that one activity that goes on in sporting and community groups, that can provide entertainment on Sundays brought together so many disparate businesses and groups and allowed us all to come together and demonstrate so much generosity. I know that is deeply appreciated by my electorate and by the people in Wooroloo and Gidgegannup. I want to say how wonderful it is and what a great community Ellenbrook is. When the chips are down, we come together and support our friends.

It is not just the sporting groups in Ellenbrook; the Hills Football Association has been incredible. Just recently, in round 7, on 22 May, there was a bit of a grudge match between the Gidgegannup Bulldogs and Mt Helena. It became a big community event. It was sponsored by BlazeAid, and it brought all the folk of Gidgegannup together at the Gidgegannup Recreation Club. Again, it is another sporting activity that goes on at a premises for which a charge is levied, which, were it not for the repeal of this act, would be an offence. We had round 7 there. It was an absolutely fantastic event held at the Gidge recreation club. Again, that is another owner and operator of a premises that provides stuff on Sundays.

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The Gidge rec club is home to basketball, cricket, football and netball teams, but it has created that space for many social events. I want to give a shout-out to Paul Carroll, the president, and Carey Stewart, the secretary, for the great work that they have been doing at the Gidgegannup club. I will come to the Wooroloo fires in a moment, but even before that, they turned the Gidge rec club facility into the heart of Gidgegannup. There was so much great stuff going on there. I want to thank them for what they do. When tragedy struck, they turned that rec club facility into a place that people could go to for help. All sorts of service providers were based out of the Gidgegannup Recreation Club. People could go there and get the assistance they needed. It was absolutely fantastic. That venue is now available for all sorts of functions and special occasions. It holds quiz nights and swap meets; people can even hire it for their wedding if they are so inclined. It is in a beautiful spot. Someone standing in the clubrooms can look out over the oval and across the hills. It is really an amazing place. The Hills Football Association has been absolutely incredible. In times of need, when our communities have been tragically affected by these events that have really shaken the people of Swan Hills, our sporting clubs have come together, and we have to do everything we can to support them.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J.J. SHAW: Of course, I have spoken today about the incredible impact that the Wooroloo bushfires had on the community of Swan Hills and the way that our sporting clubs came together. Our sporting groups also really come through in instances of great personal tragedy and show what an incredible force for good they can be and the true value they offer our community. I have spoken to the club president of the Ellenbrook Rabbitohs Rugby League Club and sought her permission to read her words into *Hansard*. Members may be aware that in September of last year, Wiremu Kahui from the Ellenbrook Rabbitohs, a father of four, died following a tragic on-field accident. It was absolutely tragic and it reverberated right the way through Ellenbrook. He was a really upstanding man and the heart of the club. To me, it showed the value that one person can bring when they choose to contribute to a club or a sporting association, but then, when tragedy strikes a person or family, how a club can simultaneously come around that person or family and provide them with support. I want to put on record the words expressed by Karyssa Morrell, the club president, because they give us a sense of just how incredible our clubs can be. As I say, I have Karyssa's permission to quote these words —

As I write this, my heart is heavy.

The passing of our beloved brother and friend, Wiremu Kahui, is hard to digest.

Wiremu and his family have been pivotal in our clubs growth since it's inception. Managing, coaching and playing within our juniors, involved in senior leadership groups, and most recently taking on Vice Captaincy of our Val Murphy boys.

Our Mu was a born leader, a role model, passionate about our family, our club and our game.

This year alone, he took on two junior teams to make sure the kids didn't miss out. He represented our club in media campaigns to promote the game coming back since covid hit. He was at our club training, coaching and playing pretty much every day of the week! His commitment and efforts had to be honoured and acknowledged, and it meant a lot to still present his family with the ERRLC Mod Coach of the Year Award for 2020.

I was there for the presentation of that award. It was really quite an emotional event.

He fought hard and while this news will have a significant impact on his family, our members and the wider rugby league community, please know Mu will be with us in our hearts forever.

I will always be grateful for his many contributions to our club and I feel honoured to have even known him.

Wiremu is a true legend!

To our sister Haylee, the boys, and extended family, we will all continue to be here to support you in whatever way we can, always!

Sending all our love and strength!!

The support and love shown to Mu's family to date, from the rugby league community is amazing and truly appreciated.

