

Mr Jeremy Edwards; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr John D'Orazio; Mr Tony O'Gorman; Mr Bernie Masters; Ms Katie Hodson-Thomas; Mr Paul Andrews; Mr Brendon Grylls; Ms Dianne Guise; Mr John Hyde; Mr John Bradshaw; Mr John Kobelke

LOAN BILL 2003

Second Reading

Resumed from 28 August.

MR J.P.D. EDWARDS (Greenough) [4.50 pm]: I welcome the Loan Bill. This debate gives me an opportunity to comment on issues within my portfolios and electorate. I understand that is the reason the Loan Bill has been made available to us.

I start by epitomising the background of my electorate of Greenough. Weather conditions have meant that the past three or four years have been very harsh for the eastern side of my electorate, resulting in a subsequent downturn in the farming industry. Last week I visited some people in the eastern part of my electorate. I met with a particular farmer who has 12 000 acres of land east of the Mullewa-Morawa road. He is very pleased that he has put in a crop this year. I drove through his property to get to his home, and it looked extremely good. I asked him how much of the 12 000 acres he had planted. He told me that he took a gamble that the season would be a good one and planted all 12 000 acres. That is the sort of gamble that the farming community in rural Western Australia takes every year. Those who have a bet at the casino are in control to at least some degree over what they put on the table or on the cards. A farmer has no control over what happens with the weather. He can do only the very best according to his instincts and his knowledge of his country. I suspect it cost that farmer between \$1.5 million to \$2 million to put in that crop. He could have lost it all if there were not a drop of rain. Fortunately, we had good rain. The country out there is looking absolutely fantastic. Hopefully, he will make up for the past three or four years - if Governments, both state and federal, do not take too much away in tax.

I carry on in that theme, as I am a country member for the party I represent. An interesting write-up by André Malan was published in *The West Australian* a week or so ago. As a city person, he was trying to point out the immense resource that comes from country Western Australia. In his article, he recognised some of that resource and urged the 1.4 million or 1.5 million people who live in the city - compared with the 450 000 of us who live in country Western Australia - to also recognise it. I will paraphrase his article. He wrote that in one way or another every person in this State is likely to benefit from the grain crops now flourishing from Northampton to Esperance. He wrote also that for city people like him, the crops are a timely reminder of how dependent Western Australia, Australia's greatest wheat-growing State, has always been on grain and sheep. Although we might for a while make money exporting premium wines or recruiting overseas students to our universities, in the end, the mainstays of our economy are mining, wheat and wool. They are the wheels that keep turning to prop up our high standard of living. We need to remember that. Sadly, in spite of its importance to our economy, the farming sector in Western Australia is almost invisible to most urban dwellers, for whom a trip to the country means either visiting Margaret River for a nice weekend at a winery or going to the other side of Bullsbrook for a picnic and thinking they are in the bush. There is nothing wrong with that and I am not critical of people for that. However, there is a need to understand where our resources come from. I suspect that if we conducted a survey in a city classroom or even an office building, we would find that more people know where Bali is than where Bencubbin is.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr A.J. Dean): Unfortunately, I have to call the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to order for the first time for letting her mobile phone ring.

Ms A.J. MacTiernan: I apologise.

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: André Malan's article further said that anyone who visits any of our small or medium-sized agricultural-based towns in Western Australia will find that although the good years come around, the towns are usually involved in a struggle for survival. Many government-based agencies have now left those towns. Local government is probably the only glue that keeps them together. However, country people are not giving up without a fight. They are resourceful, they work hard and they are trying to hold on to the people who live in those towns by attracting job-creating industries and providing the services that city people take for granted. I prefaced my remarks by paraphrasing André Malan's article because I thought it was good.

I believe that this Government has a lack of understanding of rural issues. There is now a subtle shift of responsibilities away from the traditional custodians of the Department of Agriculture and the Agriculture Protection Board. Through the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Environmental Protection Authority, the Government operates far closer to the conservation side when dealing with issues. If this Government continues to push down that particular road, the farming community will suffer. There is nothing wrong with conservation; I do not stand in this Chamber to say that there is. However, there needs to be

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a broad balance in the way the issue of conservation is dealt with. Also, those people who understand rural issues must make the decisions about rural issues. The decision makers should not be people who sit in city offices, look out the window, see a green tree and think they are in the country. I might sound a little passionate, but the message that is spelt out to me by my community and electorate is that this Government does not care about country people. To date, I have found no proof to change my mind. I will cover some of those aspects over the next few moments.

Land clearing is a conservation issue. The farming community operates in a grey area. It does not know what it can and cannot do when it comes to land clearing. A land-clearing Bill has passed through this House and is now before the upper House, members of which have proposed some 130 amendments. It would be very helpful if the farming community knew where it stood. It believes it is footing the bill to maintain land that the Government prevents it from using. Farmers spend thousands of dollars on pesticides and firebreaks for land that they cannot use. They lose money, time and productivity. In addition, they must pay rates on that land. I ask where the fairness is in that. I can give a couple of instances. A farmer in the south west had 56 per cent of his land reclassified from rural to conservation purposes. He spends 25 per cent of his time managing that land. He pays the same amount of rates as some of the top wineries in the region, but for years he has not been able to farm on the land. Landowners across Australia are delivering a public good to their detriment and at their cost. It is a real issue and they want it addressed reasonably quickly. They want it addressed to their benefit, and not necessarily to the benefit of those who follow the more radical conservation line.

I will now touch on road funding. The importance of roads to country Western Australia cannot be assessed. I have stood in this place before and said that they are the lifeblood of country Western Australia. The resources that come out of country Western Australia travel on the roads. They must travel on the roads to be able to get to where they are going. This Government has cut those resources by \$14 million. I do not care what the minister says - whether it is her perception or otherwise - the reality in local government land and among the community in country Western Australia is that this Government has cut country road funding. It does not matter which local government I go to, it is almost the first issue raised. Local governments are spitting chips over it. I warn the minister that if she does not address it in the next budget, she will suffer the consequences of it. There is a singular lack of support and recognition of how important those local road networks are. I am aware that local government is taking some action on this. I understand that it will run a public signage protest campaign, which will encourage disgruntled local councils to blame the deterioration on the State Government. I think that is a great idea - put it back where it belongs. Maybe then the State Government will listen to what it is being told, because so far it has not.

Ms A.J. MacTiernan interjected.

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: I have a lot to get through. The minister can tell me later if she likes. Every council I go to tells me that 50 to 60 per cent of its road funding has been cut. They do not make those figures up. They have done their sums and that is the figure they have managed to come up with. That is not just one council; that is dozens of councils throughout rural Western Australia. When we consider the cost of gravel sheeting per kilometre, bituminising roads and completing road construction from the base up, we can understand what they are talking about. Madam Acting Speaker (Ms K. Hodson-Thomas), you and I spent some time in Albany the other day and we saw some of the road conditions down there, which were deplorable and, quite frankly, dangerous. I think I am right in saying that poor road conditions contribute to 28 per cent of all road crashes. When local government roads become so dangerous that they can cause road crashes, at whom will we point the finger? We all know. There is an enormous feeling of ill will about road funding, certainly from local government and country people.

I will now address some local government issues, which is my shadow portfolio. Although the Gallop Government lauds itself on its consultation, I am told that the consultation at a local government level is deplorable and woeful. The Government keeps trumpeting it, but there is no consultation. That has been spelt out to me time and again. A couple of examples include the withdrawal of the valuation subsidy, which happened almost overnight and cost local government \$1 million, and the 1 000 per cent increase in vehicle search fees, which happened with 24 hours notice. I give the minister some credit; she has reviewed that. However, the fact remains that there was no consultation; it just happened. For the Government to say publicly that it consults is rubbish. Local government has become sick and tired of dismissive treatment. This Government has a history of making decisions and shifting costs and responsibilities onto local governments with very little consultation and with little consideration.

Another issue that has been raised with me by country local governments is the timing of town planning schemes. One township in my electorate has a town planning scheme that has been cooking away for some four years. I do not say that that is entirely this Government's fault, because obviously four years ago we had a Court

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Government. However, the fact remains that the Gallop Government has been in power for three years and this local government is still waiting on a town planning scheme. Another township has been waiting on a town planning scheme for some three years. They are finding it very difficult to get any support through the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. There is a frustration out there. They can see developments happening in the Perth metropolitan region, but when it comes to country Western Australia -

Ms A.J. MacTiernan: How can you say that about Geraldton?

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: I do not represent Geraldton. I represent Greenough and the towns of Kalbarri and Dongara, and the minister has been sitting on her hands over their town planning schemes for the past three years. They are the towns I am talking about, not Geraldton. I give the minister credit for getting something up and running the other day, because I made some representations to her chief of staff. I thank her for that.

There is a problem within the Department of Land Information. I have received numerous telephone calls about a particular staff member, who obviously has a problem trying to access or make things happen. It was significant that when that staff member went on holidays, everything happened very quickly and easily. Perhaps I am sending the minister a message.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: It is probably worth mentioning that during Local Government Week, the President of the Western Australian Local Government Association made it very clear that he was putting the State Government on notice about working much closer with local government. Whether that will come to pass is a different matter altogether. He made the point very forcibly that he felt that local governments were just an irritant to the Government. I hope the minister, who was present, picked up on that and will make something happen about treating local government more like brothers rather than second cousins once removed.

I turn now to another issue of concern in my electorate; that is, the livestock transport issue. I find it difficult that the minister could not have been a little more flexible on fatigue management for drivers in the livestock transport industry.

Ms A.J. MacTiernan: Unbelievable!

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: I have heard a lot of good reports about the accreditation. I think most transport companies have no problem with the accreditation. I know that some in the farming community have some bitches about it, but I guess they can work their way through it. I do not have time to go into the detail of livestock transport, but animals are not pieces of concrete; they are not bits of freight that should be chucked around here, there and everywhere; they are beings that have a heart and soul, and they must be treated as such. A farmer who is moving cattle, sheep, pigs or goats wants them treated in the best possible way. If they are bashed or bruised, he will lose money. It is an economic issue for him as well as a humanitarian one. It seems to me that the minister's code of conduct is flying in the face of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' code of conduct. It seems a pity that there could not be more flexibility over driver fatigue.

Mr P.D. Omodei: And commonsense.

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: I thank the member for Warren-Blackwood. It may have done the minister some good to spend some time in a truck travelling from Newman through Meekatharra. I had a case described to me the other day in which a pastoral company loaded four road trains of cattle. The cattle were so wild that they had to be offloaded at Meekatharra. The drivers had been travelling for four hours. It probably took them another four hours to unload the cattle. They then had to make sure that they were fed and watered. They had to deliver them within two days. They were shuffling around; they were conscious of the time the cattle were on board, the time they had to sleep and all those sorts of things. I do not believe that enough flexibility or thought has been put into the code. I give credit to the Australian Livestock Transporters Association for raising the issue. I believe that the minister has been obdurate and bloody-minded over the issue.

Ms A.J. MacTiernan: It is the same code of conduct that operated under your Government.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms K. Hodson-Thomas): Order, minister! The member for Greenough has the call.

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: I have probably said enough on that subject. It is still an issue and will continue to be an issue. I suspect that at the end of the day the animals will be the ones that will suffer, and that is a tragedy, because they should not.

I would like to touch on the subject of heritage. This Government was going to do so much with heritage, yet we have heard so little and seen so little done. There seem to be four ministers for heritage: Minister Stephens, who is Minister for Heritage; Minister MacTiernan, who comes into it; Minister Edwards, who seems to come into it; and Minister Griffiths, who seems to come into it. They have different responsibilities, including East Perth

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power station, Sunset Hospital, the Treasury buildings, and the William Street buildings, which Minister MacTiernan has taken upon herself.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I remind the member for Greenough that he should refer to the minister by her title.

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: I apologise. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has taken it upon herself to make decisions on William Street, which involve some heritage values. It seems that we do not have one particular minister taking responsibility for heritage. The agreement on the Fremantle artillery barracks has been sitting around for three years and not yet finalised. The Heritage of Western Australia Act has been waiting to be reviewed and updated. It has been sitting around for three years. Municipal inventories are proving to be real problems for local government, yet nothing has been done about them. A review that was supposed to be conducted has not yet eventuated. The Heritage Council of Western Australia seems to be in disarray because its former chairman resigned, I understand in frustration. I believe the Heritage Council also suffers from a lack of staffing and financial resources.

I believe that this Government has vacillated and not taken heritage issues seriously. Decisions need to be made on numerous issues. For example, we have heard that one of the media moguls of our State was interested in doing something with the old East Perth power station. That was put forward some two or three months ago, but we have not heard a squeak since. Every time I drive past the old East Perth power station it seems that another window has been broken or another piece has fallen off. Presumably, when the time comes that something is done with it, it will cost so much more to do. Whether we like it or not, heritage and history are important aspects of our State. Admittedly, if heritage is stood beside health it becomes a fairly unimportant issue, but it is something that needs to have money put into it. This Government promised that it would address heritage and make it a high priority, so perhaps it needs to start doing that. To date it has done very little; we have seen very little on the ground.

I touch on an issue that is not uncommon to parts of other people's electorates. It occurs particularly in a couple of towns in my electorate. It is the problem of Aboriginal children under the age of 10 years who commit crimes. In the town of Mullewa - I name the town because there is no reason that I should not - there is a problem with Aboriginal children under the age of 10 years. They get onto the streets in the evening and at night, smash windows and generally commit juvenile crime - I do not think I can call it anything else. There is a police presence in the town. The policemen, for whom I have the greatest sympathy, can do absolutely nothing with them. I think that they can report them under a juvenile Act, but that is all they can do. They have got frustrated to the point where they do not do anything with them at all. They try to send them home, but home could well be in disarray with arguments, drunkenness and that sort of thing.

The Government must address the problem. The problem will not go away. There are two large Aboriginal communities within kilometres of Mullewa and one within Mullewa. Many Aboriginal people are very good people, but they have this problem of youngsters going around causing wilful damage. The children cannot be prosecuted because they are underage. The agencies that should be handling them are based in Geraldton rather than being on the spot. The shire is at its wit's end deciding how to address the problem. The last time I spoke to the chief executive officer of the Shire of Mullewa he said that if any local government buildings were damaged by those children, he would send the bill to the Premier. I guess that is not a bad way of bringing it to the Premier's attention. Sadly, there is nobody present who will pick up on what I have just said. I like to think that somebody might. I do not believe that Mullewa is the only town with the problem; in fact, I would be naive to think so. I have specifically mentioned underage Aboriginal children because in this instance the problem involves Aboriginal children.

To give the minister her due, she sat through my speech and listened to some of the comments directed at her, but I want to raise the issue of air services to Kalbarri. I am interested in knowing what airline and delivery services have been negotiated for the tourist resort.

Ms A.J. MacTiernan: Tenders have closed and we are assessing them. We will shortly be in a position to make an announcement on it.

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: I thank the minister for that. That answers my question.

I am running out of time. Rather than raising any other issues, I merely say to the Labor Government that it needs to start looking at addressing rural and country issues. It ignores them at its peril. As a parting shot, woe betide country people if the Attorney General gets his way in the High Court on the issue he is trying to push. If he does get his way and that issue goes through the High Court, country people, who currently feel disenfranchised, will feel that way much more so.

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood) [5.19 pm]: I understand that, in accordance with clause 4 of the Bill, proceeds of all loans raised under this authority must be paid into the consolidated fund. That happens every

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year. Moneys are then advanced to the agencies through appropriations in the budget. The budget anticipates that \$320.4 million will need to be borrowed for general public purposes in 2003-04 and a further \$131.3 million in 2004-05. The Bill seeks a new Loan Act authorisation of \$250 million, sufficient to meet the planned general government purposes borrowing requirements for 2003-04 and 2004-05.

In speaking to the loan Bill, I understand that members are able to embark on a wide-ranging debate. I take this opportunity to raise three matters of importance to my electorate rather than speak broadly about issues across the State. I will refer first to the current state of the timber industry in Western Australia.

As members of this House know, the new Labor Government was elected in 2001 and embarked on a strategy of stopping the logging of old-growth forests. In doing so, it sought to totally restructure the industry. Prior to the election of this Labor Government, under the regional forest agreement process, started by the federal Labor Government and continued under the Howard Government, a process of Regional Forest Agreements was implemented across all States of Australia. As part of that, it was intended that the volume of first and second-grade jarrah in Western Australia would be reduced from the existing cut of 324 000 to 286 000 cubic metres and karri would be reduced to 172 000 from the existing cut. Further to that, the Court coalition Government decided to stop logging old-growth karri to placate community concerns about logging tall trees and old forests. It chose to stop logging old-growth karri and reduced the cut to 60 000 to 70 000 cubic metres. On the election of the Labor Government, the volumes of first and second-grade jarrah cuts were reduced to 131 000 cubic metres, which figure is now being considered by the Environmental Protection Authority, and the karri cuts were reduced to 55 000 cubic metres.

