

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Consideration

Resumed from 26 November on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

MS E. HAMILTON (Joondalup) [3.24 pm]: It is a pleasure to rise here today to make a contribution to the Premier's Statement that was delivered at the beginning of this parliamentary year to set out our legislative agenda for the year ahead. Here we are, on potentially our final sitting day of 2019, and what a year it has been for Joondalup, where the focus has been on delivering local jobs. I am going to use my time today to reflect on the significant number of achievements that have occurred this year. I must say that it has been another very busy and positive year for the Joondalup electorate. We have continued to see significant investment from the McGowan Labor government into Joondalup and the northern corridor more widely with a number of projects progressing and being delivered.

Some of the major highlights of the year in Joondalup have been the approvals for the Ocean Reef Marina; the opening of the stroke unit at Joondalup Health Campus; the contract advertised and construction commencing on the performing arts centre at Ocean Reef Senior High School; designs being unveiled for the performing arts centre at Belridge Secondary College; and construction and early works are commencing as we speak on the Yanchep rail line extension. We have an active and engaged community and I am proud to be the local member.

I want to begin by talking about the Ocean Reef Marina. The McGowan government has invested over \$120 million to deliver this iconic project. After 30 years of discussions in the community about a potential Ocean Reef Marina, I am proud to stand here as the local member for Joondalup and part of a government that will deliver this infrastructure to our region. Over the past two years, the government has worked proactively to make this marina project to reality. We have successfully delivered a number of key approvals to take the marina project forward. These include achieving environmental approval in August from the Minister for Environment after an extensive public environmental review process, navigating the excision of the marina area through both houses of Parliament to make the development at this location possible, and the Minister for Planning approving the metropolitan region scheme amendment for the project. Just last month, a Smart Cities workshop for Ocean Reef Marina was held at the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club. A number of people with diverse skillsets came together to discuss ideas and opportunities that may be created to deliver on our vision for a world-class marina. The Treasurer; Minister for Lands, Ben Wyatt, visited the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour with me a few months ago. With all of the necessary approvals, requirements and legislation being passed, it is clear that we are on track for construction to commence next year.

This project will be a key economic driver for the region. It will become a hub of employment for northern suburbs locals, both during construction and the operation of the marina. It will be a place for people to live and for tourists and families to enjoy. A number of key stakeholders have been integral in the success we have had in bringing the Ocean Reef Marina to reality. I have mentioned them before in this house. They include the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club, with Commodore Corrie Coetzee, through its membership and marina subcommittee; the recently rebranded Marine Rescue Whitfords, formerly known as the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group, with Commander Geoff Sparrow; and the Joondalup City RSL, with president Rick Green.

This weekend, on 1 December, the newly rebranded Marine Rescue Whitfords is holding an open day onsite from 11.00 am until 3.00 pm. The group is opening its doors to enable the public to look at its operations and its new boat RV *Ken Blackie*. There will be safety talks, rescue boats to look at, tours of the radio operations, flare demonstrations, a 30-second challenge, and the old-for-new lifejacket upgrade initiative. The police helicopter will be there to look at and there will be talks by people from the Aquarium of Western Australia, and much more. Of course, rescue volunteers will be cooking the snags at the barbecue trailer. The rescue volunteers will also be there to meet and answer any questions that local residents might have about all things marine safety. I will be heading there on Sunday for a community information session. Also in attendance will be officers from DevelopmentWA, formerly known as LandCorp, who will be providing updates on the Ocean Reef Marina development.

I am sure members will recall the local good-news story in the media of a fisherman who was rescued in October this year after his boat overturned approximately two nautical miles west of Ocean Reef Boat Harbour. I want to use this opportunity to say thank you to the marine rescue volunteers who work tirelessly to keep us safe on the water and also our water police.

I now move on to healthcare infrastructure and the investment that we have seen in Joondalup. I am proud that the McGowan government is putting patients first. This year saw the opening of the stroke unit at the Joondalup Health Campus. This was a \$5 million investment for a 12-bed inpatient unit. It has been operating successfully and straightaway has begun saving lives. The success of this facility being located in Joondalup was also a culmination

of the hard work and support from Sally Allen and her team at the northern suburbs stroke support group. The McGowan government is invested in ensuring that we continue to grow health infrastructure in the northern corridor. I am excitedly awaiting the announcement, which I am sure will take place shortly, that works will be commencing on the major upgrade and expansion to the Joondalup Health Campus.

