

Mr Ian Blayney; Mr Peter Katsambanis; Mr Peter Rundle; Mr Donald Punch; Ms Cassandra Rowe; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Sabine Winton

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2019–20) BILL 2019
APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2019–20) BILL 2019

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR I.C. BLAYNEY (Geraldton) [7.01 pm]: I continue my remarks that were interrupted at four o'clock. I have to pick up where I was.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Where were you? Start from the start.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: I wondered whether anyone would notice if I started again, but Hansard told me that they probably would!

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Oh, Hansard, always getting in the way!

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Yes.

The other issue, of course, is the fallen 18 per cent in small businesses over the past 18 months. That is very much indicative of a domestic economy that is not yet responding to the increased investment in exploration that is starting to flow from improved commodity prices. I say one thing to the government: stop trying to tell us that the lift in investment is due to the government's genius or that the small business sector loves the government. The investment is because the figures work, because that is how it happens—nothing more, nothing less.

I will move on now to talk about my beautiful electorate of Geraldton. I am very happy to see that the budget has a number of positives for Geraldton. The former Liberal–National government established the state's second aquaculture zone at the Abrolhos Islands, following on from the one at Cone Bay in the Kimberley, so that individual projects would not have to do all the clearances themselves. The clearances are all done and the zone is established so that makes it a lot easier for new operators to come in and set up. That process has continued under the current government with granting of the site there to Huon Aquaculture from Tasmania. The next stage has commenced, with funding for a \$7 million finfish facility in Geraldton. This facility increases the state's capacity in the area and means that the young fish are split between two locations. The other location is south of Perth.

[Quorum formed.]

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Having fish on two sites means that if there is a disease outbreak in one, hopefully the other one will be unaffected. If you like, it is a security measure. We are just being careful. Aquaculture is quite a good potential job creator in Geraldton and the midwest. That is a really positive move.

I also welcome \$6 million from the state government, which was announced a while ago, to add to the \$10 million from the federal government. That is being added to some council funds to reseal and extend the runway at Geraldton airport. That is also a very positive measure. I think the resealing is about two years behind. It is being done in the nick of time.

In a similar vein, the allocation of \$10 million for visitor and operations infrastructure as part of the establishment of the Abrolhos Islands National Park is also a plus for Geraldton. This is an exciting development for the region, with this year being the 390th anniversary of the wreck of the *Batavia* in the Wallabi Group on her maiden voyage on 4 June 1629.

I am very pleased to see the re-establishment of two separate senior high schools in Geraldton. One is Champion Bay Senior High School on the former John Willcock College site, and the other is Geraldton Senior High School on the existing site.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr R.S. Love): Members, the member for Geraldton has an extremely quiet voice and I think Hansard is having a bit of trouble hearing. Could you keep your conversations down.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: It is good to see the pride in both schools and the completion of \$25 million worth of work that was spread across the two sites. The community told me that they wanted this, and it is wonderful to see the positive reaction to this change. I acknowledge and thank the former Premier, Hon Colin Barnett, and the former Minister for Education, Hon Peter Collier, for supporting me with that change. One of the hardest things I have done as the member for Geraldton was to get support for that move.

I am very pleased to see the first commitment of \$2.5 million towards expansion works at Geraldton hospital. Although this government's commitment is slightly more than half the commitment made by the former Liberal–National government, my expectation is that the expenditure will greatly improve services and working conditions at the hospital and enable St John of God Health Care to continue to run a private hospital in Geraldton. The establishment of a step-up, step-down mental health facility is also welcomed in the city, although I question it not being located near the main hospital site, as I think the step-up, step-down facility is in Albany and Joondalup. It is some distance away from Geraldton hospital. As it will be placed at the location of the former sobering-up

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centre, that puts a final nail in the coffin for our chances of re-opening the sobering-up centre. I will talk about that in a little while.

The budget also contains \$11 million for works to Greenough Regional Prison. The prison was extensively damaged by a riot last year. The report into the riot is quite short; it is only about 70 pages. If anyone is interested in what happened and why, it is an interesting report to read. It makes it quite clear that budgetary restraints led to increasing lockdowns of prisoners and fewer educational opportunities. As prisoners had to be locked down, the people who were supposed to be doing the education work in the prison were diverted to help prison staff. That led to a considerable increase in tension in the prison. In retrospect, the riot was inevitable. The report contains some interesting comments by the Independent Prison Visitor, which basically endorses what I have just said. I welcome the works, and of course I welcome the commitment from the government to try to make sure that as much work as possible is available to local contractors.

Locally, the main concern I have had in recent months is the number of homeless people in our city. In the main, this would have to be due to the closure of the sobering-up centre and the government allowing the Cameleers accommodation facility to close.

I am also frustrated that this government refuses to consider reinstating truancy officers into regional education offices. I drive around my electorate reasonably often and I am tired of seeing children walking the streets during school hours. The job of trying to work out this problem and get these kids into school has been left to police. I do not think it is the responsibility of police. Previously we had truancy officers in the Department of Education. When I mentioned to one of the principals at one of the high schools that I was starting to work to try to get truancy officers back into the system, the principal's response was that if I could get them back, it would be wonderful. The principal said, "As a system it worked and frankly what we have now in place of truancy officers is just a joke."

In a similar vein, I get very upset that some parents do not care when their children are brought home because they let them go out again straightaway. There are also quite a few parents who do not care whether their children attend school, so it is basically left up to the children. If they take themselves off to school, that is good. If they do not, it does not really matter. Quite frankly, education is probably the key factor for people to break out of the cycle of poverty and disadvantage and it is very frustrating when people cannot see that. In the main, the schools that these kids should be going to have quite amazing resources to try to ensure that they attend school and that when they do go to school that they are taught. If they do not even turn up, it is incredibly frustrating.

On policing issues, I am told that it is already becoming clear that the increase in rent for officers in the country is making it harder to get officers to serve in the regions. I seem to remember that under the former government we had a program in royalties for regions to help pay the rent of officers stationed in the country. I think the government is quite wrong and stupid to increase the rent of police stationed in the country.

I look forward to the completion of the Kalbarri Skywalk in the member for Moore's electorate, which of course was the previous government's project. I echo the member for Kalgoorlie's comments and his disappointment that once again funding to seal the road from Meekatharra to Wiluna is not in the budget. We just about had this project in our hands, because the funds to do it were in the Mid West Development Commission, but with the change of government we lost money and of course the road has been put off again. The completion of this road will seal the road from Kalgoorlie to the Pilbara. It has been promised since the closure of the rail line in the 1950s. It will become a valuable link in the Western Australian road network. As I said, the former government nearly completed the road and it is very disappointing to see that it has been dropped.

I will talk briefly about my shadow portfolios. The Leader of the House might be interested in what I have to say—no? He is not going to listen to me. He had a lot to say to the member for Moore a while ago, but he is not going to listen to me. It is pleasing to see in the budget that the funds from royalties for regions that the previous government had been putting into the Department of Agriculture and Food's budget have been restored. This is not new money. The government has accepted that those funds were needed in the agriculture department so it has put back in the same funding. It is huge relief. I look forward to the completion of the restructure of the agriculture department so that its functions are clear, its workforce are assured that they have a future, and external funding agencies have confidence in its future. The sector is incredibly important to our economy and has a bright future.

It is also good to see that the importance of biosecurity has been recognised. There is an outbreak of African swine fever, I think, in China at the moment. It has been quite devastating to the Chinese pig population, which is feeding into the availability of pork. I think 60 per cent of the meat consumed in China is pork and this is devastating for people who rely on raising pigs as their livelihood. It is a bit like the foot-and-mouth outbreak in the United Kingdom. All people can do is destroy all the pigs within a certain radius of an outbreak, so it is having an absolutely devastating effect. I think the reduction in the pig population in China has been by about 20 or 30 per cent. That would be the last thing we would want here, or the last thing probably after foot and mouth. But it also means that we have an oversupply of pork in Western Australia, so for us, it might be an opportunity. No-one likes to benefit

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from other people's misfortune, however. Where this swine fever is going in China is quite scary. Exactly how far it will go and how much of the national herd will have to be destroyed and what they will be left with afterwards is quite amazing.

As can be seen from the number of press releases issued, this was a quiet budget for Fisheries. The sole press release referred to the facility that is to be built in Geraldton. The government's attempt to take a share of the western rock lobster catch last year crystallised the issue of the lack of security that fishermen have over their fishing operations in Western Australia. This is something that Dr Mike Nahan and I will work on with the industry. We have made a commitment to the industry that we will work with them to hopefully come up with a package that gives them more security. It is interesting that at the moment a cray fisherman has to apply to have their licence renewed every year. In effect, they have little or no security. When the government decided it would take 1 300 tonnes or whatever it was of the catch, it brought home to fishermen that they effectively have no security. More importantly, it brought home to the lending institutions that fund fishermen to buy pots, boats and things like that, and to cover their operating costs when they start up, that they have absolutely no security. We have made a commitment to try to find a mechanism to give them more security. As I have said, the effect of the government's intention has caused a fall in confidence in the industry and in its suppliers and financiers. A new boat can cost up to \$3.5 million. I think orders for two new boats were cancelled in Dongara. That affects the people who build boats. They are not wealthy people. They are tradesmen who weld the steel and install the electronics and motors and all the rest of it. The amount of electronics in these things is quite amazing—they are a bit like a submarine. If we pull the rug out from the industry, suddenly they will have no confidence. They just cancel boat orders. No-one will invest \$3.5 million if they do not know whether they will have a licence next year to carry on with their job.

Overall, I rate the budget as a "C". As the late David McNicoll said, luck's a fortune. This government has had an unbelievably good run in terms of securing extra money, mostly from the federal government but also through royalties that have been flowing in. Frankly, the government has had it as good as our Treasurer, who is now our current leader, Dr Mike Nahan, had it bad. He mentioned that when he was speaking earlier today. When the price of iron ore went to \$38 a tonne, the dollar went through the roof—everything went wrong at the same time—whereas in this government's case, everything has gone well at the same time. It is a bit like farming; when it is a good year, take some wise measures and everything will be all right.

MR P.A. KATSAMBANIS (Hillarys) [7.18 pm]: I rise tonight to speak on the budget delivered by the Labor government. The government has spent a fair bit of time patting itself on the back for the budget it has delivered. Congratulations to the Treasurer—it is his third budget. I know Treasurers do it tough and are usually proud of their work, so well done to him for delivering the budget.

I would love to be one of those members who can stand here and talk about how well the budget has delivered for their electorate. Unfortunately, I cannot do that. Instead, I stand here tonight to do something that I am not happy about, but it is something that I have to do on behalf of the people of my electorate of Hillarys. I want to speak about the forgotten people across Western Australia, including the forgotten people in Hillarys, who have not benefited from this budget but who instead have been used as a stepladder for this government to pat itself on the back about some of its achievements. The people of my electorate are hurting, and no-one is listening to them. They are enduring tough economic conditions. The Treasurer's budget might be looking rosy as a result of a series of windfall gains in iron ore, a lot of that on the back of tragedy in South America, which has pushed up the price of iron ore, and hence has filled the coffers with additional royalties that nobody could have expected a few years ago; partly as a result of some largesse from the Morrison federal Liberal government in the context of an election campaign; partly through the recognition finally of Canberra—that needs to be acknowledged—that we were being duddled on GST, so they have given us some funds to recognise the fact that we were being duddled. It is not enough; they still have not restored us to 100 per cent, but we are better than we were before. That has gone onto the bottom line. The other reason the government's budget is looking rosy is because it has saddled all Western Australians, including the people of Hillarys, with crippling cost-of-living increases year upon year upon year. The government might be telling everyone that things are looking rosy, but come out to my electorate and they are not. We know that small business in particular and business generally is doing it tough. We have seen it reflected in record bankruptcies and insolvencies. We have seen it reflected in thousands of businesses closing down. We have seen it reflected in empty shops and empty offices right across the suburbs and the regions of Western Australia. We have seen it reflected in people doing it tougher than they ever have before. The budget itself tells us that in the current 2018–19 financial year, the state domestic economy as measured by state final demand has gone backwards, not forwards. The budget tells us that. In fact, in the early part of this financial year, the state was in domestic recession, and it may do so again.

People are calling out for some support from this government. They are calling out for much-needed community services and much-needed infrastructure. The people in the Hillarys electorate are no different. I make no apology

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for standing up here and pointing out the failures of this budget—there are some good things, and I will get to those a little later—for the people of Hillarys and for the portfolio areas that I am responsible for as shadow minister.

First and foremost is the missing link on the Mitchell Freeway. The southbound lanes of the Mitchell Freeway from Hodges Drive to Hepburn Avenue are one of the most congested choke points in the whole of Western Australia. That issue has not been addressed. We know the history of this. An additional lane was built on the northbound lanes between Hepburn Avenue and Hodges Drive by the previous Barnett Liberal government in recognition of the growth of the northern suburbs and in preparation for the fact that the freeway was being extended. It was extended from Burns Beach Road to Hester Avenue, and now this government—correctly so, and I praise it for it—is continuing the extension of the freeway to Romeo Road, but it pushes more traffic onto the freeway going both ways. The northbound lanes have a third lane where it is needed. The southbound lanes do not, despite the fact that the reservation is there. No bridges or infrastructure needs to be moved. Someone needs to go there and put the bitumen down. In 2017, the former government allowed for over \$70 million in the budget to do the works that were necessary to add that much-needed third lane to relieve traffic congestion in the northern suburbs, not just for the people of my electorate, but for the people in the electorates of Joondalup, Kingsley, Burns Beach, Wanneroo, Butler and Carine. It is the northern suburbs. When we talk about a freeway, sticking to electorate boundaries sometimes does not work because it applies to all of us—all our commuters and constituents. People are crying out for it. When it came to power, this government removed the funding. Since that time, the government has received \$1.6 billion in an infrastructure investment fund from the commonwealth Liberal government and applied it to road projects. It is very proud of those projects. I do not doubt that every single one of them is much needed and welcomed by the people who will benefit from them. However, when it comes to this missing link, the small section between Hodges Drive and Hepburn Avenue causes much angst, particularly at morning peak times, but, really, at all times of the day and night. People can drive down there on Saturday afternoon or Sunday mid-morning and it is almost as congested as it is in peak time. The solution is to build that third lane.

The government took the funding out of the budget when it came to power—subsequently, the Morrison government has provided a 50 per cent share of the money required. On 4 April this year, in this house, in reply to one of my questions without notice, the Minister for Transport said —

I am dismayed that the Morrison government has not put money towards that project.

...

I tell those commuters in the northern suburbs: Thank goodness they have a Labor government.

Minister, since that time, the federal minister responsible for cities and infrastructure, Alan Tudge, has come to Western Australia with the federal Attorney-General, Christian Porter, and they said that they have committed \$35 million in this current federal budget—it is in the budget; it is available money—to do this work. However, we get a charade such as we have seen this week from the minister in here when she used cheap political point scoring rather than acknowledging that the money is there. It is in the budget; it is part of the \$4 billion urban congestion fund that the federal government has created. This is rightly so, because the fund is created by money developed up in each state through the road excise tax and the like—so some of the money is being returned to Western Australia, including \$35 million for this lane on the freeway, which is much needed and will relieve much congestion.

