

McGOWAN GOVERNMENT — ELECTION COMMITMENTS

Motion

HON MICHAEL MISCHIN (North Metropolitan — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [1.03 pm]: I move —

That this house expresses its concern at the McGowan government's failure to fulfil its election commitments.

It gives me no pleasure to move a motion of this character, but what has become patently obvious over the last several years is that although the McGowan government was in campaign mode, and very effectively so, in the lead-up to the March 2017 election, it really had no plan on how to govern. Some of its behaviour, and what we see exhibited in the other place, quite frequently, from members on the government benches, is from a government that still thinks it is in opposition, that still wants to attack the Liberal Party and the Nationals WA and is obsessed with throwing its weight around but does not really have a plan to get through all its election commitments.

This could be part one of an occasional series, because another element to this is the commitments that have been made post-election, and that could fill a few books too, but I will focus on the election commitments. Because there are quite a number of them, I will focus primarily on ones that fall within my portfolio area of interest, which is that of the Department of the Attorney General, and not so much heritage, culture and the arts—that would take up too much time and it is not of immediate moment to most Western Australians; but simply on the justice side of the ledger, a fair bit can be said.

We will start with the general commitments and go down to the particular commitments. The most general of all, of course, was the commitment to golden standards of transparency, accountability, responsibility, ethical behaviour and honesty. No doubt, members both on the government benches and non-government benches will have myriad examples in which the government has fallen short of that, but I will not trouble the government members to betray their side of politics by having to point them out. But, certainly, from this side of the chamber, and I suspect from the Greens' perspective and those of the crossbenchers, we have seen numerous examples of the government failing to live up to those aspirations or commitments; failing to answer questions forthrightly and promptly; and prevarication and concealment of information and the like.

I will pick a couple of examples. One example that has been quite troubling to this house is the constitutional issue that this house had to face with respect to the Corruption and Crime Commission and the manner in which the government, as the executive, has supported the Corruption and Crime Commission against the Parliament, and the difficulties of trying to get some information out of the government both at the ministerial level as well as from public sector officers. Members will have noted the number of times I had to ask questions of our Attorney General—our first law officer—to try to squeeze some information out of him. It took over half a dozen questions, asked in a variety of ways, before he finally admitted that he had leaked information that had come to him in his capacity as the Attorney General from the State Solicitor's Office, which was then acting for the government—the executive. The executive solicitors had passed on information, quite properly, to the Attorney General so that he knew what was going on, and then he decided to use that in a political fashion by leaking it to a journalist. He still would not tell us who it was; it probably does not matter much. But the fact is that he tried to cover that up by saying that it was a piece of correspondence that was ultimately tabled, but he did not know that it was going to happen at the time that he did it. I have never had to contemplate that I would need to cross-examine, albeit with difficulty and at distance, the first law officer of Western Australia in the manner that I would have to do to an accused in a court, to try to finally get a straight answer and an honest answer out of him, and that is, frankly, disgraceful. He has dealt with this in a partisan way when he should be the government's conscience in constitutional matters. It was almost impossible to even try to get some information on how many resources and what level of public servants were being engaged to go through confidential information to see whether it was privileged. The information was eventually revealed, but he had no reason to cover it up with claims of legal professional privilege.

That is one example. More recently, I raised a number of questions with the Minister for Transport about the unauthorised use of personal information from employees of the Public Transport Authority being leaked to a union, to try to find out whether any action is being taken against the people responsible. All I keep being told is that the police were liaised with or the police were alerted to that. The police say that they were never given a referral to investigate the matter. I will go on further with that, but it is unfortunate that I have had to ask three questions so far in order to get that far. Then, of course, there was the Premier's refusal to answer questions on the constitutional matter I have referred to about the involvement of members of his office and his understanding of what was going on and what they were doing, so there is that.

We will get down to a few more particulars. There was the "no new taxes" pledge that there would be no increase in taxes. Members will recall that the Premier, then the Leader of the Opposition, was quite adamant about that. There will be no new taxes on Western Australians—full stop. Labor pledged that if it was elected, there would be no new taxes on Western Australians or increase in taxes on Western Australians—full stop. Since then, we

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have had two attempts to introduce a gold tax, one that the Premier only a matter of years before was condemning as a tax that would inevitably cost jobs and destroy industry, but that he was quite happy to introduce when he was Premier. He has introduced a foreign investment tax and a 10 per cent Uber tax. He has increased payroll taxes, and it has been calculated that every Western Australian is about \$850 a year worse off through utility charges and the like. Now we have heard that as a result of the great strategy to deal with the coronavirus, there will be a freeze on increases of taxes and charges. That is like saying to someone who has already paid both arms and both legs, “We’re about to gut you, but we won’t, because there is an election coming up, so we will restrain ourselves from doing that, and we won’t gut you earlier, in order to provide a stimulus over a difficult period that we are encountering over something that is beyond anyone’s control.” I thank the government very much. It is restraining from taking the last pound of flesh from Western Australians. This is against a background of alleged budget repair, at a time of health crisis, when \$13 million is being paid to a company called Serco to not provide services in one of our hospitals. It is incredible. That, I suppose, is keeping an election commitment, at least to United Voice. I do not think anyone else was very interested in it, but United Voice certainly was, and it is being paid with taxpayers’ money in order to get its own way. That is \$13 million as a one-off payment; we can forget about the other \$8 million a year for the next 10 years to not do something. So much for the promise of no new increases of taxes and charges. There was a promise about not privatising or selling off assets. Well, we have seen what has happened there. It is different when it is a union-based organisation, but when it comes to things like Landgate and public information, that can easily be flogged off. So much for that.

I turn now to more specific matters within my area of portfolio responsibility. One of the most obvious occurred shortly after the election, when legislation was introduced to amend the Misuse of Drugs Act. Members will recall that we had a debate about that in 2017, when the government increased penalties for certain methamphetamine-based trafficking offences to life imprisonment. So far, so good. I am not going to get into a debate about whether mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment are a good or bad idea. The fact remains that when the Premier was in opposition, he committed to that. He was asked by a journalist shortly after the Liberal Party had announced that initiative whether he agreed with it, and, of course, he was casting about for anything that would look as though he had a law and order policy, so he said that he would support it. More than that: he was asked whether he would implement mandatory sentencing, and he replied that he had said he supported what they were doing—that is, what the Liberal Party was announcing. Journalists pressed him on whether he would do it. He said, “I’m saying yes, that’s what I am saying.” He was asked again whether he would implement, and Mr McGowan said, “I’m saying yes.” We know what happened to that; that was abandoned pretty damn quickly. That was not in the amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act, and the best reason we were given was that it simply was not Labor Party policy. I thank the government very much. To say and commit to something like that and simply abandon it was either a deliberate lie—knowing that it would not be fulfilled—or a negligent one. That is not the only time that it has been done, but that is one example.

Let us go through the “Law Reform Initiatives”. It is an illuminating document, and I have already had occasion to talk about the manner in which it is framed, not only grammatically, but also as a technical understanding of what it is referring to. It seems to use some descriptions of various elements of the criminal justice system in a rather loose fashion, but, in fairness, some of the commitments that are placed in there have to one degree or another been fulfilled or are being attended to, so credit where it is due. One of them was about protecting victims of family and domestic violence. There is a number of very vague terms that pick up on things that have been dealt with by the Law Reform Commission when it reviewed family violence at the instruction of the Barnett government. One of the commitments was to amend section 281 of the Criminal Code to extend the maximum prison sentence for assault resulting in death in circumstances of aggravation to 20 years. That is interesting, because that was pronounced in January 2017. That amendment had already gone through before Parliament was prorogued late in 2016, but I will leave that aside.

There is reference to “Post sentence detention for violent offenders”. The policy states —

WA Labor will initiate a High Risk Offenders Board to initiate action which would work in the same way as orders of detention or supervision apply to serious dangerous sex offenders.

...

The function of the High Risk Offenders’ Board will be to receive —

Not just general reports on how to manage prisoners at large, but —

reports on prisoners nearing the end of their sentence, who were convicted of ...