The reductions in logging have caused a huge dislocation of communities in the Warren-Blackwood electorate, from Greenbushes to the south. A number of industries have received exit payments and workers have received redundancy payments. It has led to a huge reduction of the timber industry and timber-related activity. During full production, more than 250 men worked in the State's forests. There are now 15. The provedoring of fuel, oils, batteries, tyres and hydraulics required for machinery such as huge loaders, trucks, forwarders and a range of other timber machinery provided multiple spin-offs in the community. Apart from the people who received redundancies and exits, the removal of all that effort has had an impact on the remaining small businesses in the Manjimup area. It would be fair to say that the general thinking across Western Australia is that Manjimup in particular has been duded as a result of the decline in the timber industry. By duded I mean that the whole economy in that area has suffered because of reduced logging.

Prior to the election of the Labor Government, the volume of timber produced by Whittakers and then Blue Leaf Timber Pty Ltd was reduced from more than 100 000 to 43 000 cubic metres, comprising 23 000 cubic metres of jarrah and a further 20 000 cubic metres of karri. Although the Nannup deal was finalised under this new Government, it was almost finalised under the previous Government. A volume of 20 000 cubic metres is sawn at Nannup and is being value added. Although those economies were reduced, the future of towns such as Nannup are relatively assured, albeit on a slightly reduced basis, through the value-adding of furniture and the drying and dressing of that timber.

Under the new Government, the timber take at Pemberton was reduced from 100 000 cubic metres to 50 000 cubic metres. To the Government's credit, it has injected some money into Pemberton for that resource and for the ability of the new owner, Auswest Timber Pty Ltd, to take over that timber mill from Sotico Pty Ltd. The important part of the situation is that Wesfarmers Ltd is about to divest itself of its company called Sotico, which presently retains its mill at Dean Mill and Yarloop and the mill at Collie that cuts third-grade timber. Once it has done so, Wesfarmers will be out of the timber industry altogether. The nub of the issue is that it is very important to the community of Manjimup that a furniture industry be developed in that district. Failure to do so will mean huge dislocation for that community.

Obviously Wesfarmers has plan A, which is to divest itself of that business in a management buy-out type procedure, which would include a number of furniture manufacturers throughout the State such as Jensen Jarrah, the Inglewood Products Group, Clarecraft Pty Ltd and a number of others. I understand the number is about 14. Those businesses would locate in Manjimup, where they would value-add timber and develop a vertically integrated operation in solid furniture, maximise the use of the timber and increase the already significant technology. The rate of technological development by Sotico - formerly Bunnings - has been significant for a number of decades. About \$50 million worth of assets exist at Dean Mill and the Manjimup processing centre, where timber is dried and dressed and made suitable for the manufacture of furniture. I said that it was very important. Plan A will require an injection of funds from the State or Commonwealth Governments or both to enable the project to proceed.

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If the company adopts plan B and leaves the industry in one hit, an eastern states company, of which a number are in a position to take over that company, might reduce the amount of furniture wood available to the present furniture manufacturers. If another company came in that was vertically integrated, a dislocation would occur in the furniture industry not only in Manjimup but also in the metropolitan area and the regions.

Under option C, Wesfarmers could divest itself of the companies in the timber industry and spread them all over the place. Solid jarrah furniture is already being exported to Vietnam and other Asian neighbours and remanufactured as solid furniture, some of which is being exported back to Western Australia. That would mean jobs would be exported out of Western Australia to other countries. That is something we do not want to happen. I am not about to browbeat the Government. I know the Government made political decisions about the timber industry. I have discussed it before in this place and I think my constituents know that I have made my point. However, a very small window of opportunity exists between now and December, when a sunset clause will apply to the contracts for timber under the 10-year forest management plan.

I understand that the Government has given a letter of comfort to Sotico to the effect that it will receive 70 000 cubic metres of first and second-grade jarrah. That is the fundamental resource for the furniture industry. That is a good thing. The understanding is that 35 000 cubic metres of that timber would be used at Yarloop and the use of the veneer technology would continue; in other words, the slicing of flitches. The other 35 000 cubic metres would go to Dean Mill. That timber would then be channelled into the Manjimup processing centre and the furniture industry. The plan is a very sound one and it has widespread support. The current minister has been involved in discussions with some of the proponents.

It is time for the parties to put politics to one side and, rather than beating each other up either inside or outside the Parliament, come together to assist in the funding of this new furniture industry for Manjimup, and in doing so at least acknowledge that the infrastructure is there. As I mentioned, at least \$50 million worth of technology is already in Manjimup. Under the current scenario and with the location of that timber resource, if we started with a blank page that industry would probably be shifted, but with the infrastructure already in place it would be wise to maintain the industry in Manjimup, maintain the employment, improve the technology and maybe down the track go so far as to have a university wing specialising in wood technology with all the world's best practice. That is a good idea. If the federal Government did it, it would show to the world a willingness to invest in a growing industry, with a unique product that exists only in the south west of Western Australia. It would also show some confidence in the people of the Manjimup district. Failure to do so by the State or the Commonwealth will assign the people of that district to a very poor future. Our viable agricultural industry has struggled at times, but the viability of the district stems from a number of industries: the horticultural industry; the fruit and vegetable industry, including cauliflowers and the like; the cattle industry; the viticulture industry; and a viable timber industry. If the industry in the area were to disperse, the economy of that district would suffer significantly.

I implore the minister and the Government to listen to my words and to take them on board. I am more than happy to talk with the minister and to add my support to that of the Government or the Premier. The current minister dealing with industry and technology, the member for Bassendean, would be aware that soon after the election I called him and offered my assistance. I know we drifted apart for a while, but I am more than happy to get together on this issue. This is a critical stage for the future of my district and the people I represent in my electorate, and we need to work cooperatively to resolve this issue.

Mr C.M. Brown: I welcome the opportunity to see if we can organise something between the Commonwealth and the State and work along the lines the member has suggested. The proposal he has put forward is a very good one. Obviously, the proponents have been talking to him about it, and they have been talking to us too. It is a good suggestion that we should sit down with our commonwealth colleagues. I am the first to admit that the State has some obligations here, and it should meet those obligations.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: I thank the minister.

Mr C.M. Brown: Anything the member can do along those lines would be much appreciated.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: I will take up that offer. I have had a lot of sleepless nights over the forest issue, and almost on a daily basis I continue to talk to people about where the industry should be going.

The other issue I raise concerns water and the licensing of farm dams. I understand that a delegation of farmers from the south west is coming to meet with the minister responsible for water and rivers on Thursday. I want to reiterate some of the comments I have made in previous speeches in this Parliament. We all know that a water symposium was held in this place. As a former Minister for Water Resources, I offered to come to that symposium but I was told I was not needed. People did represent that area. However, the issue of water and

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water use, particularly in horticulture, is a matter of great complexity. When the Government talks to the Vegetable Growers Association, it is talking to an association that represents people who take water out of the ground at Carabooda, Myalup on the Old Coast Road, or on a farm in the Vasse area where water is taken out of bores. That water comes from a variety of sources, including shallow or deep aquifers. In the area I represent, most of the water comes out of farm dams. These dams have been built over the past four or five decades and the Warren-Lefroy advisory committee has been in place since 1963. That committee worked proactively with the old Water Authority, now the Water and Rivers Commission, the government bureaucracy that supplied the chairmanship and the research, and the local community dealing with local issues and solving local disputes. It has worked very well, at no real cost to the taxpayer.

A water symposium was held in this State and, from a national point of view, the Council of Australian Governments has instituted water reforms. I recently attended a conference of all shadow ministers with the federal Minister for Primary Industry, Warren Truss, to discuss issues of water entitlements, transfer of water, ownership of water and how water used in this country is of vital importance to the nation, but only in relation to the Murray-Darling and Goulburn River systems.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Mr P.D. OMODEI: It appears that the bureaucrats in Western Australia are seizing the opportunity to apply water and administration charges based on something amorphous that is happening at COAG level. I repeat that the COAG discussions on water, water use and property rights nationally are major issues - I do not deny that for one minute. The issue of managing water in Western Australia is of less importance nationally, but it is of great importance to the local users.

Members should bear in mind that the Manjimup shire is 7 000 square kilometres in size - about 890 000 hectares - and of that total area only 14.6 per cent is alienated; in other words, only 14.6 per cent is rateable. Only about 10 per cent, or approximately 120 000 hectares, of the total area is cleared for agriculture, of which about five per cent is irrigated, and the farmers use approximately 15 per cent of the water that falls on that land. That still leaves 85 per cent of the water for recreational use, the environment and so on. What is the Government doing? Because of some vague things that were said in this House during the water symposium about charging for water, the Government is seeking to charge those farmers. Members should bear in mind that the Warren-Lefroy area has been a proclaimed water management area for a number of years and has been managed by the local committee. Licences have been applied to the dams, at no cost. I do not think the farmers would object to a pure licence fee of \$50 or \$100 a year, but the bureaucracy in this State intends to add not only a fee for licensing of dams but also an administration fee based on the volumetric size of the dams and then, further down the track, to charge for the use of that volume of water. This will throw up a whole range of complexities. Many different values apply when comparing the use of water for beef or horticultural production.

We are saying that we have a successful model in that area that has worked for 40 years plus, with very good, sensible local people working with very good, sensible bureaucrats, and with a very good outcome for all of the parties involved. The Rights in Water and Irrigation Act, which was amended by Hon Kim Hames when he was Minister for Water Resources, provides the power for a management committee to create local laws in its area. I do not think the local community would have any objection to local laws being created to provide for an annual audit of their operations by either the Auditor General or some other figure. However, to suggest that farmers should pay for water by means of a licence and administration fee, as has been mentioned on a number of occasions, is really to suggest that we impose a tax on rain. There are 599 dams in the Warren-Lefroy area. About \$60 million of farmers' money has gone into producing those farm dams. On top of that, farmers also provide drinking water for their own domestic supply. The Government has done nothing of significance to benefit those farmers. If a farmer had a pipe going past his gate with a valve on it that he could open up to get water, he would have no objection to paying for the use of that water. The situation in my area is unique in that people are only using 15 per cent of the rain that falls on five per cent of the catchment. The analogy that a lot of farmers use, to put it in the country vernacular, is that it is three-fifths of five-eighths. It is not as though a lot of water is being captured. I do not think anyone can question the fact that this water has been used responsibly.

Karri Valley Resort has a 52-acre dam that was built in the 1950s to supply water for the hop industry. That dam now has purely an aesthetic value for the resort. How do we apply a charge to that dam? Do we apply it on a volumetric basis by saying the dam contains so many hundred thousand cubic metres of water? Do we charge people to look at the water? In the end, where does the value of the water lie? I do not have the figure with me now, but last week a member gave the analogy of how much water it takes to produce a kilogram of cauliflowers, potatoes or apples. The farmer makes the investment in the water, but the beneficiary of that investment is the consumer. Sure, the farmer receives a return. A person who has just bought a farm for \$2 million that has three or four dams on it would expect to get a return on his capital. Everyone else expects to

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get a return on his capital, so why not a farmer? The normal return on capital for a commercial business is about 10 or 12 per cent. I have not come across one farmer who gets a 10 or 12 per cent return on capital; it is usually about two or three per cent.

It is time to put politics aside and apply some commonsense. This group has been a model group. It should be replicated around the State, rather than used as a milch cow for a particular government department. I admit that the chairmanship and administration of the group and the monitoring of the resource has been a cost to the consolidated fund. However, I believe that should continue. That a fair ask, when it is the people in rural Western Australia who provide the water. Admittedly, as we are told, all surface water belongs to the Crown. However, it is the farmer who puts in the bulldozer to build the dam. The farmer first applies for a licence - he does it the right way - from the Warren-Lefroy advisory committee. If it is a large dam under the international standards, it is referred to the Environmental Protection Authority, and if it is on a stream reserve, it is referred to the relevant authority, such as the former Department of Land Administration, or whatever, and finally the farmer gets approval to build the dam. The farmer may spend a huge amount of money to build the dam. Sure, he will get a return on capital because he has increased the value of his property, but what else would we expect? If I were to spend \$100 000 on my farm, I would expect the value of my farm to go up by \$100 000. However, it does not cost the taxpayers of Western Australia one cent. That dam is just to catch the water that falls from the sky. The next thing the farmer needs to do is put in a pump. The last time I spoke to Western Power I was told it would cost me \$100 000 to bring three-phase power to my property, so I bought a 27-year-old Perkins motor with a pump on it for \$4 500 because I could not afford \$100 000; I am only a poor politician who has recently had a raise.

What I am trying to tell the House is that farmers not only have to make the capital investment in the construction of the dam but also have to buy the irrigation equipment. I have recently extended part of my horticultural venture. Every time people in the grape industry extend their vineyard by 10 acres, or four hectares, it costs them another \$100 000. That is without the pump and all the other things that go along with it. In the meantime the farmers are also spending money in their district. The stock and station people tell us that right now without the farmers they would be in dire straits. The farmers are in town every day in their four-wheel drive vehicles and they buy their irrigation equipment and other parts, none of which is cheap. What I am saying to the Government is that it is time the Government accepts, for a change, that there is a group in the community - in this case the horticultural producers - who have spent a lot of their own hard-earned capital to create a venture for themselves and their families, and for the future generations of this State, and they require a minuscule amount of money from the consolidated fund to manage that resource. The Government should not use water as a medium to tax people.

I want to mention briefly a letter that I have received. The letter is dated 25 August, so it is quite recent, and is from a fellow for whom I have a lot of regard and who has moved to Northcliffe from the Northern Territory. The letter outlines three propositions - property A, a beef producer; property B, a dairy producer; and property C, a person who uses water to trickle-irrigate his fruit trees - and then explains the returns per megalitre of water used. The greatest return per megalitre of water used is in the horticultural industry. However, as the letter states, all three properties are thrown into the same pot. To quote from the letter -

The clear message from this impost is that government punishes efficient water utilisation, and the more efficient usage you make of the water the more you will be penalised.

He goes on to say -

I am not going to argue the level of service need or the funding shortfall for the Water and Rivers Commission other than to point out that no government can guarantee that funds raised in this manner will be quarantined in such a way that they will provide an incremental boost to the Commissions coffers.

In other words, this may be used as a tax. It is the thin end of the wedge for farmers; they know it, and that is why they are so concerned. He states also -

The point that must be clearly understood is that those people who buy land with dams or build dams on their property pay the full capital and recurrent cost of their water. This cannot be said of most people in this state.

I urge you to suggest that this proposal be sent back for a complete rework, or preferably dumped and a new start made. Water policy is too important to have it derailed by what appears to be a simple money grab.

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I could not agree more. The author of the letter is Brian Ede, who was the Labor Leader of the Opposition in the Northern Territory. He is a person of good standing in the community and someone whose voice should be heard. He has asked me to raise this issue in this place. It is a very important issue and one that the Government needs to listen to and take heed of.

MR J.B. D'ORAZIO (Ballajura) [5.50 pm]: It is a pity that Ben Harvey of *The West Australian* is not in the Press Gallery audience. I tried to dress as closely as possible to his expectation of a black shirt and white tie. I do not possess a white tie, so I thought I would get as close as I could to his image of what I should look like!

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: I will not react to the member for Girrawheen.

I make my contribution to the Loan Bill on behalf of the best electorate in Western Australia - Ballajura. My electorate is broken into three parts: the Morley end, Malaga and the suburb of Ballajura. I will talk about some of the problems, difficulties and expectations of the people of my electorate.

I start with the suburb of Ballajura, which is landlocked: it is bordered by Alexander Drive, the Malaga industrial area and Whiteman Park on one side and the Gnangara pine plantation on the other. That brings some advantages as it is a tight-knit and self-sufficient community. This subdivision was developed in three areas. First, the lakes area is high-class development around lakes; central Ballajura was developed by developers; and south Ballajura is essentially a Homeswest subdivision. The lakes subdivision is based on a circle pattern around various lakes. The houses, which are largely on 600 square metre to 700 square metre blocks, are beautiful houses and it is a very nice environment. However, when the subdivision of that estate was approved, discretion was used by the Planning Commission to allow the water bodies to be treated as public open space. A dispensation was given with the provision of the water bodies concerning the requirement for 10 per cent of public open space. In other words, the requirement for 10 per cent public open space was reduced because the developer had already given up the water bodies. That may seem logical. I must be honest: I was part of the process as a member of the Western Australian Planning Commission at the time. However, a number of years down the track it has not turned out to be such a good idea. The water bodies are nice to look at, but kids in those communities still want to kick a football and be members of football and cricket clubs. There is a huge shortage of active recreational space. As a matter of course, the conditions that apply on subdivisions need to be reconsidered in relation to dispensations for land given up as public open space. In this case, land was discounted because of the provision of other land which did not provide for recreation. The lakes area is beautiful to look at, but very ineffective as recreational space. It is an important issue. That creates a huge problem for the local council, as it does not have the land to provide the facilities required.