Unfortunately, the minister is playing politics, twisting the truth and saying, “Where is it in the budget paper?”, and whatever. It is in the papers. It has been budgeted for as part of a \$4 billion urban congestion fund. The announcements have been made by the federal government. All that is needed is a commitment from this minister and this government to build that extra lane, and they will be thanked for it. If they do that, the people of the northern suburbs will thank them. I can reassure the minister that every day, I will continue to tell my constituents in Hillarys and all the people of the northern suburbs that they get very frustrated when they are stuck in traffic on this section of road because this transport minister and the McGowan Labor government do not care that they are trapped there. They are not prepared to put their money where their mouth is. That is the case even after the federal government has come to the aid of this government and provided it with 50 per cent of the funds.

I urge the government to reconsider at the *Government Mid-year Financial Projections Statement*. Do not let this \$35 million of federal money, which is really our money that the federal government is returning to us, go to waste. Do not let it go into consolidated revenue. By the midyear review, hopefully, the rest of the works further south on the Mitchell Freeway—works that I continue to support and have said I support—will be finished in time to build this missing link. Please do it. It will save commuters time and give people in the northern suburbs more time to spend with their families and will mean they will spend less time stuck in traffic on the freeway. Another area of infrastructure that the electorate of Hillarys misses out on is school buildings. I have spoken about the condition of some of the school buildings in my electorate. We have absolutely wonderful schools with great principals, great teachers and staff, great students and great communities—great parent communities and friend communities. They all work hard. I visit every government and non-government school in my electorate, and I see

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the work that they put in, particularly in the really old government schools like Hillarys Primary School, Springfield Primary School and Sorrento Primary School. The teachers and the students are putting up with substandard buildings that are well past their use-by date. The buildings need to be rebuilt to give our teachers and students the opportunity to learn in a welcoming environment. I note that in some of the regular maintenance funding, the Minister for Education and Training has allowed a small amount of funds to replace some ceilings in Sorrento Primary School. Think about that. Why are we replacing the ceilings? The ceilings are falling down; they are an actual risk to students and teachers at that school. We should not wait for the rest of the building to fall down, because if the ceilings are falling down, you can bet your bottom dollar that the roof needs replacing and the walls need replacing. We need to bite the bullet as a society and say that when the buildings have reached the end of their useful life, we need to replace them.

I note that a school in the Treasurer's electorate of Victoria Park is going to get a new build. Honestly, well done! This is what governments are here for. Governments are here to provide for essential services, including essential infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, police and the like. I know the school in Victoria Park is around about 100 years old.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Over one hundred.

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: It is over 100 years old. It was originally built in the nineteenth century. That is great. That is recognition that we have some old schools. But let us look at the schools like in Hillarys and Springfield and Sorrento, in particular, that were built over 40 years ago as temporary schools. Next year Sorrento Primary School celebrates its 50-year anniversary. Those buildings were built as temporary buildings. How temporary is temporary? I can tell members that they are going to be around longer than I am if we do not do something about it! My community as well as other communities deserves good quality school buildings and I am going to continue to advocate for that and I make no apology for advocating for that.

The Whitford Family Centre is a very small centre that has been running successfully for 30 years. It is an essential part of my community. It helps young families, especially when they have newborn children. I have to say and put on the record that my family benefited from the centre when we first moved to Perth. It was a godsend to us—I have to tell members. It is a much-loved and respected neighbourhood centre that services around about 280 families over an average week and 400 families over an average year. Unfortunately, the centre has fallen victim to the government's new empowering communities program. It has only secured funding until July next year. Our community fears that from July next year the centre is going to be forced to close, and it would be a shattering blow felt right across my community. The wonderful staff at Whitford Family Centre have been meeting with the Department of Communities, but they get the impression that there seems to be some desire at a departmental level to make the centre conform to the department's agenda rather than recognising and understanding the value that the Whitford Family Centre provides to a local community. The future appears bleak, and families in my electorate are asking what will happen if the centre closes down. I hope that the Minister for Community Services—the member for Fremantle—gets involved and makes sure that such centres and other centres across the state are not shut down by a desire to make them fit into a bureaucratic framework rather than recognise the work that they do, and have the bureaucrats work with these centres so that they continue to provide those types of resources.

I could also talk about how my constituents have been hit by cost-of-living increases. Time eludes me; but they have been. It is not a great look for a government to come in here in this budget cycle and say that it has kept cost-of-living increases lower this year than it did last year and the year before, because that absolutely does not recognise the fact that people out there are doing it tough. Building on two loads of high increases with a slightly lower one just exacerbates the pain—it does not relieve it. People in my electorate and right across the state are looking for relief. That relief does not come from telling them that they are going to be paying only a little bit more this year rather than a lot more. What they really want is the pressure on their cost of living reduced at a time of low wages and definite economic disability.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: I move on to my portfolio areas. After a long time of kicking and screaming, the government has funded some policing initiatives with the provision of funds for personal issue stab-proof vests for police officers. We will see how that rollout goes in practice because on the way that I have done the sums, it does not appear that every single officer in the state will be issued with what is supposedly a personal issued vest. In time we will find out from the Minister for Police exactly what that funding will achieve. There is funding for a mobility project, which will essentially allow police to walk around the streets with some modern IT devices, which will cut down on their paperwork and the need for them to return to the station and be desk-bound because we really, really want them on the streets. That is a good idea but in practice, unfortunately, right throughout the government, including the Western Australia Police Force, the rollout of IT infrastructure rarely goes according to plan. We will continue to monitor that and make sure —

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Mr R.H. Cook: Except in Health; we do it so well!

Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS: Does the Minister for Health want it on the record that his government does IT projects in Health ever so well? I will leave that there and we will continue to interrogate it in the future.

Again, the question is whether there is sufficient funding to provide a device for every officer who needs it. We will interrogate that over time, no doubt. There is no funding for body-worn cameras—that is, cameras that are worn on police officers' lapels to record incidents and provide evidence. Instead, the Minister for Police and the government told the Commissioner of Police to find money for the cameras in the existing police budget. I am flabbergasted that the government thinks that in these straitened economic times, there is spare money lying around in the police budget. Police command is working hard to make every dollar go as far as it can, but again it is being asked to do more with less. That is absolutely not sustainable. For the police to get body-worn cameras so that they can provide modern evidence in court and protection for themselves, something will have to give somewhere else in the police budget, and that is just not good enough.

I turn to regional police. We know that the recruitment of regional police is in crisis. The government does not have to take my word for it—I know the minister criticises me. Today I published the figures. The WA Police Union did not have a whack at me like the minister likes to do—a personal attack. I love personal attacks because I know that when someone attacks someone personally, they do not have any substance to the attack. It is a trait of this government. Personal attacks expose the fact that the government is the one being exposed. The WA Police Union did not attack me, nor did it attack the figures. It said that if we think things are bad now with the way this government is treating police, especially regional police, they are actually going to get a lot worse. There is a shortfall of almost 100 police officers in regional WA and a shortfall in every single regional district right across WA, but watch what it is going to be like in the foreseeable future. That is a scary thought for the people who live in regional Western Australia—that we cannot attract police officers there, and that their communities are going to be less safe than ever before.

What caused this inability to recruit police regionally? It was the double whammy given to regional police officers by this government. First, it denied police officers the fair pay increase that it told them it would give them during the last state election campaign. We have been over this ground before. The police asked for a 1.5 per cent pay increase per annum. The Liberal Party when it was in government said yes, and Mark McGowan, Michelle Roberts and the Labor Party said, “Yes, yes, yes, we’ll match that, too.” When they came to power, they reneged on it and gave the police a measly \$1 000 pay increase that hardly covered the increases in the cost of living that this government has put on every family in Western Australia, including police; it is now more than \$800 a year extra for the average family.

The government then jacked up its rent by \$1 500 a year, two years in a row, and there is another increase built into this budget for the 2019–20 financial year we will enter into on 1 July—another whack. Police officers are paying a bigger increase in rent than the increase in their wages. That is totally and utterly unsustainable for them and their families. I visit regional police stations and the first lament I hear is, “Can you please fix the cost of Government Regional Officers’ Housing? Please fix it.” Today again, the Western Australian Police Union of Workers came out with some figures and said that a freeze on the 2019–20 GROH housing rental increase of \$30 a week would cost around \$1.2 million. This government runs around praising itself for a \$500 million-plus surplus, and I commend it on that surplus; that is a good thing. I support a surplus budget rather than a deficit budget, wherever we can achieve that. But with \$500 million in the kitty and not much impact on debt from that \$500 million, we are talking about only \$1.2 million to make it more attractive to recruit police officers to our regions, to provide the necessary policing that our regional areas want and absolutely deserve, just like every other Western Australian. It is just not good enough.

We have seen this with police recruitment as well. Police recruitment has slowed down massively. We see that reflected in the number of police and we see it reflected in community attitudes. People tell me all the time that they are seeing fewer police on the road than ever before, and we know that a strong visible police presence on the streets, in the towns and in the suburbs right across the state has a strong deterrent effect on criminals.

Then there is the area of road safety. First, after the Labor Party came to power, the government and the Minister for Road Safety engineered a dispute with the then Road Safety Commissioner. The commissioner either left or was removed, but left in acrimonious circumstances. That was almost two years ago; it was 23 months ago, in June 2017. We are now on our third acting Road Safety Commissioner; we still do not have a substantive Road Safety Commissioner. Each of the people who have acted or are acting in that role are genuinely good people, committed to safety outcomes, but they are not permanent; they are not appointed. They are acting; they have a little “a” in front of their title. That would be bad enough if the position had remained empty for 23 months in normal circumstances, but right now we are going through a review of the state’s 10-year road safety strategy. We are about to implement a new 10-year strategy, sometime next year, and people are meant to be giving input into that strategy, starting with the top of the organisation, the Road Safety Commissioner, but there is just no-one there;

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there is a caretaker in the chair. It may well be that the current person may eventually get appointed to the substantive position. I do not know; there has to be a process. But the minister has waited for 23 months and still has not appointed a substantive Road Safety Commissioner at a time when road safety is going backwards.

We know that because, in the last two years, the road toll has not budged. We have done really well as a society over decades to bring the road toll down. I do not want to cast aspersions on the people who have been acting in the role. I think they are doing the best they can in difficult circumstances. However, in the last two years, coinciding with this empty substantive chair in the Road Safety Commission because there is no permanent Road Safety Commissioner, there has really been no focus on reducing the road toll. The road toll has not come down. That is particularly the case in regional areas. We know, unfortunately, that regional areas have a disproportionate representation in the road toll, in both fatalities and serious injuries. There is no focus. There is no desire to reduce the road toll.

In the last two years, over 70 000 drivers have been fined for speeding in school zones. Where are the hard-hitting campaigns to force drivers to stop speeding? It is not good enough to flash the speed camera at 70 000 drivers in school zones and send them a fine if it does not change their behaviour. The idea is that drivers do not speed through school zones. However, if we do not have a focus and a targeted approach, all we are doing is playing Russian roulette with children's lives. The only benefit we will get out of just sending out speeding fines every now and again is that the government's coffers will tick over. We do not need speeding fines. We need people to respect the 40-kilometre-an-hour school zones. We need some hard-hitting campaigns, and they are not happening.

The situation with cycling is exactly the same. Cyclists are among our most vulnerable road users, along with motorcyclists and pedestrians. The government has invested in building some principal shared paths. Good on it. That is in this budget. However, principal shared paths are not enough. We need real separation. We need dedicated commuter cycling infrastructure, to keep our riders safe. The government has brought in the minimum passing law. That is all well and good. Great idea. However, because the campaign to promote that minimum passing law was so ridiculed and had to be pulled at one point, there is minimal adherence to that law. Only today, a cyclist was knocked down in Embleton. That is not good enough. Since late 2017, only 10 motorists have been fined for not abiding by that law, yet 750 cyclists have been fined for not wearing a helmet. Both are dangerous. Cyclists report that not abiding by the minimum passing law causes them the most damage. That law is not being enforced. There is certainly no education campaign to make drivers aware of their rights and responsibilities. Drivers say, "We're confused, too. We don't drive around with a tape measure out our window, especially outside our passenger window, so give us some guidance." That is what the Road Safety Commission should be doing, and what it could do if it had a permanent head who could focus on the long-term, rather than an acting person who, with all the goodwill in the world, knows that whatever they implement might be reversed when the permanent head eventually comes in.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [7.47 pm]: I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Capital 2019–20) Bill 2019 and Appropriation (Recurrent 2019–20) Bill 2019. I would generally call this a disappointing budget for the people of regional Western Australia. I say that especially in the context of GST repair, and the rising revenue from the iron ore price. As other speakers have noted, a \$1 increase in the iron ore price is a \$76 million increase in revenue for this state government. That summarises it straightaway. We have not seen a flow back to the regions of the wealth of Western Australia. That wealth is generated from the regions, whether it be from agriculture, or iron ore, gold and other minerals, but that wealth is not dispersed back to the regions. That is why I find this budget disappointing. That is no more so than in the royalties for regions program, which has been slashed and burnt. Over the forward estimates, \$1.6 billion will go into substitution and cost shifting. In these categories, over four years, we have \$160 million for orange school buses, \$180 million for TAFE subsidies, \$1 billion for country water pricing subsidies, \$35 million for education assistants and \$224 million for essential services. Royalties for regions is about additional expenditure in our regions to create amenity and opportunities for people to decentralise out of Perth and move into the regions and to take pressure off the freeways. Surely fewer people travelling on the freeways would be music to the ears of the Minister for Transport. That is what royalties for regions was all about. As far as I can see, it is really wearing away, apart from in Labor seats, as I will mention shortly. Two-thirds of the state budget surplus has come from last year's underspend of over \$320 million of the royalties for regions budget.

There has been a two per cent increase in household charges. That may not seem like much. As we know, Labor went to the last election with a commitment that there would be no increases in household charges. Every average household is looking at an increase of \$856 in charges. It may not seem like much to some people in this place, but I can assure them that the people in the regions and, I am sure, the people in the metropolitan area are really feeling it. This government got voted in on a commitment not to increase charges, so that is a disappointment to me. I am pleased that it has kept the rate of increase to two per cent, but the election pledge was that it would be zero per cent.

I also want to mention the empty shops. Yesterday, a member of the Liberal Party mentioned that 30 000 businesses have closed their doors during the term of this government. That is a major concern in regional areas. Regional

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towns are struggling with empty shops. I believe that regional people are being treated almost like second-class citizens in this state budget.