Various offences. The document continues —

The High Risk Offenders Board, having assessed someone as being of high risk of re-offending in like manner and therefore presenting a high risk of danger to the community upon release, will ask the Director of Public Prosecutions to seek an order from the Supreme Court ...

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Of course, we have had the legislation before us. We have been debating that. Even though the government says that we may argue that it is inconsistent with the commitment, it is patently, plainly inconsistent with the commitment. It had not been thought through; it was just thrown out there as something to tease the public and attract attention, but, of course, in the sober light of day, and actually understanding how the system works, we do not need a High Risk Offenders Board. We have an informal triaging system, which has been in place for over a decade, doing what this commitment claimed it was going to achieve, and the Director of Public Prosecutions is still doing the job that the director is meant to do. It is another election commitment not fulfilled but dressed up in a different way in order to achieve a different end. We know that the High Risk Offenders Board is not actually going to do what it was claimed it was meant to do.

The no body, no parole law, yes, I accept that that was passed, but, again, it made no material difference to the way that offenders who had not revealed the location of their deceased victims were being dealt with by the Prisoners Review Board anyway. A big tick there for having done something—having taken up Parliament’s time and achieved an election commitment that made no material difference to anything.

The Labor Party also promised to “Introduce changes to the dangerous sex offender laws to protect the community”. We have been through all this. The commitments were quite specific. The commitment was that a Labor government would ensure that someone to be released under the Dangerous Sexual Offenders Act—now the High Risk Offenders Bill—would need to satisfy the court that they will comply with each and every condition stipulated by the Supreme Court as part of a community supervision order. They would have to demonstrate that they can be trusted to obey all the requirements and provisions of the community supervision order. That is not the case. We are in the middle of dealing with amendments to try to hold the government true to its commitment and it has fallen far short of that standard. We are told that there are reasons for that, but we have not been favoured with any legal advice or any real analysis of why.

The next law reform initiative of the Labor Party was —

WA Labor will cease the immediate re-release into the community by providing that there will be no bail applicable to dangerous sex offenders against whom there is a credible allegation they have breached a Community Supervision Order. This means they will remain in custody until the allegation of breach has been dealt with by the Supreme Court.

That is not what the legislation that was passed in either 2017 or 2018 or the High Risk Offenders Bill will do.

Another WA Labor initiative was —

Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

WA Labor will partner with a University to establish a Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research ...

It has been three years now; we are told that it is a work in progress.

Here is a beauty —

Law Reform Commission should be an independent body

This is an example of how Labor sets up a straw man just to knock him down and then takes credit for it as an achievement. The law reform initiatives of WA Labor states —

A truly independent Law Reform Commission is vital to the development and reform of law in Western Australia.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will restore —**

No less —

the independence of the Western Australian Law Reform Commission and task it to report on various matters of current sentencing policy.

There are two things. It claimed that the Barnett Liberal government had “seriously downgraded the Western Australian Law Reform Commission” and “hampered it in providing its vital role to Government”. How it did that is not specified. At the time the now Attorney General said that because the Law Reform Commission’s support services were provided by the Department of the Attorney General, it was no longer truly independent and somehow its work was compromised. That is fascinating. What has this government done about it? Absolutely nothing.

During the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations annual report hearings I asked about what had been done to promote that election commitment, and I was told, “Nothing”. Bearing in mind it is an independent statutory authority anyway, the Attorney General had signed a charter saying, “You’re independent.” There we go! That is hardly restoring independence. That was an election commitment, and he has done nothing.

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He has set up this bogey, this shadow, only to do nothing about it because there is nothing to be done, and the evidence is that there have been no changes to arrangements and that the department, through its policy team, provides support to the Law Reform Commission—I would have thought that might affect independence—and that otherwise all the administrative work for the commission is being done by the department. Indeed, when we come to the sort of work that it should be doing, in its policy platform the Labor Party stated —

Under the Liberal–National Government the ad hoc approach to the development of criminal law has seen us experience the most serious and sustained crime wave seen in Western Australia in a generation.

I do not recall people being robbed in the shops every day or the sort of stuff that we have been reading in the paper happening under a Liberal–National government.

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [1.24 pm]: I rise to indicate that the government will not support this motion. But I do love it when Hon Michael Mischin gets on the roster for either motions on notice or non-government business, because it is a little bit like being hit with a wet lettuce. It is lazy politics writ large from the shadow Attorney General, whose reputation, I have to say, when he was Attorney General was of someone who did not complete very much.

I want to talk about two things that are related to the motion on the notice paper today around the delivery of our election commitments in his electorate in particular. I want to talk about what we are doing in the North Metropolitan Region and then I want to talk a little more about some of the other things that we are doing as part of a government that gets on and does things.

In respect of matters in the honourable member’s electorate of North Metropolitan Region, we have begun construction on the \$50 million upgrade to Balcatta Senior High School; converted classrooms into science laboratories at primary schools across the North Metropolitan Region; started construction on a \$5 million upgrade at Wanneroo Secondary College, including a new sports hall and improvements to the tennis courts; provided \$400 000 to Tapping Primary School for improvements; committed \$20.7 million to build a new Burns Beach primary school, which will open in 2022 and accommodate 430 students from kindy to year 6; committed \$2.5 million to upgrade Kinross College, with construction to start this year; committed \$1.6 million for an early intervention centre for families at Kinross Primary School, with construction commencing this year; provided \$5 million for the performing arts centre at Ocean Reef Senior High School, which is set to open this year and which I visited a few weeks ago and it is looking fantastic; committed \$5 million for the performing arts centre at Belridge Secondary College, construction of which begins this year; delivered urgent care clinics at Brookside Medical Centre in Wanneroo, which will allow people with non-life-threatening but urgent medical needs to get care in their community; begun the planning for the \$256.7 million redevelopment of Joondalup Health Campus, including additional mental health beds, emergency department bays and inpatient beds to support the emergency department expansion; provided \$11.21 million for specialist alcohol and drug staff at WA hospitals, including Joondalup Health Campus, to help reduce the scourge of violence and aggression at public hospitals; opened the brand-new 12-bed stroke unit at Joondalup Health Campus to provide patients with earlier specialist stroke rehabilitation and comprehensive care; delivered the 10-bed mental health observation area at Joondalup Health Campus to improve mental health services; allocated \$457 000 over four years for the methamphetamine peer education program; committed \$16.5 million for the widening of Mitchell Freeway between Hutton and Cedric Streets, where work is expected to be finished by September this year; committed \$40 million to widen Mitchell Freeway southbound between Cedric and Vincent Streets; are progressing the Stephenson Avenue extension project with \$60 million worth of funding; provided \$750 000 to complete the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Erindale Road and Boya Way; commenced planning for improvements to the intersection at Morley Drive and Wanneroo Road; delivered \$1.5 million to upgrade Robinson Reserve, including picnic areas, barbecues, extra parking, toilets and a playground; commenced early works on the Metronet Yanchep rail extension, which will add 14.5 kilometres of rail to the existing Joondalup line; committed \$30 million to complete the widening of Wanneroo Road to a dual carriageway between Joondalup Drive and Flynn Drive; commenced construction on the Wanneroo Road–Joondalup Drive interchange; commenced construction on the Wanneroo Road–Ocean Reef Road interchange project; and completed the \$23 million widening of Marmion Avenue to Yanchep. I could go on and on and on about the things happening in the North Metropolitan Region, but I want to talk about other things with respect to this motion.

Of course, the most important election commitment that we made was to fix the state’s finances, and we have done it. That has put us, I think, in a really strong position to handle what is going to happen in this state over the next few months. Having the state’s finances in good order means that we are able to deal with the things that are going to happen over the next few months in Western Australia. We will be able to provide assistance to those who need it as we work our way through what is a troubling time now and what I know will continue to be a period of considerable stress for our community. We are only in the position we are because we made a very deliberate election commitment to fix the state’s finances after they were left in the most parlous of states. We will see that we are in a position now to provide assistance to ensure that those who need it most get that kind of assistance.