We have also seen the rollout of the general practitioner urgent care clinic pilot in Western Australia, and for Joondalup residents, these include the Belridge Medical Centre in Beldon and St John Medical in Edgewater. It is great news for the people of Joondalup that we now have two locations that they can access locally. On the first day of the pilot, I visited Belridge Medical Centre with the Minister for Health, Roger Cook. Joining us was the chief executive officer of the practice, Colin La Galia, managing director Vasantha Preetham, and practice principal Yamini Preetham. We were told of the case that had presented that morning requiring support from the urgent care team. The GP urgent care clinics are for residents requiring urgent medical care for non-life-threatening injuries, taking the pressure off the busy Joondalup Health Campus emergency department. We have an outstanding hospital in Joondalup Health Campus, but it has the second busiest emergency department in Australia, with over 100 000 presentations annually. The main driver for the impending upgrade of the emergency department is the difficulty working through those presentations and operating at the same time. As a mum, I know how important it is to have access to quality health services when they are needed, given that it is often the case that children's injuries or illnesses happen at any time of the day or night. GP urgent care clinics give us more choice, while easing the pressure on our busy hospital emergency departments. This is a win-win for all people across WA.

This year we have seen the introduction of voluntary assisted dying legislation into the Parliament. This is a significant piece of legislation that is still proceeding through the upper house. In late July, Hon Alannah MacTiernan and I hosted a northern suburbs end-of-life choices forum that saw over 340 local residents come to hear from Hon Alannah MacTiernan, member for North Metropolitan Region; the Chair of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices, the member for Morley, Amber-Jade Sanderson; the former federal Liberal member for Moore, Dr Mal Washer; and representatives from Dying with Dignity. Having surveyed, doorknocked, phone-called and spoken to the Joondalup electorate, it was clear to me that that over 80 per cent of our community supports this legislation.

During the months that the debate on voluntary assisted dying has been underway in Parliament, a number of reports have informed discussion on this very important matter. In particular, there was the report of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices, in which recommendation 7 states that the Minister for Health should facilitate the establishment of an inpatient specialist palliative care hospice providing publicly funded beds in the northern suburbs of Perth. The McGowan government has invested \$41 million into end-of-life choices and palliative care services, as a package for Western Australians, as part of the 2019–20 budget. The investment will provide extra support and enhanced community-based palliative care services across the state.

Recommendation 7 prompted me and my northern suburbs colleague the member for Wanneroo to petition for additional palliative care services to be located at Joondalup Health Campus. We know there is a need, and we know that some beds are located at Osborne Park Hospital, but otherwise residents are required to attend Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. We then saw an additional \$17.8 million invested by the government to enhance palliative care services, and \$9 million of that was allocated towards a 10-bed inpatient palliative care service in northern metropolitan suburbs. The member for Wanneroo and I tabled petitions with over 1 000 signatures in Parliament in October and presented those to the house and the Minister for Health, Roger Cook, calling for additional palliative care beds to be located at the Joondalup Health Campus. We are still also circulating a petition online if anyone is interested in signing it. As the northern suburbs continues to grow, we need to ensure that we invest in palliative care services in Joondalup. Palliative care is an essential part of end-of-life care, allowing our sickest and most vulnerable to be cared for with dignity during their final stages of life.

Slightly as an aside, but very relevant today, I am sure, and over the coming weeks, when we talk about voluntary assisted dying legislation, we need to be very clear that the majority of Western Australians support and respect an individual's choice at their end of life, when death is imminent, to choose to end their suffering and access voluntary assisted dying. We live in a democracy in which the Parliament should reach a vote on this legislation. But what we have currently is a rogue upper house member of Parliament who is continuing to defy his leader and is doing all he can to delay this law, very openly saying that no matter —

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I am just seeking your clarification, Mr Acting Speaker. My reading of the standing orders is that members cannot make a disparaging remark about someone in the other place. I could be wrong, but I am keen to get your counsel on that, if I could, please.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr R.S. Love): Member, you cannot reflect poorly on members of the other place, so I ask that you withdraw that statement.