I would like to speak about some of the issues in my electorate. Firstly, I do not claim to be an expert in forensically searching the budget for items, but I must say that I found it very difficult to locate any new investment in the electorate of Roe. I found \$6.9 million for shed 4 at the port of Esperance, but what about cruise ship docking? We have heard the Minister for Tourism talk up cruise ships. Yesterday, we heard the member for North West Central talk about cruise ships in Exmouth. This was an ideal opportunity for the government to rearrange. There is a deepwater port in Esperance. There is 18 metres of water that allows large iron ore ships to come in. This was the ideal opportunity to have a cruise ship berth so that when cruise ships come into Esperance, they do not have to stay out there. The Minister for Local Government will be aware that the cruise ships sit out well over a kilometre past the end of the Esperance jetty, so the poor old tender vessel has to bob up and down out there. Less iron ore is going through the Esperance port, so there is an opportunity to have a cruise ship berth. It is very disappointing.

While the minister is in the chamber, I will ask him about the Esperance tanker jetty. It is my favourite subject. He knows that I would love the state government to put some funding towards that. He was on the boat with the CEO and the president of the Shire of Esperance circling around it. The minister has had a good look and he has seen the condition, but where is the commitment from the state government even just to add in perhaps a third of the cost of refurbishing the Esperance tanker jetty? I am very disappointed.

Mr M.P. Murray: Didn't the shire have a different view than you? I was down there the other day and they told me they have a different view.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The shire has a different view than me.

Mr M.P. Murray: So you're misrepresenting your electorate!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The Minister for Heritage recommended that it should go back to the 1935 model, which was brushed aside by the Shire of Esperance. That was the recommendation of the Minister for Sport and Recreation. That was brushed aside. We have a difference of opinion on a few things, but what we do not have a different of opinion on is that there is no funding of any description, whichever model is used, from the minister's government.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Where is the support? The One Mile jetty in Carnarvon is another great opportunity for tourism. It is in disrepair. This government could really step up in the tourism space and look after both of those jetties. When I look at tourism in the Esperance region, I must congratulate Jaimen Hudson who does fantastic drone photography. He has done more for tourism in the Esperance region than the state government. I was walking through Melbourne Airport several months ago and saw a massive poster of Esperance from his drone photography. I certainly congratulate him on what he has done for tourism, along with some other drone photographers, I might add.

The other element I found in that part of my electorate is \$40 million for the Coolgardie–Esperance Highway. Like the member for Kalgoorlie last night, I cannot isolate what part is in the electorate of Roe and what part is in the electorate of Kalgoorlie. Nonetheless I am heartened to see that funding. I also agree with the member for Kalgoorlie's contribution last night about Kambalda pool. It was not long ago that the Leader of the Nationals WA and I were standing in the bottom of that empty pool talking to the local community. I sympathised with the member for Kalgoorlie when he talked about the same thing in his speech last night. The Labor Party has not delivered for the community of Kambalda. It is one of the hottest places in the state, with an average temperature of 44 degrees.

Mr M.P. Murray: I agree with all that, but the federal money didn't come.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: There has been some federal money; \$250 000 came from the member for O'Connor, Rick Wilson.

Mr M.P. Murray: No, that isn't what I'm talking about. The big money from Sport Australia that you thought was coming didn't come—that we were going to match.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Okay. The Shire of Coolgardie has now had to take out a \$1.7 million loan. This was the opportunity for the Labor government to step in. One of those swimming pools in Collie, which has an average temperature of probably 22 or 23 degrees during the year, compared with Kambalda with 44 degrees —

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister for Sport and Recreation, thank you. The member would like to carry on with his speech.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Nonetheless, I will move on.

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I want to speak about the re-announcements of funding including for the Esperance TAFE, which was originally announced by the members for Warren–Blackwood and Scarborough. I was there in 2016. It is good to see the continuation of the commitment there. The Minister for Sport and Recreation turned the sod last week for the Esperance indoor stadium. Unfortunately, my invitation did not arrive in time for me to attend. Nonetheless, it is a good thing for the community of Esperance. I will not say anymore other than it was good to see the Minister for Sport and Recreation in my electorate.

We have had some fantastic support for the dog fence by members of the National Party and the federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, David Littleproud. It is great to see that project finally on track. That is one I look forward to, with \$6.9 million in federal funding allocated. I am struggling to locate any funding for the Katanning, Kojonup, Lake Grace end of my electorate. I have found \$500 000 for the Narrogin helipad, which I think will be great for the community. That is the only new funding that I can find for that part of my electorate. Looking south towards the Albany region, it is not a problem to find funding. There is funding for the Albany ring-road, schools, South Coast Highway, and radiotherapy; the list goes on. If I look a couple of hundred kilometres west to Collie, I can see all sorts of projects popping up. I hope the money will start moving east next year. I look forward to it moving into the electorate of Roe. When I came to this place, I naively thought that if there was a need for money, we were all treated equally, no matter where we lived. I had seen the example set by the Leader of the Nationals WA and the member for Warren–Blackwood when they were in cabinet. It did not matter what part of the state, what area or development commission region people were in, the money was put where it was needed. The member for Pilbara would certainly speak fondly of that. There was an investment of \$2 billion in the Pilbara Cities program. I will move on because I want to talk about several things.

I am glad that the member for Bunbury has come back into the chamber. When I analysed the budget, one of the first things that popped up was \$6.9 million for a pilot program in Bunbury dedicated to people to get help from government agencies. What is that? It is for people to come in and get help. People can get help at over 100 community resource centres spread around the state. Why not put that \$6.9 million into the CRC network? I scratched my head when I saw that one, but I am sure that at some stage the member for Bunbury will enlighten us about the value of that investment.

I have consistently questioned the Minister for Health about the serious issue of the lack of doctors at Katanning Hospital emergency department. Members can imagine my surprise when I saw, in the budget, cuts of \$38.457 million to funding of public hospital emergency services. I cannot see how that ties in. I hear a continual stream of stories about the lack of doctors in the emergency department from my constituents in Katanning and the great southern region. I am glad to say that since my question to the minister last week, there has been movement at the station. The added pressure has been put on, and I have already noticed a transition and more opportunities. I want to thank Tim Shackleton from Rural Health West, who is charged with helping supply doctors to our rural areas. Hopefully, we are looking at getting an extra two doctors over the next few months, which will take pressure off the doctors who are there currently. They are doing a great job, as are the nurses, but they are spread too thinly. Luckily, the hospital has the telehealth backup. The other issue I questioned the health minister about was accommodation at Leschenaultia House in Kojonup, Kerry Lodge in Katanning, and Mallee Springs in Gnowangerup. Leschenaultia House in Kojonup had six beds for our aged people, but every time someone passed on, the bed was closed down. We went from six beds down to three. A returned serviceman from Kojonup wanted go there and his family wanted him to as well, but he was told, “Sorry, no room. We’ve got three beds closed.” I have tried to put the question out there, but all I seem to get is handballing back and forth between the federal and state government. That is another thing I have brought to the attention of the health minister.

I briefly want to mention aged care. I was heartened to be at the opening of the Esperance aged care facility recently. There was \$3.5 million of royalties for regions money and \$3 million of federal money invested. Ken Wyatt opened the facility.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Ken Wyatt did a great job opening the centre, but we are having problems with the staffing of the Esperance aged-care nursing home. We need some assistance from our state Labor government. Wherever it can help in that department would be very much appreciated. We also need some help with our independent living units in the wheatbelt. Money was allocated in the royalties for regions budget and everything was in place. Five shires from around Wickepin, Corrigin and Cuballing were involved. It was a fantastic project. It had a business case and was ready for investment. What did it get last year? It got another bit of funding to do another business case. When it already had done about two or three business cases, it got some more funding, with the government saying that it would just push it out and to get another business case done. This is also the same with our eastern wheatbelt shires—10 shires that had got together for an independent living project, with some houses in each shire, faced the same thing. All they have is funding for the business cases. I say to the Minister for Regional Development that we need to come forth on these projects. It was very disappointing in the budget. There

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is no real support there. Unfortunately, unless aged people in the regions live in a Labor electorate such as Albany, Collie, Mandurah, Pilbara or Kimberley, they are in strife.

I am the spokesperson for education in the Nationals WA and this portfolio probably disappoints me the most. I would like to read a list of some of the schools that have been funded, which I am sure are worthy of funding. I will read the list. There is Broome Senior High School, with \$19.3 million, in the electorate of the member for Kimberley over there. Bunbury Senior High School has \$5 million. Collie Senior High School has funding of \$7.5 million. Eaton Primary School has funding of \$3 million.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms S.E. Winton): Minister!

Several members interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I am sure that the Collie slush fund will come forth, do not worry about that.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Eaton Community College has \$3 million. Flinders Park Primary School has \$2.5 million.

Point of Order

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: The Minister for Police was interjecting from out of her seat.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you.

Debate Resumed

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Mount Lockyer Primary School in Albany has \$3 million. There is another school in Bunbury, South Bunbury Primary School, with \$3 million. Newton Moore Senior High School, another one in Bunbury, has \$3 million. Finally, I have got to the bottom of the list. Carnarvon Community College, in the electorate of the member for North West Central—he has been fighting there for years—has been getting built for the last three years. We are finally coming to the end, but we got a mention there in a seat that was not a Labor seat. My question is: what about Wagin District High School in the electorate of Roe, which badly needs infrastructure? The chair of the school board there, Anita Longmuir, says they are desperate for infrastructure. I refer to Hedland Senior High School and Bill Mann. This is an exception to the rule because this is the seat of Pilbara. When the Nationals went up to Hedland, we discovered a situation there. There was a \$10 million shortfall. Only a third of the 850 kids can get in the shade when they are having morning tea. We finally broke through once I came back here and asked the question of the Premier, who was unaware of the matter. Apparently, it would cost \$500 000. After that, we were told it would cost \$1.2 million. I cannot locate it in the budget, but I look forward to being enlightened by someone within the Minister for Education and Training's office about whether this \$1.2 million is there. It is disappointing when I see the millions and millions of dollars being spent in Labor-held electorates and, on this occasion, in the Pilbara electorate. I look also at the Treasurer's electorate, where \$7 million has been spent on Victoria Park Primary School.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It is not logical; you do not want that money to go to regional kids.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I want a share of it to go to all electorates. All our regional kids are worthy, Leader of the House. There is a disparity. I am seeing a pattern developing here. Certainly, \$7 million to the Vic Park school in the Treasurer's electorate is fantastic, but I would love to see some of that money going to Wagin, Hedland Senior High School and a few others through the wheatbelt.

I want to mention a couple of other things about education. The boarding away from home allowance has not been reinstated. Cutbacks were made when this government first came into power. Twenty per cent of the agricultural education farms provision trust has been taken away. Camp schools—the same thing. Four community kindergartens are under threat and I believe one of them is in the member for Armadale's area. Apparently, they do not have the numbers and they are under threat. I urge Labor members—all four community kindergartens under threat are in Labor electorates—to help out and talk to the Minister for Education and Training. I was amused last night when the member for Southern River spoke of the fantastic \$8.7 million for Moora Residential College in the budget. Funnily enough, that was delivered by Michael McCormack and Mathias Cormann with federal coalition money. That saved the day for Moora Residential College. If they had not come forth, we would still be talking about it. The Country Women's Association would probably be out there marching again—unheard of.

Mr M.P. Murray: The non-political group. They have tainted themselves by aligning with you guys.

Several members interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: That is right—for 95 years. They are fighting for regional WA.

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Mr M.P. Murray: They have spoilt the cream in their cakes.

Several members interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: No, leave Rick Newnham and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia out of it. I notice in the budget papers that the year 7 and 9 kids are below the national standards in NAPLAN testing with the new benchmarking. They are well below the national benchmark now after the performance of the last couple of days.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It is a bit hard when you cannot log on.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: It is a concern that when they are benchmarked nationally —

Mr M.P. Murray: Bring back Barnaby, for goodness sake. At least he had something to write about.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I do not think he has anything to do with NAPLAN testing, member for Collie–Preston. This is a concern for everyone in the chamber. Year 7 and year 9 students in WA had 63 per cent reading proficiency compared with the national standard of 93 per cent. We need to take note of the chaos and confusion in the last couple of days. I heard the minister for education's press conference this morning and I agree that we need to clamp down on this situation with NAPLAN. While I have been talking about the funding of all these Eaton schools in the member for Bunbury's electorate, I want to express support for Grant Walton; 3 000 people have signed the petition for the deputy. I think we have all seen the media online.

I agree with the Minister for Education and Training that it is time to support our teaching staff. Some of the behaviour that is happening in our schools is not good enough. It is time to support our staff. What seems to happen now is the teacher is guilty until proven innocent. The minister spoke about it this morning. It is not good enough. It has taken too long—since March. Hopefully, by Friday there will be a decision from the director general of Education.

Dr A.D. Buti: You're right, but it is not actually a new phenomenon. Unfortunately, for a long period teachers were guilty until proven innocent.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I agree with that. Both sides of politics need to show their support for teachers. The job is getting harder every day, I can assure members.

I want to mention a few other things before I close. It has been well documented that the Water Corporation will return \$513 million to the government's coffers, yet people in the regions appear to be getting less service. There are real problems out in the Lake Grace–Jerramungup–Ravensthorpe area. When a drought is declared, the Water Corporation carts water from one dam to another. It has assets out there. Its empty dams are not being cleaned out and it is not cleaning the catchments, including the Lake Grace town dam. There are four or five Water Corp dams around the town. It needs to stay on top of its assets. Instead, it is letting its assets run down. Water Corp then tries to dump them onto local government. That is not good enough. Lake Grace was declared water deficient today. This will be a burden on the Water Corp, but, I am sorry, it has given \$500 million back to the state government. It will have to provide some services to the regions. This was the ideal opportunity to bring back the farm water rebate scheme, which was a fantastic initiative of the previous government. It encouraged farmers and communities to improve their assets to make them more self-reliant. I cannot understand why that has not been incorporated. I look forward to a little more thought being given during these dry conditions. When I look at the likes of Lake Grace, I find it quite disappointing.

To top it off, the Water Corporation has now decided that water out of a 25-millimetre standpipe fitting will cost \$2.50 a kilolitre, but water from a larger standpipe, which someone might need for a fire or to fill up a truck quickly, will be \$8.50 a kilolitre. It is exactly the same water out of the same pipe, but the charge is tripled if the standpipe has a bigger fitting. There has been real pushback from local governments on this one. Local governments are now acting as police on behalf of the Water Corporation. What are they doing? They are putting padlocks on all their standpipes because they cannot afford people to come in. If they get charged by Water Corp, they have to on-charge. If water gets taken out, they cannot cover that. That is a real disappointment.

In closing, I want to reiterate my thoughts about the Labor electorates. I am concerned about those electorates, especially around the fringe of Albany, Bunbury, Collie and Mandurah. I am looking forward to some of the money in next year's budget moving east into the electorate of Roe. I know the Minister for Local Government would be more than happy to see some of it drift away from the coast.