Public open space was allocated in south Ballajura, but a lot of this land was drainage sumps. This, again, was ineffective as active recreational space. When added to the lakes area, there is a huge shortage of recreational space. As it is a landlocked area, it is difficult to do anything about it. It is incumbent on all of us to review subdivision conditions.

The 10 per cent public open space requirement was put on subdivisions in the late 1970s, when blocks were in the vicinity of 700 or 800 square metres. In the 1990s, block sizes were down to 350 to 400 square metres. Therefore, on the equivalent land area, there is now double the number of houses and people, and double the requirement for public open space for recreational use for football and cricket ovals and public open space. Members need to look at the provision of these resources.

People will say that such conditions will increase the cost of land, but that is not true. It will be factored into the equation. People demand access to those facilities. Enormous pressure is placed on councils, communities and state members of Parliament. My problem is that community groups say that they do not have enough room to house a football team and teams must play in other areas. It is important to plan to properly review requirements in relation to facilities development.

That leads to the next area I will consider. We must look at the development contributions made to community infrastructure. For example, a condition on a number of subdivisions is to provide underground power, sewerage, cycleways, footpaths and public open space. This should be expanded one step further. I know people will say that the price of land will increase, but expansion is needed to provide community infrastructure programs. For example, if a community of 10 000 or 15 000 people is to be created, why should the developer not contribute to a community centre?

Mr R.F. Johnson: They often do - certainly in the northern suburbs.

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Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: Sure. The smart developers do so because it helps to sell the lots. Some do not. The Government must look at making this a condition of the subdivision.

I remind the House that in 1983 when I was first Mayor of Bayswater, there was a huge debate -

Mr R.F. Johnson: That was a long time ago.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: It was; it shows how old I am.

The debate was about providing underground power as a condition of subdivision. We fought the bureaucrats for two years. They asked us how we would dare to have power provision as a condition of subdivision. In 2003, try not having underground power as a condition of subdivision!

It is about clearly identifying requirements and ensuring that community expectations are met. If that means a community facility charge is required, it needs to happen. I was at a City of Swan presentation some months ago at which the city screamed that it was not capable of providing community infrastructure requirements such as libraries, community centres, infant health centres and child minding facilities in the newer suburbs because of the huge demand on its resources. For example, there will be up to 21 000 households in the Ellenbrook and Henley Brook region. The necessary infrastructure will cost an arm and a leg, and will put that council under pressure. If a community facility charge generated \$1 000 a lot, it would create up to \$20 million for community infrastructure. We must look at that approach.

The costs for land development in Western Australia are the smallest in Australia. Other parts of Australia already have imposed community infrastructure programs as part of developer contribution on subdivisions. The problem is that the contributions will always be abused. That is why it must be carefully looked at. The money needs to be placed in a trust fund that is clearly identified and controlled so it cannot be used for councils' operating budgets, for plugging holes or for other funny dealings. Maybe it should be controlled like the cash-in-lieu component of the Planning Commission subdivision condition; that is, expenditure that must be approved by the commission and the minister. Contributions made by the subdivision process to the communities must be considered.

Ballajura has a huge shortage of facilities: it does not have the land on which to build those facilities, and people are complaining and want council to do something about it. To act after the event is difficult. Members who want to buy land in Ballajura now will pay \$120 000 or \$130 000 for a 400 or 500 square metre lot.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Is there much land?

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: It is landlocked. Whiteman Park is on one side, but I will get to that later.

It is impossible to provide the money required to buy the land. We must ensure that the planning is done correctly to solve the problem in the short term. The council says it has a shortage of money. If such a community infrastructure fund were put in place, pressure would be taken off people.

Mr R.F. Johnson: They always say that.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: From a developer's point of view, the cost of that contribution is a tax deduction. One could almost say it is cost shifting from the federal Government to state and local governments. I have no problem with that; I have always supported cost shifting.

Mr R.F. Johnson: It's always a cost to the purchaser.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: I was waiting for someone to make that comment. The ultimate cost of \$1 000 on a \$120 000 lot will not make one iota of difference. If someone is worried about first-home buyers, a rebate scheme could cover the cost of the initial payment.

Sitting suspended from 6.01 to 7.00 pm

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: When we broke for dinner, I was saying that the Western Australian Planning Commission should again look at the various conditions of subdivisions to make sure that they are in keeping with the times and expectations of the community. I referred to the requirement for 10 per cent public open space and the concessions given to land that is situated on waterways, under powerlines or in conservation areas; in other words, land that can be used for recreation and not other purposes. I referred also to a community facilities charge for subdivision developers. Such a fund would be directed towards local government rather than the State Government and would enable the provision of the infrastructure required by the community.

I now refer to developer contributions for infill development, especially in my area of Morley. The suburb of Morley is probably about 30 years old and it is prime for redevelopment. Lot sizes range from 700 to 1 200 square metres. The infill sewerage program has been completed, and there is a huge surge of redevelopment in

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the area. Properties of 1 050 square metres previously held one house but now accommodate three. People can buy a block with an old house in Morley for \$200 000. If they knock down the house and build three new houses, they can sell each for more than \$200 000. That is a huge windfall for those people. I have no problems with the people who do that. It is their right and I support them. It is fantastic. However, if every block in an area like Morley, which has 5 000 properties, is redeveloped along those lines, there will be 15 000 houses. That will result in a helluva greater demand for community infrastructure. Again, the developers who are making the profits are not contributing to community infrastructure. It is time we developed a fund to which those people who make huge profits from infill development must contribute. I know of a few cases in Morley in which developers have made a profit of \$100 000 or \$200 000 from each property. However, the developers do not give any of that profit back to the community. Such a developer contribution could be only \$1 000 a lot, which, over 5 000 lots, would provide \$5 million.

Mr R.F. Johnson: However, the council would receive three lots of rates instead of one.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: I understand that rates are necessary for the ongoing operations of the council - its operating budget. However, there are also infrastructure and capital items. A huge influx of extra residents results in a need for bigger infant health centres, a new library and a new senior citizens centre. Why should those residents who have lived in the community for a long time make that contribution? I support finding some way of generating funds for infrastructure. If 5 000 properties were developed and the developer of each contributed \$1 000, \$5 million would be raised. That would be a helluva benefit to those councils and communities. It would take the pressure off the councils, and avoid the need for them to complain that the State Government is reducing local government funding and that they are not getting enough. They would not have to jump up and down or participate in the other goings-on and say that they cannot keep up with demand. Ultimately, a fund would mean that the people who get the profits and the benefit put something back into those communities. Some of those developers do not live in the area. They take the profits and leave the council with all the problems. We need to make sure that such a contribution scheme is formalised. It should not be set up on an ad hoc basis whereby councils call it a licensing fee or whatever. The State needs to control it so that it does not get out of hand and end up costing an arm and a leg and having a detrimental effect on the price of land and development. We need to make sure that the State controls such a program through a fund that is specifically used for the benefit of development.

Let us look at the Maylands redevelopment, which was magnificent. It resulted in a huge number of people buying into the area. More infrastructure needed to be provided, and the community could not afford to pay for it. When the City of Bayswater took over responsibility for the suburb of Maylands from the City of Stirling, there was a huge demand for facilities that the community did not have. It was impossible to provide them in one hit. People in the community demanded that infrastructure because they had spent a fortune on their properties and wanted the best facilities. A developer contribution fund is a very good idea. People involved in infill redevelopment should make a contribution to community infrastructure. I am sure that if it were put in those terms, the developers would understand that it is part of the equation, but not a substantial part. I am sure that a contribution of \$1 000 would not make an iota of difference to developers who are earning a \$100 000 profit on each lot, especially when the cost is a tax deduction.

Mr R.F. Johnson: The developers do not end up with \$100 000 net profit. They must pay tax. Their return is not that magnificent, and there is always risk attached to the project.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: Absolutely. I have no problems with that. However, the amount the developers would be required to contribute to infrastructure development is a small part of the equation. The extras in the building contract would cost more. It would be a small sum of money for the developers, but it would provide a far greater ongoing benefit to the community. It would be a tax deduction, so the net cost to the developer would be next to nothing.

Mr P.W. Andrews: Some unscrupulous developers put up huge signs near developments showing high schools, community centres and so on for which there is no planning.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: No; nor do the developers make any contribution to them, and they should. This is not developer bashing. They do a fantastic job. We need to understand that community expectations have moved on from years gone by when people wanted a piece of land and nothing else. The community now wants cycleways, infant health centres, libraries, ovals and passive recreational space. The list goes on. Someone has to pay for it. I do not think it is the responsibility of the State or councils.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

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Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: This argument can be extended one step further, although I do not have any direct relationship to this situation. I refer to all the high-rise apartment buildings in Perth. Why should the developers of those not make a contribution to community infrastructure? That money could be used to improve the central area transit system or for other programs.

Mr R.F. Johnson: It is because they pay rates.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: It is true that people pay rates.

Mr R.F. Johnson: People in the City of Perth would pay quite a bit in rates.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: There is a principle. Those developers create a huge increase in the residential population and make a huge profit on their development but they do not provide any benefit to the community. However, the community expectations remain. That should be considered as part of the whole package.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Local authorities are pleased to grant planning approval for many developments because of the rate income they will receive. That is what they look forward to.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: That is true. It is great that those councils have increased cash flow. However, those new communities are fairly large, and demand extra services that the council cannot provide. That is the dilemma. On the one hand, it is great to catch the extra revenue but, on the other, they must fulfil greater expectations. Councils could have the best of both worlds if a developer contribution system were set up and managed properly. There is no question in my mind that the developers taking the profits should also make a contribution to the community.

Mr R.F. Johnson: They do, through their 10 per cent contribution. Developers in the northern area of the seat of my colleague the member for Joondalup and beyond that in the member for Wanneroo's area not only give away a massive amount of land for community purposes but also build properties for the community to use.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: Absolutely. I agree with that. However, I am talking about infill development. The subdivision conditions do not apply. I refer to the redevelopment of the inner suburbs. Many blocks in Morley now accommodate three houses when once they accommodated one. If that were to occur across the whole suburb, there would be an extra 10 000 houses. Those people will have expectations. It will not hurt the developers one iota to make a contribution to infrastructure. However, it will help the community a helluva lot and we should be doing that.

Another important issue that has come to bear in the electorate of Ballajura, and more importantly in the areas of Morley and Noranda, is the lack of doctors' services on Sundays. Two practices that were operating on Sundays have now closed.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Is there a shortage of chemists now as well?

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: I do not know, I have not looked too far away. Two practices that used to provide doctors' services on Sundays are no longer open. People from those areas must now go to the only place I know of that provides a seven-day service; that is, the Mercy Hospital on the former St Anne's site at Mt Lawley. That is not a problem but it costs \$70 to attend that service. That is a huge impost on many families in Ballajura and Morley. One of two things will happen: they will either go to Mercy, pay the \$70 and cop that pressure, or they will go to the emergency departments of the state hospitals. I ask those people who have more sense and far more influence than I to consider GP collocated clinics at the emergency department of Royal Perth Hospital and other hospitals. Bulk-billing clinics would make a helluva difference. They would shift the cost back to the federal Government, where the bills belong, for categories 4 and 5 patients who currently attend emergency departments. They would provide low-income families with services on Sunday at a bulk-billing rate without their having to wait a helluva long time. I again request those people who have influence over that process to consider it quickly and implement it. This issue has been highlighted in my electorate in the past couple of months because of the closures that have occurred, but it has also been happening in other electorates.

A family came to see me on Monday and said that they had no choice but to pay \$70 to see a doctor on Sunday, because that was the only place they could go. They are not wealthy people and they paid the \$70, but that should not have happened. We as a society must understand that there is a shortage of doctors. However, GP collocated clinics bulk-billing at our hospitals would save emergency departments from attending to those people and would provide facilities for those who need to attend a doctor on Sunday or after hours. These are the issues facing my electorate.

The final issue is one that I referred to in my maiden speech in this place. Nothing has happened since then and I will float it again now. Now that the Mandurah to Perth railway is in place and happening -

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Mrs C.L. Edwardes: Not exactly.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: Close enough. I remind members that we must consider the planning phase of the railway line from Armadale to Joondalup that will go along the middle of Tonkin and Reid Highways. I have referred to this matter before. A reservation is already in place to take the Midland line along Tonkin Highway to Ellenbrook. That was a great idea of the previous Minister for Planning, Richard Lewis. I want that line to be extended and it is about time we started talking about it.

Mrs C.L. Edwardes: Your Government likes direct routes.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: It is direct - from Armadale to Wanneroo.

Mr R.F. Johnson: To Wanneroo?

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: From Wanneroo through to Armadale along the Reid-Tonkin link. That link would provide access to suburbs that currently have no rail transport. It would also provide them with a cross-regional transport link. It will not happen for another 20 years; however, if the planning is not done today, there will be problems when we try to do something like that in the future. As I said, the link already exists and is planned to go along Tonkin and Reid Highways to Ellenbrook. I suggest that we extend it from Joondalup along the Mitchell Freeway, through the Reid-Tonkin interchange, across the river, pick up the airport and on to Armadale. The road structure and reservations are in place; it just needs some preliminary works and planning so that all of us can understand what is happening. All the councils have met on this issue; they supported it unanimously five to six years ago. Preliminary work has been done and it is about time we resurrected that work. It would provide great access to the people of my electorate. It could be done in stages. The northern line could be linked to the Midland line by a loop. It could go from the Midland line along the Mitchell Freeway - or northern - line and back to Perth. The section going to the airport and on to Armadale could be done at another stage. If it were done in stages it would not be a great impost on people; however, it will not happen if we do not get the planning right now. More importantly, when we do try to construct it, impediments such as bridges and so on might have been built in the meantime, which would prevent it happening. It is an absolute must for that corridor. Our rail transport system is focused on Perth. In the long term that is not how Perth will develop.

Mr R.F. Johnson: And Mandurah.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: We need a cross-regional link, and this plan would provide that link. People from the member for Hillarys' electorate could go straight to the airport without going through Perth. It would mean that industrial areas in Malaga and Welshpool would be connected to the residential areas of Morley, Noranda, Balga, Westminster and right up to Whitfords without having to go through Perth. It is important because it will benefit the State; but, more importantly, it will benefit my community. Currently, public transport is very difficult in Ballajura because of its location. People in that area rely exclusively on buses, which are not the best option. Public transport has been improved a little by the provision of an extra bus; however, in my opinion, it is still a second-rate service. We need to improve it further. A cross-regional railway link would be a great benefit in the long term; I believe it is a must.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, on behalf of the best electorate in Western Australia, for the opportunity to make a contribution to the debate on the Loan Bill.

MR A.P. O'GORMAN (Joondalup) [7.15 pm]: I thank the member for Vasse for allowing me to speak ahead of him, as I will be in the Chair at eight o'clock.

Firstly, I extend congratulations to the new councillors who were elected to the City of Joondalup council last May. Unfortunately, I did not get that opportunity during the budget debate. I congratulate Mayor Don Carlos and Councillors Walker and Nixon on being re-elected to the council. I also congratulate five new councillors who were elected: Councillor Michael Caiacob of Whitfords Ward, Councillor Sue Hart of South Ward, Councillor Janine Gollant of South West Ward, Councillor Louis Prospero of Lakeside Ward and Councillor Tim Brewer of Marina Ward. Those five new councillors entered the City of Joondalup council and it is a great credit to Joondalup that it can produce such good people to take on the task of councillors.

I also thank the retiring councillors. Councillor Kadak went to Sydney with Channel Seven for personal reasons. He contributed substantially to the City of Joondalup during his time there. I also thank former Deputy Mayor Councillor Hurst for her contribution to the city. Again, she was a good person who came from the community and made a contribution on behalf of the community. I also thank Councillor Patterson, who unfortunately lost his seat to Councillor Gollant at the last election; and the former Mayor John Bombak, who lost his seat to Mayor Don Carlos. I believe that with the new mayor Joondalup will see a reinvigorated council. He has brought some issues into the public arena and I congratulate him for that; it was well worth doing. That is part of his job and the reason he was elected. The new mayor has indicated his intention to work in a more cooperative

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manner across council, and he has been trying to do that. I have been watching the local Press and keeping an eye on council meetings whenever I can, to see that he is doing that. Unfortunately, for one reason or another, he has met with a degree of opposition. I am a bit befuddled at that opposition. He is a new brush in the area and should be given a period of grace to get on with the job that he told the people he would do.

Already the new mayor and councillors are starting to deal with issues that have been hanging around for quite some time, such as an issue concerning the Wanneroo Basketball Association's lease. The mayor has consulted with the Government and me on that issue and I think in the long run there will be a reasonable outcome for that association. The association has been in the area for close to 20 years and provides a magnificent community service by teaching many young people to play basketball. It gives them not only basketball skills but also coordination and social skills and introduces them to a community-type atmosphere. The captain of the Wanneroo club in the State Basketball League is also considering public life and contributing to council, and I congratulate him for doing that.