Ms E. HAMILTON: I withdraw the statement, but continue with my comments.

Debate Resumed

Ms E. HAMILTON: The legislation is now in the upper house, and although it is important to ensure that legislation is considered and scrutinised, we need to ensure that our community conveys that these types of tactics are not what our community deserves.

This response to the Premier's Statement is the opportunity for backbenchers such as myself to reflect on the strong agenda of the government and convey what it means for the people of Joondalup. The McGowan government is committed to delivering world-class education for our kids. We have a number of fantastic primary and secondary schools in the electorate; amazing teaching, support and administration staff who are invested in their schools; and engaged parent groups. We have seen six science labs delivered into local primary schools, including Beldon Primary School, with principal Geoff Elliot; Connolly Primary School, with principal David Womersley; Beaumaris Primary School, with principal Jo Stephens; Currambine Primary School, with principal Geoff Smith, Ocean Reef Primary School, with principal Peter Blackwell; and Edgewater Primary School, with principal Kim Perkins. I am also aware that there is strong support from the local P&Cs and school boards at these primary schools, which have welcomed the strong investment. These, we hope, will ignite interest in science in WA children from a young age, and we hope that they continue that study as they move through to high school. We know that it is vital for today's students to understand the concepts taught in science, technology, engineering and mathematics for their future job prospects. The jobs of the future—I use this term often in the electorate—are going to be quite different from the traditional paths that were followed and we need to make sure our kids are ready for this.

In August this year, I had the sincere honour of congratulating local Mullaloo resident Professor Robert Newton on being awarded Scientist of the Year, alongside Professor Phil Brand, as part of the Premier's Science Awards during National Science Week. I want to sincerely congratulate Professor Robert Newton for this award. I am pleased to know we have an internationally accomplished community member of the Joondalup electorate contributing to substantial improvements in health outcomes through science, technology, engineering and mathematics. He is a role model for people considering careers in STEM.

We have also seen investment in two performing arts centres at local high schools. Construction has commenced at Ocean Reef Senior High School, where principal Karon Brookes is very excited to tell the community that the laying of the slab took place on 12 November. The new building is due to be opened in July 2020 and I am so pleased that the school is very interested in ensuring that the school community and also the wider community and local residents are able to use the new facilities. I am looking forward to getting along to a music performance, given the school has a specialist music program, once it is open. In fact, the Premier joined me and my parliamentary colleague Mark Folkard, member for Burns Beach, some time ago and we listened to a great performance by students.

The Premier visited Belridge Secondary College with me in August and we unveiled the latest designs for the performing arts centre. Due to be completed at the beginning of 2021, the centre will feature a stage, sound and lighting technology, a green room, rehearsal space and seating for 250 audience members. I know that school principal Melesha Sands, acting principal Rob Strickland and Belridge Education Support Centre principal Jenine Wall are all looking forward to construction commencing.

Most recently, we have seen the schools major maintenance blitz roll out across all government schools in WA. Joondalup schools saw around \$3.2 million rolled out for a diverse range of maintenance items and works. This investment will deliver local jobs, but, more importantly, it is a significant investment that needed to be injected into local schools. I know that school communities in my electorate welcomed the announcement and I look forward to having a look at the upgrades and works when I visit all the schools again at the beginning of term 1 in 2020.

I am also pleased to state that I am growing relationships with the private schools in the area, with Daryl Pollard, principal of Lake Joondalup Baptist College; Annette Morey, the principal of Mater Dei College; Mark Antulov, the principal of Prendiville Catholic College; and Shane Baker, the principal at St Simon Peter Catholic Primary School. I have had great feedback from parents who have children at those schools and I look forward to continuing to work with them.