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [8.18 pm]: I will spend the next 20 minutes really enjoying myself, talking about what a superb budget this is for Western Australia, for regional Western Australia and for local communities. Before I do so, I was very pleased to hear the member for Roe's concern about Labor electorates, which were of course starved of support during the previous Liberal–National government. Before I talk about the budget itself, I want to talk about something that is very important to members of the backbench, and that of course is our local communities. I recently organised a dinner in Bunbury between members of the Islamic Association of Bunbury

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and the broader community. The dinner was organised following a visit to the association's meeting place after the tragedies in Christchurch. The aim was for people from all walks of life in my community to come together to share stories and ideas. In that room were people who operated small businesses, people employed in the professions, people working for state and local governments, engineers and tradespeople. In fact, it was a whole community of people from all over the world who had far more in common than they had differences, and all of whom were affected by government decisions every day in their everyday lives. The dinner was very much a micro version of the Bunbury community and was quite likely representative of most regional communities in Western Australia. These are the people whom this budget is designed to help—people from all walks of life, seeking the best for their families, with great hope for the future.

Before I talk about the budget in detail, I want to speak about one family in particular who has made Bunbury home on a short-term skilled migration visa. This family arrived in Australia some years ago. Shizleen Aishath is a mum. She has a son called Kayban who was born in St John of God Bunbury Hospital in July 2016. Shizleen is employed as a social worker and supports and helps people throughout the south west. Shizleen and her partner and two of her three children all hold temporary visas until 2023. Kayban, who was born in Australia and is now two years old, does not. He has severe type A haemophilia and an acquired brain injury that occurred during an accident during his birth at St John's. Because of his multiple health needs he has been denied a visa by the Department for Immigration and Border Protection. To date, the family has met the cost of his health needs and are paying their way through their own dedication and hard work. However, that has not been accepted by the Department for Immigration and Border Protection and his circumstances are now before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal—he is a two-and-a-half-year-old boy. If the family is returned to the Maldives, Kayban has a very poor prognosis. That is not the family's assessment; it is the assessment of medical practitioners.

Kayban is a two-and-a-half-year-old fighter, but his future is now firmly in the hands of the federal Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs. I draw attention to his case in this place knowing that it is not a matter that can be addressed by the state; it is firmly in the hands of the commonwealth. The decision to not grant Kayban a visa does not pass the pub test or the test of over 11 000 people—that number is increasing every day—who have signed a petition in support of allowing him to stay. Kayban's case highlights how important it is that all of us, as members of Parliament, should act not only impartially, but also with compassion, regardless of whether it is a question of the commonwealth granting visas or shaping the state budget. We have an obligation to act fairly and with integrity and compassion for our communities. I will move on from Kayban's story.

Dr A.D. Buti: Well done, member for Bunbury, for bringing that up, and thank you.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: Thank you.

This is a very good budget. It is a reflection of the hard work of the Treasurer and ministers, but, importantly, it reflects a discipline about managing the state's finances that is driven by the Premier and endorsed by a united team with a clear vision of financial responsibility—which is something that I think was lacking in the previous Liberal–National government—and the objective of creating a better and fiscally secure financial future. That is what it is about; that is the critical feature. Delivering a good budget strategy and then, importantly, executing it requires teamwork, commitment, resilience, leadership and discipline, and this government is delivering that in spades. It is a united government with a clear sense of purpose and a clear budget strategy, but it is disciplined in how it executes it.

The Treasurer outlined the key features of the budget, most notably a \$533 million surplus in the operations of government that can be applied to important projects, as well as beginning the work of debt reduction. Importantly, though, this budget limits forecast growth of general government expenses to 1.5 per cent in 2019–20 and an average of 1.3 per cent over the next four years, compared with an average growth of 6.4 per cent during the previous government. I must say, sitting on this side of the house, it was a joy to watch all the long faces on the other side of the house as the Treasurer read out the budget, because really there is no arguing with those basic numbers. This is a good budget strategy. I have heard members opposite trying to pick holes in the budget, trying to weave and duck and dive and saying that this or that was not in their electorate, but overall this is a budget for the interests of Western Australia. Its financial management makes Western Australia the envy of other states and positions us well for the future.

The government had a focus on increasing revenue, both through direct commonwealth allocations as well as a fairer share of the GST. How many people have put up their hands claiming responsibility for the fairer share of the GST? I can tell members that it was the people of Western Australia who got that share because they were not going to put up with a federal Liberal–National government that was not delivering on the GST. The threat of losing all those seats, which it will probably lose on Saturday anyway, drove the incentive to start talking with our Premier.

Those allocations, together with the disciplined control of expenditure, has led to this result. Although there is still a mountain of debt to get on top of, this government is dealing with it in a manner that does not bring the state to a grinding halt while that debt is repaid. That is the important point. I have heard members opposite say, "Spend all

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the surplus on reducing debt; get rid of it, don't care about what happens to the state, just let the state grind to a halt." They would all complain about what is happening in their electorates if we adopted that strategy. The McGowan government is getting on with important projects in a financially responsible way, and this is paying dividends for the state as a whole. That is the fundamentally important part of this budget.

I was really pleased when the Premier came down to Bunbury for the budget lunch with the Bunbury Geographe Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It is an annual event that everybody looks forward to. It was a sell-out this year, with over 100 people. When my community in Bunbury, the business community, heard those numbers, there were rounds of applause. A number of people came up to me and said, "Thank goodness we've got a government that is exercising discipline and knows exactly where it's heading, because this is what we need for the future and for certainty." I then went to the federal candidates lunch the following Monday. It was quite astounding because all the candidates stood up and gave their spiel. The current sitting member gave her spiel about how good the federal Liberal-National government's approach to the economy was and how doubling the debt did not really matter in the scheme of things. Our candidate, a great man, Wayne Sanford stood up. He has an excellent history —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup: Who?

Mr D.T. PUNCH: If the member for Dawesville does not know who Wayne Sanford is, he clearly has not been in the south west.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: He was able to say quite clearly that you cannot attack the concept that Labor is a terrible economic manager. It is yesterday's news; it is not there. What is important —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: Let me speak.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: Acting Speaker, can I have your protection? I am getting seriously assaulted by the member for Dawesville.

Wayne Sanford was able to stand up and say what a fantastic job the state has done and that reflected on the capacity of Labor governments generally. I am looking forward to a Labor government being elected on Saturday and some fantastic outcomes, with an immediate response for dealing with some pretty poor budget management by the federal Liberal-Nationals.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: What is he on about? How can he interject when he has a shameful history of budget management? I find it amazing.

Mr R.R. Whitby: They have no clue.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: They have no clue.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: Mind you, this is the first budget —

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members! Thank you.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: This is the first budget about which I have heard the member for Vasse say something positive—which was about dualling Bussell Highway. It was a positive comment. Usually the comment is, "There's nothing in my electorate." There it is; we got a compliment from the member for Vasse. We know what happens when a budget is presented. The members opposite act exactly as they are acting now, taking any scope to try to pick a hole in what is a superb budget. We know that we on this side will talk about the real strength of that budget, and that is what I will really enjoy in the next 10 minutes. I might have to ask for an extension.

I have listened to some of the arguments from members opposite about household expenditure, but this budget has been very successful in containing increases in household expenditure to an average of around two per cent, with power prices increasing by 1.75 per cent. As the Treasurer noted, this represents an increase to the average power bill of less than 10¢ a day. I appreciate that although modest increases, they have an impact on people. However, the consequence of not maintaining some link between price and cost is that down the track, households could be hit with even larger increases. Heaven forbid members opposite return to the government benches, because I am sure they would use that as an excuse to do exactly what they did when they were last in government, which was to ramp it up by 20 per cent or thereabouts.

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Regional WA is a big beneficiary of this budget. I have heard a lot of complaining from the Nationals WA but the reality is that the royalties for regions legislation has not changed; we are administering it in exactly the same way that the previous government administered it. The difference is that we do not have two Treasuries. We do not have one at the Department of Regional Development and one in the Department of Treasury, with a Minister for Regional Development acting as a de facto Treasurer and a Treasurer. We have one Treasurer, one team and one set of ministers with a set of objectives for regional Western Australia and the metropolitan area. It is not about using royalties for regions to drive the politics of division; it is about taking the state forward as a whole. I am very pleased about that.

Coming closer to home, this budget helps to build on the McGowan government's plan for Bunbury. My electorate will benefit from statewide initiatives such as job creation, with the McGowan governments target of creating 150 000 new jobs by 2023–24, of which 30 000 will be in regional WA. It has committed \$182 million over the forward estimates to establish an employer incentive scheme and increase training delivery for apprentices and trainees. It will also benefit from changes to the Keystart scheme, which will help to free up loan access for housing purchases, especially given the loan valuation risks that we are seeing from the banks in the regions. I am very pleased that the Minister for Culture and the Arts is here because I want to congratulate him on the budget outcomes for culture and the arts and what that means for regional Western Australia. Thank you, minister.

My electorate has a very close relationship with industry in the town of Collie and we in Bunbury know that Collie will experience a transition as power plants in the town age and demand for coal reduces. I welcome the government's commitment to provide \$60 million to attract industry to the Collie area. This will help to support the economic resilience of the south west as a whole and employers who are based in Bunbury, and it will contribute to a just transition for those who are most affected. Well done, member for Collie–Preston.

There are many people working hard to support the growth of jobs in my electorate; the Apprentice and Traineeship Company, which is led by Stanley Liaros, is an example of this, as is Jobs South West led by Posy Barnes. Recently, the government opened the skills and jobs centre at South West TAFE to provide a one-stop shop for both employers and potential employees to share information about opportunities and skills. These are the sorts of initiatives that create jobs in regional Western Australia. I would have thought that members opposite would have been applauding those initiatives but all I hear is whingeing and moaning.

Infrastructure is prominent in this budget. The rollout of the waterfront project in Bunbury will continue, with works for the completion of Casuarina Drive and Jetty Road due to start this year and the completion of the business case for the final stage—construction of the marine facilities themselves are not far away. Again, this project has broad community support. I especially acknowledge the work of the Bunbury Development Committee in helping to drive that. Planning is well underway for the construction of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road and the government has announced that forward works will start on the dualling of Bussell Highway, south of Capel. The Bunbury Outer Ring Road is an excellent example of a state government that can build collaborative links with an opposing federal Liberal-National government. All too often in the past there has been an adversarial approach. This government has demonstrated the capacity to build relationships in the interests of Western Australia as a whole, and the Bunbury Outer Ring Road is an excellent example of that. Many other projects in the metropolitan area and regional WA also reflect that. Although that particular project is outside of my electorate, it signals huge opportunities for the local contracting sector, especially tier 2 and 3 contractors. It will benefit my electorate by providing certainty of port access in the future, reducing traffic congestion from through traffic and reducing freight–passenger vehicle conflict. It is also really exciting to see the construction of new road access in Kemerton to not only provide direct access to Albermarle's Kemerton plant, but also open adjacent blocks. After nearly 30 years of a lack of action, Kemerton is finally coming into its own, and I am sure that the member for Murray–Wellington, who is a superb advocate for Kemerton, will agree that that will benefit the whole of the south west in terms of a major industry format.

There is \$32 million for the rail future fund, specifically for the replacement of the existing *Australind* with two new three-car sets and rail line and station improvements, some of which have already been completed. The current *Australind* cars commenced in 1987 and were an initiative of the then Labor government. The cars had a design life of up to 30 years with good maintenance, which should have seen them replaced in 2017. What did we see from the Liberal–National government? Nothing. Of course, the previous government had no plans to replace those cars —

Mr M.P. Murray: *AvonLink* got the money!

Mr D.T. PUNCH: Yes, *AvonLink* got it. What is more, it became clear that the previous government had scant regard for maintenance of this important asset, with an incredible build-up of wear and tear and corrosion across the two car sets, which we have had to spend the last three months repairing, with major work being done on those trains. Inheriting the *Australind* from the previous government was a little like buying that car that is all shiny and looks great, but when it is driven out of the car yard, it turns out to be an absolute lemon and the wheels fall off. That is what we inherited with the *Australind*.

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Bunbury Hospital was also allocated \$11 million to start the work of building its capacity to meet the present and future needs of the region. The hospital acts as the peak hospital for the south west. It has an incredibly busy emergency department and surgical wards.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr D.T. PUNCH: It also has general wards, maternity wards and a very important subacute facility with a strong team that assists elderly patients to recover from surgery or illness. The need for Bunbury Hospital's expansion was identified in the sustainable health review. Many of the staff at the hospital, although leading busy lives, also make enormous contributions to the community. Last Sunday, Bunbury held the annual Mother's Day Classic walk in support of breast cancer research. It was organised by Dr Paratha Ramesh and Sharon Ramesh, who also led the annual Festival of Lights, developing a closer understanding of Indian culture in our community. They are two people who are representative of the incredible volunteerism in my community.

Education has also been a beneficiary of this budget, with South Bunbury Primary School receiving a long-overdue commitment of \$5.5 million to upgrade classrooms and early childhood facilities. I also recently met with students and staff at Newton Moore Senior High School, who are excited about their plans for a new science, technology, engineering and mathematics centre.

Smaller projects also make a huge difference to the life of a community, and I want to touch on one because they do not cost a lot, but they do make a difference. The Withers Progress Association has waited very patiently for many years to provide additional facilities at Des Ugle Park, the major events park in Withers. This budget delivers an allocation of more than \$671 000 to start new works on the Withers urban renewal strategy, which includes Des Ugle Park. This is a community that takes pride in what it has to offer to its local residents, and was determined to shake off years of neglect. Mary Dunlop, president of the association, has done a tremendous job highlighting the needs of Withers and helping to improve the quality of life within the suburb through access to services, improvements to public open space, and development of a range of youth activities, including the police and community youth centre. I acknowledge Mary and her committee members.

This budget has been developed by a disciplined and united team—a team with a clear vision for a bright future for Western Australia; a future that builds the jobs of the future, provides for the education of the future, and starts the work of building a new sustainable approach to health. It is a budget for all of Western Australia, and, importantly, it does not pit the regions against the metro area. But most importantly, this is a budget that puts fiscal responsibility and accountability back into government and restores community confidence. Thank you.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [8.38 pm]: It is a pleasure to rise this evening and make some comments on the budget. I would like to begin by acknowledging the hard work of the Treasurer, because I do not think it has been a simple, easy or, indeed, painless task to restore the finances of this state, but in only three years, he has been able to deliver WA's first operating surplus in five years, and I think that is truly remarkable.

I am not the only one who thinks so; the front cover of *The West Australian* also suggested that the community supports the budget, the media supports the budget and, indeed, all of my electors seemed overwhelmingly positive in their reactions to a lot of our announcements. It was interesting listening to some of the debate earlier and the suggestion that this was all luck. There was very faint praise of the budget and, in some instances, members opposite bemoaned the purported shortcomings and failings of the budget. I would like to touch on a quote from this same article in *The West Australian*, "Back on Track" —

... unprecedented GST receipts, thanks to a new commonwealth deal agreed to by the Federal Parliament last year ...

That was a deal that our state government was able to negotiate and broker—that more GST receipts would come back to our state. That did not happen by accident. It is interesting. Victory has a thousand fathers. However, the fact remains that it was our state government that was able to negotiate that deal. That was hard fought for and certainly something that we should be proud of. That is just one of the ingredients that has found us in the position of being able to get the state's finances back on track.