During this time, we all need each other more than ever. Let's stay united and keep our integrity strong, check in on your loved ones, and know our doors are always open!!

Rest in Love Mu

Much love family

Aunty K

Club President

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If that is not testament to the value that our sporting groups bring to our communities, I do not know what is. That is why I think it is important to put that on the record; as we discuss the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021 and consider the different ways that our communities now come together to support one another, to me, that is a fine case study.

I have had my own personal experience of this. At the time my dad passed away, my family were very involved with the Chidlow Cougars in the Hills Football Association. My dad died very suddenly, and the Chidlow Cougars came round and supported my family in a way I could never have imagined. I am personally eternally grateful. I just cannot overstate how important I think our sporting and community groups are.

The lesson in this is that we have all done it tough. We have all had to go through the COVID pandemic. My electorate has been through a fire incident that has affected my entire community, and every one of us will at some point endure personal tragedy. Through all this, I have observed and personally experienced friendship and support through local sporting teams, and I cannot tell you how grateful I am to them.

I want to thank all our supporters, players, volunteers, the mums in the canteen, our umpires—even though we may not always agree with them—and our club office bearers. Every day of the week it seems I get an email or a phone call from a club office bearer asking for some help to achieve their community objectives. I am so proud to continue to do that and I want the people of Swan Hills to know that every day I am in this place I will continue to do that for them because I value the work that they do. Frankly, I welcome any legislative reform that is going to make it easier for our fantastic sporting and community groups to come together on any day of the year, in any form that they choose, and I commend the bill to the house.

MR Y. MUBARAKAI (Jandakot — Parliamentary Secretary) [11.06 am]: Madam Acting Speaker (Ms A.E. Kent), thank you for the opportunity to speak on the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. I pass many congratulations to you on your appointment to the position of Acting Speaker.

I would like to start by commending the Minister for Commerce, Minister Sanderson, for bringing this repeal bill to Parliament. May I say that there is a clear sigh of relief from members who have spoken before me in the debate on this bill—a relief that its importance has been understood. I congratulate the minister on her appointment as the Minister for Commerce and on making one of the most pragmatic decisions in providing this huge relief. This should have been done by previous governments, but we are dealing with it today. Nevertheless, I thank the minister and her team for again proving to this Parliament and the people of Western Australia the importance of the McGowan government's agenda in streamlining, centralising and decluttering the bureaucratic processes for the business sector and the small business sector, especially the entertainment sector. As Western Australians, our community is full of life and engagement. We love our entertainment and our time spent with families and friends in gatherings at which we get to socialise and share how close we are as a community and share our culture of sports and other entertainment.

Western Australia is uniquely placed. Over the last year, since the pandemic began, we have all seen many changes take place in how we live our lives. These are strange times and we have learnt a lot. We cannot take things for granted. I say that and I mean it, because life was as normal as it could have been with the routine of day-to-day transactions taking place until we got hit with the threat of a situation that none of us in this generation or even in the last century have ever experienced. To then come across the leadership and the team of Premier, Mark McGowan, and Deputy Premier, Roger Cook, in handling the COVID-19 pandemic that was a huge threat to our state, our community, our people, our country and the world, goes to show how fortunate Western Australians have been in the last year having good governance and good government, with the primary focus of keeping the Western Australian community and its people safe and strong. As a collective, we have found ourselves in a safer place.

Families from small business in particular have been affected by this regulation that is completely outdated, not only from a time perspective and where society is today, but also in the way it impacts our communities and the overall aspects of governance. The minister's decision to repeal the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979 is commendable. I am glad to support the views of the other speakers who have stood before me and outlined their clear perspectives and I commend the minister's intentions in introducing the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021 to the house. Every aspect of the legislation is onerous on not only businesses and their resources, but also the departments that have to comply with this outdated legislation. This bill will provide for simplistic decisions and take away that administrative burden and demand on resources for governments going forward. The decision to introduce this bill to the house to repeal this extraordinarily outdated legislation is a smart one.

As people in this house know, I am equally passionate about small business. I come from a small business. My experience in small business has allowed me to understand quite clearly how this bill will make the running of small businesses more streamlined, particularly for sporting arenas, such as ice skating arenas, Adventure World, which is in the electorate of Cockburn, where I have raised my family for the last 15 years, and movie cinemas. Over the years, these small businesses have had to comply with regulations, fill out paperwork and pay fees and charges, which is so unnecessary when we can pursue avenues to help them, such as the introduction of this bill.