The final area I wanted to speak about was the investment in the congestion-busting transport infrastructure that the McGowan government is rolling out across the state. Previously, I have spoken about Joondalup as being the second CBD of Perth and I share my vision with the McGowan government to create Joondalup coastal city. Joondalup will become the city centre of the northern corridor. Just this past weekend we saw the turning of the sod and the announcement that works are commencing on the Yanchep rail line extension as part of Metronet. We know that it is the Labor government that invests in heavy rail infrastructure—we saw it with the Mandurah rail line and we are seeing it again now with Yanchep. It is a vital Metronet project that will support growth in the northern corridor. We will see three new stations at Alkimos, Eglington and Yanchep. Thousands of jobs will be created and the early works are now underway. The Yanchep rail extension will provide a direct route to Joondalup and I look forward to continuing to watch this space grow and develop. Joondalup will benefit from the growth of

Yanchep and, with continued significant investment by the McGowan Labor government, Joondalup will have the capacity to service population growth further north.

Another recent announcement that I am very excited about in the transport space, as I am sure the Joondalup electorate is, is the widening of the Mitchell Freeway south from Hodges Drive to Hepburn Avenue. If you live in the northern suburbs, you would understand the importance of widening the freeway at this location. As a mum with school-aged kids, I know that any steps that are taken to reduce the time taken in the mornings for me to get to work only benefits the kids. It provides more time for them to be at home to get dressed, have breakfast and to get everyone out the door. It is a much-anticipated infrastructure project.

More locally, a transport project that I have been working on, after local Edgewater resident Tim Lawrence raised the matter with me on the doorstep earlier this year, is the a trial of an electric central area transit bus service in Joondalup. Mr Lawrence spoke to me about a contract that the Public Transport Authority had signed with Volvo for the delivery of 900 diesel buses into Perth's bus transport fleet over the next decade and questioned why the government was not looking to alternative technologies for the fleet.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms E. HAMILTON: I raised this with the Minister for Planning in April and was advised that the contract was signed and included provisions for the introduction of alternative powered vehicles into the public bus network when the technology supports the widespread implementation across the network. I asked the minister whether we could continue to investigate the viability of electric buses and look at starting a trial in Joondalup of an electric CAT bus service. I know that there is capacity at the Joondalup station to house a charging station and the CAT bus routes are relatively short in nature already, allowing for frequent recharging opportunities. I have a strongly held view that Joondalup can be a leader in Western Australia in the use of cleaner technologies, including for our public transport network. Therefore, I am pleased to be able to convey to the house that an electric bus trial is now being considered by the McGowan government for the Joondalup city centre. As an aside, I have also spoken with the Minister for Planning about whether it would be possible to increase the CAT bus routes in the future to extend into the Winton Road business park and perhaps, potentially, other areas. This would connect small and medium-sized businesses with residents who visit or live in the Joondalup city centre. I look forward to continuing that conversation. To date there are no plans for this service but I look forward to continuing to talk about its potential.

In terms of significant investment in infrastructure, we have seen the levelling of the former Joondalup basketball site, which is, in fact, right by my office. The McGowan government is investing in aged care and we will see this site transformed into a multigenerational development in the heart of the Joondalup CBD. Two of the three lots will be reserved for aged care, including a five-storey, 140-suite aged-care centre with respite care facilities; and 74 independent retirement living units over six storeys. The third lot will comprise 72 family apartments, 46 serviced apartments, a medical centre, hospitality and retail outlets, childcare facilities and office space.

Connect Joondalup is another significant investment that will see medium to high-density dwellings located opposite the HBF Arena and in the heart of the city centre—a good strategic location and suitable space for infrastructure and density such as this.

On other issues, small businesses have seen cuts to payroll taxes; TAFE students have seen fees slashed in 34 courses; the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has moved to Joondalup; and sporting facilities have been upgraded at the Joondalup Sports Club on the HBF Arena site. The clubs already benefiting from this are: Joondalup Netball Association, with the president Kylie Kershaw; Joondalup Brothers Rugby Union Football Club, with president Kevin Russell; Joondalup Lakers Hockey Club, with president Cameron Fellows; and Joondalup Little Athletics Centre, with president Louise Rao. I must also acknowledge the work of the former president of the little athletics club Phil Bossert. The Joondalup XTR triathlon club, with president Geoff Large, are also benefiting from the use of that site. I could go on. The year 2019 has been a positive one for Joondalup.