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I want to talk a little about some of the things we are doing in my portfolio in particular. In addition to the election commitments in North Metropolitan Region around school infrastructure that I just talked about, we are doing a lot of things. I will go through some of the election commitments but I will talk about some of the things that were not election commitments but are a sign of good government in my portfolio. One election commitment was that we would freeze TAFE fees. The previous government's decision put TAFE beyond the reach of many ordinary Western Australian families, something they assumed would be available for their children—that is, the opportunity to get a high-quality qualification from the training sector. We froze those fees, and then because we had been in a position to correct the financial mess that was left to us, we were subsequently able to further reduce TAFE fees by 50 per cent for 34 high-priority qualifications, putting TAFE back within the reach of ordinary families.

I have met with some of the students who are undertaking training at our TAFE colleges and in the training sector since we introduced those fees, and the stories of those people are amazing. There are people who are able to undertake study and gain a formal qualification who would not have been able to do so in any way if we had not made the decision to reduce those fees by 50 per cent. There are people who are studying now who will get qualifications in the areas that our state is going to need more than ever over the next few months only because of that decision. Equally, it was not an election commitment, but looking at what we needed to do to ensure that we continued to provide job opportunities to Western Australians, an announcement was made last year in October or November to add on top of our normal spend on school maintenance an additional \$200 million to ensure that every single public school across Western Australia has addressed the maintenance issues that they have identified.

One of our election commitments was \$12 million to convert classrooms into science labs. That has gone outstandingly well and has been amazingly received by those schools who were part of that. We worked early on with South Metropolitan TAFE and Rio Tinto to deliver two brand-new automation courses to be offered for the first time this year for students wanting to study automation. We have led the nation in the delivery of that, taking advantage of what we have in Western Australia, which is a resource industry that is used to having to innovate and that has the capacity and the financial willingness to contribute its own money to work with South Metropolitan TAFE to develop those courses.

The government has introduced the Jobs and Skills WA Employer Incentive scheme to support employers with the cost of taking on apprentices and new trainees. We have introduced—it is not an election commitment but it was needed and will continue to be needed—a plan to tackle violence in our schools. We have expanded something that many have tried to for 20 years and have not be able to succeed; namely, the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund levy to the resources sector, and that is operating now.

We are delivering new primary schools, with countless upgrades and expansions to campuses and hundreds of millions of dollars being spent on schools. The government introduced the direct-to-market maintenance model for schools. Something else that was not an election commitment but was a great idea by the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations, which is the body that represents P&C organisations, is the P&C day to acknowledge parents who support their public schools. We added 123 FTE for level 3 teachers, 300 FTE to education assistants and 52 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education officers to provide assistance in the classroom for children who need a little more assistance.

The reason we are in a position to respond in such a strong and rigorous manner to the public health crisis that confronts us internationally is the strength of our public health system. Since day one this government has worked to ensure that it is the very best it can be. We have transformed our health sector to ensure that Western Australia has an effective and affordable system and makes the most of the talented professionals who work in it. Our GP urgent care clinics are providing better care to patients while reducing pressure on our emergency rooms. This year construction begins on the redevelopment of Royal Perth Hospital as well as the state's first medihotel as part of the Murdoch health and knowledge precinct. Construction will start this year on work at Peel Heath Campus as well as upgrades to Geraldton Health Campus and Collie Hospital. Tendering is underway for the brand-new hospital in Newman.

Hon Nick Goiran: These are the things you haven't done. Aren't you supposed to be telling us about the things that you have done?

Hon SUE ELLERY: The honourable member knows that these are time-limited contributions and I am pretty confident—maybe I am wrong—that people from the member's side want to speak on this as well, considering the motion came from that side. If I can keep my time under what is allocated to me, I will.

Hon Nick Goiran: That is because you don't have enough material.

Hon SUE ELLERY: If the member stops interjecting —

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Hon Nick Goiran interjected.

Hon SUE ELLERY: All right, if the member wants me to take the whole time, I will.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister. The minister has made a very valid point. It does not help when I call order and people keep talking. If you want to seek the call and talk about this subject, seek the call, but let the minister continue making her remarks. She has just under eight minutes to go. Minister.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thank you very much, Madam President. This year will also see the completion of the Northam Health Service redevelopment and 11 remote Indigenous health clinics. Planning will also continue on a new women's and babies' hospital for Western Australia to replace King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women and in mental health we will see the opening of the Bunbury step-up, step-down facility and the Butler community mental health service centre.

With respect to crime—this issue was raised by the honourable member who moved the motion—there are more police on the street; the new meth border force; Target 120; the unexplained wealth legislation; methamphetamine rehabilitation prisons; better equipment for police; new domestic violence laws; tougher dangerous sexual offender laws —

Hon Nick Goiran: You haven't passed the bill yet. What new laws?

Hon SUE ELLERY: Madam President.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Minister, we all know that interjections are very unruly. Minister, I encourage you to just ignore them and reference your discussion to me, please.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thank you, Madam President. Now, where was I up to?

Hon Alanna Clohesy: New domestic violence laws.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Thank you. I continue: there are also multiple murderer laws; no body, no parole laws; and Operation Heat Shield. There is less crime in Western Australia compared with what we inherited—less crime in the city, less crime across the regions and less crime across Western Australia.

In terms of the environment, on 1 June this year Western Australian's container deposit scheme will come into effect. The plastic bag ban has already seen a reported 30 per cent drop in plastic bags as litter. Work also continues on our commitment to increase the conservation state in Western Australia by five million hectares as outlined in "Plan for Our Parks". This year Western Australia will release its climate change policy and also continue to work with the commonwealth to establish an environmental approvals bilateral agreement to fast track major project approvals.

One of the points that the honourable member made in his contribution was the decision around Fiona Stanley Hospital. I do not have the *Hansard* in front of me because he made his comments only a few moments ago, but as I wrote it down, he said, "I do not think anyone other than United Voice is interested in that issue." The honourable member will not be back on that side after the next election, but here is why the people on his side will remain on that side: if they genuinely think that the people of Western Australia are not interested in the privatisation of hospital services, they need to think again. They need to think again because people do not like it—they never liked it—and that was one of the reasons the previous government was not re-elected.

Ordinary Western Australians did not like it when the former government talked about the privatisation of Western Power, and when it literally went out and privatised health services and hospital services. Western Australians rejected that, and they will keep rejecting that. So, frankly, long may Hon Michael Minchin reign in continuing to make contributions like the one that he made. If that is what he thinks, it demonstrates that he is still out of touch with the Western Australian community, so long may he hold those thoughts. Members opposite will not get themselves elected back into government if they continue to support the privatisation of hospital services—they will not.

On every measure, this government is delivering. It is hard. Nobody says it is easy. It is hard, and we have had to make some difficult decisions. There are difficult decisions ahead of us all as we deal with the current public health crisis that is confronting the world. But this government has made the hard decisions. It has put the finances in the right order so that we will be able to tackle those issues. We are delivering on our election commitments. We are working hard every day to do that. That is something the previous government again lost sight of. It made election commitments, and, within weeks of being re-elected, it dumped them. That is something that Western Australians are not going to forget. I am going to make sure than I remind Western Australians every day —

Hon Michael Mischin interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

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Hon SUE ELLERY: Keep going! I really hope that Hon Michael Mischin gets to be in charge of motions on notice and non-government business more regularly.

The PRESIDENT: The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: When Hon Peter Collier's colleagues are quiet, I will give him the call.

HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [1.41 pm]: It gives me a great deal of pleasure to stand in support of this motion. I have to say at the outset that I am completely staggered at the vacuous response from the Leader of the House. I am surprised at the outset —

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon PETER COLLIER: We have just heard the Leader of the House complain incessantly about interjections, so members opposite should respect their leader's wishes.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I would like to hear what the Leader of the Opposition has to say. I am sure he is going to get on and talk about the actual motion in front of us.

Hon PETER COLLIER: I will, without interjection, thanks, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Hon PETER COLLIER: Having said that, I am staggered that the Leader of the House stood up when she did. Surely she could have let a few other members make a contribution and then respond. That response was completely irresponsible. We normally get from the Leader of the House a complaint about how Hon Michael Mischin has an infatuation with the Attorney General. Then she tells me my response is always shrill. Then she carries on about the former Liberal–National government ad infinitum; that is all we hear about. As we keep saying, she is going for the BTL award—“Blame the Libs”—and she is well ahead after today's contribution. Then she carries on about the financial management of the state.