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Our society has changed in many different ways, including the modernisation of its ways of socialising and engaging. People expect their Sundays, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day and Good Friday to be days of celebration, not just from a religious perspective, but for families to entertain and celebrate their daily lives. My electorate of Jandakot is a mixture of old and new suburbs, in particular Piara Waters and Harrisdale, that have seen staggering growth in the last seven or eight years of between 14 to 18 per cent, year on year, of families moving into those areas. It just goes to show how diverse my electorate is, with families with young children, aspirational families, that want to live in an area and a state that is vibrant and has good quality education and public schools, good infrastructure and good public transport. These families will benefit a great deal by having this act repealed. They will then have the privilege of attending their local Australian Rules football games and support the fundraising that can take place. These fundraising opportunities allow the social clubs and footy clubs in our community to sustain their level of support at the grassroots level.

I would like to reiterate to the house that the repealing of this act is consistent with a great line of policies that have been introduced by the McGowan government, and led by the Premier back when he was the minister involved in the reforms to small bar licences. Today, this bill forms part of the relevant changes that Labor has brought into this house that will make things easier not only from a legislative perspective, but also in how the legislation impacts organisations. All the states and jurisdictions in Australia have managed to repeal their equivalent legislation. I am glad to see that this bill has now been presented to the forty-first Parliament in Western Australia and that we fully support the changes recommended by the minister. The bill is clear in its intent. On behalf of the members of my electorate, I commend the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021 and I congratulate and support the minister's vision in introducing this bill to the house. I thank the minister very much and I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words. Thank you.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [11.17 am]: I will make a very brief contribution to the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. I was the spokesperson for the Nationals WA on the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2019 in the previous Parliament. We supported it then and we support it now. This is a commonsense bill that will repeal an act that was created 42 years ago in 1979. I am certainly glad to see the current government progress it. I want to make the point that everyone supported this legislation in the last term of government. It was ranked sixteenth on the priority list when it went across to the other house. I would have thought this was one bill that could have actually made it through with very little fuss in the previous Parliament. We know that the Liberals and the Nationals in the upper house were very happy to do any extra time necessary to look at any priority bills, but, lo and behold, this bill was ranked sixteenth on the priority list. Once again, I am very disappointed that the bill did not get through and, quite frankly, that we are here discussing it again.

Mr R.S. Love: Mismanagement of its time by the government.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes. Unfortunately, it appears that there will be a number of bills —

Mr D.J. Kelly: It's a good example of why we need reform of the upper house.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: We will talk about reform of the upper house at another time. I certainly look forward to seeing whether any regional members of the Labor Party, such as the member for Warren–Blackwood over there, want to talk about reform of the upper house and will vote to have less regional representation in the upper house. An interesting question for the country members of the Labor Party will be whether they will vote for less regional representation. That is a discussion for another day. I am certainly very curious about the scenario that the Premier and the Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs have put their regional members into. They have put them in a vice. The Labor members of the Legislative Council will have to vote themselves out of a job, theoretically, if they want to toe the party line, member for Moore. I am certainly concerned. As I said, I was not the one who introduced this topic, but I am always happy to talk about it, because I certainly know that National Party members represent their regional constituents very well. They travel far and wide and do their best to look after their regional constituents.

To go back to the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill, Minister for Commerce, I am certainly very comfortable to support it once again. As I said last time, this is one of the many bills that the Attorney General introduced when he was the Minister for Commerce. The Attorney General has introduced something in the order of 57 bills. This was certainly one of them, and one that should have gone on.

I heard the member for Swan Hills talk about all those events that take place in her electorate on a Sunday. Many other members have spoken about that as well. On a Sunday in my electorate of Roe, the games of four different football leagues take place. We have the Upper Great Southern Football League. We have the Esperance District Football Association, which is very important to that community. We have the Lower South West Football League, which takes in Kojonup in my electorate and extends through to the electorate of the member for Warren–Blackwood and other electorates. That is an important one. We also have the Ongerup Football Association, which covers

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Newdegate, Lake Grace, Jerramungup, Gnowangerup and a couple of other towns. That emphasises to me the importance of the local football leagues to our regional fabric, if you like, and to our communities.

