Madam President, I move that this Bill be read a second time.

This Bill seeks supply and appropriation from the Consolidated Account for recurrent and capital purposes during the 2017-18 financial year of $12,187,000,000 (twelve billion, one hundred and eighty seven million dollars) pending the passage of the Consolidated Account Appropriation Bills for the year ending 30 June 2018.

Supply is an integral element of the Westminster system of government and successive State Governments and Parliaments in Western Australia have accepted and understood that the intent of supply is to give authority for expenditure from the commencement of a new financial year pending the passage of the Consolidated Account Appropriation Bills.

Each year through the budget process, authority is granted to agencies to spend public funds through the passing of annual Appropriation Bills. The funding is supplied to agencies for services provided in the coming financial year. Usually, with a May Budget, the Appropriation Bills are passed by the August sitting of Parliament at the latest, and supply is therefore provided to agencies for the coming financial year.

Following the March 2017 State election, the 2017-18 Budget will not be presented to the House until 7 September 2017. While the Financial Management Act 2006 provides two months’ automatic supply if the Appropriation Bills are not granted before the end of the financial year, it is anticipated that the 2017-18 Budget will not complete its passage through Parliament until November 2017. As such, a stand-alone Supply Bill authorising supply for this period is required.

The September Budget will allow time for Ministers to critically look at each of their departments’ finances. By considering all existing policies, each Minister can then prioritise with the aim of delivering programs more effectively and implementing new election commitments.

To support the late timing of the Budget, the Supply Bill 2017 provides for interim appropriations out of the Consolidated Account to fund the core activities of government agencies until the passage of the annual Appropriation Bills.

The $12.187 billion amount in the Supply Bill 2017 is based on 50% of appropriations approved by the Parliament for the 2016-17 financial year. These moneys may be issued and applied to the works, services, and purposes for which the Consolidated Account will be appropriated for by Parliament (once the Appropriation Bills are passed post-Budget) for the financial year ending 30 June 2018.

The Bill prescribes a general monetary limit on the drawings against the Consolidated Account. By so doing, it overcomes the problems which otherwise could arise by prescribing monetary limits in respect of the individual appropriation which were detailed in the 2016-17 estimates of expenditure.

Pursuant to Standing Order 126(1), I advise that this Bill is not a uniform legislation Bill. It does not ratify or give effect to a bilateral or multilateral intergovernmental agreement to which the Government of the State is a party. Nor does this Bill, by reason of its subject matter, introduce a uniform scheme or uniform laws throughout the Commonwealth.

I commend this Bill to the House and table the Explanatory Memorandum.