Like members on the other side, I, too, would like schools in my electorate to have much needed investment in infrastructure. I, too, have schools that are over 100 years old and in dire need of investment. However, when we got into government, we had to be the adults in the room and restore the state's finances, first and foremost. The previous Liberal–National government acted like drunken sailors. We have had to restore the finances. I hope we are now in a position to be able to invest money into those critical infrastructure programs for kids in public schools in both the metropolitan area and the regions. That is fundamentally important. Clearly, it was not a priority for the previous government. It did nothing. In fact, when I interjected in this chamber on the former Premier, he conceded that things had not been done adequately for schools in my electorate. Therefore, I find it a bit frustrating, to say the least, to listen to the other side bemoan the lack of investment. We cannot do it all. We cannot be the ones to rein in all the spending that happened under the previous government, which, as I said, acted extraordinarily

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recklessly, and also invest in all the things in which we want to invest. However, in saying that, I am pleased to talk through some of the great things our government has been able to do and still manage to achieve a surplus.

It is worth noting that it is easy to say yes to spending and it is easy to splash money around. Our Labor government had to make difficult decisions. We had to be the conscientious ones, the considerate ones, and the ones who analyse things and are prudent and frugal, where necessary, so that we could arrive at the position we are in at the moment. I take my hat off to the Premier and the Treasurer, and all their cabinet colleagues, and everyone in government, for helping to deliver this outcome. It will ultimately lead to a stronger and more prosperous Western Australia, certainly for future generations as well, which is critically important.

This budget delivers a \$2.5 billion turnaround from where the former Liberal–National government left us. That government did not have one expected operating surplus over the forward estimates. That is how dire the finances of the state were during that government’s tenure. Therefore, it is a bit galling to listen to members opposite complain about the state of affairs now. Under this government, net debt is expected to be \$4 billion less than over the forward estimates of the previous Liberal–National government. That is phenomenal. State debt is forecast to peak, and subsequently decline, over the forward estimates period.

I now want to touch on an important issue not only to my community but also in all our electorates across the state; that is, jobs. The Labor Party took that to the 2017 election. We said, “We know that jobs are important to Western Australians; so, if we get into government, we will do everything we possibly can to make sure that we have a strong economy in which everybody can participate and get stable and secure jobs”, and that is what we set out to do. Treasury estimates that in 2019–20, employment will grow by 1.75 per cent. That is the equivalent of over 23 000 jobs. That will obviously improve life outcomes for many Western Australians.

Metronet is not only a critical public transport infrastructure project, but also a record investment of \$4 billion in public transport infrastructure. I am really pleased that two Metronet stations will be built in my electorate—one at the airport and one at Redcliffe. It is a fantastic public transport infrastructure initiative, but also, almost as importantly, it will create jobs along the way for locals.

While I am on the topic of transport, I would like to touch on the announcement made just prior to the presentation of the budget about critical infrastructure for eight new road projects across the eastern suburbs. I will not outline all of them—all eight projects are relevant to my constituents—but the one that will have the greatest and most positive impact in my electorate is the Lloyd Street extension. Locals in the South Guildford and Hazelmere areas experience congestion, so I know that that project will be welcomed by many locals.

As other members have touched on, including the member for Bunbury, a really important element of the budget is the fact that we have been able to restrain the increase in electricity prices. It is at a 13-year low, at just 1.75 per cent. The member for Roe said that it is still an increase and that it will be difficult for people in our community to manage, and I am absolutely sensitive to that. There are many vulnerable families in my community and I understand that that will be really difficult. But it is at a 13-year low. We are trying our best to help ease that burden. As the Treasurer said, that equates to a cost of about 10¢ a day being added to power bills. We have done our very best to alleviate those pressures on household costs. Another way that the budget will address the pressures on the cost of living that I am pleased with is the energy assistance payment. That payment will be increased in line with residential electricity tariffs, so that will support the really vulnerable households that we all have in our communities.

I would love to see more money go into public education, because I think it has transformative effects in potentially changing the trajectory of a child’s life. I would always like to see more, and I will always argue for more, in my community, as I am sure the Minister for Education and Training can attest to. I am pleased that this budget has not ignored our schools, even though some people on the other side might suggest otherwise. This is quite evident from the fact that in the 2019–20 year, \$452 million will be put towards infrastructure in our ageing public schools. It might not go as far as it needs to go, or as far as members want it to go for their constituents and local schools, but we are doing our best, and I certainly hope to see more of that.

Another initiative in the budget that I am really excited about is the investment in science labs in our schools. We all understand—I do not have to labour the point—that science, technology, engineering and mathematics is a really important area. We want to encourage young people as much as possible to engage in STEM subjects, because we understand that that will place them in the best possible light to obtain a quality job in the future. Fifty-one primary schools across the state will be part of the \$3 million investment, which is fantastic. In addition to the science labs, schools will get \$25 000 towards upgrading and purchasing new equipment. That is fantastic, because it will go a long way in inspiring and encouraging young people to engage in science subjects. The equipment might include things such as 3D models of the solar system and the human anatomy, digital microscopes, 3D printers and virtual reality headsets. I certainly did not grow up with any of these fantastic things in my school and I think it is fair to say that these types of resources will go a long way in fostering an interest in STEM subjects. Encouraging young people in this area is taken really seriously. The

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other area along the same line is coding. We have put coding into the school curriculum. Again, this is a really critical path for our young people. I am very proud that the first science lab to be rolled out in the state was at Belmont Primary School. We had the Premier come out and do an experiment with the students. It is a really welcome investment into our local schools. One also opened up just this week at Rivervale Primary School. I hear the kids are extremely excited and I look forward to having a tour with the kids shortly. Also in my electorate, Carlisle Primary School and Belmay Primary School are set to get a new school lab. This is critical investment and it shows the Labor government's dedication to ensuring that our kids are prepared for the jobs of the future. I am really proud of these initiatives.

I would also like to bring to the house's attention the \$5 million in capital investment that will deliver a new performing arts centre at Belmont City College. Belmont City College is a fantastic high school in my electorate that has a specialist drama program, but currently it does not have the capacity to take the number of students into that course who want to do it because of the size of its current performing arts facility. This is something the school is very excited about, and planning and development of that construction is underway. I look forward to going along to future shows and seeing the stars of the future on its stage.

Importantly, \$40 million in the budget is directed to public schools to support them and their children who have disabilities. This funding will support students who have an eligible diagnosis of global development delay, intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, vision impairments, severe mental disorder, physical disability or are deaf and hard of hearing, and so forth. We are committed to making sure that our children right across this state get the best opportunities to learn.

Another area in which we have really excelled is community safety. This is a big issue in my electorate. We have a lot of work to do in this space and it takes a whole-of-community approach, because there are some complex social issues, as I am sure there are right across the state in so many parts of our community. Of course, we have to be grateful for all the hard work done by our hardworking police officers who dedicate their lives to ensuring our safety in the community. It was great to see announced in the budget the personal multi-threat body armour that will help protect our police officers. This will be very welcome by the local police in my area. Also our community wants to make sure that the police who are doing their very best to protect us are protected against those doing the wrong thing. I also welcome the funding that has been allocated for the mobile tablets that will free up time for our really busy police officers to spend more time on the beat. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the local police officers in Belmont, led by the new officer in charge Daniel Grieve. The police work really hard protecting our community and our constituents right across Belmont. I would like to thank them for all their hard work.

All our communities have been affected by methamphetamine abuse, which is a very difficult and challenging issue that governments need to tackle. Our government is determined to tackle this issue head on. We are doing that by providing the much needed resources to make our communities as safe as possible. That is why we have dedicated \$42 million towards the meth action plan. That brings the total up to about \$244 million to help address this very complex and challenging issue that remains a scourge in our community. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of our dedicated approach to this.

Police and community youth centres are a personal favourite. Everybody in the community seems to love PCYCs. I was very pleased to see the additional funding of \$11 million to support PCYCs. As a result of that funding, I hope they might look at putting one in my electorate of Belmont, because it would be really welcomed.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms C.M. ROWE: Our government continues to dedicate itself to addressing the scourge of domestic and family-related violence and making sure that funds are available to protect vulnerable women and children. That includes over \$30 million towards a range of initiatives to tackle this scourge in our community. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Starick, which is a group that does critical work, particularly in my community. I would like to thank the CEO, Leanne Barron, and her fantastic team, who dedicate themselves to protecting the lives of women and children who are fleeing domestic violence.

Mental health is a particular interest of mine because it is very important and affects and afflicts many right across our community. It is non-discriminatory in whom it touches and affects. It can debilitate people and lead to terrible results. I was pleased to see the record level of investment in dealing with mental health—that is, an investment of \$942 million into mental health, alcohol and drug services. This government is not just talking about mental health issues and paying lip service to them. It is putting its money where its mouth is and throwing everything at addressing this sad issue, which affects many lives. That sum includes \$93 million to boost mental health services provided by the public health system by 2022–23. The Mental Health Commission will provide \$942 million worth of mental health and alcohol and other drug prevention treatment support and services for Western Australians right across the state.

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I am always saddened when I think that one person loses their life to suicide every day in Western Australia. That is a terrible statistic, and its impact is felt deeply through our entire community. I am really pleased—if that is the word, but I think “relieved” is more fitting—to see that \$8 million will go towards suicide prevention programs. That funding will support the excellent work that has been undertaken by the Mental Health Commission to deliver the state’s Suicide Prevention 2020 program, which aims to reduce the number of suicides in WA by 50 per cent over the next decade. That is really important and we should take a moment to reflect on that. A single life lost is one life too many. I look forward to more being done in this space, but I congratulate the Minister for Health for taking this initiative and taking it seriously. The budget will fund other mental health initiatives, including nearly \$9 million to continue the mental health court diversion program, which is an important initiative that supports children and adults with mental health conditions whose offending is linked to mental health issues. The program works to improve community safety, but just as importantly, it tries to reduce repeat offending. A sum of \$4.8 million will be made available to establish a 10-bed crisis centre in Midland and \$1 million will go to alcohol and other drug education programs for schools, which will focus on at-risk students. A sum of \$614 000 will go towards alcohol and other drug training for frontline workers such as psychologists, social workers and counsellors. Those initiatives highlight this government’s commitment to investing in mental health services and will provide Western Australians with better access to care that is closer to where they live.

Another area of the budget that we should be proud of is what the government is doing for the environment. I was pleased to note committed funding for national parks and reserves to increase Western Australia’s conservation estate by over 20 per cent. Under the ambitious plan for our parks initiative, five million hectares of new national and marine parks and reserves will be established over the next five years. We are also progressing the bid for a World Heritage listing of the Murujuga rock art, and this will give it the international recognition it so deeply deserves.

Another thing very dear to my heart is the commitment to establishing a container deposit scheme. I spoke about this last week. We are going to commence this in 2020, and our budget includes \$4.4 million to implement the scheme. Over the next 20 years, this scheme is predicted to reduce container litter by 760 million and it will cut the number of containers sent to landfill by 6.6 billion, which is quite remarkable. It will also see an increase in recycled containers by 5.9 billion. I think this important environmental initiative is well overdue. It is really welcome in my electorate, because people understand the issue. They have a heightened appreciation for the need to address our waste in a practical fashion. I think people really look to governments to lead the way, obviously and naturally. I think this is a really great initiative. I welcome it and I really hope to see more of this type of initiative going forward.

In 2017, we made the commitment to the public that we would focus on creating jobs. More than 37 000 jobs have been created since the 2017 election. This budget sees the lowest increase in household fees and charges in 13 years, because we know how hard and tough it is for people to make ends meet. We also managed to turn our state finances around, and our economy continues to grow. But we are still investing in those critical areas of health, education, protecting the community, mental health, our environment and so many other important things I have not had time to touch on this evening.

In closing, I again thank the Treasurer and acknowledge his work. It has been absolutely remarkable, to say the least, that he has been able to achieve what he has achieved in only three years. I think it shows his commitment and hard work in turning the tide for our state, and I hope that one day our children will be able to appreciate all the hard work of the Treasurer.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen) [9.02 pm]: First of all, of course, I congratulate the Treasurer and also all his cabinet colleagues for maintaining fiscal discipline in this year’s budget. I specifically want to mention the Treasurer’s cabinet colleagues because they all have particular projects or plans within their own portfolios that I am sure they would have been keen to pursue, but which they had to abandon or compromise for the greater good. Some might say that the state of the books is thanks to a more equitable arrangement of the GST, with the commonwealth injecting funds back into the state coffers, but that interpretation is trite. When referring to budget paper No 3, the *Economic and Fiscal Outlook* for 2019–20, it becomes apparent that GST grants represent only a portion of the state’s revenue. It is certainly welcome that through the McGowan government’s persistent and determined advocacy for reform and a fair share for WA, GST revenue will rise from 47¢ in the dollar to a 70¢ guaranteed floor. However, paradoxically under the Commonwealth Grants Commission formula, the better a state’s economy performs relative to other states, the more there is a reduction of GST, but thankfully now with this 70¢ floor, revenue will at least not go into freefall. However, something must be appreciated about the so-called GST windfall. In the words of the Treasurer last year in response to a question without notice —

It sounds like a lot and it is a lot, but let us put it in perspective; it is about six months’ funding for the health budget of Western Australia.

Let us take that and put it to good use by ensuring debt gets paid and interest payments are therefore reduced.

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Less well known or appreciated is the revenue from commonwealth tied grants. Although there is a veneer of largesse on the way the commonwealth has handled GST in recent years, the same cannot be said for tied grants that make up 50 per cent of the state's revenue. These tied grants are subject to conditions being imposed on the states and are subject to formal agreement entered into by the states. A significant number of agreements in health, education and housing, for example, are due to expire shortly. From a state budgetary perspective, there is always uncertainty about whether these expiring agreements will be renewed or whether the amount allocated will be reduced. It makes medium to long-term planning very difficult.

The notion of tied grants is also problematic when the commonwealth wishes to impose certain conditions or requests that the states match the federal contribution. Similarly, the commonwealth pursues a strong ideological line by tying the funding to the fulfilment of certain conditions, which erodes the autonomy of states and is not flexible enough to take into account local conditions and differing priorities. The desire of the commonwealth to walk away once and for all with its funding for remote Indigenous housing is a case in point. Under a long-term agreement, the state received approximately \$100 million every year for housing in its 165 remote Indigenous communities. The 10-year national funding partnership agreement, designed to ensure that people in remote communities had access to private affordable public and community housing, ended in June last year. The federal government offered a mere \$60 million over three years to be matched by the state as its final payment. The commonwealth asserted that the national partnership was never to continue indefinitely and that remote housing was a core state responsibility, and several other states had already accepted that proposition. I am pleased to say that Western Australia rejected that as a completely inadequate and insufficient exit payment.

The Premier, the Treasurer and Minister Tinley all separately made the point to the commonwealth that the commonwealth had provided states with funding for housing in remote Indigenous communities for decades and that it had an obligation to continue to do so. After many months of robust discussions, the commonwealth agreed and offered \$120 million to be paid in a lump sum earlier this year. It is arguable that with the pending election, the federal government wanted to clear the decks and get this contentious issue off the agenda. As a postscript, I was pleased to hear today in question time that the federal opposition leader, Bill Shorten, has promised \$1.5 billion over 10 years, which will provide greater stability and certainty and assist in closing the gap. Similarly, the federal government has cut \$77 million from WA public hospitals under these grants. That translates, of course, into fewer doctors, nurses and health staff, which puts more pressure on emergency departments and elective surgery waiting lists. All this is a roundabout way of saying that in the course of the federal election, Liberal candidates are keen to tell the community that the GST problem has been fixed, but they are more reticent to fess up about where tied grants and agreements with the commonwealth have resulted in significant cuts to funding for WA.