The other thing that we need to take into account is the way society has changed since 1979. Referring to the previous debate in *Hansard*, much mention was made of the former member for Hillarys, who was the lead speaker for the Liberal Party on this bill, who talked about how things have changed since those times and how things like Australian Football League matches and test cricket are, I guess, now part of the fabric of our society. The member for Moore spoke about how there were 40 000 people at an Eagles football match on a Good Friday. Obviously, we know that there is concern from a variety of people about holding sporting events on Good Friday. But when we can get 40 000 people to a football game on Good Friday, there is obviously a section of the community that is very comfortable with going to those types of events.

While I am speaking about football matches, I must mention, of course, the Dreamtime match that will take place this weekend on Saturday. It is a credit to the AFL supporters in Western Australia that this match between Essendon and Richmond has been sold out. That gives some perspective about the importance of some of these events.

Ms S.F. McGurk: What about the derby on Monday?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The derby on Monday, yes. I am sure that as the local member, the minister will be down there supporting South Fremantle Football Club.

Ms S.F. McGurk: I will, but they're going to win, so it doesn't matter.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Hopefully that is the case. I think South Fremantle is looking pretty good this year. I know there are some members on the minister's side who are strong supporters of South Fremantle, along with me, of course, so let us hope for the best at the derby on Monday.

A few other references were made in the previous round of this debate. The now Minister for Sport and Recreation recounted his days back at Kelmscott Football Club and his memories of sport on Sundays. The member for Moore also recounted many of his memories from the pub scene back in 1979 and what used to go on in those times. It really comes down to the fact that this is a 42-year-old act. From my perspective, any cutting of red tape is a good thing. One thing that I look forward to this government doing in the years ahead is taking the opportunity to minimise red tape. All of us, whether it be trying to get a road verge cleared or whatever it might be, always seem to be running up against red tape in this world these days. This bill will reduce red tape. There will be no need for a minister to grant a permanent exemption for a Sunday or a short-term exemption for a Good Friday. As I said, I am a strong supporter of this legislation. I am sure it will go through without too much trouble. I will end my contribution there.

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Parliamentary Secretary) [11.28 am]: I want to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. I reckon that if we were to ask most Western Australians, they would not know that the Sunday Entertainments Act exists. Given the number of exemptions that have been given since 1979 for various activities on Sundays and the other days designated in the legislation, most Western Australians would take it for granted that those things are allowed on those days. We have heard from members today that lots of community organisations and groups regularly hold events on those days, whether it be football, cricket or other sporting events, big and small, around the state. In my electorate, there are some smaller sporting clubs. There are also a couple of bowling clubs—Osborne Park Bowling Club and Stirling Bowling Club. I also have a large number of ethnic clubs in my electorate, which regularly hold some sort of event on those days. I am talking about the Vasto Club, Sicilian Club, Illinden Macedonian Cultural Centre, Chung Wah Cultural Centre, Tuscany Association WA and Stirling Adriatic Centre. I was curious about what happened in 1979 for the minister to restrict events on those days. About half an hour ago, I went to the corridor out the back and researched it the oldschool way—through the index of *Hansard*. If the staff from my electorate office are watching, I do make fun of them for not being able to print on A4-size paper, so they will be very pleased to know that I have also managed to print this on A3-size! I was sitting cross-legged on the floor just outside the chamber, printing off *Hansard* and having a look at what happened in April and August 1979 when the Sunday Entertainments Bill passed in this house. I note that it passed on 9 August 1979, which was about five months before I was born!

Mr D.J. Kelly: Have you got the proposal for the Fremantle train lines?

Mr D.R. MICHAEL: No; it was during the Court government, so the train line would have been closed by then. I will talk about football in a second, but, interestingly, special trains were put on for big matches at Claremont Oval between South Fremantle and Claremont. Those were the only trains that came back on the railway line under the Sir Charles Court government, because we know that the Liberal Party hates public transport!

I had a look at the second reading debate of the Sunday Entertainments Bill 1979. Hon Des O'Neil was the chief secretary and I think he was the Deputy Premier at the time as well. He noted —

The practice of placing some restraint on public entertainment on those days identified with religious observance is, of course, not peculiar to Western Australia.