Very locally, and while I have some time left, I want to advise the community about a little campaign I have been on in co-creating a new Heathridge Park. A number of local sporting clubs, community groups and Heathridge residents that currently use the Heathridge Leisure Centre and clubrooms at Heathridge Park have been in contact with all levels of government for support for the redevelopment of the park. A short time ago I met Jamie and Phil from the Ocean Ridge Junior Football Club onsite to discuss the club's needs. I am aware that the current clubroom facilities are also utilised by a number of other sporting and community groups including, but not limited to, the Ocean Ridge Junior and Senior Cricket Club. There is general agreement that upgrades are needed to be looked at and completed. But we need to make sure that the redevelopment takes on a collaborative approach. The clubrooms need to be upgraded due to the growth of grassroots level sport. It is a fantastic opportunity to converse with the community about what they currently use the park for and what else they would like to see as part of a potential redevelopment. I have an online survey that can be found on my Facebook page, if there is interest in it; otherwise, people can contact my office.

I must also acknowledge the land on which Heathridge Park is situated, Mooro–Whadjuk country. It is important that we hear from Aboriginal elders and community members so we can truly co-create this space.

Every year—2019 is no exception—I think that the year has just flown by. I do need to finish where I began and acknowledge our fantastic Joondalup community.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers, whether that be a local P&C, sporting group, hospital or local charity or organisation. Thank you to those who have supported the charity events I host—Share the Dignity campaign, the Cancer Council through the Biggest Morning Tea; and those who will donate to my collection for the UnitingCare and Target Wishing Tree Appeal. Best of luck to the graduating students as they transition from primary to high school, or from high school to the next chapter of their lives. Joondalup is the perfect place to raise your family and reach your full potential. I take this opportunity to wish the Joondalup community a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. There is still more work to be done and I am looking forward to 2020 for Joondalup. Thank you for your time.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: What about the hospital?

Ms E. HAMILTON: I talked about the hospital.

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [3.47 pm]: I rise today to speak to the house in this last week of Parliament to pay my respects to both our volunteer and full-time firefighters on behalf of those in not only the electorate I represent of Murray–Wellington, but also Western Australia and Australia. Last night, we got our first taste of what is to come, with an out-of-control bushfire in Nambeelup, just north of Pinjarra, which was caused by a car that was on fire on the side of the road. Firefighters worked all night on the scene, actively fighting the fire and establishing containment lines. More than 80 career, volunteer and bush fire and emergency service and Shire of Murray firefighters attended and more than 65 hectares have been burnt. The area is currently on a watch-and-act alert as the mopping up occurs. As we finish yet another year of Parliament and are about to break for summer, we should not forget those who put their lives on the line day in and day out to protect people's lives and homes and our native flora and fauna.

The electorate of Murray–Wellington is vast, and one of the original Federation state government boundaries. Murray–Wellington includes the Shires of Murray, Waroona and Harvey. Our beautiful coast and beaches touch the west boundary of my electorate and the Darling scarp graces the east of the electorate. The people of Murray–Wellington are innovative, educated, loyal, hardworking, proud, dedicated and resilient in the face of adversity. The people of Murray–Wellington know what they want from a government. They are smart and resourceful. We know what our communities need now and in the future. We know our children are the future, and providing valuable employment opportunities across a range of fields is vital. We know initiatives that promote and support local employment creates local industry, which fosters local business growth. The Murray–Wellington constituents know that the McGowan government is delivering much-needed projects that have sat stagnant and fallen on deaf ears for many, many years. We know our children have a future with options as a result of the reductions in TAFE fees. The right to affordable and quality education in regional communities ensures we stay ahead of technologies and advances in the way we do business.