Every now and then something happens that causes pause for thought and reflection, and so it was for me earlier this year. I had time to reflect on our public health system from a consumer's perspective. Although I had been on the board at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and assisted in drafting the patients charter of rights, that was some time ago. It is a very different perspective as a patient. I am very proud that we have highly adept and world-class doctors in our tertiary hospitals and, similarly, a committed and highly professional nursing contingent. I am extremely grateful and humbled by their considerable efforts. We hear less often about those patient care assistants who come in regular contact with patients. I have never met such a colourful and dedicated bunch of people. Most have worked at Charlies for many years, love their jobs and are good at it. They were happy to have a banter about the Celtic Football Club, scrounge a piece of equipment Arthur Daley-style, seamlessly and cheerfully transfer my bulk from one bed to another without showing strain, or to give a reassuring smile as I was wheeled off to a procedure, test or operation. These patient assistants are often from migrant and, in some cases, refugee backgrounds. They really are the heart and soul of large hospitals and provide a human touch for what is otherwise a bewildering, isolating and overwhelming encounter with the health system.

I was a little surprised during my stay at Charlies that accompanying me wherever I went in that vast hospital was a mass of paperwork, expanding by the day. I wonder whether the day is at hand to move these records into the twenty-first century so that they can be stored and accessed electronically. This is certainly the case at Fiona Stanley Hospital. It is simply false economy not to make those parts of the system more efficient, thereby saving precious time and, most importantly, ensuring that critical treatment decisions are made with all information at hand.

On a more parochial note, I am heartened by robust reassurances from both the Minister for Health and the contents of the budget that the state's contribution of \$167 million towards the expansion of Joondalup Health Campus is proceeding. Those scallywag Liberal candidates in the northern suburbs have taken out large ads in the local newspaper and distributed pamphlets, no doubt at great expense, to peddle the lie that Labor cut \$167 million from Joondalup Health Campus and that Labor had broken its promise to deliver \$167 million in funding to Joondalup Health Campus. The McGowan government is simply getting on with the job and will deliver on its commitment to expand Joondalup Health Campus to reflect the needs of our residents in the northern suburbs. Important planning continues, and I am advised that work is expected to commence early next year.

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One part of the expansion that I am really delighted about is the new stroke unit that opened in March this year. The new service comprises a 12-bed unit, including six acute beds that are co-located with the therapy space. This provides convenient access and opportunity for early specialist stroke rehabilitation, providing comprehensive care. We all know how important time is in addressing strokes. I am absolutely delighted that this unit has finally been established because I have been lobbying successive health ministers for many years for this to occur. Once rehabilitation was moved from Shenton Park to Fiona Stanley Hospital, it meant an even longer journey for visiting families and those attending outpatients from my electorate. Often, patients spend many weeks in hospital and it contributed to the strain, delaying recovery by not having more accessible treatment available closer to home.

I acknowledge the complexity of the health system. That is reflected in the \$9.1 billion expenditure. It comprises 31 per cent of the total government expenditure allocated in this year's budget. The government must cover within this vast portfolio everything from investment in infrastructure and equipment, the challenges of adequately servicing mental health demands, training 44 000 staff, addressing the meth addiction that is so prevalent in our community, accommodating the needs of an ageing population, and educating the community on healthy lifestyle and disease prevention. However, as a volunteer advocate for Alzheimer's WA I was disappointed that explicit provision was not made for a number of measures to address better and more efficient treatment of dementia patients in hospital. There are 42 000 Western Australians living with dementia. Without a medical breakthrough, this number is expected to increase rapidly, to 84 000 by the year 2031. As we all know, dementia affects not only the individual but also their family and the wider community. It is the leading cause of death for women in Western Australia and the most prevalent chronic neurological condition. In 2013, dementia became the second leading cause of death in Australia. However, approximately 70 per cent of those living with dementia can live at home and continue to access their communities and local services. Strategies to respond to dementia need to target both community and healthcare settings.

Hospital use by people with dementia is significant. It is estimated that up to 35 per cent of people over the age of 65 admitted to hospital will have some form of cognitive impairment. Often these admissions are due to comorbidity health issues rather than related to the person's dementia. Avoidable adverse outcomes for a person with dementia during a hospital stay are common, with the average length of stay 3.5 times longer and much higher rates of preventable complications occurring. It is estimated that the financial cost of treating a person in hospital is up to 50 per cent more if the patient has dementia. This increased cost imposition on hospital services is significant and will grow exponentially over the coming years as the prevalence rate of people living with dementia grows by up to 300 per cent.

Research indicates that people admitted to hospital are often not identified as even having cognitive impairment at admission and this can lead to adverse outcomes during their hospital journey. A national trial of a cognitive impairment identification and education program has shown the positive outcomes of successful early identification and the subsequent improved hospital experiences of both staff and patients. Having observed a number of people with dementia in our tertiary hospitals, they are simply not set up to care for these individuals in a way that assists and expedites their recovery. Programs to address these issues include the Alzheimer's WA Dementia Change Champion Program, the development of hospital workforce training programs and the recent appointment of health region cognitive impairment coordinators. All these programs were in the Alzheimer's WA pre-budget submission.

Alzheimer's WA's Dementia Change Champion Program is Australia's most extensive program, with over 100 allied health champions trained in 21 hospital and multipurpose sites across the state. In its budget submission, Alzheimer's WA sought funding for the Dementia Change Champion Program to be expanded to allow broader reach to regional hospitals with a three-year contract for program delivery. The pre-budget submission also requested project funding to be made available for cognitive impairment awareness in hospital initiatives, such as consistent statewide adoption of the cognitive impairment indicator program and the rollout of the Focus on the Person program. Alzheimer's WA advocated that improved discharge support systems be provided to people with dementia in their families. These recommendations support and are consistent with the sustainable health review that targets improving the hospital experience while also focusing on the necessary and efficient use of hospital resources.

Ensuring health and community support systems are in place at discharge is very important, as is specialist outpatient follow-up by a specialist nurse. It will increase discharge confidence, leading to early discharges and improved bed flow within hospitals where we know there is great demand. Often people with cognitive impairment are kept in hospital longer, as clinicians are concerned that adequate systems are not in place at home to support the person. With patient support, health and navigation, care and coaching, the risk of hospital readmission is significantly reduced. There is a need for a program to provide specialist post-discharge —

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.M. QUIRK: — nurses for people with cognitive impairment and additional complexities that increase their risk of adverse outcomes. These are very important initiatives. Although I think some of the funding allocated in

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the budget for the sustainable health review could be allocated to these initiatives, it is clear that a lot of that is about administrative changes rather than programs. Of course, we have talked in this place on many occasions about age-friendly and dementia-friendly communities, and that was also included in the Alzheimer's WA submission. As I said, we know that 70 per cent of people with dementia stay at home and interact with and access local community services and support.

One of the things that the sustainable health review has referred to is a program from the UK called the Compassionate Frome project. The sustainable health review recommendation 14 states —

Transform the approach to caring for older people by implementing models of care to support independence at home and other appropriate settings, in partnership with consumers, providers, primary care and the Commonwealth.

The report states further on —

Introduction, evaluation and spread of approaches to reduce social isolation and unplanned admissions to hospital guided by the successful Compassionate Frome Project, ...

This program has engaged the local community in the south west of the United Kingdom to improve health outcomes and the quality of life for patients. It has managed to achieve a reduction in emergency admissions of 17 per cent, which is significant. According to the project, this represents five per cent of the region's health budget. Research shows that no other factors were attributed to this reduction in hospital admissions.

Through this project, they address the link between loneliness and ill health by bringing together general practice, social services, charities and the community hospital. They improve the connectedness of both staff and patients. Volunteers are trained as community connectors to help people they meet find the right service for them. To date, almost 400 groups and organisations have offered support, advice, companionship and creative activity through this project. GP services are integrated with links to the community they serve in their daily work. They are able to reconnect people in the community in which they live. It is a fantastic program. We are obviously a vast state but, certainly, I am very heartened by the sustainable health review embracing this model.

I will now talk briefly about some other government initiatives that were in the budget; in particular, I commend the government for making funds available to expand the number of police and community youth centres and make them more sustainable. Over the years, I have visited a number of these in both metropolitan and regional WA and they do great work. We all know, as a matter of economics, that the more we can engage with young people at an early age, the more likely they will stay on the right track and not be diverted into crime, antisocial behaviour or long-term unemployment. However, I fiercely agree with the member for Burns Beach, who last night called for the establishment of a PCYC in the northern suburbs. The need is acute.

Those who have had the misfortune to listen to my speeches over the year will be familiar with my grievance and whinge that the site of the former Hainsworth primary school has been left vacant for many years. I think, in total, seven ministers—I have counted Minister Marmion twice because he had the portfolio on two separate occasions—in the previous government failed to progress construction on this site. I congratulate Minister Tinley for his prompt action upon the government being elected. The Amble Estate was created and a number of houses have been built and are being lived in. I recently attended a community consultation held on the future of neighbouring Roydon Park and the facilities needed at the park. It is a great model of community consultation. All this has transformed the vicinity, and I am very grateful for the patience and forbearance of the residents who live nearby.

Secondly, I applaud the government for its ongoing and strong commitment to education in the budget. I congratulate in particular Girrawheen Senior High School for its achievement in greatly improving literacy in the latest NAPLAN results. I should formally farewell Rosalba Butterworth, who moved on as principal. The improvement in literacy at Girrawheen Senior High School is in no small measure due to her commitment and passion. I look forward to working with principal Barb Newton in her new role. I also wish to congratulate Ashdale Secondary College, which celebrated today its tenth anniversary. Due to my commitments here, I was unable to attend those celebrations. It is an outstanding school and, similarly, principal Kylie Bottcher is really generating a great atmosphere and a real enthusiasm for learning. Warwick Senior High School is also punching above its weight in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Late last year, Warwick Senior High School won the secondary category in the 2018 Governor's School STEM Awards, which recognises excellence in science, technology, engineering and maths. It was the runner-up in 2017. The high schools in my electorate are doing exceptionally well, and I thank staff, teachers and students for their commitment.

The focus of the budget, which I welcome, is on generating jobs, and rightly so. I am particularly concerned, however, about those who are aged over 45 years and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who are disproportionately represented in the unemployment figures. I am not sure whether improving the prospects of these two cohorts can be achieved by government alone. I consider that we need to work in collaboration with employers and better educate those who are wary about employing workers in these categories. Likewise, there is an ongoing

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issue within the African community. Many African Australians in my electorate, even those who have obtained their academic qualifications in Australia, are unable to gain the necessary experience to be competitive in the job market.

I turn to tourism. I congratulate Minister Papalia for his commitment to securing direct flights from Perth to India. It is a work in progress. The work is supported by a budget allocation. We all know that the Indian diaspora in WA has increased exponentially in the last decade. It would be a fillip to tourism if relatives with family in WA can access direct flights from India.

The final matters relate to tourism and the arts. First, the state government provides substantial funding to the Perth International Arts Festival, but there are very few PIAF daytime or matinee shows. For those who rely on public transport, and for seniors who may have supported the arts for decades and youngsters who are being introduced to live performances, this is unfortunate. I consider that the government needs to mandate that a small quota of programs be scheduled during the day or early evening to accommodate these people and that overall funding be made conditional on this.

I am also heartened to read that the budget includes a sum of \$30 million to clean up the East Perth power station to get it ready for development, which is well overdue. The activation of that part of East Perth, including transport infrastructure for Optus Stadium, makes the proposal more viable. I am strongly of the view that we need a world-class First Nations museum and art gallery there. Originally there was a proposal for a small Indigenous gallery at Elizabeth Quay, but that never eventuated. I have also suggested in previous speeches that such a museum could be situated at the Sunset Hospital site, but to no avail. I have been fortunate enough to visit the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia, which is a fantastic showcase of First Nations culture and history, and which we would do well to copy. I think we underestimate the popularity of such culturally focused venues, especially with European tourists.

That is a segue to my final observation on the Museum, which will open next year. I was delighted late last year, along with the member for Mount Lawley and the Greek Consul, to have a sneak preview of the Katta Djinoong gallery—formerly the Hellenic Gallery. It has a classical Greek relief running around the top of the gallery walls. This is one of the world's best-quality casts of the Elgin marbles—or, as I prefer to call them, the Parthenon marbles—which were expropriated from the Parthenon in Athens by Lord Elgin and are now held in the British Museum, despite numerous and sustained calls for their return to their rightful place in Greece. I believe that, with the opening of the gallery, we could run a small tourist campaign in Greece for people to come and visit the marbles in Perth. We could maybe concurrently conduct an essay competition for school students in Greece to win a trip to Perth.

In conclusion, I reiterate that the so-called GST fix is not the whole story in terms of revenue, and that federal–state relations will continue to impact on our revenue levels because of tied grants and the differing policy priorities of the respective governments. We are very fortunate to have first-class tertiary hospitals with remarkable, committed staff, and with a budget of \$9.1 billion for health, there is some room for efficiencies in the ways in which patients are diagnosed and discharged, within the context of patients with cognitive impairment. Bouquets to the government for various other budget initiatives. Finally, I made some gratuitous suggestions in the area of culture and the arts! I commend the bills to the house.

MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara) [9.31 pm]: I rise to contribute to debate on the Appropriation (Capital 2019–20) Bill 2019 and the Appropriation (Recurrent 2019–20) Bill 2019. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Treasurer in the delivery of another sensible and fair budget, and in delivering the state's first budget surplus in five years. I would also like to acknowledge everyone who has made a contribution to debate on the appropriation bills.

I will start by taking members back to the situation faced two years ago by local residents in my electorate of Pilbara. I would also like to bring to the attention of this house that Hon Alannah MacTiernan, who is a wonderful and great minister, came to Karratha for a budget lunch and delivered a great budget meeting. I would like to thank Minister Dawson for coming to Port Hedland and having a budget lunch for the people there. I would also like to thank Minister Johnston for coming to Newman and presenting a budget morning tea the next day. The people of Karratha, including the mayor, the CEO, the councillors and the other people who came for the budget breakfast really applauded our budget delivery. The same happened in Port Hedland. People are finding this budget to be a very fair budget.

Western Australia was going through the first recorded recession in our history, following a once-in-a-lifetime boom. Small businesses had been struggling to get housing for their workers in the Pilbara, with rents as high as \$3 000 a week. They were being forced to house their workers in tents and backyards. Many residents, after having worked for many years in Karratha, Port Hedland and Newman, lost their jobs and local businesses suffered a large reduction in workflow. That was a shock to everyone. Many businesses started to cut back on staff and worked on lean margins to keep afloat.