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Mr Tonkin interjected —

What about Seventh Day Adventists? What do you have against them?

I will get to that in a second. Mr O’Neil continued —

I support the view that this practice should continue, and that regard should be had for the preservation of good order, decency, and the avoidance of nuisance. Having said this, I am also mindful of a gradual change in social attitudes, and the fact that in other States and countries a less restrictive attitude has been adopted without causing offence.

As the member for Roe said, here we are 42 years later—which gives members my age—and we are now looking at this legislation.

Mr O’Neil also noted —

The Bill now presented is not a prescription for radical change.

Obviously, from what I just read, this bill took a provision out of the then Police Act 1892, where it had sat for many, many decades. At the time, Mr Tonkin asked what Mr O’Neil had against Seventh Day Adventists, whose Sabbath is on Saturday. We heard from the member for Mirrabooka today that our state is a lot more diverse in religion and religious adherence than it was in 1979, especially in her electorate. The member for Mount Lawley’s electorate has a significant Jewish population, which has different adherences to religious days of the week as well. Therefore, this is a very Christian act. The member for Roe mentioned the support that this bill received in the upper house in the previous Parliament. I look forward to hearing the contributions of some of the upper house members from the member for Roe’s other alliance partner. They sometimes think they are more of an Ori Prior than a member of Parliament.

I did not have time to look at all the census records, so I went back to 1986 only, which was, obviously, seven years after this legislation was passed. In 1986, 73 per cent of people in Australia identified as Christians. In 2016, it was 52 per cent. In 1986, two per cent of people identified as an “other” religion—it is now 8.2 per cent. In 1986, 13 per cent of people identified as having no religion. That has skyrocketed to 30 per cent now. The world has changed. Our state has changed. Our country has changed since 1979.

I now turn to the contribution by Mr Barry Hodge, who was the Labor member for Melville. I presume he was speaking as the shadow minister in the second reading debate of the bill on 9 August 1979. Mr Hodge stated —

The Opposition has no objection to this Bill which we believe is a fairly minor machinery one. However, we feel the Government should undertake a fairly wide review of the parent Act rather than just tinker around with minor amendments.

I agree with the remarks made by the Chief Secretary when he introduced this Bill that a significant change has taken place in the community’s attitude to entertainment on a Sunday and like matters. In view of this changed attitude, we feel that the legislation could be reviewed thoroughly.

The review is happening 42 years later, or maybe a few years earlier, given this is the second time around in this place. But it has taken a while. Even in 1979, the members in this place recognised that the world was changing and the bill might not have been needed in this state.

The member for Jandakot said that no other states have a bill like this. Only New South Wales and Victoria had similar bills and, from memory, they were removed back in the 1980s and 1990s.

Looking at *Hansard* again, there are only four pages in the old book for the entire debate in this chamber. My speech is probably going to go longer than all that, and it will not be very long! Even the time spent was not great for this one.

A question was asked in the committee stage by the late Mr Ron Bertram, who was the member for Mount Hawthorn. Importantly, for me, he became the very well loved member for Balcatta. He asked —

Is that the Government’s intention to approve of the playing of league football matches on Sundays?

The chair at the time said that that question was out of order, but an answer was provided later. The debate continued —

Mr Jamieson: Presumably you would grant a blanket exemption to Sheffield Shield matches.

Mr O’NEIL: Yes, that is the sort of thing we have in mind. The member for Mt Hawthorn referred to the playing of league football matches on Sundays. Even currently, exemptions are granted to the performance of Australian National Football League championship matches on application from the WANFL. For example, there is to be a match played in Western Australia during the football carnival at the end of this year for which a request has been received to permit it to take place on a Sunday. However, this is not a normal Western Australian league game but a game between teams from different States.

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He went on to say —

I doubt at this stage that blanket approval will be given to the WANFL to allow it to conduct league football matches on Sundays. Several other associations play football on Sundays and they would certainly raise objections to such a proposal.

Even in that answer, the minister had moved away from the intent of the bill, which was religious observance, to being more concerned about the Sunday Football League, which, I am told, probably attracted quite a crowd at local football grounds in the late 1970s, and 1980s. The minister was more concerned about having the WAFL in competition with it. Again, the world has moved on. There are regular WAFL games. I am a member of the Claremont Football Club, and I have seen them play on a Sunday. I am a member of the Fremantle Dockers, and I have seen them play on a Sunday. I am a member of the Perth Wildcats, who regularly play on a Sunday.