I will refer to the member for Hillarys' speech on the budget Bill. He referred to an information sheet that Hon Graham Giffard and I distributed around Hon Graham Giffard's electorate regarding the fire station at Padbury. The member for Hillarys took great delight in saying that I did not know my geography, but I do. I will correct something he said. I was confused at the time because, under the former Government, the proposed fire station was to be located on a Bush Forever site in Padbury. The Gallop Government has saved that Bush Forever site by relocating the fire station to Lilburne Reserve in Duncraig. It is still commonly known as the Padbury fire station.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Did the Gallop Government do that? I thought it was the local authority.

Mr A.P. O'GORMAN: It was the Gallop Government.

My electorate of Joondalup has made significant gains in the budget. In this year's budget, \$4.2 million has been committed - which makes a total of \$5.5 million - to complete the new hospitality training centre on the West Coast College of TAFE's Joondalup site. This is a great indicator of the Gallop Government's commitment to Joondalup as the second central business district within the metropolitan area. It enforces the learning precinct image that the City of Joondalup so proudly espouses.

The State Government and the City of Joondalup will continue to expand the learning precinct to provide the northern suburbs with a centre of excellence for teaching and training. That has been proved over a number of years by the operations of Edith Cowan University and the West Coast College of TAFE. Monash University now has a delivery point at the Australian Institute for University Studies. Curtin University and the Australian Institute for Golf Management are also located in Joondalup. That all points towards Joondalup becoming the next centre of excellence for education in the northern suburbs.

In the last budget, Joondalup received funding of \$1.3 million over two years to construct a dental therapy clinic with 10 chairs. That is a most welcome service to the area because many of my constituents were disadvantaged by the mismanagement of the previous Government when it embarked on relocating the Perth Dental Hospital to the Oral Health Centre of WA. That was a great concept, but it was not planned correctly. The former Government set up the Oral Health Centre of WA, closed the dental therapy hospital and left no provision for services in the meantime. The Gallop Government has provided for a 10-chair dental therapy clinic in Regents Park Road in Joondalup, which is a great move forward.

In her speech on the budget Bill, the member for Kingsley spoke about the Beenyup wastewater treatment plant and the ongoing works to mitigate the smells that emanate from the plant. The plant affects my electorate. Sometimes it affects as far north as my own house in Joondalup. I am very aware of the problems that have been faced by the residents who live close to the plant, including the residents in Edgewater, Woodvale, Heathridge and Craigie. I lived within a stone's throw of the wastewater treatment plant from about 1986 to 1990. Many times I wrote and made representations to my local members, Pam Beggs and Jacky Watkins, about the issue. The budget provides \$24.9 million for continued work on improvements to the plant. The previous Government set in train those issues and this Government has continued them. Recently, I visited the plant and had a briefing with officers from the Water Corporation. The community consultation group is working very closely with the Water Corporation to make sure that the measures being put in place to reduce the smells actually work. It is fine to come up with and implement an engineering solution, but it is not much good if it does not work. We need feedback from the community.

Mr R.F. Johnson: You thought that was in your electorate some time ago.

Mr A.P. O'GORMAN: I did not think that the plant was in my electorate.

Extract from Hansard
[ASSEMBLY - Tuesday, 9 September 2003]
p10837b-10868a

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Mr R.F. Johnson: You had a photograph taken there. I think you got lost and wandered into my electorate.

Mr A.P. O'GORMAN: I have been in the northern suburbs for 20 years; I think I know the area a lot better than the member for Hillarys.

Mr R.F. Johnson: You have not been the local member for 20 years.

Mr A.P. O'GORMAN: Just relax. The member will have plenty of time to speak. He can deal with that issue when he is on his feet.

Continued improvements in the northern suburbs include improvements to the railway line and the Joondalup train station. When the Joondalup train station was built in the late 1980s or early 1990s, there was no provision for parking. I am glad to say that parking space has now been provided at Collier Pass and the market square in front of the train station, which has parking space for about 120 cars. Every morning when I pass by, I notice that the majority of parking spaces are being used. The Government has committed \$350 000 to upgrade the Joondalup train station. This will pay for the installation of security cameras and barriers at the station so that only ticket holders can enter the platforms. All in all, it is a great outcome for Joondalup.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the many volunteer and sporting groups in the Joondalup community, including the Joondalup-Kinross football club; the cricket clubs; the Edith Cowan University soccer club, which was invited to play in Brunei in the Sultan's Cup this year. I was very proud to give the ECU soccer club a Western Australian flag to take with it to Brunei to march behind. The Wanneroo T-ball club provides sporting opportunities for many young people. The members for Kingsley, Hillarys and Wanneroo have all had involvement with it. It is a great sporting organisation. The Joondalup netball club operates at Joondalup Arena. Once again, that provides magnificent opportunities in the sporting arena in our community, particularly for young women. I acknowledge also the Ocean Ridge football and cricket clubs and the Westside, Heathridge and Beldon soccer clubs. Through the intervention of this Government, Joondalup Little Athletics will be provided with some much needed storage and accommodation at Joondalup Arena. Through the community sporting and recreation facilities fund, the Beaumaris Sports Association has erected lights at its bowling greens so that the elderly people who play there - even some quite young people play there; I play there myself in corporate bowls - can play under lights. The Edgewater and Woodvale football and cricket clubs, which I share with the member for Kingsley, are also great sporting organisations that work very well with us.

Mr R.F. Johnson: You are not getting lost are you?

Mr A.P. O'GORMAN: I am not getting lost; I know exactly where I am. If the member for Hillarys read the electoral boundary distribution, he would know that the member for Kingsley and I will share a suburb - and we are quite happy to do that. I also congratulate the volunteers of the Mullaloo surf club and the new extension that has been built on the surf club. It is one of the biggest surf clubs in the State, with some 1 500 members, and its membership is probably still growing. Mullaloo beach drew me to live in the northern suburbs. I also acknowledge the West Perth Football Club. I hope that it wins on Sunday and follows that up in the final and shows the East Perth Football Club what it is like to be on the losing side of a game.

Several members interjected.

Mr A.P. O'GORMAN: There are a few West Perth members in the Chamber.

The Wanneroo basketball club has a great future in Joondalup. I hope to continue to work with it over the next few months to ensure its future in Joondalup. I am sure it will not relocate.

Finally, it is not often that I take issue with another member in this place or interject, unless it is a welcome interjection. However, I have taken great umbrage at a comment that was made last week. I am quite disappointed that the member for Nedlands is not here today, because she made some comments that extremely insulted me, my family and a lot of women around the State. I will quote it so that members know what I am talking about. Last Wednesday, the member for Nedlands said -

I will talk about the conduct of members, spin doctors and how things are arranged in this Parliament. On the Chamber seating plan there are 18 seats to my immediate left. Three are held by women -

They are the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth, and the member for Wanneroo. The member for Nedlands continues -

but the rest are held by men and include the members for Joondalup, Geraldton, Pilbara, Southern River, Roleystone, Eyre, Albany, Innaloo, Perth, Riverton, Ballajura, Mandurah, Cockburn, Peel and Willagee. What is my point? Standing here sometimes is like being in a marriage with 15 people - no,

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it is fewer than that, because I do not attribute this to the member for Southern River or the member for Pilbara. I do not believe I have ever heard either of those members make a comment to me.

I do not believe I have made too many either unless she was excepting me. She continues -

However, it is like being in a marriage with 13 emotionally abusive men, standing in this place next to them all the time.

That is the part that is so insulting to us. I am particularly offended because I have been in a long-term relationship with my wife - well over 20 years. It is an insult to me and my wife and family. They also took it that way. It is also an insult to those many thousands of women in this State who are emotionally and physically abused by their husbands. The member for Nedlands should do the proper thing and withdraw those comments and apologise to members on this side of the House.

MR B.K. MASTERS (Vasse) [7.30 pm]: In speaking to the Loan Bill 2003 I will begin by referring to September 2001. At that time, the Estimates Committee was held to discuss the first budget of the Gallop Government. In response to a question, the then Minister for Peel and the South West, the member for Fremantle, referred to my electorate and neighbouring areas as being known as the chardonnay coast and not requiring any state government assistance. I will speak briefly about the attitude that the then Minister for Peel and the South West typified by making that comment. It is an impression easily gained from people like him and even some journalists. I have raised this issue with Eloise Dortch from *The West Australian*. The impression is easily gained that the south west is a rich, diverse, exciting and dynamic area in which viticulture and tourism are creating excellent lifestyle opportunities. Busselton has enjoyed a six per cent growth rate annually for the past five or six years. Towns like Dunsborough have enjoyed an annual growth rate of 17 per cent in population. The growth rate in Margaret River is similar, if not higher. There is no doubt that many people are moving to the south west and profiting in every sense of the word; namely, economically, socially and through lifestyle enjoyment by virtue of that move. However, I wish to put another point of view. Before I get to that, I will describe how people are benefiting by the move they are making to the south west.

Economically, there is no doubt that land values are going through the roof. A person has only to look at beachfront land at Busselton or even at the small community in which I live, Peppermint Grove Beach, to realise that land values for residential lots and houses are escalating enormously. That is creating wealth that, for the most part, stays in the local area. People benefit from that. There is a shortage of industrial lots in the south west. Attempts have been made over the past four years to develop a new light industrial area in Dunsborough, but all efforts have failed. There are no spare light industrial lots in the town and if a person wants to buy one of the existing lots he must pay a very high premium for the land. In a similar way, farming land values have escalated enormously but, I regret to say, often for the wrong reason. For example, many people retire to the south west and put most, if not all, of their savings and superannuation entitlements into a block of land that was once agricultural land on which a family made a living. Such land is being bought at prices far in excess of what the land could return economically if it were used for agriculture. In other words, people buy such land because it is their lifestyle block on which they will build their \$200 000 or \$300 000 house and retire. The house and land package is their superannuation when they finally move back to Perth, a retirement home or whatever. Even local businesses have enjoyed significant increases in their valuations because people want to move to the south west to enjoy the lifestyle the area offers. People have been prepared to pay a premium for existing businesses. Economically, there is no doubt there are many winners in the south west.

I am very pleased to say that when my wife and I first moved to the country in 1976 we encountered a wonderful sense of community that existed in Busselton at the time. It was not uncommon to visit people and, finding that they had gone out, see the key in the lock and a note saying they would be back in half an hour and that we should go in and make a cup of tea while we waited. That plus the willingness of people to volunteer for committees and other group activities - such as my own group, the Busselton Naturalists Club - or school-based parents and citizens groups, church groups and so on, made a community that placed a very high importance on involvement in community activities to make the community stronger and a better place in which to live. There is no doubt that there have been significant benefits in the south west to people's lifestyles because the south west is a lovely place in which to live. If a person wants to live close to the waters of Geographe Bay, near a national park, close to surfing beaches or near the Vasse-Warren estuaries - which are wetlands that are scenically very attractive and of high conservation value - or if a person wants a backdrop of farmland to his home, all those options are available in the south west. The lifestyle can be very rewarding.

I have taken some time to summarise what I believe is the stereotypical image held by most people, including most members of this place, and certainly the former Minister for the South West, who had, or still owns, a holiday house in Augusta. However, I will highlight the reality. Much of what I have said is the reality. There

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are other aspects to the reality that have a dark or negative side. I will spend a few minutes talking about them. The reality is that a very large number of the people who are moving to the south west are what Prime Minister John Howard calls Aussie battlers - aspirants. They are people who aspire to a better quality of life. The reality is that those people often come from situations in which their educational levels may not include high school graduation, such as TEE qualifications. They may not have trade skills, such as being a qualified plumber or electrician. Those men and women are prepared to work hard to achieve a good lifestyle and standard of living for themselves and their families. Very importantly, they are looking for a good quality of life. Because they are often unskilled or partly skilled and do not have a trade to rely upon for a steady income, they often have relatively low incomes. An example is my wife's eldest nephew, who is a qualified small marine engine mechanic. For lifestyle reasons he chose to live in the Margaret River area. As the equivalent of a vineyard foreman he earned only \$17.50 an hour. As the foreman of a group he obviously earned more than the people he supervised. That group of vineyard workers was averaging about \$14 an hour. That is not big bikkies by anyone's measure. My experience of the past seven years as the member for Vasse is that many people have recently moved to the south west who fall into that category. They are willing to work in tourism or agriculture; areas in which the rates of pay are relatively modest. Overwhelmingly, they are the backbone of Australian society. They are hard workers; they rarely complain and they believe in the Australian tradition of a fair go. They are committed to their friends and family and have no real interest in politics or government. They also rarely believe what they read in the Press.

All those features also combine to give those people one other characteristic which the former Minister for the South West needs to understand: they are extremely vulnerable when adversity visits their door. When adverse situations present themselves, those people are put under pressure. In particular, when those people experience hard economic conditions they find that they have few cash resources in the form of savings to fall back upon. The reason, clearly, is that they work in relatively modest paying jobs. They are often separated from their extended family because they have chosen, for lifestyle and other reasons, to move from Perth, which is obviously the big population centre in Western Australia, or sometimes from the eastern States. They find that their family and friends are 200 kilometres and sometimes 2 000 kilometres away from their new home. When problems arise, for example when a partner or spouse falls ill or someone has to stay at home to look after the children, they do not have grandmothers, grandfathers or close family friends whom they can call upon at the drop of a hat to look after their children or spouses in those sorts of situations.

Often their closest mates, the boys and girls they went to school with, live hundreds of miles away. When times get tough these people cannot easily just phone up their former schoolmates and say that they need to have a chat and to ask their friends to come round and have a beer. They cannot get together, knock back a schooner or two and talk in a very casual way about what may be some very severe problems that they are facing. When the south west goes through tough economic times, some of these people lose their jobs or find that quiet seasonal conditions reduce their business income to a level below that which is needed to sustain their family, business or both. They then discover that the economy of the south west is too narrow or too small to provide alternative work or business opportunities to provide increased income. The reality in the south west is that many people are financially extended. Families are under pressure. These people have few close friends and often have no family close at hand.

In these circumstances, Government has an essential role in providing services that these people can call upon in their time of need. If these same people were living in Perth and needed services that were not available in the suburb in which they lived, I have no doubt that all they would have to do would be to hop on a bus or train or maybe take a taxi to an adjoining or nearby suburb where they would find the services that they needed to assist them to get through the tough times. In the country, those services are often lacking. In the Vasse electorate the following services, which I will outline in a little detail, are definitely lacking. Therefore, it is appropriate when considering the Loan Bill 2003 that the Government realise that the chardonnay coast is more a sham and fantasy than a reality. The reality is that many people in the south west, including in my electorate, need the normal range of government services. To pretend that these people have all the services that they need and do not need any further government assistance is simply wrong.

I am pleased that the Minister for Community Development has just walked into the Chamber. The Department for Community Development has been downsized in the south west over the past short period. I put on record the very good work of Ric Davies, who I understand was the Bunbury-based manager for the Department for Community Development in the south west. He has provided residents of the south west and me with good service over the years that he has been based in Bunbury. I am sorry to say that some months ago his position was found to be redundant.

Ms S.M. McHale: I think you mean Mike Hepburn.

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Mr B.K. MASTERS: No, Ric Davies. I understand that his position was found to be redundant and that he is no longer employed by the Department for Community Development. I also believe that he has not been replaced because the position has been abolished.

I assure the minister that very good work comes out of the Busselton office of the Department for Community Development, but those officers are all under pressure. There is enormous pressure on all those people to cope with the growing tide of people with problems in my electorate and in the south west as a whole because of the pressures I have just outlined.

I will give one specific example of financial counselling. Sandie Groves has done a lot of work for Anglicare for a number of years. At different stages over the past two or three years she has been forced to tell people that she is sorry but her diary is full and she cannot see anyone new for at least four or five weeks. I thank the minister for paying attention to what I am saying. When a person is in financial difficulty and is told that he cannot have a meeting with a financial counsellor for that long a period it makes it extremely difficult for him to get his life back together again.

Ms S.M. McHale: I am happy to take up that issue. Through the homelessness strategy, the Government has increased the financial support for financial counselling by 15 per cent. I am not aware of your specific example and I am happy to look into it. The general point is that we have increased funding to financial counselling.

Mr B.K. MASTERS: I will check with Sandie Groves the work pressure she is under at the moment. The bottom line is that, over the past two or three years, she has basically had to close her books because she has not been able to make any further appointments.

On the issue of personal counselling I commend people like Robert Burr, who for several years has been in charge of South West Counselling. I believe that that organisation would be well known to the minister; it has won a number of awards for the quality of its service. Robert has been to see me several times over the years to point out that issues like dairy industry deregulation and the normal day-to-day problems that people in the south west face have placed his business under significant pressure. Again, I do not know the current situation with South West Counselling, but it has faced troubles in the past.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Mr B.K. MASTERS: In the area of mental health, I am well aware that the Department of Health has been having problems with obtaining the services of specialist psychiatrists to allow the 15-bed ward at the Bunbury Regional Hospital to be fully utilised. I understand that four psychiatrists are required to allow the full 15 beds to be opened. I hope that the matter has been resolved, but up until very recently there were only two psychiatrists on the books who were based in Bunbury, thereby forcing half the beds to remain closed. I am well aware that as a consequence of this, the parents of a psychiatric patient who had driven their son from Margaret River to Bunbury were told that they needed to drive their son up to Graylands Hospital. That is a very difficult situation when parents are living with a person with mental health problems. The one time that they had to seek assistance they were told that they must drive their son to Perth.