We have seen communities rebuilt after destruction and families supported after tragedy. We have grieved with parents after loss. With already an early start to the fire season, not only in Western Australia, but with the catastrophic events that have been unfolding on the east coast over the last month, it is important to remind everyone to be vigilant, to have their homes prepared and that we can always use as many volunteers as we can get. The electorate of Murray–Wellington has been devastated by fires over the last decade, most notably, the Yarloop–Waroona fires, which burnt through 70 000 hectares, burnt down 162 homes, injured dozens, killed a huge amount of livestock, burnt farming lands and, most painfully, took the lives of two people. Those two people, Malcom Taylor and Leslie Taylor, will never be forgotten. As the town of Yarloop was destroyed in what were described as apocalyptic scenes, it was feared the town would never be rebuilt and the historic town was gone in the ashes. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, seven months after the fateful events of January 2016 the town started rebuilding. Only on 22 November, Friday just gone, Premier Mark McGowan and I attended the opening of the new Yarloop Community Centre. Rebuilt from the old historic Yarloop town hall, this new community centre still has its beautiful façade. It was an honour to stand with the town of Yarloop on what would be forever remembered as a historic day for the people. That shows the true character of the people I represent in Murray–Wellington: we may be burnt down, we may lose everything, but everyone has each other's backs; everyone looks out for each other. We are a true community.

Other communities in Murray–Wellington could have suffered the same fate Yarloop suffered and destroyed the region but for the many firefighters and other emergency service personnel in the area who risked their lives and took time out of their busy schedules to help. That is why today I am going to use this privilege as the member for Murray–Wellington to thank all those firefighters and auxiliary volunteers. The electorate of Murray–Wellington I represent has 22 volunteer fire and emergency services and two state government–run fire brigades. In those services, we have around 700—I repeat and emphasise, over 700—volunteers and dedicated service people, men and women, just for fighting fires, not including other emergency services that are just as important. I have spoken to many of the captains, managers, secretaries and volunteers of these brigades and services and there is one thing

that stands out with these groups: not one person is the same. The volunteers of Murray–Wellington, like the rest of the country, consist of people of all ages, all races, both sexes and from all different socioeconomic backgrounds.

If a person has a desire to help keep our state safe and give back to their community, they should become an emergency services volunteer. Speaking to many of these people, it is not just saving lives and protecting assets that drives them; it is being part of their community, learning new skills, gaining a sense of achievement and purpose and meeting new people. They are proud to get behind the front line and keep our state safe by being a volunteer. The retired workforce who volunteer tell me how good it is to get out of the house; the younger people say it is a great social environment. All age groups say it is wonderful to learn new life skills that would otherwise never be learnt. The Roelands–Olive Hill Bush Fire Brigade has training sessions every Friday night for its 50-odd volunteers. Almost every one of its volunteers attend every session because they are so rewarding.

I want to take the time to acknowledge some great members of our community, in particular the support given to our volunteers from the CEOs and shire presidents of Murray, Waroona and Harvey. The following volunteer services play a vital role in ensuring the safety and protection of our entire community. I cannot express enough my sincere thanks for the dedication and support shown by these great men and women. We have the Australind State Emergency Service and its manager, Jessica Williams, with its 40-plus dedicated volunteers. There is the Binningup Bush Fire Volunteer Brigade and its captain, David Price, with its 25 dedicated volunteers. There is the Brunswick Junction Volunteer Fire Brigade and its captain, Francis Burgoyne, with its 37 dedicated volunteers. Francis previously served as the state president of the Western Australian Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services Association and was recently awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal on Australia Day earlier this year. Well done “Burgy”! There is the Cookernup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and its acting captain, Derek Everington, with its 30-plus volunteer firefighters. There is the Coolup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and its captain, Stuart Kirkham, with its 50-plus dedicated volunteers. There is the Dwellingup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and its captain, David Turner, with its 40-plus dedicated volunteers. There is the Eaton–Australind Fire and Rescue Services and its captain, Matthew Stoltenberg, with its 30-plus dedicated volunteers. There is the Harvey Hills Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and its captain, Doug Buist, with its 20-plus volunteers. There is the Harvey State Emergency Services and its manager, Vaughan Byrd, with its 10 dedicated volunteers. There is the Harvey Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and its captain, Scott Britza, with its 40-plus dedicated volunteers. There is the Lake Clifton Volunteer Bush Fire Service and its captain, Peter McDonald, with its 15 volunteers. There is the Leschenault Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and its captain, Mick Papalia, with its 50-plus volunteers. There is the Murray State Emergency Services and its manager, Paul Dwyer, with its 30-plus volunteers. There is the Myalup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and its captain, Brett Parkinson, with its 16 volunteers. There is the North Dandalup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and its captain, Michael Webster, with its 20-plus volunteers. There is the Pinjarra Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and its captain, Ken Jones, with its 17 volunteers. There is the Preston Beach Volunteer Bushfire Brigade and its captain, Steve Thomas, with its 20-plus dedicated volunteers—one of them being my husband, Charlie Clarke. There is the Roelands–Olive Hills Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and its captain, Wayne Senn, with its 50-plus dedicated volunteers. There is the South Yunderup–Ravenswood Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and its captain, Dean McGuinness, with its 50-plus dedicated volunteers. There is the Uduc Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and its captain, Gerry Morgan, with its 30-plus volunteers. There is the Waroona West Volunteer Fire Service and its captain, Greg Lewis, with its 30-plus volunteers. There is the Waroona Volunteer Bush Fire Service and its captain, John Twaddle, with its 30-plus volunteers. There is the West Murray Volunteers Bush Fire Brigade and its captain, Robert “Bluey” Wilson, with its 30-plus volunteers. There is the Yarloop Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and its captain, Matthew Anzellino, with its 25-plus volunteers.