Mr P.J. Rundle: The Dockers didn't play very well last Sunday.

Mr D.R. MICHAEL: I switched over to a movie at halftime!

We can see from the passage of the legislation through this house—I did not look at the upper house—that even 42 years ago the members in this place were talking about the bill being a little bit outdated. I suspect that that was one of the reasons they took the provision out of the Police Act, which took away some of the criminal activities that people could have been charged with.

In my electorate, we have movie theatres like Event Cinemas Innaloo and Grand Cinemas Warwick. I have mentioned all the ethnic clubs in my electorate, which are very multicultural in nature. They hire their halls out to other ethnic groups, so lots of events happen. All my sporting clubs meet and all the football games happen on Sundays. In terms of the other football—the round ball type—Football West games between Balcatta Football Club and the Stirling Macedonia Lions are regularly played in my electorate. They have games on Sundays. They have women's games. The community competitions happen on Sundays. No-one wants this red tape. Therefore, in my 10-minute contribution, I congratulate the Minister for Commerce for getting this bill up nice and early in this Parliament. As I said, it probably should have gone through the last Parliament, but the upper house crossbench did not want to sit the extra weeks to do some of these things. This act is overly sectarian, out of step, burdensome and archaic, so I say: good riddance to the Sunday Entertainments Act!

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Commerce) [11.39 am] — in reply: I thank members for their second reading contributions to the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. I thank the member for North West Central, the opposition's spokesperson for commerce in this place, for his support and the support of the opposition. This bill is well and truly overdue. I certainly cannot take credit for all the attempts to pass the bill, of which there have been many over the years. It has been a victim of a number of circumstances. I thank the member for Mirrabooka for her contribution. As a member for an electorate that has great diversity and some of the most multicultural groups in the country, she is well placed to speak on the very narrow focus of the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979. I think the City of Stirling is the most multicultural local government area in the country; certainly my electorate, and those of the members for Balcatta and Mirrabooka, reflect that. They also reflect the shift and change in community attitudes towards religious-based restrictions in the community. The electorate of Morley, which I represent, and probably the electorate of Balcatta, have the largest Catholic populations, if you like, of any seat, which reflects the immigration of many Macedonian, Italian, European and Vietnamese people over a number of years. Indeed, there is a large Vietnamese Catholic community, but also there are many people of Jewish, Buddhist and Islamic faith. They represent a very broad cross-section, with many people not observing any religion. It is certainly not relevant to prescribe what people do and do not do based on religious practice in Western Australia.

It is important to make the point that the repeal of this legislation does not impact trading hours. The bill is not about trading hours or what can be sold on particular days. The two areas have been somewhat conflated in the media. There is no link between the Sunday Entertainments Act and trading hours. This government does not have any aspirations to change trading hours in Western Australia, and that position is well understood. I do not think changing trading hours for two hours on a Sunday is the panacea to the economy that some people claim it is; it simply is not. There are multiple influences, which also put an unnecessary burden on workers and small family businesses, who need and deserve some respite from running a business.

I was particularly taken by the member for Mirrabooka's comment about penalty rates. She spoke at some length about that and certainly she has spent most of her career supporting working people in maintaining penalty rates. She made it very clear before the last election that the Liberals clearly wanted to reduce penalty rates, which is a particularly nasty proposition. The member was absolutely correct in her position when she outlined that it is women in low-paid jobs and those who are highly casualised who would be impacted by a reduction in penalty rates. It is a disgrace, frankly, that people think that the rates should be reduced in any way. The Legislative Council does not want to sit any more days during the week. It is a perfectly acceptable proposition for low-paid workers, particularly low-paid women, but imagine what would happen if we made the Legislative Council sit on Sundays. Aged-care and

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disability support workers rely very heavily on penalty rates. We know that the opposition certainly does not support that. Last week, the member for Moore made an extraordinary attack on aged-care workers who wanted to access their own advocates during the pandemic. He said that those aged-care workers are not entitled to speak to their representatives during a time of crisis. Aged-care workers are some of the most vulnerable workers in our community.

