

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: I'm sure you are!

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Absolutely delighted! He is an outstanding person. As to the structure of the department, I can tell members that on 28 November the new Public Sector Commission will come into place with Mr Mal Wauchope as the Public Sector Commissioner. For the first time in this state's history, or for a long time, there is a clear distinction between the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the administration and the professionalism of the public sector. That was the first reform this government put in place. Now the public sector has independent leadership in the form of Mr Malcolm Wauchope, and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is where it should sit, serving the Premier and cabinet of the day.

PETER CONRAN

62. Mr E.S. RIPPER to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Can the Premier confirm that cabinet received recommendations for three appointable people from which cabinet chose?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

A recommendation was made to cabinet and to me for the appointment of Mr Peter Conran.

Mr E.S. Ripper: Was he the only recommendation?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: He was the recommendation, but I am not going to speculate on or nominate who applied. Is that what the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting should happen? Is the Leader of the Opposition suggesting that when people apply for public service positions their names can be handed around? Does the Leader of the Opposition want me to circulate curriculum vitae?

It was conducted properly. A recommendation was made by the Public Sector Standards Commissioner to cabinet and to me, which I was delighted to accept. Mr Conran will start his appointment towards the end of this week. Do members know what his first task will be? Working for Western Australia on the Council of Australian Governments' agenda and the distribution of funds, because there are probably few people in Australia who are more familiar than Mr Conran with the COAG process and federal-state relations.

SCHOOLIES WEEK

63. Ms A.R. MITCHELL to the Minister for Police:

Given that many young people from the two secondary schools in my electorate and elsewhere around the state have embarked upon celebrations to mark the end of their exams, can the minister outline what steps are being taken to help ensure the wellbeing of both school leavers and the broader community during the so-called schoolies week?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON replied:

I thank the member for her question and for her obvious concern about the wellbeing of our young people who are leaving school.

This is a very important time of the year for our young people who are leaving school. They are leaving the confines of their academic schooling; some will go on to university and some will get jobs. Therefore, this is a time when young people want to let their hair down and enjoy themselves, and I do not think anybody has any objection to that at all. However, the most serious concern is for their wellbeing. I inform the member for Kingsley and the house that the latest information I have from the police is that the young people who are already in Dunsborough are happy and behaving very well. They are enjoying themselves and having a good time but have not had any serious incidents at all. The biggest problem that we have, of course, in schoolies week is those people known as "toolies". They are the older—

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No, I am too old to be a toolie, I can assure the member!

Several members interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I would never present a danger to our young people, I assure members. Never, ever!

Several members interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I might be a danger to some members of the opposition, I agree, but that is fair play.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: This is the first time I have ever seen the previous Minister for Planning and Infrastructure quavering in her shoes.

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: That's right.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: She is very nervous, now—very nervous.

This is a serious issue —

Ms A.J.G. MacTiernan: Mind you, I suppose it is all comparative; look at his team over there!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I cannot get a word in edgewise with her!

Mr E.S. Ripper: She's better than the Minister for Local Government.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Absolutely.

This is a serious issue because it concerns the wellbeing of our young people. I am delighted to say that so far our young people have been behaving properly and there have been no serious incidents. Various things have been put in place to try to ensure their safety. The Office of Crime Prevention has coordinated a response between parents, the community and state government, and it coordinates the leavers' strategy to help make sure that the celebrations are safe and fun for the young people. They have allocated some areas, particularly in Dunsborough, where young schoolies—not toolies—can obtain a bracelet that enables them to go free of charge to these events, which are drug and alcohol free. They must pay a small charge for the bracelet, but at least they know they can go to safe environments. The organisers have set up what are called chill-out tents, and they are providing first aid, as well as counselling by volunteer groups, and that is a very good thing. The previous Minister for Police and Emergency Services had the same concerns I have, as Minister for Police, to ensure the safety of our young people. Neither the government nor the police will tolerate the serious bad behaviour of those other young people, albeit they are in their early 20s, who go down to Dunsborough and very often prey on young girls. I am sure that no-one in this house would tolerate that. I hope that, during schoolies week, our kids will let their hair down and have as much fun as they want. However, I urge them to try to be responsible and not put themselves in danger because no-one wants to see any of our young people compromised or put in danger. The message is: have a good time, but do not overstep the mark; try to be responsible and do not drink too much—certainly do not take drugs.

SCARBOROUGH BEACHFRONT — INCREASED BUILDING HEIGHT LIMIT

64. **Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Planning:**

I acknowledge the students from Tranby College in Rockingham and welcome them and their staff to Parliament.

My question relates to the minister's approval of amendment 458 for the Scarborough beachfront, into which he has inserted a bonus to allow 12-storey buildings on the BP service station and Scarborough Fair Market sites.

- (1) Why did the minister increase the height limit to 12 storeys for these sites when the City of Stirling recommended a lesser height limit?
- (2) Did the member for Scarborough make representations in any form to the minister with respect to amendment 458?
- (3) If so, what was the nature of those representations and when were they made to the minister?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

I thank the member for the question on amendment 458.

- (1) The approval to, in effect, allow a height limit of 12 storeys on those sites presupposes that additional public benefits will be provided as a result of that higher height limit. As I recall, a maximum of eight storeys will be for residential accommodation, and there will be a requirement to provide four storeys of parking for the public benefit and, to a large extent, to take pressure off the parking demands along the Scarborough beachfront. It is a bonus to provide an additional public benefit for those three particular sites.

Mr E.S. Ripper: It's a private benefit as well.

Mr J.H.D. DAY: It is in the public interest overall.

Mr E.S. Ripper: But there is a private benefit, isn't there?

Mr J.H.D. DAY: People do not undertake developments unless they believe there is some private benefit. However, as I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will understand, the role of government is to assess the overall public interest and respond in that way. The outcome that has been arrived at is appropriate.

- (2)-(3) The member for Scarborough has made representations, and I am pleased to say that she has been supportive of the outcome.