Even normal health services have experienced problems in the past. For example, around the time of the last state election, the Busselton District Hospital was unable to fully staff its accident and emergency section. To the credit of the previous Government and also the current Government, an arrangement was put in place to solve that problem.

However, it shows that in an area of high growth, as is the Vasse electorate and the south west in general, it is common for the pressures to mount to such an extent that if something goes wrong, the service is unable to meet the needs, and then for a period of weeks or months the service is seriously deficient and people suffer adversely as a result.

Those few examples that I have given of services that are or were in need of additional funding and additional resourcing are what I call people services. However, there is also a great need in the south west, and in particular in the Vasse electorate, for upgrades to existing infrastructure. I will take just a few minutes to outline some of the things that I believe the Government needs to pay attention to over the next 12 months.

Western Power has finally accepted that in the wheatbelt its provision of services is deficient and that old poles, old transformers and other ancient equipment now need to be replaced urgently. The reality, of course, is that in the south west of the State there is a similar poor quality of service to many farming areas. It is not uncommon for me to contact Western Power and ask when the fallen pole on such and such a property will be replaced, because the three or four farmers or other landowners who depend upon electricity from that single line are obviously suffering as a result of the loss of electricity.

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There is a related issue involving Western Power; namely, that a number of dairy farmers in my electorate and adjoining electorates, having seen deregulation descend upon them as at 1 July 2000, now realise that they must get big or get out. To get big, they must spend literally hundreds of thousands of dollars upgrading their dairies so that they can milk their larger than previous dairy herds in an expeditious manner. However, if people wish to go down that path and build a new dairy, more often than not they need three-phase power. If a person lives close to an existing powerline, three-phase power might be available for only \$30 000 or \$40 000. However, if a person lives 10 or 12 kilometres from the nearest suitable powerline, the cost may be as much as \$180 000.

I take this opportunity to thank Councillor Evelyn Brand from the Shire of Busselton, who has worked very hard with her local farming community.

Mr P.G. Pendal: A very fine lady.

Mr B.K. MASTERS: Does the member for South Perth know the lady?

Mr P.G. Pendal: I do indeed.

Mr B.K. MASTERS: She is a very hardworking and competent councillor, and I am pleased to commend the work that she has done over the years. She has worked with her local community and, I am pleased to say, with Western Power, which I have had difficulties with over the years. The report that I believe has been produced shows that some farmers can very easily be connected to three-phase power, but others are likely to incur very severe financial costs if they wish to go to three-phase power. Somehow or other Western Power needs to work with the local farming community and people like Councillor Evelyn Brand to make sure that these sorts of problems are resolved in a way that is -

Mr R.N. Sweetman: Wait till disaggregation. You ain't seen nothing yet!

Mr B.K. MASTERS: I inform the member for Ningaloo that I am extremely concerned about disaggregation, because if there is a communication problem now between Western Power and its customers, be they rural or city, but especially if they are rural customers, after disaggregation that communication problem will magnify enormously, and I fear that people in the south west will suffer as a result.

Another area of infrastructure that definitely needs upgrading sooner rather than later is the Busselton District Hospital. The hospital was built in the early to mid 1970s, along with the building next door to it, which is the Kevin Cullen Community Health Centre. The hospital now is tired and old. Its design essentially cannot be modified to allow a significant improvement to the quality of the service. In the months leading up to the last election the previous Minister for Health pointed out that the \$1.2 million upgrade that had just been completed at that stage would allow the hospital to operate effectively for another five years, but that would be it. After that, either a substantial upgrade or a brand new hospital would be needed. The then minister, the member for Darling Range, pointed out that the planning for that would need to start at least three years before the date on which the new hospital was needed. Here we are almost three years after the previous Minister for Health made that statement and the planning process has not even begun. Busselton District Hospital services a large number of residents, as well as a large number of tourists over the summer holidays. I fear that those people will have to put up with a substandard hospital once it finally outlives its useful life in two or three years.

Another important piece of infrastructure that needs upgrading is the Busselton Senior High School. I understand that it was built in the 1960s and was originally designed for some 650 students. Today it holds more than 1 200 students, and that number is increasing at five to six per cent a year. Therefore, it will not take too many years before that number is more than 1 400. I am sorry that the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure is not in the Chamber, because she talked about Busselton not too long ago, and I wish to make her aware of the fact -

Mr P.G. Pendal interjected.

Mr B.K. MASTERS: The member is not?

Mr P.G. Pendal: No.

Mr B.K. MASTERS: Okay. I already have done so; therefore, I am not sure how I can retract that. However, the important point to consider is that everyone believes that Busselton is the chardonnay coast - the ideal place to live. However, as I have tried to point out, the reality is very different. The best way that I can exemplify that is to talk about what I understand is called the H factor or the H index. It is an index or a calculation prepared by the Department of Education and Training that indicates the socioeconomic status of the catchment population from which students are fed into a certain school. I have said before in this place, and I repeat, the H factor for an average school will be 100. The H factor for a brilliant school, in the context of the socioeconomic and other status from which its students come, will be 110. The H factor for the most deprived school in Western

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Australia will be 90. Busselton Senior High School comes sixth from the bottom with an H factor of 92.6. Five schools are lower on the H factor scale. I do not mean any disrespect to those schools, nor to Busselton Senior High School, but I need to mention those six schools to try to highlight to people in this place that Busselton is not the utopia that everyone thinks it is.

As I understand it, the order is that the school with the greatest socioeconomic and associated problems in Western Australia is Carnarvon Senior High School. Not in any order but in the group above that are the Mirrabooka, Girrawheen, Balga and Geraldton high schools. Busselton comes sixth from the bottom. It is the sixth most disadvantaged high school in Western Australia. I would not be surprised if many members are quite shocked by that. However, that is the reality. At the moment the high school is a collection of not particularly well-arranged transportables. Some new buildings are going in there, and I am grateful to the Government for the money it is making available for that. However, basically the school, which was designed for 650-odd students, is now catering for 1 200 students and will soon be catering for 1 300 or 1 400 students. A local area education planning report is on the minister's desk right now. I strongly urge the minister to look at that report, look at the options, look at the future of Busselton and make the appropriate decision, whatever that may be.

The Busselton campus of the South West Regional College of TAFE has outlived its site. I do not know the number for which it was originally built, but that number has tripled or quadrupled in the past decade, and senior staff in both Busselton and Bunbury strongly desire that the Busselton TAFE campus be moved or significantly upgraded. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure would be well aware that there is a serious coastal erosion problem in Geographe Bay, and technical advice along with funding assistance is urgently needed. I could also talk about roads, but I will not. My final comment is that my greatest disappointment with both the previous Government and this Government is that supported crisis and emergency accommodation is still lacking in Busselton. The town was placed first on the list of towns most in need of such accommodation three years ago. Today, as I understand it, it is still first on that list. I am sorry to say that I have no confidence that that desperate need will be met.

MS K. HODSON-THOMAS (Carine) [8.01 pm]: I understand that this is a fairly general debate, so I take this opportunity to talk in the first instance about my electorate. The Carine electorate will undergo some significant changes as a result of the recent redistribution of boundaries. It will take in a considerable section of the present electorate of Innaloo, and the southern boundary will extend down to Scarborough Beach Road. The northern boundary, which was Hepburn Avenue, will move to Warwick Road, and down Chessell Drive to Beach Road. I will lose about 6 000 of my constituents in the northern section, and pick up more than 11 000 new voters in the lower section of the new seat of Carine.

I will now speak about the Carine campus of the West Coast College of TAFE. As you would be aware, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr A.P. O'Gorman), since you are involved in the rehousing of the hospitality centre and the graduate restaurant presently there, that is a prime piece of land in my electorate. I take this opportunity to commend the Leader of the House. When he decided to make the announcement that the Carine campus would be closed he called me before he made the announcement and advised me of his intention. At all times he kept me involved in the process. I am particularly disappointed that, since the portfolio responsibility moved to the Minister for Education and Training, that dialogue and contact with me as a key stakeholder in the area is no longer evident. I was particularly interested to see an article in the *Stirling Times Community* today stating that the minister has indicated that expressions of interest would be sought for proposals for the 7.9 hectare Carine TAFE site, that would use the administration block, library, arts and crafts workshops and the hospitality block with restaurant facilities. It was my understanding that the minister would advise me when that was to happen. That has not occurred, and I find it particularly disappointing, given the fact that the Leader of the House, the former minister responsible for the disposal of this land, had given me that undertaking. I am particularly disappointed with the minister, and I have written to him asking whether he would at least advise me in future. I particularly do not want to see a repeat with the Carine TAFE site of what happened with the Scarborough Senior High School site. I would like to think that the community will be kept informed at each stage, and that community consultation will take place in an open and well managed way.

It would not be a speech of mine if I did not mention the Mandurah to Perth railway. I am particularly disappointed to see that the minister has now reneged on the tunnelling along the foreshore. I understand, from a question asked of the minister in this House, that part of the reason for not continuing with the decision to completely sink the railway was the removal of the William Street bridge. I can understand that that does not fit within the budget parameters of the minister's \$1.43 billion railway project.

Ms A.J. MacTiernan: It is \$1.417 billion.

Ms K. HODSON-THOMAS: The minister will have her own opportunity to speak. I read the minister's media statement about coming up with a very creative solution to this, but I am disappointed that, when the minister

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went out to the community with the eastern, the western and the central routes, the Perth City Rail Advisory Committee, in its first report to the minister, said that the central route would be acceptable only if there was a commitment to sink the railway along the Esplanade foreshore. That undertaking was given in the first instance. Now it appears that there are cost constraints and the minister must come up with an alternative solution. I also understand that it will ultimately end up costing taxpayers twice the amount of money. From speaking to people looking at constructing the tunnel, I understand that there are some requirements for ventilation for the tunnel. Even if it is not a covered tunnel at this stage, but rather an open excavation, there is still a requirement to provide some ventilation for the railway. That ventilation will be installed in the first instance, but it will not be suitable when the railway is completely covered. It will then be thrown away, and new ventilation will be required. That will ultimately cost the community an enormous amount of money.

There has been a general disregard for the owners of the old Myer site. They believe that the consultation to date has not been as open as it should have been and they feel deeply aggrieved by the minister's handling of the proposal to acquire that site for the future William Street station and other developments planned. From speaking to the City of Perth, I understand that it has told the Government it is prepared to invest \$100 million in developing the site between the central business district and Northbridge, and in sinking the railway line. That \$100 million will come out of the coffers of the City of Perth; it is prepared to do that. There is a cloud over the project, and the city does not understand why. The vision for that area in the City of Perth proposal is second to none. The Government should keep dialogue open with the city and do its very best to ensure that that part of the city is given back to the community by connecting the central business district to Northbridge.

I am still not convinced that the patronage figures for the new railway stack up. I still believe that we are seeing only a transfer of the passengers who currently use buses. They are just being moved to another mode of transport; they are not new passengers on the future railway system. The minister needs to convince both the Parliament and the community that she will deliver a wonderful railway that will service many more patrons than she is claiming.

I have continued to say that it is not only disappointing, but also totally irresponsible to rip up the busways and the Canning Bridge infrastructure. An enormous amount of money has been invested in an efficient service for bus commuters in the southern suburbs. That will soon be lost as a result of the minister's intention to bring the Perth to Mandurah railway via the freeway. I am still not convinced that the minister will meet her commitment to provide a light rail to the city of Rockingham.

I move now to road funding. As I have stated in this place, the budget papers indicated Main Roads underspent by \$50 million. As a result of the Functional Review Taskforce's report, we also know that the task force determined that \$200 million will be cut from Main Roads' budget over the next four years. In essence, over a five-year period, road funding will be reduced by approximately \$250 million. We also know that \$14 million has been slashed from local government road funding. Last year's budget papers revealed that that proposal will be extended over four years. Funding was meant to be in the order of \$18 million this year, \$18 million next year and \$18 million in the further two out years. Road funding simply cannot be slashed to that extent. Our roads are in a deplorable state. Earlier today, the member for Greenough referred to the state of the roads in Albany, which are simply dangerous. One of the roads we looked at is a tourist route. As a result of the rain and winter weather, it is literally crumbling and falling apart. As a consequence, there could be a serious accident.

We know that road construction is important for road safety. It is also important to understand that, in simple terms, roads have a life span of between 35 and 40 years and most of our roads are nearing the end of their life span. Slashing road funding to this extent will be reflected in the state of country roads right across the State. Recently when I was in Kalgoorlie I met with some people near Coolgardie. They want a simple passing lane to be constructed to improve road safety between Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie. Funding for that project is not earmarked anywhere in the budget papers. A passing lane is required to improve road safety and it must be funded as a priority. That cannot happen when road funding is being slashed to the extent that is evident as a result of the minister's cuts in the last financial year and the Functional Review Taskforce's determination that there is no need for \$200 million to be spent over the next four years. I cannot see a great deal of growth in funding in the future. Earlier today the minister commented that the Government is still maintaining roads. Quite simply, the condition of the roads across the State reflects the contrary. The evidence is there; the roads are wearing away and nothing is being done.

I will also touch on the Fremantle eastern bypass. I will not go into great detail about this issue, because I am sure I will have another opportunity to do so in this place. It concerns me that while all of this funding is being taken away from Main Roads, the minister has a six-point plan to deal with the deletion of the Fremantle eastern bypass. Obviously that means the deletion of Roe Highway stage 8, because it will not be required if the Fremantle eastern bypass does not go ahead. Upgrades must be made to Stock Road and to the intersection of

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Stock Road and Leach Highway. Further, the condition of High Street, the intersection that leads into Stirling Bridge and South Street must be addressed. Given the radical cuts to road funding, it strikes me that funding to meet the growing demand that will be placed on our roads as a result of Fremantle eastern bypass not going ahead will not exist. The minister said that she intends to put more freight on rail and the Opposition supports that proposal. It does not disagree with the minister's plan to deliver that outcome. However, even if 30 per cent of our freight is put onto rail, the container load will treble over the next eight years or so. Even if the figure of 30 per cent is delivered, there will still be a chronic problem on our roads. We have already seen too many accidents as a result of the ever-increasing movement of freight on our metropolitan roads.

I will also touch on road safety, and we should not play politics on this issue. All of us in this place should be committed to road safety as a priority. We certainly do not seem to be winning the battle to reduce the number of tragedies on our roads. There has been a spate of young deaths on our roads in recent times. For those families who have been impacted by such events, it is a major tragedy that is obviously difficult to deal with. The minister has committed to educating schoolchildren on a number of issues. I understand that the minister has committed \$1 million from the road trauma trust fund to pilot education programs in our schools and that is happening at the primary, middle and secondary levels. I commend the minister for that initiative. However, \$1 million is simply not enough. I certainly hope we can reach a broad agreement to spend more money. We are seeing far too many tragedies on our roads. Too many young lives have been taken. Too many young people have thought that they are invincible behind the wheel of their car. It is a problem with the 17 to 24-year-old age group. As I have said in this place, I have a 21-year-old son. At times he has probably exceeded the speed limit. In fact, I know he has done so because I have paid a number of his infringement notices. I also recognise that he has been fortunate not to have lost his life. He is also fortunate that none of his friends has lost his or her life. We are still surprised that one of his friends is alive, because he came very close to losing his life. Although we are losing this battle, we must do much more to educate young people. We certainly raise a lot of revenue from speed and red-light cameras. I would like to see a greater commitment to putting that money into educating young people.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Ms K. HODSON-THOMAS: I know that these young people are risk takers. I recognise the need to provide them with outlets in which to test their skills in a controlled environment. I know that at the Joondalup drags - I am not sure if it is in your electorate, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr A.P. O'Gorman), or the member for Wanneroo's - the police work very closely with a number of repeat offenders to target that particular audience and to point out to them that if they are going to speed, they should at least do it in that controlled environment and not on the roads.

Mr R.C. Kucera: As a result of a decision made by Minister Edwards this week the Government committed about \$850 000 to the motor sports program at Collie. I commend that group for the tremendous work it is doing with driver training and the age group that you are talking about. If you have an opportunity to go down that way, I recommend that you visit the complex at Collie to see the kind of work being done there, which is what you have been talking about. It comes under a funding stream different from that to which you have referred, but I thought you would like to know about it. Unfortunately, the nightmares start when our kids get cars.