Ms S.F. McGurk: It was also the member for Cottesloe.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Yes, and the member for Cottesloe. Without question, aged-care workers are some of the most vulnerable workers in our community. We have seen the commonwealth's absolutely cack-handed approach to rolling out its vaccination program in aged-care facilities. It is vaccinating aged-care residents but not the workforce—what a bizarre approach! If we look at the profile of aged-care workers, we see that a lot of them are older women who are incredibly vulnerable to COVID-19 and who cannot be vaccinated under the commonwealth program. Somehow the member for Moore thinks it is completely inappropriate that they access their representatives at that time. I fundamentally disagree with that position. This government supports penalty rates and it supports recognising people for the work they do on public holidays and Sundays. It supports the existing arrangements for retail trading hours for exactly those reasons.

The member for Swan Hills talked about the impact of the act on local sporting clubs and their ability to fundraise and charge entry to local sporting events. A number of members touched on the importance of local sporting clubs in their electorates. They are an important part of the fabric of our community. They do important work in supporting the growth of women's sport, and they mentor Aboriginal people and support their participation in sport. It is always heartening to see the deep and strong connections that members of this place have with their sporting communities.

The member for Jandakot has small business experience and knows what it is like to be tied up in unnecessary red tape. The Sunday Entertainments Act is absolutely irrelevant now. I am very pleased that we are able to repeal it in this chamber at this time. It is part of a broader streamlining and red-tape reduction plan that this government has delivered and continues to deliver. I do not think that any government in recent history has done as much as the McGowan Labor government to streamline processes for larger businesses right down to small businesses. No government has done as much. In my environment portfolio, the former Minister for Environment passed amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and we are also moving to digital transformation with the digitisation of environmental approval processes, which will enable many proponents and those interested in projects to see the progress of approvals processes as they happen. That is exciting. The first tranche of planning reforms was passed in the last Parliament and involved a significant reduction in business red tape to support the economic recovery. The Minister for Planning has just announced the second tranche of that planning reform. Mining approval processes have been significantly streamlined by the department. It is important that we reduce the burden on businesses while maintaining a strong regulatory and compliance role. Red-tape reduction does not mean lower standards; it is about removing unnecessary layers. There was agreement last year at national cabinet for bilateral approvals for federal and state environmental approvals. Western Australia is well progressed to deliver those when the commonwealth finally passes its legislation, which is currently before a Senate committee.

I thank the member for Balcatta for enlightening us on the original debate of the Sunday Entertainments Act in 1979. My understanding of what happened is that the restrictions were taken out of the Police Act, which contained some heavy-handed penalties, dumped holus-bolus in the Sunday Entertainments Act and put under the commerce portfolio. They were incredibly clunky and probably should have been fine-tuned at the time. I think that was evident when serious questions were still raised in the debate.

Members will probably be horrified to learn that there has been no active noncompliance with the act. Officers of the department do not scour the streets on Sundays looking for people who have accidentally not sought an exemption. When an issue of noncompliance has come to the notice of the department, that business is notified and told that next time the owner needs to fill out an application for exemption and it will be fine.

I appreciate the member for Roe's support for the bill. He spoke about the priority that it may or may not have received in the last Parliament. The Minister for Commerce in the previous Parliament, the Attorney General, attempted to pass this legislation. I do not share the member for Roe's optimism about the bill's speedy passage through the Legislative Council. We will wait to see what occurs. Imagine how speedy its passage would be if all those candidates that the Liberal Party threw up at the election—those with very outdated views that were not in keeping with the community around the COVID conspiracy and religious observance—constituted the make-up of this Parliament. What a frightening prospect! Thankfully, the community saw exactly what was on offer from the Liberal Party at the last election and said, "No, thank you; we do not accept that. We do not accept you as our representative." By and large, they voted for good Labor candidates and good Labor members. I also hope that the bill receives speedy passage through the Legislative Council, but we will see.

The member for Balcatta outlined some attempts to enact this legislation. It was attempted a number of years ago, being included in an omnibus statutes repeal bill. It was then determined that it was not completely obsolete—that

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it was government policy. Essentially, it was excised from that omnibus statutes bill. Various attempts have been made to pass it since.

I thank members for their support of this bill and for their contributions. The act essentially serves no useful purpose whatsoever, and I look forward to its repeal.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Ms A. Sanderson (Minister for Commerce)**, and transmitted to the Council.