The motion is about the government breaking its election promises. I would have liked to talk about election promises as opposed to this tirade of so-called achievements that were already in train. I just say that a litany of promises were broken and completely ignored. The number one promise was, of course, about the finances. Everyone knows that without the floods in Brazil and the escalation in iron ore prices, and the magnificent GST solution from the federal Liberal government—were it not for those two variables—the current Labor government would still be in deficit—it would be, without a shadow of a doubt. The Treasurer will acknowledge that. Without those two variables, the budget would be in deficit.

We all have a challenge facing us now. You guys in government have a very real challenge in terms of where you are with the budget. I remind members that two months after we won government in 2008, we had the global financial crisis. We instituted a stimulus package and, as a direct result of that, we had a boom. I hope members opposite will not just hover along and say they have this so-called surplus—because it is a phoney surplus—and will govern effectively and efficiently.

Let us look at some policies that were evidently broken promises. I was staggered at the gall of the Leader of the House when she talked about \$270 million for Joondalup Health Campus. That is absolute garbage. Do members know how much money—how many dollars—this mob opposite has contributed to Joondalup Health Campus? Does anyone know?

Hon Tjorn Sibma: Zero!

Hon PETER COLLIER: I will accept this interjection from a fellow member for North Metropolitan Region, Hon Tjorn Sibma, a very learned gentleman. He got it right first cop—zero. Not one dollar. Every single dollar that is in the government's budget for the Joondalup Health Campus project is federal money. The government has not contributed one cent to that project. It has broken that promise.

The next broken promise is medihotels. I have mentioned this before. The Leader of the House talked about the medihotel at Murdoch. How many sods have been turned on the three medihotels thus far? How many ounces of soil has the government turned on the medihotels after over three years in government? Not one ounce; not one thing. Nothing has been done on the medihotels. Had the government kept that promise, how valuable would those medihotels be now in this moment of crisis? They would be very valuable. What I am saying is that it is all good

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and well to point the finger, but the issue with those medihotels is massive. It is a clear and unambiguous breaking of a promise.

Let us look at this. Members should not take my words for it; they should take the Premier's words for it. On Saturday, 4 February 2017, Mark McGowan, the now Premier, said in a media release —

A McGowan Labor Government will invest \$167 million to expand the Joondalup Health Campus

- A Medihotel and an Urgent Care Clinic will be delivered for the northern suburbs
- 90 additional public beds, up to 30 new mental health beds and eight new operating theatres

He made that commitment a month before the election.

On 24 June 2017, Premier Mark McGowan signed a statement of intent with Ramsay Health Care. He made the promise before the election, and immediately after the election he reinforced it and said that he was going to keep his promise. An article headed “Northern suburbs residents to benefit from the Joondalup hospital expansion” states —

As part of the McGowan Government's commitment to put patients first, an Urgent Care Clinic will be established at Joondalup Health Campus to treat patients who are assessed as non-urgent and help reduce pressure on the emergency department.

A medihotel will also be built to free up more hospital beds and improve patient flow.

He reinforced that as Premier. That was then tweeted by one of his minions at Dumas House. It continues —

We're putting patients first in the northern suburbs.

We've signed a Statement of Intent at Joondalup Health Campus to get our \$167 million expansion plan underway.

And there won't just be a Medihotel, which will free up hospital beds and improve patient flow.

He says that consistently. He says over and over again that the government is committed to a medihotel at Joondalup. That was the promise, and he repeated it.

On 11 July 2017, Hon Roger Cook, Minister for Health, put out a statement headed “State Government to deliver WA's first Medihotel at Murdoch”. It states in part —

Work will begin on Western Australia's first Medihotel next year with the facility expected to open next door to Fiona Stanley Hospital by 2021.

That was in 2017, and the Minister for Health said work would begin the following year, which was 2018. Not one nail has been hammered in. Not one element of that project took place in 2017–18, and neither did it in 2019— not one thing. It remains dormant.

I then asked a couple of questions without notice. The federal Turnbull–Morrison government gave its \$160 million for that project. There was still not one cent from the government, even though it likes to lay claim to it. I heard the Premier say on radio 6PR that the government has \$160 million in the budget for Joondalup Health Campus. It is not the government's money. It is now, of course, but it came from the federal government. The federal government provided it. I would like to assume that after three years there might be some progress on medihotels. On 19 February 2020, I asked —

I refer to the government's commitment to build medihotels.

- (1) Has construction started on the medihotel at Murdoch?
- (2) If no to (1), when is construction expected to start?
- (3) When is the medihotel at Murdoch expected to take its first patients?
- (4) What are the expected annual operating costs for the Murdoch medihotel?
- (5) What other medihotels will be built and when will construction commence on those medihotels?

Mindful that the Labor Party committed to three medihotels, at Joondalup, Royal Perth Hospital and Murdoch, I asked whether construction had started. The answer was no. I asked when construction was going to start. The answer was —

Construction on the medihotel at Fiona Stanley Hospital, Murdoch, is planned to commence in the second half of 2020 and be completed in late 2022.

It will start taking patients in late 2022. It was meant to be 2020, but it still has not started. My last question asked where the other medihotels will be, mindful that in opposition and in government the Labor Party committed to three: at Joondalup, Royal Perth Hospital and Murdoch. The last answer states —

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A medihotel is being built at Royal Perth Hospital with construction due to commence in the second half of 2020.

What is the problem with that? There is no Joondalup medihotel. The government has directly broken a promise. Just last week I asked —

- (1) What is the expected start date for construction of the Murdoch medihotel?
- (2) What are the specific reasons for the delay to the project?

The answer was —

Construction on the medihotel at Fiona Stanley Hospital is planned to commence in the second half of 2020.

What is the reason for the delay? The parliamentary secretary answered —

Appropriate due diligence to develop the design and scope of services has led to a delay in the original time line for the project.

She has to be joking. The Labor Party knew about this 12 months before the election. Now we are in the last quarter of the current electoral term and the government still has not done one thing. No-one will be in a medihotel anywhere in Western Australia until at least 2023. If we are lucky, it will be at Murdoch. There has been no start at Royal Perth Hospital and no start at Joondalup. That is a completely unambiguous break of a promise.

The Labor Party has played scratched records about transparency, secrecy et cetera from the previous government. It went into the election no better, and every time we have one of these debates, I say the words of the now Premier. On 18 June 2016, he stated —

“The public interest must come first, transparency must come first, openness must come first.

The only problem is that that lasted until 11 March 2017. From 12 March 2017, that completely went out the window. I have, unfortunately, a litany of examples of when, quite frankly, the current government has given Parliament, this chamber in particular, a single-finger salute to transparency and openness. It honestly does not care. It treats the Legislative Council with complete contempt. That starts from the top down, and has permeated through the ministry, advisers, parliamentary secretaries and the party itself. I have dozens of examples. We could have these motions all year and we would not get through a quarter of the examples. At this very moment, since the Labor government came to power, McGowan government ministers have issued section 82 notices in Parliament 55 times. In the entire first term of the Barnett government, there were 12. We still have 12 months to go with this government.

One issue that the government cannot seem to get right is conflicts of interest. One particular conflict of interest, members will be aware, was with the Albany Carnegie wave project. I pursued that relentlessly, because that was fraught from its inception. Without a shadow of a doubt, the Minister for Regional Development had a conflict of interest in that project, and a lot of that is why it went belly up. It should never have got the contract in the first place. I asked the Premier —

Has any minister declared a conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest in Carnegie ...

The response was no. A few months later, I asked whether there was any conflict of interest with the rock lobster industry, when that all went pear-shaped for the government—again, another broken promise. The response I had to that was that declarations under the Ministerial Code of Conduct are treated as cabinet-in-confidence, in the same way they were under the previous administration. Why can the government answer me about Carnegie, but not the rock lobster industry? Obviously, someone who answered the question on Carnegie was not working in the Premier’s office anymore. He did the wrong thing. The Premier signed off on it and gave it to me, and then the government cannot give an answer on the rock lobster industry. If the government is going to have a standard, at least be consistent. We wonder why.