Ms K. HODSON-THOMAS: They certainly do. I have decided that my second son is definitely not going to have a car; he is going to walk. I appreciate the minister's comments about that complex and I will take the opportunity to go there. We need to do more of that. As I said, it is not an issue that we should play politics with. This is about young people's lives. Members in this place should be doing everything they can to ensure that we do not lose any more young lives on the roads. We have just had a terrible spate of tragedies on the roads. At some stage all members have been impacted upon by families in their electorates who have lost young people as a result of speeding. It is a major contributor to road fatalities and we do not seem to be winning the war at the moment.

A friend of mine and of many other members is in hospital at the moment. He will probably read this speech so I wish Ted Cunningham a speedy recovery.

MR P.W. ANDREWS (Southern River) [8.23 pm]: Mr Acting Speaker (Mr A.P. O'Gorman), you probably did not catch my interjection when you were speaking earlier, but I want to put on record that you, Sir, are a very kind man. It is a pleasure to be in this place with you and the comments by some members in this place certainly do not reflect on your character at all. However, I am not too sure about the member for Mandurah.

Two and a half years ago, I stood in this place rather tearfully and gave my maiden speech. I stated quite clearly that one of the things I wanted to achieve during my time in Parliament - whatever length of time that might be - was to do whatever I could to lift the rate of cadaveric organ donation in Western Australia. At that time I had

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some idea about the problem and what could be done about it and I had accepted some of the myths that surround organ donation as being factual. Tonight I would like to go through what I believe is the answer to lifting the rate of cadaveric organ donation in Western Australia. Quite tragically, the answer is very simple and quite well known. I draw the House's attention to the report entitled, "Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Intergovernmental Agreements: Organ Donation and Transplantation", which was tabled in 2000. I will begin by going through the league table. This weekend we have had a couple of rather unsuccessful football matches and members have reflected on how our teams have gone. Let us consider how our team has gone in terms of organ donation in Western Australia. Donations are measured in donations per million people per year. The Spanish donation rate - in order to keep the comparison valid - is 33 donations per million people per year. The figures that I have for Australian States for 2001 are as follows: South Australia had a donation rate of 20.7 per million people per year - roughly two-thirds of Spain's rate and yet it is the highest rate for any State in Australia. The Australian Capital Territory had a donation rate of 19.1 per million people per year, but because of the low population rate there can be some degree of variation. Queensland had a rate of 12.1, Victoria had a rate of 9.7, Tasmania had a rate of 12.8 and the Northern Territory had a rate of 10.2. At the bottom of the list by far is Western Australia with a rate of 7.9 donations per million people per year. In other words, the South Australians are doing almost three times as well as we are. If those were our football teams at the bottom of that ladder, I would think we would be having a parliamentary inquiry! The state of our rate of organ donation in Western Australia is appalling; it is absolutely dreadful. Some of the figures that are given vary a little but to put it into perspective, to maintain the transplants list as it stands, taking into account the ageing population, the increasing incidence of diabetes and heart disease and so on, there needs to be a rate of between 50 and 55 donations per million people per year. We are working at about one-seventh of the rate at which we need to be. Until recently, I thought it was all a bit of a mystery and that the best way to handle the situation was by more advertising, by talking about it and by convincing people to consider donating organs and so on. However, that is false; I will explain why shortly.

The report came up with a number of findings and I will put them into perspective in Western Australia. This is put as I see it because it is based on my contact with physicians - I will be speaking at a conference on 20 September - my experience in this area and my recent visit to Spain. I was in England at the time and visited Spain to see what the people there were doing in the hospitals and so on. The first finding of that report was that the shortage of organs is not due simply to a lack of potential donors but, rather, to a failure to turn potential donors into donors. I always thought that if a person had ticked his drivers licence to the effect that he wanted to donate an organ, if he collapsed in the street with a brain haemorrhage, someone would make sure that his family was contacted and his organs were donated. That is not true. Many people have ticked the organ donation boxes on their licences thinking that that would happen - that their wishes would be fulfilled - but we do not have a system in place that allows that to happen. The system in this State is very spasmodic.

Donor coordinators are most effective if based in hospitals. One of the things that was evident in the Spanish situation was that donor coordinators are actively involved in hospitals in Spain. Donor coordinators in Western Australia are notionally attached to hospitals but do not work there on a day-to-day basis and they do not move from one ward to the next as a regular part of their routine. In other words, potential donors are referred to donor coordinators who will carry out the process once the decision to donate has been made by the person's family or, rather, the intensivist has identified a donor candidate. In many ways donor coordinators are only notionally attached to hospitals. Organ donation is not being utilised effectively for organs of patients who die in regional hospitals in Western Australia. The arguments put forward in the past for WA having such a low rate of organ donation are that we are a big State; we are spread out; someone would have to bring a donor from a regional hospital to Perth; and we do not have the surgeons to do it. In other words, the size of the State is the problem. That is partly true but only a very small part. I use the example of South Australia, which is also a very big State, yet has roughly three times WA's rate of organ donation. The argument of size, which I hear put forward constantly, is annoying because, although there is an element of truth in it, it does not portray anything like the entire picture.

The report also found that the attitude of intensive care specialists and their concept of conflict of interest directly correlates to the rate of organ donation. I know one or two intensivists in Western Australia, but I would not like to make that comment about them. However, in the overseas model it is a simple statement of fact that the attitude of the intensivist is the factor that determines the rate of donation in a particular unit; in other words, it comes down not to the system but to the feelings an individual person has about organ donation. We should not have that; the decision should not be left to the values and beliefs of an individual intensivist. An intensivist does not have the moral right to say, "I don't want to make that approach to the family because . . .". An intensivist should not be put in that situation in the first place. I will again go through that issue if I have time.

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Potential donors are found in intensive care units. They need to be identified and their family approached concerning organ donation. The person I met in Spain simply sat down, took out an exercise book and a pen and said, "How many intensive care beds do you have?" In other words, he had reduced it to a mathematical formula. There is a direct correlation between the number of intensive care beds and the number of organ donations per million of population. Therefore, the first thing to do is compare the number of intensive care beds in Western Australia with that of other countries.

The report also found that death audits in hospitals can be applied to ensure that resources are used effectively and the maximum number of organs are retrieved and transplanted. South Australia has an audit system in which someone, usually a coordinator, sits in front of a computer and eliminates for various reasons some of the deaths that have occurred in the hospital; for example, those involving people who have died of underlying causes are eliminated. After the audit process has been completed - I have a copy of one with me - the coordinator has a list of potential donors whose deaths were not caused by an underlying illness and is able to identify whether the family of that person has been approached for organ donation. We have not embraced that system in Western Australia, although it is being contemplated, because it tends to be regarded as looking over people's shoulders and questioning their decisions. It is clear that those countries and the States of Australia that have embraced a system of hospital death audits have higher rates of organ donation. Clearly we must do that. The system is very simple; I have seen people in Victoria work through it. They cover a huge number of deaths in hospitals in a very short time and then follow them up with case conferences; that is, the panels get together and decide which families should have been approached and which families they doubt should have been approached. It is a way of systemising the system.

Another recommendation in the report was that a proactive donor detection program be instigated to improve donor identification rates. As I said, Western Australia tends to have a hit and miss system. If someone presents at a hospital with a brain haemorrhage, there is no certainty that the family will be approached. Too many leakages and variables - as referred to in economics - come into play and the system is not so precise that it prevents people from being overlooked.

Recommendation 6 states that organ retrieval teams should be on stand-by to retrieve suitable organs from regional WA hospitals. Would that not be fantastic? The only problem is that we do not have enough surgeons in Western Australia to do that. That recommendation is far removed from our potential to do that at this time, but it is a very noble recommendation. However, we have many further things to do before we can contemplate it.

Recommendation 9 states that the performance of the coordinator model adopted by DonateWest should be reviewed after two years and then, if necessary, consideration given to the appointment of medical coordinators as part of the donor system in WA. That was a very good recommendation from that report. The difference between our system and the model in one Spanish hospital - which has an organ donation rate of 55 per million a year; in other words, six and a half times Western Australia's donation rate - is that the Spanish hospital had six physicians and one nurse as coordinators. The hospital preferred physicians as donor coordinators because of their ability to discuss with intensivists the reasons that a person might or might not be a suitable donor. Another factor is simply the politics within the hospital and the power structure of the very qualified intensivists over nurses, who are regarded as inadequately trained in that area. It sounds a bit harsh, but the reality is that physicians have far greater clout than nurses have as coordinators of organ donation. Only one of the seven coordinators in that hospital was a nurse. The job of coordinators in the hospital was quite simple. They did not sit back and wait for the telephone to ring and they did not have a cursory look through various files and so on. Coordinators were available 24 hours a day. They began their rounds in the morning in the emergency department to see who had been brought in overnight. They then went to each ward where intensivists were involved - the intensive care unit, neurology and sometimes cardiology - and actively went through the files to see who would not make it through the rest of the day. Their pagers were set up so that if someone phoned the morgue, the pager was automatically contacted and they would find out what had happened. They were part of the hospital structure. Every doctor who worked in that hospital knew that if a patient was not doing very well, the organ coordinator would come to see them. In that system it was not left up to the intensivist who was in the intensive care unit to make that decision. Members should think of the terrible situation a doctor who had been working on a patient for a day or two would be in. The doctor may have seen the patient before and may have known the family very well. It would be horrendous for a doctor to have to talk to a family after having done all that work and possibly having had to turn off a life support machine, and it should not be left to intensivists to do that. The conflict of interest must be clearly understood. No-one would say that an intensivist would keep a patient alive, work on the patient to his or her very best and then say, "We really need the organs; let's just let him die." It does not work like that at all.

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[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Mr P.W. ANDREWS: The conflict arises because the person who has to make the decision about what should be done should be employed externally from the hospital. Similarly, the coordinator who determines where the organs will go should be employed externally from the hospital or organisation. I am saying very strongly that Western Australia needs physicians in hospitals who can act as organ donor coordinators. Those physicians should be part of the hospital and work in the wards on a daily basis but they should be separate from the intensivists in the intensive care units and other wards. That is how the system works in Spain, and that is why its system is successful.

Another recommendation of the report was that there should be a review of the number of ICU beds in WA to ensure a shortage of ICU beds is not a barrier to increasing organ transplantation rates. Some physicians have told me that the more ICU beds there are, the more they will be filled. I would not like to see a situation in Western Australia in which someone who has suffered a brain haemorrhage in the street and has been admitted to hospital is not referred to the ICU because there is virtually no chance of reviving him and, therefore, the system simply overlooks him. The number of ICU beds in Western Australia must be carefully examined. A political situation arises over who is put in the ICU beds and so on, but that issue must be resolved.

The report also recommends that a national death audit procedure be adopted to ensure that potential donors are not overlooked. As I said, that is not done in Western Australia. Some medicos have discussed the use of a partial audit. However, a partial audit does not work; it is like saying that an audit of an intensive care unit will be conducted to find out how many people should have been referred to it and how many were. That assumes that everyone with the potential to be admitted to the ICU will be admitted. That is not true. A full audit system must be implemented.

The sixteenth recommendation of the report was that every hospital should develop protocols to ensure that every dead or dying patient be assessed for organ donation. It is every individual's right to choose whether or not to become an organ donor. We would not be fulfilling the wishes of those people if our hospital system did not cater for those who have ticked boxes on their drivers licences for their organs to be donated in the event that something should happen to them. If there is an escape clause whereby individuals who work in different parts of the hospital system decide not to do their bit and do not allow people to donate their organs, we will let down those people who have made it clear that they wish their organs to be donated.

I believe that to increase the organ donation rate is a relatively simple process that can be done very quickly. What is stopping that from happening? Why has it not been done in the past? It is because there must be a willingness to make it happen. It is not good enough to make a statement that organ donation is not acceptable in this State. We have a world-class health system. Western Australia has the lowest donation rate in Australia; therefore, we are not doing a good job. My speech tonight is simply drawing a line in the sand. I have discussed these matters with the Premier. He is sincerely interested in them. The political will to make it happen will largely determine whether it happens.

I have not discovered some magical thing. Physicians, nurses and other medicos in the health system know how the system should work. However, they do not want to intrude on professional boundaries. Because of their professional boundaries, some physicians in intensive care or neurology units in Western Australia will not query a person's decision not to approach a patient's family. I have no doubt whatsoever that the people who work in the hospitals know how the system must be changed. It frustrates me when I hear - I am not allowed to use a certain word in here - that it is because of the huge distances that must be covered in our State. It is patently obvious what must be done. At the conference I will say that people must show some blatant honesty and admit that the system must change, and everyone in the system must be responsible for these matters. Unfortunately, that is the problem because not everyone supports organ donation. However, whether someone becomes an organ donor should not depend on how an individual who works in a hospital feels about it. The system must be designed so that there is no option for staff to say that they do not support organ donation and therefore they will not do it. People tell me all the time that, because so-and-so does not support organ donation, a particular hospital has the worst organ donation record in Western Australia. I do not know whether that is true. I do not know the people well enough. All I am saying is that the system must be changed. The medicos must come on board and the audit system of deaths must be implemented.

A few other things must be done. An expression that has been used is the Pittsburgh or Cleveland syndrome. It works like this: if an aspiring Western Australian surgeon wants to perform transplant surgery, he gets trained at Pittsburgh and when he comes back to Western Australia and is ready to perform transplant surgery, there are no organs available so he goes and works somewhere else. A problem in our system is that there have not been enough organs for surgeons to perform surgery. The surgeons move interstate because they do not have enough

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work to keep them busy. There is a brain drain - or a skill drain - from Western Australia because there are not enough organs to satisfy the aspirations of surgeons who want to perform transplants. I believe that a transplant surgeon from the United Kingdom was recently appointed to Western Australia. Western Australia must develop a career structure for its own surgeons. There is no point employing surgeons from overseas. Crucial aspects of the system that must be addressed include the availability of surgeons to perform transplant surgery and to conduct organ harvesting.

Changes must be made to the Coroners Act. Currently, a person who falls down on the street from a brain haemorrhage but has not ticked the box on his drivers licence - which gives the coroner or the person who comes under the auspices of the coroner the permission for his details to be handed over to an organ donor coordinator - will not have his organs donated. That means that the cohort of people who are most likely to be suitable donors - those who fall over in the street with brain haemorrhages and do not do particularly well - will not become organ donors. Under our system, organ donors cannot be contacted. That is unlike the system in Victoria. I have been in the Victorian office where it all takes place next to the coroner's office. I saw on a monitor how some patients were going. Unfortunately, some of them did not survive and were referred to the coroner because they had been picked up off the street. The coroner makes that information available to the donor coordinators immediately. The Western Australian Coroners Act restricts organ donation in Western Australia. I suggest that it must be examined and changed. I believe the Minister for Health is doing that. The previous Minister for Health also took an interest in that area. We are on the way to getting the legislation and the legal requirements right.

Once again, I refer to my chief recommendation, which is simple: we should copy the Spanish system. The Spanish model is really quite simple. One of the best centres in the world is located in Madrid. I visited it and expected to see a whiz-bang hospital with lots of computers. The place I visited showed that the best system in the world is run by a couple of young doctors who carried out the formula used in that country. There was nothing whiz-bang about them as individuals, but they had their system right. I spoke to Raphael Matesanz, who was president of the select committee of experts in transplants in the Council of Europe. I met him at my hotel; he was gracious enough to visit me. He took an old notebook from his pocket and asked how many ICU beds we had. He went through a mathematical formula based on a very sound model that they use. There is nothing particularly different about their hospitals. Physically, our hospitals look more affluent. However, the Spanish developed their system because they needed to; their donation rate was very low. There is nothing magical about their education system at all. When I asked him about education and advertising he just shrugged his shoulders. He said it does not make any difference. I told him Australia is a multicultural society and asked what that meant. He said it does not matter; it all came back to family members being approached by a physician. A country can do all the advertising and educating in the world but unless the physicians are on the spot to make an approach to a family and have a system to back it up, the organs are not donated. He asked me how many physicians we had as organ donor coordinators. I told him we had none. He looked at me blankly and asked how we expected to get organs donated. I said I did not know. That is the answer to the situation - follow the Spanish model. If we did that in Western Australia we would do better than any other State. At the moment, the situation is deplorable. It comes down to the will of this Government to make it happen.

MR B.J. GRYLLS (Merredin) [8.52 pm]: In making my contribution to this debate I recognise the contribution of the previous speaker, the member for Southern River. He spoke with much authority based on much research. He will be happy to know that my wife and I have both agreed to be organ donors. Not only do people need to note organ donation on their drivers licences, they also need to speak to their families to let them know their wishes. In some circumstances it may be left to my family or next of kin to make a decision about organ donation. I certainly want them to be very clear about my wishes. If my organs can be of any benefit to anyone in the community, he or she is most welcome to them. I thank the member for Southern River for his contribution to the debate.