Each one of these dedicated volunteer services also has a huge number of auxiliary support crews who help them behind the scenes, from radio operating to making lunches and providing support to those on the front line. Every volunteer and paid service personnel is valuable and important to us. I want to encourage those who can in Murray–Wellington to volunteer for their local brigade or community group. It is a rewarding feeling knowing they are helping those in need.

I am proud to be a part of the McGowan government that recognises what Murray–Wellington needs to move into the future. Murray–Wellington was forgotten and neglected for so long under the previous government and its representatives. In the short period I have been representing this beautiful part of Western Australia, we as a government and as a community have achieved more in this electorate for our firefighters and fire safety than previous governments, and we will continue to achieve.

The 2016 Yarloop–Waroona bushfire was one of the worst bushfires in recent history in Western Australia. The McGowan government has embarked on historic reforms to the bushfire management sector to improve the safety of our communities. The McGowan government has consulted extensively on improving the bushfire management sector, including hosting a bushfire mitigation summit, which formed a critical part of informing the McGowan government’s bushfire reforms. A bushfire mitigation forum was also held in 2018 and included discussion and

input into the design and function of the first-of-its-kind Bushfire Centre of Excellence, which will be located in Pinjarra in the electorate of Murray–Wellington.

The McGowan government came up with a bushfire risk management plan. The McGowan government has provided significant new investment to expand and make permanent the bushfire risk management planning program as part of the reforms to the state's bushfire sector announced in 2018. The \$15 million bushfire risk management planning program has been invested, with 55 local governments doing the plans, and 35 of those endorsed and eligible for mitigation activity funding to treat bushfire risk on the ground. The Shires of Murray, Waroona and Harvey within the Murray–Wellington electorate are all participating in the bushfire risk management planning program and are developing their bushfire risk management planning program plans with the support of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Once these have been endorsed by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management within the Department of Fire and Emergency Services; they will be eligible for funding for mitigation works in the near future. The McGowan government has provided unprecedented funding for mitigation works, with a record \$35 million for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to perform mitigation activities on unallocated crown land; and \$15 million for a mitigation activity fund to support local governments. Under the McGowan government's significant boost to mitigation, more than 1 000 treatments have been funded. This funding is making a real difference on the ground to help communities across Western Australia. A prepared community is a safer community. We must remember that this is new funding, and we are in the early stages. A report that came out on 26 June this year states that \$6.4 million in mitigation support reduces nearly 940 bushfire risks. The McGowan government has also provided a record \$7.3 million to combat the threat of catastrophic bushfires.