Trying to get FOIs out of this government is like extracting blood from a stone—it is just not possible. To get the FOIs on Carnegie took me years, not months. I put the first request in on 17 December and ended up getting it back 76 days later. I had to narrow the scope on four occasions. It had extension, after extension, after extension and then I finally got it. That revealed a number of things about what took down the project. I have done about three or four of these, and every single time I have put FOIs to the Minister for Regional Development, the government has asked for an extension and to narrow the scope. It is constantly and consistently trying to get away from the facts and the truth. Do not take just my word from it. An opinion piece by Gary Adshead from 17 September 2018 states —

On the issue of transparency and accountability in government, Premier Mark McGowan is trying to have his cake and eat it.

“We will strengthen governance, accountability and transparency across government,”...

“We will govern only in the interests of all Western Australians.”

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He loves talking the talk, but evidence is emerging that he is not walking the walk.

Today *The West Australian* revealed the staggering number of occasions McGowan's ministers have invoked something known as section 82 notices under the Financial Management Act 2006 to avoid answering questions in Parliament.

Since coming to power ... 18 months ago, the McGowan Government has used section 82 notices to block questions on almost 40 occasions.

That is now 55, so it has gone up since then. The article continues —

Compare that with the 67 times in total—across more than eight years in office—that the Barnett government relied on section 82 in refusing to provide answers.

McGowan's "gold standard" of openness has become rather opaque.

I have plenty more to go on that one, and I will talk about that a little later.

Let us look at the ministerial travel reports. Every single ministerial travel report that members opposite have tabled has been, on average, 182 days, or six months, late. Every single ministerial travel report has been late, and members opposite talk about openness and transparency. Do not take my word for it; members can check them. Every single ministerial travel report was late. The first one was 257 days late, the second one was 165 days late, the third one was 180 days late and on it goes. Another one was 219 days late, another was 162 days late, another was 254 days late and so on. The average was 182 days, or six months, late. There are so many issues, but I will try to get through at least one more.

What about questions? As I said, when we try to get answers out of this mob, it is absolutely impossible. I asked a question of the Minister for Lands —

Given that nearly four months has passed since the minister gave a commitment to table the relevant sections of the contract with Land Services WA regarding privacy, will the minister now table the relevant sections of the contract; and, if not, why not?

I asked that just a couple of weeks ago. The response states —

The process to table the documents required under the relevant legislation is currently being worked through. The documents are close to being finalised and then will be tabled as soon as possible. It has now been five months and I still have not got them. It is the same with the contract for Volvo buses. I have asked about that over and over again —

I refer to question without notice 1099, asked on Thursday, 26 September 2019;

It refers to other questions asked on other dates. The question continues —

- (1) Given that close to five months have now passed since the question was first asked, has the minister had the opportunity to review the documents?
- (2) If yes, will the minister table the documents; and, if not, why not?

What was the response? It was —

- (1)–(2) The minister is still considering the matter.

That was six months late. This goes on and on. These guys make Monty Python look like rank amateurs. The next one, which is about the Auditor General and the tabling of the Metronet Taskforce minutes, is a beauty. The Minister for Transport has a PhD in secrecy. I basically get the hand every time. I have been asking about the Metronet Taskforce minutes for almost two years. In the first one, I was told that the minister is seeking further advice on the issue. I asked the same question over and over again but I kept getting the same response. I was told that the minister is seeking advice on tabling the minutes. In another answer, I was told —

As the minister stated on 14 March 2019, advice has been sought from the Department of Transport, the Public Transport Authority and the State Solicitor's Office. Further advice is being sought and a response will be provided in due course.

That was on 20 March 2019. Do members know what the minister did? She gave up trying to answer my questions. When I finally asked the last question on 19 November, her response was —

The Metronet Taskforce is now a subcommittee of the Expenditure Review Committee of cabinet. The well-accepted standards and practices relating to information prepared for cabinet subcommittees therefore apply to task force minutes.

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She says, “No, no, no”, but then she makes it part of cabinet and hides under the cloak of cabinet confidentiality. These guys have been breaking promises left, right and centre and they should hang their heads in shame.

HON ALISON XAMON (North Metropolitan) [2.01 pm]: I rise because I want to make a few comments about this motion, which, fortunately, is fairly broad reaching, because I suspect that some of the election commitments that have not been realised by this government that the opposition would want realised are not the ones that the Greens want realised. I am thinking particularly about the battle around the tough on crime and law and order vote, which always arks up during the lead-up to elections, in which we see a competition as to who can be the toughest on crime. If the Attorney General decides not to enact some of the more punitive measures, that is fine with me.

The “2017 WA Labor Platform” is very interesting reading because it illustrates a range of promises that were made, particularly to constituents who matter to me, that have not been realised and, in fact, I suspect will not be realised in this term of government. I understand the desire to try to appeal to the masses. The Greens are far more comfortable in recognising who its core constituents are and we are very much speaking to them. I want to pull out a grab bag of a few areas that have not been handled particularly well, areas in which there has been no reform, and I will not hold my breath waiting for some.

I note as a starting point that there was, of course, the promise to ensure that schools develop behaviour management policies. Instead of doing that, there was a rollout of punitive automatic suspension and expulsion policies, which runs contrary to the sorts of priorities identified, particularly for Aboriginal children. It is important to note that to date, we still have not seen anything tangible to assist Aboriginal students to better engage along these lines. I hope we will see something from this government to address that.

The “2017 WA Labor Platform” also refers to the need to address the three-strikes policy in the eviction of tenants from public housing and the need to ensure that there is appropriate support for tenants at an early stage so that their tenancy can be sustained rather than result in the purely punitive measure of eviction. I point out that Aboriginal families are still being evicted into homelessness; that is still happening. Further, I have raised in this chamber particular concerns—I will have much more to say about this later on this week—about the eviction of people with mental illness into homelessness. That is happening even in the grip of the pandemic crisis that we face right now. I have not seen anything that has given me any comfort, particularly from the Minister for Housing, to address my serious concerns, particularly about people with serious mental health issues being evicted into homelessness. The Labor Party had a lot to say about that, certainly from a human rights perspective, but when it comes to the rubber hitting the road, in practice it has been sorely lacking. I note that a number of tenancy organisations that assist people who face eviction have expressed deep concern about the lack of genuine progress in this area and, in fact, have said that in many respects the situation has started to go backwards.

I note that the platform refers to —

The development of a culturally appropriate diagnostic tool for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, in partnership with Aboriginal health organisations;

I have raised the issue of FASD on a number of occasions and, indeed, it has been raised in various coroner reports arising from the suicide of Aboriginal children in particular. It is a very serious matter. We know from the Telethon Kids Institute research into children at Banksia Hill Detention Centre that a large number of the children there, apart from coming from a background of extreme disadvantage, are also cognitively impaired and many are deemed to potentially have FASD. In response to the numerous questions that I have asked over the course of the last three years about what is happening with FASD, I have been told that it is an all-of-government response and that that is the approach, but we have not seen anything tangible. Apart from being told that it is on the agenda of a number of ministers—which, by the way, makes it really difficult to pin down exactly where the buck should stop and who should ultimately take responsibility for the failure to enact the important recommendations—we have seen chronic inaction. This is an area of huge need. There is no doubt that it is a complex area, but I remain eternally disappointed about the lack of tangible outcomes.

The platform also states that Labor will ensure —

... legislatively, that incarceration is treated as a last resort, and that diversionary tactics, restorative justice and rehabilitation are the priority for young offenders.

This is when I talk about the long overdue promised reform of the Young Offenders Act 1994, which has effectively stalled; it has not happened even though it was promised. We know there is a need to prioritise this as a body of work. The Attorney General has introduced a whole suite of legislative reforms but this one is very important and was an election promise. We have seen no progress whatsoever. I have asked multiple questions about it, but it seems that dealing with some really vulnerable and troubled children as a priority is not that important after all.