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On top of that, we had a nasty Liberal–National government that kicked residents while they were down. A glut of housing was released by LandCorp, but it was a little too late—it flooded the market with more vacant properties and caused property values to drop by more than 60 per cent. Nearly 2 500 properties were repossessed by the banks and sold cheaply. In 2013, the typical value of a home in Port Hedland was \$1.27 million. That fell to about \$395 000 in 2016. In 2013, South Hedland houses had a median price of \$865 000. That fell to around \$195 000 in 2016. Property prices and rents were both impacted by the rise of mining camps for workers that bypassed the local housing markets. Many of the camps were constructed by mining companies precisely because rents and house prices had been skyrocketing, making the unusually high cost of construction worth the investment of constructing residential camps.

Under 10 per cent of the local contractors and local residents were employed on local projects. Fly in, fly out workers dominated these projects. The Liberal–National government did not have a plan for local workers. It did not care about local residents getting local jobs.

The Liberal–National government kicked residents when they were down. It forced ratepayers to pay for the cost blowout of the Pilbara underground power project. While business owners were still struggling with huge mortgages, high rates and no jobs, the Liberal–National government sent homeowners a \$3 000 bill, and commercial property owners a bill for up to \$100 000, for the underground power. The Liberal–National government did not care. It kept piling debts on taxpayers by continuing to build the Pelago Apartments and Osprey Village, and by putting additional funding into the City of Karratha building, The Quarter. It made sure all contracts went its Liberal–National mates, getting jobs for the boys.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr R.S. LOVE: I think the member has just impugned that the Liberal–National members of this house are corrupt, and I think he should withdraw the remark.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms S.E. Winton): That is not a point of order.

Debate Resumed

Mr K.J.J. MICHEL: There were no responsible business cases. They did not care how much debt was piled on local residents. The Liberal–National government kicked the people of our Pilbara while they were down, and put the state into \$40 billion worth of debt. It was reckless, and the Western Australian voters let it know that at the ballot box.

I was elected to be a local voice for the Pilbara and to fight for local jobs for local projects. Two years later, long-term and sustainable optimism has returned to the Pilbara with the delivery of the McGowan government’s “Plan for the Pilbara”. Since we have been in government, there has been stabilisation and sustainable growth in the Pilbara’s population. The estimated residential population of Karratha and Port Hedland, and the Shire of Ashburton, including Onslow, grew slightly during 2017 and 2018, as did the residential population of the whole of the Pilbara. We have also seen an increase in the median house price. Late last year, the then president of the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia, Hayden Groves, was quoted by *The West Australian* —

“The Pilbara property market has stabilised with rents now beginning to edge up again and property values no longer falling,” he said.

“Investor confidence is beginning to return as a result, albeit more cautiously in the face of tighter lending conditions from banks and recent lessons from the last bust fresh in the minds of many.”

We are seeing positive signs in Hedland and Newman. The McGowan Labor government is not reckless and we will not kick the residents of the Pilbara while they are down. We are committed to getting the right balance between a residential workforce and a fly in, fly out workforce. The McGowan government has put in the hard work to ensure that local Pilbara residents get access to local jobs first, before FIFO workers. Woodside has announced its aim to have a fully residential workforce by 2023. BHP recently announced that it is now looking at a drive in, drive out employment option for its Eastern Ridge and Jimblebar operations east of Newman, which has the potential to expand to the Area C, South Flank and Yandi operations. Fortescue Metals Group has stated that it will offer a DIDO workforce for its Iron Bridge mine, which should see a growth in the residential workforce for its operation at its Herb Elliott port in Port Hedland. Yara Pilbara Fertilisers has a mostly residential workforce based in Karratha. BBI Group plans a drive in, drive out workforce for the mine site and a residential port and rail workforce. Perdaman has stated that it plans to build 150 houses for residential staff. These are excellent outcomes to ensure that local Pilbara residents get access to local jobs first. The Liberal–National government did not care about ensuring jobs for local residents. We do.

I am very pleased that the 2019–20 state budget is continuing to deliver on the McGowan government’s plan for the Pilbara. That involves creating jobs and supporting our economy. The McGowan government is aiming to create 30 000 jobs in the Pilbara by 2024. This budget will deliver \$182.4 million in statewide funding for a new employer incentive scheme and training delivery, including \$45 million for regional WA. This scheme will help WA employers with the cost of employing apprentices and trainees. If workers are trained locally in the regions,

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they will stay and work in the regions, raising families and building stronger communities. Only the McGowan Labor government understands the importance of employing apprentices and trainees to ensure that our workforce is skilled and ready to take on all these jobs locally.

There is \$310 million in total funding for the Karratha–Tom Price road. I would like to name it the “Red Dog Highway”. It is an incredible budget commitment by a government that understands the importance that this road has for the Pilbara. The road will provide significant benefits to our region, including providing safer roads, expanding tourism and job opportunities, improving access to remote Aboriginal communities, cutting the cost of doing business, opening up freight services and improving social connectivity in our Pilbara. This is a road that the wider Pilbara community has wanted ever since the project was started by a previous state Labor government. Only our McGowan Labor government will get this project, which was started by a previous state Labor government, done so that it opens up the heart of the inland Pilbara. This budget will deliver \$1.33 million towards the Murujuga Living Knowledge Centre and the tourism precinct at Conzinc Bay, and \$649 000 towards implementing the Murujuga rock art strategy. Again, traditional owners and locals have long spoken about the significance of the 40 000-year-old rock art on the Burrup and the McGowan government has listened. It is only the McGowan government that will finally give the Burrup the local, national and international significance it deserves.

Our plan for the Pilbara is to deliver better health and community services that the previous Liberal–National government ignored. Last weekend I was in Newman with Minister Bill Johnston to engage with the community, not for a photo shoot like the Nationals WA did. The Newman community has been waiting for the redevelopment of the Newman Hospital for nearly 10 years and everyone I met was happy with the news that construction will start next year.

The community has been calling for Kurra Village to close ever since the Nationals shot itself in the foot trying to close it down. We will close it this year.

For so long my community has been asking for renal dialysis services so that families do not have to travel to Port Hedland for treatment. We are delivering \$1.3 million for the construction of a new renal dialysis unit in Newman Hospital that will house four renal dialysis chairs and supporting infrastructure. In fact, this budget is delivering \$13.8 million to help Pilbara patients access health care near where they live. Under the McGowan government program, pregnant women in inland Pilbara will be able to access enhanced and culturally appropriate midwifery care. The funding also allows for outreach services in Roebourne, Onslow, Tom Price and Paraburdoo, as well as a new women’s health service in Tom Price and Newman. Medical specialists such as emergency medicine specialists, a consultant surgeon, a consultant paediatrician, a specialist obstetrician and a community midwife will service the Karratha Health Campus and will outreach to surrounding areas. This will open up the health services available to our Pilbara patients and spare them the stress of travelling to Perth and leaving vital family and community support.

The stigma surrounding mental health has plagued our Pilbara communities for too long and the McGowan government is investing vital funding into suicide prevention and treating mental health issues. Many of us in the Pilbara community have been deeply affected by recent suicides over the past few years and it is fantastic to see that an \$8.1 million spend for the suicide prevention strategy has been put aside in this budget along with \$14.8 million committed to building up the step-up, step-down facility in Karratha. The McGowan government is dedicated to delivering essential mental health services to the Pilbara. I would like to thank the Minister for Health for listening to the needs of my constituents and providing vital health funding that has been warmly received by our Pilbara communities.

This budget has a \$131.5 million funding commitment to support agriculture in Western Australia, grow export markets and create long-term jobs in the agriculture industry. Beef production is the backbone of the agriculture sector in my electorate and this additional expenditure will ensure substantial growth in this industry. We have a fantastic Minister for Agriculture and Food in the other place, and with a strong passion for diversity and growth, the Pilbara agriculture industry will have a good future. The \$5.9 million Transforming Agriculture in the Pilbara project is exploring exciting opportunities for irrigated agriculture development in Newman. It is a fantastic project, which will create employment opportunities in horticulture for the Martu people, and our government is looking forward to the results of this three-year trial.

Northern beef businesses benefited from a \$575 000 business improvement grant last year.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr K.J.J. MICHEL: Our Pilbara agricultural industry has welcomed the support that the McGowan government is funding through this state budget. They have welcomed the additional \$42.5 million in funding for the methamphetamine action plan to combat the evils of methamphetamine in our communities. The sum of \$21 million has been set aside for the north west drug and alcohol support program to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs in the Pilbara, the Kimberley and the midwest. There is \$6.5 million for the Aboriginal Community

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Connectors program to improve community safety and reduce the consequences of alcohol and other drugs-related at-risk behaviour. These initiatives target issues in the north of our state that were neglected and ignored by the previous government. It is fantastic to see action on them.

The budget also sets aside \$11.3 million to support and expand police and community youth centres across our state. This was funding cut by the previous Liberal-National government. Roebourne PCYC in my electorate does an excellent job in reducing juvenile offending and improving community safety, which is a credit to CEO David van Ooran, centre manager Samantha Cornthwaite, and the Roebourne PCYC team. I am proud that last year Roebourne PCYC was named the joint winner of best regional PCYC of the year, tying with Geraldton.

Western Australia Football Commission Pilbara regional development manager Vicki Agnew and Roebourne police Sergeant Steve Taylor won awards for regional partnership of the year and best WA police contribution for their work supporting Roebourne PCYC to deliver Night Fields, the sports engagement football program in the town. Earlier this year, the Minister for Police was in my electorate to present a \$241 000 Lotterywest grant to fund two part-time sports coordinators at the Roebourne PCYC. I am certain that the extra funding commitment for our PCYCs across the state will help them continue to improve the delivery of their vital services to our communities. It is also fantastic to hear that our hardworking Pilbara district police officers will be some of the first in WA to receive handheld smart devices, which will allow them to spend more time in the field. A sum of \$34.6 million has been set aside for the rollout of personal issue mobile smart tablets for police officers. This is an innovative approach to integrating new technology with police work. There is also \$15.4 million towards the rollout of personal issue multi-threat body armour to frontline police officers. The Minister for Police is doing a fantastic job in looking after Western Australian police officers. It is clear how different the McGowan government is compared with the reckless previous government. We are delivering funding to services and projects that our Pilbara community have wanted for a long time. It is really fantastic to see long-term optimism return to the Pilbara with a stable, responsible McGowan government delivering this state's first budget surplus in five years. Well done to the Treasurer and his team for delivering a truly fair and sensible state budget, and for continuing to deliver on the plan for the Pilbara. I commend the bills to the house.

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo) [9.54 pm]: I can feel the anticipation building in the house as I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2019–20) Bill 2019 and the Appropriation (Capital 2019–20) Bill 2019. I appreciate that it is not to hear me speak. It is late in the hour and it is my job to bring proceedings home for the night. I was a bit excited that some people in the opposition might like to hear me speak, but they are not here. I am pleased to see that a shadow agricultural spokesperson is here, because perhaps he would like to listen to some of the comments I might make about agriculture in Wanneroo. We would love to see him up there some time to join the member for Cottesloe, who seems to have made lots of friends in Wanneroo with lots of visits apparently.

Last week our Treasurer handed down his third budget. I take this opportunity to speak on it. I am not going to rehash lots and lots of things. I think we have made it abundantly clear that we are getting WA back on track. Everyone seems to agree with the budget except for the opposition. The member for Carine should come and join me! I know he is on three strikes! Where has he been? I am glad to see him. I thought he was still at lunch! I noticed last Thursday when the Treasurer handed his responsible budget down that no opposition members were in the car park. They were at breakfast somewhere. At lunchtime, half an hour before the Treasurer brought down the most important budget for a long time, they were having lunch. The opposition leader and the shadow Treasurer were having lunch half an hour before the Treasurer brought down the budget. That says a lot about the work ethic in this place. I do not know where they are tonight, but they are certainly not here to listen to me, which I am a bit disappointed about, because I know that the member for Dawesville loves to listen to me! The *Australian Financial Review* liked this budget and the media of Western Australia liked this budget. Everybody liked this budget except for the opposition, because we are doing what the federal Morrison government seems to suggest Labor cannot do. Labor can be responsible financial managers and we are proving that in this state. I am absolutely sure when we have a Shorten federal Labor government that the same will apply at the federal level.

We have a \$553 million operating surplus in 2018–19—the first one in five years. Net debt will be \$4.5 billion lower in 2019–20 than projected under the previous government. Importantly, our average expenditure growth is 1.3 per cent, as opposed to an average of 6.4 per cent under the previous Liberal government. That tells the story of this budget. Our budget is in surplus, even without the GST. We have heard a lot from the opposition claiming credit for this budget. It is interesting how the federal Liberal government claims credit too. It is interesting how Christian Porter, who nearly bankrupted Western Australia before he bolted to Canberra, is claiming credit too. Everybody wants the credit for the work of our Premier, our Treasurer and our cabinet in bringing Western Australia back on track. The return of some of our GST is not a bonanza, like the member for Scarborough says. It is what WA is actually entitled to. It is not a bonanza. It is not a windfall, like the member for Cottesloe says. It actually belongs to us. It is certainly not a lottery, as the opposition leader tried to suggest.

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We have had six years of the federal Liberal government and in its death throes it has decided to give the money back—give us back what was ours to begin with. It is quite extraordinary, and the opposition is trying to take credit for our state budget. If the opposition wants to go down that line and take responsibility for the 2019–20 budget, it might want to take credit for, or own up to, the whole lot—own up to the intergenerational \$40-plus billion that was on the state's credit card under its watch. If the GST is what has fixed it, certainly the GST is what put us in the mess we were in under the previous government's watch. Man up! We know the Liberal opposition does not have enough women to woman up. "Man up!" is my favourite saying from Selina; members should watch *Veep*. This GST money is not a bonanza. Western Australia has been ripped off and ignored for too long. I concur with the member for Bunbury. The community got the GST fixed. Our community gave the Liberal Party a slap at the last state election and the fear of the federal coalition getting a similar slap on Saturday means that it decided to give it back to us.

We have a responsible budget with the lowest increase in household fees and charges in 13 years; electricity is in line with inflation; and the economy is set to grow by 3.5 per cent in 2019–20. We have created 37 000 jobs in the first two years, invested \$4.1 billion in Metronet, and invested \$1.3 billion in roads. Of course, the Keystart package supporting housing construction and potential homebuyers is absolutely supported, particularly in the northern suburbs where we have many young people wanting to get a start. Our approach targets funding to improve key services, including health, education and community safety.

I have spoken previously about the fantastic infrastructure that is happening all over the northern suburbs, and certainly the Minister for Transport has on many occasions highlighted that to be the case. We do not just stick to delivering a DL and sticking it in people's letterboxes or putting an advertisement in the paper saying that we are delivering on some set of money that does not appear in a federal budget. Our infrastructure commitments are real and being delivered right now. We have \$146 million worth of road infrastructure in Wanneroo. The \$65 million Wanneroo Road–Ocean Reef Road overpass is being constructed right now. The \$50 million Wanneroo Road–Joondalup Drive overpass is being constructed right now. There will be some short-term pain for people while we are constructing that, but when it is done, it will be fixed properly for the next generation to come. We will do it once and we will do it properly. I am convinced that the majority of people in Wanneroo appreciate our forward-looking vision, and will be able to cope with the short-term pain with the roadworks in that area.