This is my first speech since the introduction of the new code of conduct. I put on record that I support the new code of conduct. The media attention given to the debate was disappointing. I hope that at all times my conduct in this House recognises the honour and dignity of the position I have been given by the people of Merredin. I hope that at all times I argue only to advance their cause and not to advance petty political causes that we have seen in this House over the past few months. The perception of members of Parliament in the community is very important to me. I hope that with the new code of conduct the whole Parliament can act in a way that brings more credit than disrepute.

It is with a degree of purpose that I speak on the Loan Bill. Part of the Treasurer's second reading speech states -

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This Bill seeks a new Loan Act authorisation of \$250 million - sufficient to meet the planned general government purposes borrowing requirements for 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Reading that gave me a slight sense of excitement because, given the way the Government is performing in the health system and with environmental issues - especially the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, which is a major issue I have fought for - and the strikes across many areas of our economy, we are seeing very little success by this Government. If I read between the lines, we could have an election as early as the middle of next year. The Loan Act authorisation of \$250 million is expected to run into 2004-05. By that time we could well have a conservative Government in Western Australia. That would put a conservative Government in the position of coming up with the best way to spend the appropriation under this legislation. It is important that I put my comments on the record tonight. I hope that some of the issues I raise will benefit from the loan appropriation.

I will start with my shadow portfolio responsibilities because those are the issues I have concentrated on in this Parliament. I look forward to explaining some of the issues in my electorate of Merredin and having them on the record. Part of my shadow responsibilities include water and salinity. I must start with the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. For the past 18 months I have been a member of this House my party has raised the need for this Labor Government to sign off on the national action plan and to attract the matching commonwealth funding that is so desperately needed for the land care issues in Western Australia, especially salinity. Salinity is especially serious in my electorate. We still see no way forward on the national action plan. Every other Australian State is spending national action plan money but Western Australia is spending nothing. The Labor Government is still playing petty political blame games with the Commonwealth. That must come to an end when we realise that every other State has signed off on the plan and has money flowing to it, both commonwealth money and money appropriated from state budgets. Every other State has that money for important land care initiatives. Western Australia is the odd State out on this issue. It is extremely disappointing to me because it is very easy to champion the cause of Ningaloo Reef or old-growth forests, which garners the public's attention, receives money for television advertising campaigns and gives everyone a nice warm and fuzzy feeling. When it comes to tackling salinity, which is of major environmental and economic significance to this State, we are still left out to dry. We still see no action and it is absolutely disgraceful that we are in this situation. The Labor Government and the minister are not allocating any money towards the national action plan. I can say with some authority that even the minister now realises that she is up against a Cabinet that will not put up the money that is required. When speaking to the same people that I speak to, the minister has suggested that she sees the importance of the national action plan. Unless the Cabinet is prepared to put up the money, we will not see any further action. As part of my contribution to the debate on the \$250 million in this Loan Bill, I hope to see the national action plan at the top of the priority list. This Government has made it quite clear that it wants to be seen as a green Government and has latched onto publicly sensitive issues such as Ningaloo and old-growth forests. However, we have not seen it champion the fight against salinity in Western Australia's agricultural regions. That is extremely disappointing.

I will move on to water. It is great to see that we have had fairly solid rainfall over the winter months. It looks like some of the dams are starting to fill up, which is excellent. However, the water issue will not go away. Western Australia is vast and will continue to be dry. We really need to be looking at new ways of making sure that the Government can provide the water resource that is so necessary to our communities. Desalination has come up in this debate. The idea of locating a desalination plant on the Kwinana coast has been mooted, which to me is absolutely ridiculous. I have said before in this place that if we are going to desalinate water to supply inland areas, that desalination process needs to be undertaken in inland areas. Western Australia has a rising water table, which everybody knows about and which is clearly scientifically backed. We need to lower that rising water table. We do not need to pump desalinated sea water to towns such as Kellerberrin, Merredin and Corrigin and raise the water table even more with that desalinated sea water. We need to use the water that is available under the ground in those communities and put it through the desalination process, which has been proved up time and time again. It needs to be recognised that it is expensive to get water out to some of those communities that are a distance from Perth. There is no denying that. If private enterprise can come up with a solution to desalinate the water that already exists under the ground in those communities and can provide that water to the Water Corporation at a cost that is lower than the cost to the Water Corporation of getting water out to those towns, surely that is the better way to do it. There would be benefits for ground water levels and local infrastructure, which is suffering as a result of the rising water table. It would also reduce the pumping costs involved in getting the water out to those areas. This idea has been mooted several times. I have explained it in detail. I would like the Government to focus on that idea and give it the relevant budget allocations to enable that to occur.

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Another issue in water which is extremely critical at the moment and which flows on from the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality is drainage. I was lucky last week to go on a farm tour of a property just out of Merredin and to see deep drainage in action. It was very impressive. The farmer involved had done an extremely good job of researching the ground water tables and where the drains would go and discharge. The drains had been professionally dug. They were well cared for. They had not been damaged by stock. He showed me areas of land that he thought had been on the way to becoming unviable due to being affected by salt and showed me crops that were certainly above average and looking very strong and robust. He attributed it all to the benefits of deep drainage. At the moment many of those deep drainage issues are on hold because we need to do more planning and research on getting the design and the outlet for the drains correct. Money needs to be spent on that research so that, once those trials are proved up, landowners can invest their money into digging drains through their properties to reclaim the land that is being affected by salinity. I would like some of this capital appropriation to be used in some of those trials, so that we can prove that up. That would enable farmers to get back to what they do best, which is creating viable crops and looking after their land, because, after all, it is their asset and it is certainly not something that they want to go saline. It is something that they are prepared to put their own money into saving and rejuvenating. However, we need the framework, the science and the specifics. I suppose the way to describe it is that it needs to be proved up, so that farmers can go forward and do that. At the moment that money is simply not being spent.

I will move on to small business, which is my other shadow portfolio responsibility. A review of the business enterprise centres is currently being conducted. I put on the record the important role those centres play in regional Western Australia. The business enterprise centres, the Wheatbelt Development Commission and the telecentre network play an extremely vital role in supporting new enterprises and small businesses in the region. We all know the benefits of small business - the employment flow-on effects and the way in which they make our small communities viable. These three state government-funded agencies play a very important role. We welcome the fact that the review is looking at ways to do it better. However, we are extremely concerned that every review that this Government has conducted of any other service in regional Western Australia has turned out to be a hatchet review rather than a review of how to deliver those services better. We are extremely concerned by comments that members on the other side have made about business enterprise centres. We certainly have not yet received a straight answer from the responsible minister, but we look forward to his guaranteeing the future funding and viability of business enterprise centres. It is important that we continue to support the small business industry in regional Western Australia.

As we go forward into the future, decentralisation will be extremely important. We have an overheated property market in the metropolitan area at the moment, which has left people believing that they simply cannot afford to pursue the Australian dream of owning a house. In my electorate people can buy absolutely premium quality houses for probably a quarter of the amount that they would pay in the metropolitan area. We need to make sure that jobs are available for the people who want to move to those areas and buy those houses. The business enterprise centres, Wheatbelt Development Commission and telecentre network are critical to make sure that jobs and business support are available. The fact that they are under review at the moment is of extreme concern to not only me but also my whole electorate and especially the people who have worked countless hours as operators of those government agencies. They have put their heart and soul into developing regional small business. They want to see that go forward. They are promoting the idea of people moving from the metropolitan area and getting away from the overheated housing market to access the more affordable and probably better quality housing that is available in the regions. We will then get true decentralisation, which is something that Governments like to bandy around but which we have never actually managed to achieve in Western Australia. Other countries have large regional towns. Even the eastern States have regional centres with populations of 40 000, 50 000 and up to 100 000. In Western Australia we have Kalgoorlie, and that is probably about it. Northam is probably the next biggest regional inland town. There must be a lot of growth opportunities for businesses in those regions if we are to take advantage of those regions and really bring them to their full potential. I would like some extra support for those government agencies.

The decision made on trading hours in the last session of Parliament showed that after a fair bit of duress and pressure the Government was willing to take the side of the small business operator. That was fantastic for small business in Western Australia. It also sent a clear message that the Government realises that small business plays a vital role. We would like to continue to see that emphasis. I hope that the results of the review that is happening at the moment will continue to reflect that resolve. I am concerned by the proposed changes to liquor licensing laws. Once again, the argument on the deregulation of trading hours has been conducted and small business was supported in the decision that was made. To take that support away through the liquor licensing laws seems to be the exact opposite position from the one the Government has just taken on trading hours. I certainly do not see how it can justify one decision and then the other. It makes no sense to me.

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[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Mr B.J. GRYLLE: I look forward to the proposed liquor licensing law changes coming before this House. We will then debate that issue. It will be a similar debate to the one on trading hours. We were successful in that debate, because the Labor backbench got on side and supported the small businesses in their communities. I will certainly be calling on those same Labor backbenchers again to go out into their electorates, talk to the small business community and find out exactly what it is thinking about the proposed changes to the liquor laws. I am sure they will find that its thinking is exactly the same as it was in the small business trading hours debate.

Tourism is another key issue that needs the support of capital injection under this Loan Bill. Tourism is going through some changes at the moment. I do not believe that we should spend too much time arguing about the new boundaries. I believe that boundaries are a nice diversion for any Government. If a boundary is changed, people will always argue about the grouping into which they have been put. I do not believe that is a major issue for the tourism industry in Western Australia to fight. The major issue it needs to fight is the appropriation of government money to assist it in its endeavours. With what is happening in the world at the moment, we all know that domestic tourism could be built upon and prosper in these times. However, government support is needed. The Government must invest capital to make that happen.

Only last week at the Dowerin Field Days a lady came up to me and said that five kilometres down the road, in a reserve near Minnivale, which is just out of Dowerin, in the space of about 300 metres she had found five different varieties of orchids. She was hoping to access grant funding to begin the process of establishing an interpretive-type centre on this piece of land. This would add to the ability of regional Western Australia to attract tourists, to keep them there for longer, and to get them into the towns. If I had the time to do it, I could come up with hundreds of examples. This is just another example of people in regional Western Australia promoting its natural beauty. We do a great job on the coast and at Ningaloo, and we do fantastically well at Broome. We also do very well in the south west, including the beaches at Busselton and Margaret River. However, we must now turn inland and look at the many great tourism sites in that area.

Following the heartlands tourism awards a couple of weeks ago, it was reported that my region, the heartlands of Western Australia, is, after the south west, the second most visited place in Western Australia for an overnight stay. We are starting to make inroads into that tourism market. However, we must get more tourism products in that area. Wildflowers are certainly an extremely important part of that, as is making sure that we have viable small businesses, cafes, bed and breakfast establishments and attractions that people would like to see. I want the tourism industry to have the benefit of more capital works expenditure. The small grant that is required in Dowerin to help promote its wildflowers would certainly be a step in the right direction.

In my last 10 minutes I will deal with my electorate. After the extremely difficult and disappointing agricultural season last year, there could not have been a greater turnaround than what has happened this year. On the news tonight I was happy to see that people were back at the same farm that they visited last year, where they walked around, kicked the dust and looked at the crop that had yielded for the farmer concerned 11 tonnes, I think. However, in comparison, this year the farmer was standing in a magnificent stand of wheat and looking at his farm. After producing 11 tonnes last year, this year it produced 1 500 tonnes. It has been a remarkable turnaround. The farm looks magnificent.

It must be recognised by everybody in this House - members may not recognise this - that the benefits of a strong agricultural year flow on to the whole community. Hairdressers are now getting the extra work that they were not getting last year. Shoe shops are selling extra pairs of shoes. People are buying three raffle tickets instead of one. These are the important things that flow on to the whole community and start to build the community spirit for which we in the wheatbelt of WA are renowned. It is great for me to report that in all of my electorate the season is looking fantastic. Already the benefits of that season are starting to flow. The Dowerin Field Days are an event for the whole wheatbelt, not just farmers; the event is for everybody. Seventy-seven thousand people went through the gates, which was 20 000 more than last year. Most of the agricultural manufacturers, which are such important employers of people in regional Western Australia, have sold all the products that they will be capable of producing until next year. Some people who had displays at the Dowerin Field Days could not take further orders on the Thursday because they had sold out on the Tuesday and Wednesday.

We are seeing a renaissance, I suppose, of agriculture this year. However, as was wisely pointed out by the farmer on the news tonight, many agricultural people and small businesses will need a positive year just to get them back onto an even keel so that they can pay off the overdraft that they took out to get through last year. It is not before time that this solid season has come. It is great for me to be able to stand in this place and not talk about drought or exceptional circumstances, but about these communities being prosperous and looking forward to bumper seasons, growing their community and consolidating as they move into the future.

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As I mentioned before, my electorate of Merredin is certainly on the cusp of some excellent economic times. However, the Government must go to regional WA and spend the money to enable that to happen. When we talk about a Loan Bill to raise \$250 million for capital expenditure, one of the main things that we should realise is that that capital expenditure needs to return dividends for the State. If the money that is being borrowed is to be invested in projects that will not return dividends to the State, I do not believe they should be pursued. If this borrowing will be used to fund the Perth to Mandurah railway, I point out, as I have said before, that that railway will not return dividends to the State. The Perth to Mandurah railway will cost the State \$100 million a year. It is on the record from both sides of the House that the cost of that railway will be \$100 million a year. I would prefer the government investment to be put into projects that return dividends to the State. The growth that the State achieves from that expenditure could then be used for railways and infrastructure projects that need a government subsidy.

In Port Hedland, the project to put in place a storage shed for a major company was knocked on the head because the money to fund that project was not available. That project would have been of financial benefit to the State and would have returned dividends to it. That has been knocked on the head, and the State will not get the dividend from that project. However, the railway project still continues, and the railway will run at a loss of \$100 million a year. That concerns me greatly. The reason that Western Australia has the wealth it enjoys at the moment is that when the State was first settled, people went into the regions and developed agriculture, mining and the forestry industry. They were the drivers of the State that have made Western Australia the great place that it is today. Times and economies have changed. People need to go back into those regions, revitalise them, and set them up to deliver another 100 years of benefits to the State. If that is not done, the State will miss out. If we rely wholly and solely on the coastal fringe and the mining sector in the north to produce benefits for the State, we are not diversifying our interests. Agriculture could certainly be on the cusp of major expansion. However, that expansion will not come if the Government does not prioritise it.

We need to look at the water resources, about which I have spoken, and the transport infrastructure in the regions. If we cannot move our exports quickly and freely along the road network to the coast, and if we do not have an efficient port system, export growth will be stymied. We must look at power issues in the wheatbelt. After the National Party made it patently obvious to the Minister for Energy that we had a major energy crisis on our hands, some money was spent in my electorate on the Minnivale line. However, that infrastructure issue will not be solved by the expenditure of \$2 million; it will need far greater expenditure. We are looking forward to a report from the Energy Safety Directorate and Western Power on what they plan to do with this network over the next few years. That plan should be coming down in the next week or two. We look forward to seeing that plan and seeing the Minister for Energy put the necessary finance into delivering it.

As I have already mentioned, the small business sector in my electorate is looking forward to growing and expanding. A new hotel is being developed in Cunderdin, modelled on the Ettamogah pub. It is nearing completion and has given a whole new sense of excitement and direction to that community. New businesses are starting up in Cunderdin trying to take advantage of the extra expansion. That is really what the Government is about. The Government should be putting in place an environment that allows communities in regional Western Australia to expand. They will do it with their own money. The Ettamogah pub is being built with money borrowed by the council. The country people have said that they can make this happen, but they need to make sure they have the power, road, health and education infrastructure.

The Loan Bill before the House today seeks to raise \$250 million to put towards capital works. As I have said previously, if that flows into 2004-05, I hope that by that time, with the way the current Government is going, there will be a change in government, and the conservative side of politics will be in charge of distributing that capital. We will then be able to see the development of regional Western Australia. Once that development takes place, the benefits will flow to the whole of the State, as they have for the past 100 years. Once that has occurred, the member for Mandurah may well get the railway he so much wants. If we spend all the money up front on building the railway and leave the development of the rest of the State to occur by itself, it will take a lot longer.

MRS D.J. GUISE (Wanneroo - Deputy Speaker) [9.22 pm]: I support the Loan Bill 2003, and in doing so recognise that this Bill gives the necessary authority for the raising of loans for public purposes. In that context, I will speak about the Bill, showing a particular interest in meeting the needs of my community. I will begin by once again emphasising the sheer size of the Wanneroo region as well as its predicted growth. It is the second fastest growing city in Australia, coming in behind only the Sydney central business district. Each year the city of Wanneroo provides 30 to 40 per cent of the total housing lots created in the Perth metropolitan area. That results in 2 000 new homes per annum. Planning forecasts indicate that the population of the local government authority of Wanneroo will grow from 83 000 people to over 300 000 in the next 30 years. The major growth

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areas will be along the coast, where the population will increase from approximately 32 000 to over 190 000, and in east Wanneroo, where the population will grow to over 100 000 by 2026. These are indeed astonishing figures, but what do they really mean to those of us living in the region and working the land?