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Likewise, the platform refers to people living with disabilities who have allegedly committed crimes and ensuring that they have the right to be dealt with justly, especially when their disability has contributed to their offending behaviour. I am pleased to note that a new Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Amendment Bill will finally come to this place. I desperately hope that it is introduced into this place and is passed in this term of government. We have already had a problem with a full legislative agenda that has no capacity to be passed and now, of course, we are facing the unprecedented potential shutdown of Parliament for reasons beyond this government's and everybody's control. I get that. But I am disappointed that it is three years into the term and we are only now, hopefully, seeing that legislation, but we have not seen it yet. I know this is something that the families that I am dealing with are desperate to see reformed. I know that the mental health sector and the disability sector are desperate to see reform. If that bill is passed and carried, that is truly something that this government should be proud of. We still have an ongoing problem in the way that services are being delivered in this space, particularly when it comes to the attitude of Corrective Services. When Corrective Services deals with people who are mentally impaired accused, it is completely wrong-footed. It has no idea how to meet the needs of people who are cognitively impaired or have an intellectual disability or serious ongoing mental health issues and need to have strident medication regimes. I know of far too many people who are being kept in our prisons at the moment, bearing in mind that these people are not prisoners because they have not been found guilty, who are not receiving the care that they need and who are at serious, ongoing risk of getting bashed and being stood over, and that is happening every day. In terms of trying to get tangible reform around this, we have not seen that progress. We saw it under the previous government, which set up the Bennett Brook Disability Justice Centre. But the disability justice centre, and the use of it under this government, has, if anything, shrunk its capacity to fulfil the very important role that it needs to undertake as a declared place. I think a lot of that is to do with some of the management practices occurring there, and, to a large degree, the Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board has had its hands tied on this.

The platform also refers to making sure that the organisations that support the needs of people living with disability should be funded at appropriate levels. Unfortunately, those of us who are keeping an eye on what is happening with the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme know that the transition has been anything but good, and we are talking about particular services that provide a niche role and may not even fit within an ordinary NDIS plan; for example, I am thinking of organisations like SECCA, which is needed on a crisis basis, has been highly reliant on block funding and, come July this year, looks like it is going to potentially go under because it does not fit within that framework but it has had all of its block funding pulled. In addition, we know that more and more organisations have pulled out of delivering services within the NDIS in Western Australia—it is a particular problem in the regions—because they cannot afford to keep running the services on the amount of money that is being offered to them within the individual packages. Therefore, the state government is going to have to seriously step up to ensure that basic services continue and that those markets do not become so thin that entire frameworks of support for people with disability end up collapsing. The very real risk is that an important reform, which is the NDIS, is going to end up becoming a worse system than what we had before, and that would obviously be a terrible outcome for everybody.

I note that there was lots of talk about supporting early intervention programs and initiatives that delivered stable accommodation. As I have said, I am concerned about the ongoing lack of appropriate referral pathways and access to a range of supports, particularly for people with mental health issues. I have heard that people want to access certain services but are constantly being blocked because of waiting lists or they are not being given appropriate referral pathways to do that. A big platform that this government has really tried to push has been around addressing homelessness, but, clearly, the left hand is not talking to the right hand because at the same time we are seeing very vulnerable people who are having various supports for early intervention and prevention pulled away from them.

I will, of course, have to make a comment that this government, while in opposition, referred to making sure that there was going to be bipartisan support for the 10-year mental health and alcohol and other services plan, and that it was committed to looking at reform and making sure that the necessary investment in the sectors would be upheld. Certainly, we have seen a rollout of things like the step-up, step-down services, and they are very welcome; they invite lots of ribbon-cutting, and I understand that they can be very attractive in a bricks-and-mortar establishment that one can look at and say, "This is what we've created." But what has been lacking, and what is now starting to roll out at crisis levels, has been the wind-back investment in which we needed to look at the serious escalation of investment in community-managed mental health, alcohol and other sectors, which are now screaming out for support. Some of those sectors have been hurt by the NDIS as well, because they deliver services in psychosocial disability, and have found that they are also being hurt by the loss of block funding around certain areas. But more than anything, we are just not keeping up with demand.

I am very concerned about the lack of investment here. It means that, as usual, we are making the decision to throw the money at the crisis end rather than helping people to get well within the community in a way that enables people to continue to function effectively. I remain eternally concerned that all the promises that were made around mental

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health simply have not been delivered to the community to advantage the mental health sector in the way that the government wanted.

I thought I would also make some comments on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer platform and the elements within that. The “2017 WA Labor Platform” stated that it opposed gay conversion therapy, which is described —

... as a cruel and misinformed practice. WA Labor will work toward ending this practice.

I agree with that. It is not a therapy. It might be a belief system, but it is not a therapeutic intervention. We have not seen any progress, other than good words, from the minister on that. I understand that at the moment, everybody needs to very much focus on trying to address the implications of the pandemic, but there have also been three years during which a lot of the stuff could have been progressed. One of the other things I am concerned about that has not been progressed are the recommendations arising from Project 108, which seeks to put a range of reforms around what happens for trans people. I know this because I am contacted by members of the trans community and organisations like TransFolk and others, and they are very upset because they feel as though they have been utterly neglected. The platform that was circulated before the election refers extensively to trans people and the sorts of legislative reform that WA Labor would look at, as well as the delivery of services, yet there is nothing; it has not happened. Therefore, I will point out that that has been raised with me and that is concerning.

However, I will say that there are many other areas that I could point to. I went through with my highlighter and picked out some of the key things that I am working on at the moment and about which I could say, “Yeah, nothing’s happening here”, so I thought I would do that.

I will make some final comments before I sit down. One comment is about all the nice words and empty promises about climate change. WA Labor referred to supporting the need for WA to develop strong mitigation and adaptation plans to deal with the consequences of climate change. It referred to establishing and working towards renewable energy targets for WA but did not necessarily explain how that would be done. WA Labor outlined in-principle support for the Paris climate change agreement. As the Greens have said ad infinitum, and will continue to say for a very long time, we believe that those promises around climate change have effectively been smashed and that there is no authenticity that can be attributed to these promises. I recognise that some people in this chamber do not support the Greens’ position around climate change, but they also have not gone out to the public and said, “Vote for me, because our number one thing is climate change, and these are all the things that we are going to be doing.” I think that WA Labor is going to find that people are going to be —

Hon Stephen Dawson: Are you suggesting that we said we went to the election and said it was our number one issue?

Hon ALISON XAMON: No, I am not saying that; I am saying that it was one of the many issues, but for a lot of people it is the number one issue, and this was certainly a platform that WA Labor made a point of trying to make a whole bunch of claims on that have not been able to be enacted.

Hon Stephen Dawson interjected.

Hon ALISON XAMON: I have my time. I am very concerned, Madam Acting President —

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Adele Farina): Order, members!

Hon ALISON XAMON: — that many have not been prioritised. I recognise that there is a whole bunch of other promises, particularly around things such as local jobs programs, that Labor is going to be trumpeting when it comes to the election, but there is a bunch of stuff in this platform that matters, sometimes to people who do not have a lot of sway in their votes—I am thinking of the trans community, for example, and people with mental illness who are being evicted—but these people matter. If these promises had been enacted, that would have been a really amazing blueprint. Instead, I have seen that some things have actually gone backwards, and there has been a disconnect. I am looking forward to being proven wrong in the next six months, at least with the issues that I have raised specifically, with Labor saying that we are going to have very positive progress on this. Otherwise, Labor needs to expect that, of course, it is going to be taken to task for this, because it went to the election with a very large platform. It has made a big deal about being a party that meets its election promises, but it is going to be undone, because there is a whole bunch of commitments that have not been enacted.

HON JACQUI BOYDELL (Mining and Pastoral) [2.20 pm]: I want to thank Hon Michael Mischin for bringing this motion to the house today. The Leader of the House gave her reflections on the honourable member’s contribution. I always listen to the Leader of the House; I take her advice when she says that we may not like the answer to what has been put forward, but that it is simply the answer. I ask the Leader of the House to listen to what other members have to say and to take on board some of the issues that we raise that members of the public have raised with us. We bring them to the house so that members can debate them and the government can understand the representations that are being presented to members on this side of the house, because it is part of government’s

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role to understand the issues that people are bringing into our offices. There have been broken election commitments and there have been broken promises, which are not necessarily election commitments but certainly promises made during debate in this house, media commentary outside of this house and debate in the local community and certainly in the other place. I will reflect on some of those during my contribution. I will also reflect on a number of election commitments made in the Pilbara region, where I have not seen any proof of commitment or commitment fulfilment, which impacts on the Pilbara community every single day.