Let us talk about the Bushfire Centre of Excellence, which I am very proud to have in the electorate of Murray–Wellington. The McGowan government has committed \$18 million to the Australia-first Bushfire Centre of Excellence, to be located at the Peel Business Park, Nambelup, just outside Pinjarra. The Bushfire Centre of Excellence was announced in April 2018. The centre is about enhancing our state's bushfire capability and strengthening relationships with emergency service volunteers by facilitating greater collaboration. Approximately 14 regional jobs have been created. The Bushfire Centre of Excellence is now virtually operational and delivering training. While the facility is being constructed, Bushfire Centre of Excellence services and courses are being provided from temporary premises at the Pinjarra Heritage Railway Station. The knowledge and training acquired at the Bushfire Centre of Excellence will be taken out to the regions by volunteers, who will then teach other volunteers. This is capitalising on the wealth of knowledge and experience that volunteers possess. The approach is to harness lessons learned and promote the best from academia, science and Aboriginal traditional land practices. As a shared connection point, the Bushfire Centre of Excellence will draw on the considerable local experience of volunteers and the broader community to share skills and develop new initiatives. It is about recognising that we can all benefit from each other's knowledge and skills. The \$18 million Bushfire Centre of Excellence is just one part of the McGowan Labor government's \$128.5 million record investment towards critical fire and emergency services.

[Member's time extended.]

Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE: The McGowan government has worked tirelessly to implement the remaining and unresolved recommendations from the "Reframing Rural Fire Management: Report of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire" that were not addressed by the previous Liberal–National government. All the opportunities and recommendations are complete or progressing. The McGowan government has committed to help rebuild the historic town of Yarloop. In May last year, along with the Yarloop Community Centre, the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Fran Logan, opened the Yarloop Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade's new station, which replaces the station that was unfortunately lost in the Yarloop–Waroona Fires. This new \$900 000 facility is an important step for the Yarloop Community to continue the long process of rebuilding.

This McGowan government is committing to supporting Western Australia's emergency service volunteers and is delivering in emergency services for our communities. The new volunteer hub improves access to information and resources for emergency volunteers. Nearly 400 volunteers contributed to the development and refinement of the website. This new, user-friendly online hub was designed for and by volunteers. As the minister told the house a few weeks ago, hundreds of emergency services volunteers gathered in Perth a few weekends ago for the most comprehensive pre-season briefing that discussed the seasonal outlook and aerial capability.

Our volunteers are on high alert ahead of the bushfire season, but it up to all of us to prepare our properties and make sure that we are prepared in the event that a bushfire strikes. A few weeks ago, the government also launched the Get Behind the Frontline campaign, to encourage more volunteers. The campaign showcased that there is a role for everyone in volunteering—we do not have to be on the frontline to make a difference. The extension of the crew cab protection program has resulted in 928 firefighting appliances fitted with lifesaving equipment. Increased safety measures are the result of a \$8.732 million investment in an extra 261 appliances, on top of the previous program fit-out. The government has extended the Emergency Services Volunteer Fuel Card scheme for all brigades, groups and units, as a small token of appreciation to our volunteers, who do amazing things to protect their

communities. Under the McGowan government, Marine Rescue Western Australia, our newly-framed volunteer marine rescue group, has been provided with secure funding for the first time.

We are also investing more than \$1 million to continue the bushfire advertising campaign to encourage the community to take action and play its part in preparing for bushfire. Governments cannot stop natural disasters from occurring, and we cannot force people to take precautions, but we can ensure people have the right information to protect themselves and their communities, and that is what we are doing. Individuals must take responsibility. We cannot have fire trucks and water bombers at every corner and every house. We must all do our bit to prepare our properties ahead of this bushfire season—have a five-minute Fire Chat, create our bushfire plan, and be ready if a bushfire strikes. Although our McGowan government has spent a record amount of money on bushfire mitigation, equipment and training, I would like to see further enhancements in the area of Indigenous land and sea ranger programs. This delivered, negotiated work delivers traditional land management and conservation work with local Indigenous community members across conservation and community engagement activities.

The Murray–Wellington community has experienced firsthand the devastation caused by a bushfire. While our community continues to demonstrate strength, resilience and tenacity, I would like to support the Minister for Emergency Services' call to action. I encourage all members in this house to do everything they can to spread the message—have a five-minute Fire Chat with your family, know when to go, know where to go, and know how you will get there. A prepared community is a safer community.

I am proud of what the McGowan Labor government has achieved for Murray–Wellington. I wish everyone well over the festive season—stay safe, stay road-wise, enjoy your time with your loved ones, and re-energise for an exciting year ahead.

The SPEAKER: The question is that the Premier's Statement be noted.

Question put and passed.