Of course, we had \$31 million for dualling Wanneroo Road between Joondalup Drive and Flynn Road. I can say delivered because it is open and I drive on it every day at least twice a day. It is fantastic. It is done and delivered. We have various black spot projects. Of course, it was recently announced that we will extend Mitchell Freeway to Romeo Road. It is a \$107 million project and will create 1 200 new jobs. Of course, I have spoken previously in a grievance to the minister about the extension to Romeo Road; it is important because it will not only bring the freeway further north, but also connect my electorate to the electorate of Butler. It will allow people to access the train lines, the schools and the shops. It is a really, really important piece of infrastructure to connect my electorate to the Alkimos and Butler area.

Let us talk about health for a minute. The member for Girrawheen mentioned the stroke unit. It is done. It is real. It is delivered. It is not on an ad. I have seen the beds. The Minister for Health opened it. Sally from the northern suburbs stroke unit has long advocated for it. I imagine in opposition no-one was listening to the member for Girrawheen. Now we have a Mark McGowan Labor government, we are delivering for the northern suburbs.

Ms M.M. Quirk: That's a bit rough. You've just written off eight years of my career!

Ms S.E. WINTON: No, I was trying to suggest exactly what these people have been bleating about—nothing ever happens. Guess what? While the northern suburbs were filled with Liberal members of Parliament, nothing was done. Now that we have some Labor members in the northern suburbs, people are getting some services and key infrastructure spends in both roads and health.

I also want to mention the palliative care package, which is a \$41 million commitment to the end-of-life choices and palliative care services package. There is a 74 per cent increase in funding for regional palliative care. This package brings the total investment by the McGowan government for palliative care services over the next four years to over \$200 million.

I held an end-of-life choices forum in March, and 200 people attended. It is absolutely clear that people want not only this legislation, which we are going to bring forward, but also an increase in the palliative care services in that area.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Bah humbug! Members, please.

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Ms S.E. WINTON: I would like to have a bit of a chat about education, as I always do. Broadly, \$5.2 billion will be spent on school education in 2019–20, and over \$22 billion over the next four years. The sum of \$152 million has been allocated for new schools, including at Banksia Grove and Yanchep, member for Butler. Seventy-seven million dollars has been allocated for the redevelopment of secondary schools. It is real—we are delivering it! I know it is real because I have seen the plans and construction is about to start at Wanneroo Secondary College with a \$5 million commitment to deliver on building a new gymnasium. There is \$3 million for science labs at 51 primary schools. On the ground in my schools, it is real. The principal from East Wanneroo Primary School called me on Monday to let me know that construction on the science lab is about to start. That is fantastic. Wanneroo Primary School and Carramar Primary School will also get a science lab. Tapping Primary School already has an established science lab. Science teacher Vanessa Fairhead is doing a fantastic job delivering science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs throughout the school. It was a pleasure to be at the school's STEM week earlier this year.

Joseph Banks Secondary College recently had a “pamper yourself with maths” evening, which I enjoyed. Female students from years 9 and 10, accompanied by their mums, came together to celebrate all things maths and careers. There were powerful and passionate speakers. I want to congratulate principal Eleanor Hughes, maths domain leader Raluca Gavrilu, and all the staff and teachers. There is a gender gap in STEM subjects. Sixteen per cent of Australian STEM professionals are women. Fifty-two per cent of Australian girls aged 12 to 14 want to study STEM subjects in the future. Australia has the lowest number of female enrolments in STEM tertiary study of any other country in the Asia-Pacific. That number is 27 per cent. The work we are doing in delivering science labs into our primary schools are real changes that will hopefully change that, which is not a very good statistic to have.

Lots of people have been talking about whether federal funding is coming or not. I could not resist. I would like to have a bit of a chat about the federal funding that will be available to schools in Western Australia when a Shorten federal government is elected on Saturday. I want to read from the State School Teachers' Union of WA's analysis of which party will provide the best outcome for our schools. The State School Teachers' Union is not an aligned union. Members would be surprised to know that; I know it well. I suggest that teachers in the main are actually swing voters and they swing depending on which party is going to provide a better outcome for public education. I will tell members how those people will vote on Saturday. It is quite clear who supports public education. A Shorten Labor government will restore, in its first three years, the \$14.1 billion that was cut by the Morrison federal government. It will allocate \$300 million to students with disabilities. A Shorten government will work towards 100 per cent of the schooling resource standard. A Shorten government will invest \$1.75 billion into a national preschool and kindy program, ensuring preschool for three and four-year-olds. Members opposite have got to like that, surely.

TAFE is important. We know what the member for Scarborough did to TAFE. She gutted it and made it absolutely unaffordable for our young people to get training.

Mr R.S. Love: She's actually not here.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I look forward to her reading my contribution in *Hansard*. I know opposition members love to read what I talk about in this place. I will send the member the video afterwards.

Mr D.A. Templeman: This member is like an incendiary device. It keeps you fired up.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I am, but a bit disappointed with the turnout; I have to say. Whoever is doing the rollcall should really have a bit of a think.

Mr D.A. Templeman: You're not necessarily playing to a full house.

Ms S.E. WINTON: No, I am not.

Two-thirds of all government vocational education funding will be for TAFE. A Shorten government will invest \$1 billion into TAFE to offer 100 000 fee-free places in key disciplines, and \$200 million to rebuild and reopen TAFE campuses. Let us look at what the coalition is offering public schools. The Morrison government has cut \$14 billion from public schools. It announced a \$4.6 billion special funding deal, a \$1.9 billion capital works program and a \$1.2 million choice and availability fund for private schools. The Morrison government's plan leaves 99 per cent of public schools below the schooling resource standard. It has cut disability funding. There is no funding for preschools. I will not go on about TAFE other than to say that the coalition government has cut \$3 billion from the vocational education sector since elected. There is no mention of TAFE in the federal budget—none at all. The coalition government is responsible for the national skills crisis, with a drop in apprenticeships of 140 000 in six years.

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That is all wonderful, but I can tell members what it will mean for schools in my electorate if we elect a Shorten government on Saturday. I am pretty excited for the schools in my area! Under a Shorten government, Banksia Grove Primary School will get an extra \$810 000 and Carramar Primary School will get \$1 000 040.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms S.E. WINTON: I am on the board of East Wanneroo Primary School; it will receive \$510 000. Hocking Primary School will receive \$760 000. Joseph Banks Secondary College will receive \$1 960 000 if the candidate for Pearce, Kim Travers, is elected.

Ms J.J. Shaw: An outstanding candidate.

Ms S.E. WINTON: She is an outstanding candidate. What a good reason to vote for her—nearly \$2 million for Joseph Banks Secondary College. Pearsall Primary School will receive \$520 000; Spring Hill Primary School, \$870 000; and Tapping Primary School, \$960 000. I am on the board of Wanneroo Primary School and it will be delighted to get \$600 000 under a Shorten Labor government. Wanneroo Secondary College will also receive nearly \$2 million. I am on the board of that school, too, and I would be happy to turn up to the next board meeting and discuss how the school will spend that money.

Extra funding for the whole electorate of Cowan over the first three years is nearly \$30 million. In Pearce, over \$37 million will go to local schools. I could go on, member for Butler: Yanchep Beach, Two Rocks, Quinns Rocks and Queens Beach Primary Schools; John Butler Primary College; Yanchep Secondary College; Clarkson Community High School; Butler College—in fact, in all of our schools the federal Shorten government will put back the funding that Scott Morrison has cut from the public education sector.

Mr D.R. Michael interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Balcatta.

Mr D.R. Michael: That clown over there.

The SPEAKER: Member, call the member by his correct title, please.

Mr D.R. Michael interjected.

The SPEAKER: It was “please”. I am tired and you are tired. I am sure we are getting near the end.

Ms M.M. Quirk: You are going to seek an extension, aren't you?

Ms S.E. WINTON: I have already had it, member.

I want to spend the last few minutes talking about an important area in my electorate. Of course, members all know that that is agriculture and that Wanneroo grows nearly 40 per cent of the fruit and vegetables we eat every day. It is a very, very important industry. I am very delighted with what the state government is doing for our area. I want to recap on a few things because, unfortunately, the member for Cottesloe did not allow me to interject yesterday and he could have saved all members here from having to listen to me tonight. I take exception to some of the things he said and I need to set the record straight.

Ms J.J. Shaw interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I am sure he will.

The SPEAKER: Member for Swan Hills, are you in your seat? I call you to order for the third time.

Ms S.E. WINTON: There have been longstanding challenges for agriculture in north Wanneroo. The previous government did absolutely nothing for eight years. Let me give a quick summary of what we have done in two short years. Bear with me people; stay with me. We made an election commitment to establish the North Wanneroo Agriculture and Water Taskforce. We did it; it is done. The Minister for Agriculture and Food has responded to those recommendations and it was clear that the growers could not continue with the 25 per cent cut proposed by the Liberal government in 2016. My task force made it clear to the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Minister for Water that they needed certainty. The Minister for Water announced that there would be a 10 per cent cut in water licences in north Wanneroo from 2028. This is more than half the 25 per cent originally proposed by the mob over there, and it provides certainty.

Mr R.S. Love: It doesn't provide water.

Ms S.E. WINTON: It provides certainty that their existing licences will continue until 2028. It is important to note that the member for Cottesloe said that we are kicking the issue down the road. We are not. The Mark McGowan government has committed that no changes will be made to growers' licences and there will be a 10 per cent cut in 2028. That provides certainty. The only uncertainty is that we do not know what the Libs would do—other than to have cut it by 25 per cent in 2016. To provide certainty, the opposition needs to provide an alternative to what

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we are saying we will do. That is the uncertainty. We make decisions and that is what we will do. We will support growers. We have announced that we will invest in a new water-use efficiency program to support growers and industry to assess technology options to encourage efficient water use and to help them transition. We have listened to growers and we have more than halved the proposed cuts.

That is the government's position. If opposition members would tell us what they would do if they were elected in 2021, guess what?

Mr I.C. Blayney interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Geraldton, I do not want to hear you.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Wanneroo growers would have certainty. It is interesting that the member for Moore said that our plan would not provide water. No; it will not provide new water; it will provide certainty with their existing licences. The member is right; people need more water. They want to grow their businesses. In 2007, at the end of the previous Labor government, the future east Wanneroo report came out with a recommendation that we needed new water and we should investigate the possibility of getting recycled water from Alkimos and bringing it to Wanneroo. That was recommended in 2007 for new water. If growers are to grow their business into the future, we need a new supply. The Liberal government did nothing in eight years to contemplate what a new water source would be. All I heard from the member for Cottesloe was that it would be quite simple; we could pipe back all the recycled water going into the ocean. If it is so simple, why did members opposite not do it in the last eight years? Growers have been asking for a new water supply for the last eight years. This is not a new plea, so why did the Liberal–National government not do that in its eight years?

Mr I.C. Blayney interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Geraldton!

Ms S.E. WINTON: The opposition does not have an answer. The Liberal–National government had four agriculture ministers and none had an answer. In fact, in all that time, I do not remember one agriculture minister ever coming out to Wanneroo.

Mr I.C. Blayney interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Geraldton, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms S.E. WINTON: The current Minister for Agriculture and Food has been out to Wanneroo at least seven times. She has attended the Wanneroo Agricultural Show for the last three years. She loves the area; she is supporting and advocating for the agricultural industry. You guys did nothing except have four agriculture ministers. It was a revolving door. They had no plan for Wanneroo or the growers there. The member for Cottesloe stood up and said that we are pulling a stunt. I am happy with this government's work in agriculture in Wanneroo. We will stand by what we do and the actions we take. We have done more in two years than the former Liberal–National government did in eight years. Members opposite have gone silent because they do not have any ideas about new water.

I went to the rally to which the member referred on Saturday. One of the key recommendations from the task force is the same as it existed in 2007—we need to explore and investigate and do a business case to see whether it is potentially possible economically to bring recycled water from Alkimos. We are doing that right now. We have invested \$700 000 to do that work. The member for Cottesloe got it wrong because we have not made a commitment to bring recycled water from Alkimos. What we need to do first is investigate whether it is viable. Once we have established that—that is the work that we are doing now, work that should have been done eight years ago—we can decide whether to go ahead with it. We have not committed to go ahead with it because we do not know how much it will cost and whether it will be supported by growers. That work is being done now. The member for Cottesloe misled Parliament by suggesting that we have committed to do that. We have committed to do the work. The purpose of the North Wanneroo Residents Association's rally was to see what the various federal candidates for Pearce will do to support Wanneroo in its investigation of a new water supply. Guess what? The Labor candidate for Pearce, Kim Travers, and the Minister for Agriculture and Food turned up, but Christian Porter did not show. Kim Travers, as the candidate for Pearce under a Shorten Labor government, has committed to give the state government \$500 000 to fast track that work so that we can decide whether it is economically viable to go ahead. Porter has offered nothing—nothing at all. It is interesting that members opposite think that they are offering something for the people of Wanneroo. The truth is that they have done nothing.

Finally, I will take members to one element of the state budget that summarises how Wanneroo has been treated by the McGowan Labor government, particularly the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Alannah MacTiernan. I am a bit biased towards her because she has shown an interest in, and made a commitment to, doing the work with us in Wanneroo. Rather than me being biased, I refer to a media release put out by Trevor Whittington from WAFarmers. Of course, \$131 million has gone back into the department. Can members imagine what support we

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will provide agricultural growers in not only Wanneroo, but also around the state by bringing the department back? Let us listen to the experts. In his media release, Trevor Whittington states —

The WA Government has come through as per its pre-budget announcement, with a turnaround budget for the WA Department of Agriculture.

For the first time in years, the ... Department ... has secure funding to end the annual budget cuts, which over the past decade have seen staff numbers effectively halved.

The \$131 million of new funding over the next four years will lock in current staffing ...this will mean that the planned cuts in forward estimates which would have taken out another 100 staff will not go ahead.

These are not my words; these are the words of the chief executive officer of WAFarmers.

Finally, we have moved away from the short-term royalties for regions projects and offered a path to a better way. They are up and running and taking the industry seriously, which is a credit to Minister Alannah MacTiernan. It is the first time in 20 years that a minister has stood up to Treasury—is the Treasurer feeling battered and bruised?—and not held the line. She pushed back and demanded funding support to help the industry grow. I assure members that once we conclude the business case, the Minister for Agriculture and Food will be in a position to decide whether that is the way to go for a new source of water; and, if it is not, I guarantee members that we will go to plan B and do the next thing.

Mr R.S. Love: What's plan B?

Ms S.E. WINTON: At the moment, we are dealing with the recommendations of the task force. That is the first aspect we are looking at, because that is what everybody has been expecting us to do for eight years. Once the business case for that is determined, we will look at the various other options. Thank you.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.

House adjourned at 10.24 pm