I start with investment in the Port Hedland marina and the waterfront development. That concept development was released in October 2018—nearly two years ago. There is still no Port Hedland marina. The draft master plan was released in November last year, and, actually, the Spoilbank Marina or the Port Hedland marina, whatever we call it, has been in concept development for some time. There is no new commitment by this government at all and it still has not delivered on it.

Rangeland reform is something that the Minister for Regional Development has continuously —

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members! Hon Jacqui Boydell has the call. I ask members to pay her the respect that a member who has the call should have.

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: Thank you, Madam Acting President. The Minister for Regional Development has continually said to the pastoral industry that the government will bring rangeland reform legislation to the house. That has not happened. The pastoral industry is well in need of reform. Everybody recognises that, and we are still waiting for that legislation to come to the house. The animal welfare bill has gone to committee and will be reported back on in June. There is no time for that to be passed in this term of Parliament.

Another issue is water reform legislation. I have continually asked Dave Kelly, as the Minister for Water, where that legislation is, because water reform is desperately needed in the Pilbara, as it is in other parts of Western Australia for agriculture. That is still not here. The Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act changes and the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2019 will not make their way through this Parliament.

There were commitments to invest \$425 million over five years to promote Millstream, Karijini, Cossack and the Burrup Peninsula. There are complete crickets in response to those commitments.

The government held a parliamentary inquiry into regional airfares, which was not required and was a false promise, because it made people think that something different was going to be delivered. Nothing has been delivered in that space at all.

The government committed to bring the development of industrial land in the Pilbara under the auspices of the Industrial Lands Authority to develop serviced, ready-to-use industrial land at locations such as Gap Ridge. Gap Ridge was an initiative of the Pilbara Cities program under the Liberal–National government.

This government has attended ribbon-cutting ceremonies but did none of the development for projects such as Karratha Health Campus, the One Mile Jetty precinct in Carnarvon and the Carnarvon hospital. Many of these projects that the government says it has committed to and opened were actually started and funded by our government.

The government continues to say that it is going to ensure that the Pilbara Development Commission takes a more proactive role in maximising the value of local content delivered in the royalties for regions program into the Pilbara. What a joke, because the Pilbara Development Commission has no employees left in it! There is no-one to actually oversee the development of those projects and local procurement. That is not happening. It cannot happen, because there are no employees left in the development commissions.

The government says that it is going to work with local health providers to establish an urgent care clinic in the Pilbara. That is not happening.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members! The constant interjections are not helpful.

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: Thank you, Madam Acting President. To date, those urgent care clinics have been available only in the metropolitan area of Perth and in Bunbury.

As reflected on by Hon Peter Collier, the government also made a commitment to build Western Australia's first medihotel. These things are important to regional people because they often visit the metropolitan area to seek medical attention. The unavailability of accommodation or appropriate accommodation is a major issue for people who are dealing with just normal, everyday health issues, let alone the pandemic that is now being faced by the nation. Whilst I touch on that issue, there is concern in regional areas about how regional services are going to cope, given that there is a lack of services already in the health system in regional Western Australia. All those

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people will come to Perth and be reliant on the health system in the metropolitan area. There is nowhere for them to stay because that election commitment has not been followed through. It is simply non-existent, and it will mean that there will be extra pressure on the health system in Western Australia.

There was also a commitment to review the provision of specialist services as part of the sustainable health review to ensure that, where possible, services are delivered to people where they are living, closer to home. That final report was handed down in April last year and there were some nice words in that report that said that, where possible, that will happen. Where anything is possible, we will all commit to it. The government made a commitment to ensure that people could be treated closer to home. That has not happened and is in no way about to happen.

There was a commitment of \$2.5 million to improve the Royal Flying Doctor Service airstrip at Tom Price. That has been committed to, but it is not likely to be delivered any time soon. In fact, the Premier wrote to the Shire of Ashburton in November 2017 saying that the money would not be available until 2021, so that is a false commitment.

I refer to step-up, step-down facilities, and the one in Karratha in particular, because it has been a major issue in the community of Karratha. I have always supported it, as members will be aware. I have tried to work with the government to ensure the delivery of this service into Karratha because it is much needed. It is non-existent. It does not exist in the town of Karratha today. I was appalled to read comments by the member for Pilbara, Kevin Michel, when he was talking about the Black Dog Ride, which happened over the weekend, and about the need for a step-up, step-down facility in Karratha. I have no issue with that; I have always supported the member's calls for the delivery of that facility. But when he referred to the need for the step-up, step-down facility, he said —

“This is the idea behind our governments. We have been trying to get this facility underway since 2017 but we have faced opposition from the community ...

He is blaming the community for the government's failure to deliver that step-up, step-down facility. I am directly quoting what he said. He said it “faced opposition from the community”.

Hon Darren West interjected.

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: Hon Darren West may not be able to read the member for Pilbara's comments because they are on Facebook and he may still be banned from social media. The member for Pilbara continues —

Which has delayed the facility to the extent where lives have been lost and people are missing out on proper rehabilitation.

He is blaming the Karratha community for suicides in —

Hon Darren West: Stop it. That's not true.

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: I beg your pardon?

Hon Darren West: Stop it. That's not true. Stop it.

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: I beg your pardon? What did you actually say to me, member?

Hon Darren West: I said what you are saying is not true.

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: Did you actually swear at me, member?

Hon Darren West: No.

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: No? I hope not; and, if you did, I hope you would withdraw it, because that is what I heard.

The member for Pilbara said that lives are being lost because the community cannot agree on where the facility should be situated. That is not true because a site in Karratha has been set aside for the development of a step-up, step-down facility. He also said, I quote directly —

“Some people have the idea that the Step Up Step Down facility is a mental asylum for at-risk or deranged patients.

Hon Michael Mischin: Who said that?

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: The member for Pilbara said that. I am appalled at the use of his language to describe patients who need mental health care. I will leave that where it is. That was said over the weekend.

From an education perspective, the government made a commitment to put education assistants back in classrooms by funding an additional 300 education assistants. That has happened but it has come out of the royalties for regions fund. That affects the capacity of the royalties for regions fund to fund other things that the community needs. Those education assistants should be funded out of consolidated revenue. The same goes for Aboriginal and Islander education officers. Fifty additional Aboriginal and Islander education officers have been funded but

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out of the royalties for regions fund. Should that fund go belly up, I do not know how those essential services will be funded. The lack of opportunity through the royalties for regions fund is a direct result of those two things, and other things.

The government also said that it would provide a site for childcare centres in the planning of every new public primary school. That does not matter in regional WA, because there ain't any. There are no new schools in the Mining and Pastoral Region.

The government also said that it would introduce a marine rescue app to increase safety on the water. As far as I understand it, that has not happened; in fact, the marine rescue boat was defunded from the port of Dampier. The government also said that it was going to introduce Target 120 to focus on the family homes of juvenile criminals. That has been introduced in Kalgoorlie, Kununurra and Mirrabooka, but there has been nothing to date in the Pilbara, where youth crime is rising every single day. The town of Newman is on its knees dealing with crime by young people. In fact, the *North West Telegraph* today ran a story on that issue. I have raised many times with the government that Newman is in crisis, as indeed is Kununurra and other communities in the Mining and Pastoral Region. Kalgoorlie, as well, faces many issues to do with crime, particularly youth crime. I just wonder how that commitment is assisting those communities, because if members go there today, people will tell them that there has been no commitment to help them to deal with these issues.

Very quickly, I also want to go through a couple of things in the Pilbara that the government listed that it has funded or are underway. The government claims that these commitments are being delivered when they are simply not being delivered. As I said, the commitment of \$14.8 million towards the step-up, step-down facility in Karratha is not there. It committed \$5.5 million for the transforming agriculture in the Pilbara initiative. I have no clue what that it is or what it has assisted, and I can guarantee that no-one in the Pilbara does either. It promised \$65 million across regional WA to support the community resource sector, which the government was going to close down because it said those centres were irrelevant. The government now claims that it is fully funding them and saying how fantastic they are. We cannot trust the government's commentary on any service delivery going forward.