The early planning, particularly that of Gordon Stephenson in the late 1950s and early 1960s, did the city a good turn. Stephenson had the foresight and vision to understand the natural environment, the constraints on the city and the potential areas where growth could occur using natural corridors. That is where we see ourselves today, particularly in my area. It is clear that the coastal node has well and truly developed. There is some inland potential, but the natural environment, the lakes, wetland systems and the national park have been protected to create a green buffer. That has also provided some protection, at this stage at least, for the rural sector. The front at this stage is at Butler, or Brighton as it is better known, which is a Nigel Satterley development along the coast north of Quinns. Quinns Rocks was the place where many local people used to go on holiday in shacks, but it is well and truly developed now, and new homes are being established further north. To the east of Wanneroo, around Landsdale and towards the city of Swan, more development is happening as homes are developed and urbanisation continues.

What are the future needs and planning requirements for an area such as this? They are many and varied, and we must find a better way of doing it. I commend the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure on the event that will take place this weekend - the dialogue in the city. I was fortunate enough to attend something very similar in Austin two years ago, with some planners. I heard an international planner explain that their planning process was DEAD - decide, educate, announce and defend. Someone from Australia said that we do not even do that here. Our process is DAD - decide, announce and defend. It was clear that a process that includes the community in deciding the shape of the community is to be commended. However, I note that our regulatory framework in planning is somewhat envied by other authorities overseas, and has held us in good stead to this stage.

The future planning for Perth needs to recognise the existing communities and their infrastructure. To that extent, the northern boundary of the metropolitan area is clearly defined. I could say with some authority that the end point will always be just north of Two Rocks, where the reserve begins. We can clearly say that that will be the northern coastal boundary of the metropolitan area. This gives us some opportunities to look at where we can create sub-cores to the city. Some already exist, but we must find the potential to develop others or redevelop those that exist, recognising their importance in terms of jobs and sustainability. Unfortunately, my area is very much a continuation of dormitory suburbs, to which people go home at night to sleep. There is not much in the way of work, except at Bunnings and McDonalds. We must do far better than that. It has been interesting to be part of the ongoing discussions with a developer and landholder as large and significant as the Tokyu Corporation. An agreement has been in place with successive Governments, both Labor and Liberal, and I am happy to say that the negotiations have reached a point at which we can look at implementation. Such partnerships with a single large landholder open up new perspectives on the art of the possible. The St Andrews project, which encompasses landholdings in Yanchep and Two Rocks, is important because there is a direct correlation between urban development and economic development. It has the real potential for us to bring about the triple bottom line in sustainability for a community; in other words, economic, environmental and social sustainability - something we have not quite got right to date.

The challenges in east Wanneroo are somewhat different. Here we have a very complex situation and we must be creative in finding ways to address the concerns of the community about the impact of the current water planning and allocation and the land-use planning and its impact on the region and the people on the land. We have to determine the best land-use options and how to protect, where possible, land resources for both current and future agricultural industries. The value of the City of Wanneroo's gross agricultural product is between \$120 million and \$140 million. That is not an insignificant amount. Currently, 2 000 hectares of land is under production for strawberries, a variety of vegetables, poultry, turf and the like. The industry employs between 2 500 and 3 000 people. It is a significant industry. How do we protect it from the pressures of water supply demands? Currently, the Gnangara mound supplies Perth with a significant amount of its water. How do we look after an industry as important as that while helping to provide Perth's water and ensuring the long-term environmental sustainability of our wetlands? As I said, it is very complex.

People in the local area are also experiencing pressure due to land-use conflicts. There has been some urbanisation, and ad hoc decisions have been made in the past. At the moment there is a range of land zoning, including residential, special residential, special rural, general rural and so on. How do we get the right mix to ensure change while also ensuring that the land remains sustainable? We face amazing challenges, but they will also provide incredible opportunities that the people of Wanneroo are capable of meeting. At the moment there is debate about land-use opportunities. My main concern is the long-term viability of the agricultural areas that

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we wish to protect, as well as the other issues. As we move towards urbanisation in the east Wanneroo area, my main concern is for those people who wish to remain on the land. We cannot wipe out this industry overnight. In providing opportunities for urbanisation, we must assist those who have viable market gardens and wish to stay on the land. We have to be creative about the buffers we put in place to allow those people to continue their work until they wish to retire or move. We must put in place parameters for development so that people can coexist until that time.

We have many opportunities in Wanneroo and I am pleased to see that the Wangara industrial estate is well and truly on the march and looking to expand even further. Businesses are moving in and they have been successful in the embryonic stages of the Neerabup industrial estate. This bodes well for the area, because it is imperative that we create jobs. Infrastructure demands exist, particularly with the growth in education alone. I think I must hold the record for the number of schools that have been built in a member's electorate in a single term of government. As the former Minister for Education knows, we have to accommodate children, even when there is such rapid growth. We are doing our best to do that. The number of lots being let is quite frightening. I do not know where these people are coming from, but they all have kids and are moving into the area at a rapid rate of knots. I congratulate some of the work being done by developers. The estate at Brighton is commendable in the way it has been put together. We have got it absolutely right with the mixed-use housing. We have a good solid community that is made up of not only young families, but also a good proportion of middle-income earners and the older generation. It has been interesting to watch some 72-year-olds who have decided that they can afford a brand new home, have a place to park their toys, take a holiday for six months of the year or a trip overseas and have a nest egg on which they can live comfortably. It also brings them closer to their grandchildren in a lot of instances. It is good to have senior citizens in a new area. It did not necessarily happen in the past. They provide such a valuable support to families, particularly migrants whose grandparents are not around. It is a real success and congratulations must go to Nigel Satterley and his team and the joint venture partners for that development. I hope to see a lot more of that and the job creation that we need in the northern suburbs in the future.

I am keen to support a Bill such as this because it is important we have the funds to provide the infrastructure for growth areas, such as my electorate, and to address the needs of older suburbs that might have been neglected and our regional cousins. My electorate might be on the fringe of the city, but I have enough country in me to understand the needs of the country regions. I welcome the money from the Bill and I commend the Government for its continuing commitment to the electorate of Wanneroo. We welcome the rail extension, the increase in policing and the additional education resources.

MR J.N. HYDE (Perth) [9.37 pm]: As a member of the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance through the All Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, I recently had the opportunity to examine how Australian aid is being used in the Philippines and how important population issues are being addressed and funded there. As someone who believes that politics is the most efficient and compassionate way for society to advance its needs and to meet its wants, I gained much policy insight into how the Philippines is operating and the impact of assistance from the First World. I wish to thank the David and Lucille Packard Foundation in the United States, which enabled this study to occur. I also want to link these comments with Australia's national policy on security and protecting its borders. At a time when our foreign aid is being openly diverted to the political agenda of ensuring our security by bolstering foreign police and armed forces, we are destabilising our security by not targeting our aid towards poverty alleviation and health improvement directly. Unfortunately, my Australian and Pacific parliamentary colleagues and I were slightly diverted from these lofty policy issues by a coup in the Philippines. As was reported by Rina Jimenez-David on the Filipino inQ7.net web site on 30 July 2003 -

IN THE 10 days that they were in the country, they experienced a typhoon, a landslide and an armed mutiny. While their Prime Minister was here on an official visit, a convicted international terrorist, implicated in the tragic Bali bombing that killed more than 100 Australians, strolled out of his jail cell and remains at large. To top it off, Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce was trapped inside the Oakwood serviced-apartments building in Makati City during the mutiny last Sunday of the Magdalo group of junior military officers.

Despite this series of catastrophic events, however, a group of visiting Australian parliamentarians, together with parliamentarians from Tonga, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea, say they are convinced that the Philippines remains a "safe" place, and that they will assure their constituents and colleagues of this fact when they return to Australia.

Mr Jeremy Edwards; Acting Speaker; Mr Paul Omodei; Mr John D'Orazio; Mr Tony O'Gorman; Mr Bernie Masters; Ms Katie Hodson-Thomas; Mr Paul Andrews; Mr Brendon Grylls; Ms Dianne Guise; Mr John Hyde; Mr John Bradshaw; Mr John Kobelke

Why is it important that Australian parliamentarians visit places like the Philippines? Why do my constituents in central Perth care about an Asian neighbour? The International Federation of Journalists, which represents 500 000 journalists worldwide and of which I am a member, stated on 2 September that the Philippines' record of assassinated journalists now rivals that of the notoriously dangerous Colombia. It said that the death toll of journalists in the Philippines for this year was five, just one less than that of Colombia. With another death last week, it is now at six. It stated that some of those involved in government and security do not want the truth to come out. We must ensure that Australia's financial aid and foreign policies are based on accurate information. Why does this concern a state politician like me and my constituents? Our constituents were targeted in Bali because they were Australian. Our everyday lives are being impacted upon, rightly or wrongly, because of the perception that even in Western Australia there is a greater security risk. This very Parliament is spending an extra \$1 million for what is perceived to be our security. We take our shoes off at WA airport scanners now. We are told that car bays outside Perth's hotels are potential bombsites. Are we being deluded and sucked into accepting that the only way to protect ourselves is to build bigger, higher and stronger fences to keep out threats? After spending time in the Philippines, we could not escape the fact that it will be only through feeding, housing and delivering health to dispossessed people in Asia - Muslim or otherwise - that we can remove the terrorist's greatest asset; that is, the view that terrorism is the only way to escape poverty.

I was in Manila when the visiting Australian Prime Minister's response to the Philippine police and military in allowing terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi to walk out of jail was to divert \$5 million of Australian aid to those very same police and military in the guise of improving security. Impoverished people are harbouring terrorists because they feel more threatened by their own corrupt police and military. The unanimous message of our all-party group, with members from the Liberal, the Labor and the Australian Democrats parties, was that Australian aid must be more appropriately targeted to non-government organisations and local government units that have been successful in addressing the challenges of population, development, reproductive health and the environment. According to the 2002-03 Australia's overseas aid program, Australia was sending \$63 million in aid to the Philippines, focusing on the quality of management of basic education and responsiveness of rural service delivery in southern provinces, including the very troubled Mindanao.

The 2001 edition of the Australian Government's official record, *Year Book Australia*, states -

In 1996 the Simons Review was commissioned by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. This led to the adoption of a single clear objective for the aid program: to advance Australia's national interest by assisting developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. The Government decided that Papua New Guinea, the Pacific and East Asia would continue to be high priorities for Australian assistance. It was also decided that health, education, rural development and governance would be the priority sectors, in addition to two issues that cut across the development process: the promotion of gender equity and the maximisation of environmental sustainability.

This is laudable and sensible, despite the compassionless objective to advance Australia's national interest.

While in the Philippines we became more and more convinced that more of the aid money must go directly to NGOs and communities where it can make a big difference to people's lives. In addition to taking a closer look at where Australian aid money goes, in a statement we have urged that the Australian Government consider bridging the gap created by the United States' decision to withdraw funding for the distribution of contraceptives in the Philippines. As a group we were pleased to see how the Philippines, particularly at a local level, is addressing the serious challenges in population growth and development issues. It is important that we support, cooperate and collaborate at all levels to make further advances. We also supported very strongly the right of Filipino women to be better educated on issues of reproductive health and for them to be fully involved in decisions on these issues. We encouraged the Philippine Government - we were fortunate to meet a number of very senior senators and congress people of the Philippine Parliament - to continue to promote and support reproductive health and population issues through appropriate legislative measures.

On the Filipino web site to which I previously referred, Ms David also stated -

This seems a remote possibility, though, since President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in her State of the Nation Address on Monday, seems to have slammed the door, quite forcefully, on legislation that seeks to protect and promote the reproductive health and rights of our citizens. In fact, she even virtually called Senator Rodolfo Biazon and the members of Congress behind the Reproductive Health Care Act of being "sneaks," practically accusing them of "smuggling" abortion by way of legislation!

It seems the visiting lawmakers from Australia and the Pacific . . . have gained more understanding of and insight into the reproductive health situation in this country than our President, who even dares to proudly call herself a woman and an economist.

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The Philippines remains beset with population challenges. It has a falling fertility level and an overconcentration of people in the five biggest cities. Environmental degradation is also rife. After visiting some of the poorer provinces in the south and being inspired by a number of local NGOs and, more importantly, the local mayors and councils that were making a real difference, we came to the understanding that restoring communities and empowering people costs a lot less than letting a country fall apart. It also costs a lot less than having to build up support - military and police - that are, on many occasions, verging on the corrupt.

Back in the 1970s the richest countries in the world, Australia included, committed themselves to giving 0.7 per cent of their national wealth to overseas aid. In 2002-03 the percentage of Australia's gross domestic product spent on overseas aid fell to just 0.25 per cent. Previous Labor Governments are just as guilty in not living up to that 1970 commitment. Only five countries live up to it. The United States gives a miserly 0.1 per cent. Canada also gives the same as Australia, just 0.25 per cent of GDP, yet Canadians are not the terrorist targets in Asia that Australians are. It is interesting to note that in the Philippines the Canadian money in its entirety goes directly to NGOs, local government and projects. The money does not filter through the administration, the police or the military. The money gets to programs and acts to restore mangroves, encourage reforestation and empower many local Filipino women to take control of their communities. It allows for the provision of family planning advice and for work to be done on eradicating poverty and addressing other important health issues. Australia needs to consider its overseas aid policy. We have very lofty aims. We should have a lot of compassion when supplying foreign aid. Even if our priority is to put the interests of Australia first, the interests of Australia are better served by less poverty, better health and a happier population in an Asia that does not have to turn to terrorism.

I will now briefly address some issues from the last week of the previous sitting. Unfortunately, I missed the debate on the code of conduct, as I was at the Mowanjumb Aboriginal Corporation in the Kimberley. The people up there do not really care what folks in this place say; what they care about is services. There are a couple of important issues I wish to raise. I thank the member for Girrawheen who interjected on the member for Murray-Wellington to remind him of what was said in *Hansard*.

Mr J.L. Bradshaw interjected.

Mr J.N. HYDE: I refer to question time on 26 June and what actually happened in the Parliament of Western -

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr J.P.D. Edwards): Member for Murray-Wellington, everybody else has been given the opportunity to speak. I ask for your -

Points of Order

Mr J.L. BRADSHAW: When members stand in this place and lie, it should be pointed out that they are lying.

Mr J.C. KOBELKE: Clearly that language is unparliamentary. It is also abusive to take a point of order to attack another member.

The ACTING SPEAKER: There is no point of order but I ask the member for Perth to be careful about what he says.

Debate Resumed

Mr J.N. HYDE: I refer to question time on 26 June, to which I have made no reference since then. One issue in the code of conduct relating to parliamentary standards is the issue of verballing; that is, what a member has said is totally rewritten and twisted by other members, who then use that to establish that that is what happened. Fortunately in this Parliament we have *Hansard*, fortunately we have audio tape and fortunately we have videotape. I made no sexual reference, I referred to no club and I intended no reference. It is very important that we also establish that the member for Nedlands actually encouraged me to give further information. Clearly, as I have acknowledged, I offended Standing Order No 77 regarding irony. I used irony to make the point that a Liberal Party donor was sitting next to one of his local western suburbs Liberal Party members and neither knew who the other was. Clearly, Standing Order No 77 is very good because irony does not work in this House; it particularly does not work in the atmosphere of the final day of a four-week sitting.

Hansard, the audio tape and the videotape will show that the member for Nedlands stood to speak 20 minutes after I finished speaking. In that 20 minutes - the videotape and those members who were in the Chamber will recall - the member for Nedlands got up with a pad, sat next to the Leader of the Opposition and, assisted by other members of the front bench, wrote a script. Twenty minutes later the member for Nedlands stood and spoke.

I feel very sad about the comments of the member for Murray-Wellington when the member for Girrawheen correctly pointed out that *Hansard* had proved that the words he accused another member of saying were not

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said. The member for Murray-Wellington's retort was that *Hansard* did not matter, he would carry on with his perception rather than the truth.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Mr J.N. HYDE: I found it sad and unfortunate that in a speech by the member for Murray-Wellington, in which he referred with some validity to issues regarding his brother, he then used the very same tactics by producing an array of anonymous letters. One letter, fortunately, through its bad spelling and bad grammar, was identified as a similar letter referred to by the member for Warren-Blackwood on another occasion. Those very same standards therefore that a member used with some validity about something that happened 15 or so years ago were then used by that member to tar me with verballing.

The member for Murray-Wellington asked the member for Girrawheen why there was this perception in the House. If members refer to *Hansard* on that day, they will see that homophobia was clearly behind what happened on that day. It is very important that members are precise when referring to the conduct of other members of this House; speakers must ensure they are precise about verballing. The *Hansard* record, the audio tape and the videotape have proved me correct.

I will briefly refer to this Parliament's having spent \$1 million on security. The only breaches of security that have resulted in deaths in western Parliaments have been the murders of gay politicians. That is the real security issue and that is the real response to the homophobia that underlies some of the actions of members of this House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. J.C. Kobelke (Leader of the House).

House adjourned at 9.57 pm