The government also said that it would commit \$170.5 million across regional WA on the Country Age Pension Fuel Card. Of course it would because that is a commitment we made when we were in government. It is an ongoing commitment, and if the Labor government tried to take it away, there would be absolute outrage in regional areas. That is not a new commitment, but it is suddenly a revelation for this government. The government says that it is has undertaken work on a lot of its commitments, but I suggest that a lot of those commitments came from the Liberal–National government and were funded through the royalties for regions program. I am gobsmacked that the Leader of the House said that regional crime, in particular, is reducing. That is such misguided commentary, because it is actually not true. I ask government members to go out to regional communities and see what is happening on the ground. I have here the list of Labor's election commitments for the Pilbara, which I am happy to table. I ask the government to deliver them.

HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary) [2.37 pm]: I will use only a portion of my allocated time because I acknowledge that other members wish to speak on this motion. This motion, like many other motions from the opposition, merely highlights the hypocrisy of opposition members and how they have erased from their memories those sad days in eight and a half years that left the state in debt and left a litany of mess, financial ruin, deficits, disunity, and dysfunction. It was all there in the Barnett Liberal–National coalition government. They seem to have forgotten all about that. Instead, they come in here and start to have a crack at the very popular, very unified and very strong McGowan government, about what it is doing, the commitments it has made to the people of Western Australia and the commitments that it is continuing to make on behalf of the people of Western Australia.

I have a saying that I would rather be disliked than be dishonest. Members opposite have managed to be both. They have managed to be immensely disliked by the voters of Western Australia and they continue to show their dishonesty when they make utterances about the government's achievements inside and outside of the house. They manage to be both disliked and dishonest. Well done on that. But I would prefer to be disliked than dishonest. We stick to the truth, and I am going to give members a great example of that.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members! It would help if Hon Darren West did not invite interjections. I remind members that Hon Darren West should be heard in silence.

Hon DARREN WEST: It would indeed. Thank you, Madam Acting President.

One of the great examples I am going to give today—I have mentioned this before in the house—is the example of the much-needed, long-awaited upgrade to the Geraldton Health Campus, a project that was promised and promised and promised by the previous government. On no fewer than three occasions it was promised by the

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previous government. We all remember this front page of *The Geraldton Guardian*. I have shown this to members before. The fellow on the left is Brendon Grylls, then Leader of the National Party, and on the right is the Durack candidate for the National Party, who is now the Mayor of Geraldton, Shane Van Styn. They were going to give \$60 million in 2013 to upgrade the Geraldton regional hospital. They won that election. In 2017, when Labor came to government, guess what? There was no hospital. That was a completely broken commitment to the people of Geraldton. I will run members through a little time line about how this was promised.

On 4 March 2013, the member for Geraldton —

Point of Order

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Madam Acting President, I think the member is arguing the wrong motion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Adele Farina): Is this a point of order or are you just making a comment?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Yes, it is actually a point of order. My motion focuses on the McGowan government's failure to meet commitments. Hon Darren West seems to be obsessed with a previous government. I think he is arguing the wrong motion. It is irrelevant.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Member, I will not take that as a point of order because I think you have been in this place long enough to know that these motions are generally wideranging. However, I will take the opportunity to make the point to Hon Darren West that he should relate his comments back to the purpose of the motion.

Debate Resumed

Hon DARREN WEST: Thank you, Madam Acting President. I certainly intend to do that.

The thing that I think stings the opposition is this very unusual set of circumstances in which an opposition coming into government makes a commitment and then when it gets into government, it actually keeps that commitment. I know that is a foreign concept to members opposite, but that is what we are doing. What I am trying to point out to members opposite is that they are not on particularly thick ice here in having a crack at the McGowan government through this motion for not keeping commitments, even though we are keeping our commitments, given they were incapable of keeping commitment themselves. I think that is something that the punters, the voters who eventually have a say on whether we are in this place, dislike the most about politicians—that is, when they are critical of the other side, when they were not able to get the job done themselves and in this case had no intention of getting the job done themselves. I will just let members know that on 4 March 2013, Ian Blayney wrote a letter to *The Geraldton Guardian* saying that the hospital was a top priority for him. On 30 August that same year, Hon Helen Morton, MLC, then Minister for Mental Health, made a pledge for a mental health facility. We are going back seven years now. Brendon Grylls then made his commitment for the hospital plan. Melissa Price in 2014 said that health was ultimately up to the state to fix, absolving her of responsibility.

Point of Order

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: Madam Acting President, I also bring your attention to the fact that the member on his feet has already been given a directive about the relevance to the motion. I ask what the relevance of his contribution is.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: On a further point of order, as you quite rightly pointed out, Madam Acting President, this is a wideranging debate and the convention has been that members are free to raise issues that they think are important to the debate on the motion before us.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Adele Farina): Members, points of order on matters before the house are not debatable motions; however, I note the comments made from both sides of the house. It is the case that motions generally are broad-ranging and there is some leniency, but there is a need for the member to connect what he or she is saying to the motion before the house, so Hon Darren West needs to refocus what he is saying.

Debate Resumed

Hon DARREN WEST: Thank you, Madam Acting President, and on your advice I will cut straight to the chase.

Before the 2017 state election, the McGowan Labor opposition made a commitment to the people of Geraldton that we would upgrade their hospital. We made that commitment to the people of Geraldton, but so did the then government parties. Both made different commitments to upgrading the hospital in Geraldton. When we were elected and came to government—we easily won the popular vote in Geraldton but lost the seat on preferences, but that is another story—we found that nothing had been progressed in that space by the previous government in eight and a half years. There had been no planning, no scoping and certainly no costings. I am curious where it got its figures from. It is challenging to find out from the opposition because opposition members do not have access to such information. There was nothing. There was only talk. There was talk of a \$115 million pledge by the Nationals for the hospital. An article in *The Geraldton Guardian* of 1 November 2016 states —

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Mid West GP Network chairman Dr Ian Taylor said he was pleased with the promise, but called for more specific details.

...

“We don’t know the details of this announcement, such as exactly how many beds or wards this will bring but it’s a good start.

The reason there was no detail in the announcement is that there were no details. No work at all had been done on this project by a government that had been in office for eight and a half years and promised, yet again, this project. Dr Taylor, for whom I have the highest of respect, continues —

“My job as chairman of the GP network is to make these politicians’ lives very uncomfortable up until the next election, and until we get the undertaking that something is going to get done, that’s what I’ll be doing.”

And that is what he did. However, he found that nothing had been done. He continues —

The hospital has missed out on major funding announcements in recent years, despite growing expectations projects like an acute mental health facility would be included in the State Budget.

In July, State Health Minister John Day flagged upgrades to the hospital as a “high priority” after a tour of the facility, but did not commit to a timeline.

Here is where it gets interesting —

WA Nationals leader Brendon Grylls was flanked by colleagues and local doctors last Friday as he made the announcement, which he described as the first “substantial commitment” ahead of the 2017 election campaign.

Not to be outdone, early in 2017 the then Premier, Colin Barnett, visited Geraldton—this underpins the disunity and infighting within the coalition government in the months leading up to the 2017 poll—which *The Geraldton Guardian* reported as —

Colin Barnett made a pit stop in Geraldton this week to splash cash and election promises but left with a barrage of concerns from a local business owner about law and order.

First up, the Premier made a long-awaited announcement for a \$139 million upgrade to Geraldton Regional Hospital if the Liberal Party is re-elected.

He proposed a staged development, complete by 2022, which would almost double the size of the emergency department.

How could he possibly make a commitment that large, completed by 2022, when he had not even started planning the project? These are long-term projects, as anyone who has delivered a health project will know.

I note also some commentary in *The Geraldton Guardian* on the National Party’s commitment by the member for Geraldton. This one has aged particularly well. The member for Geraldton, Ian Blayney, who was at that time a Liberal MP —

Point of Order

Hon JACQUI BOYDELL: I again ask: what relevance has this to the motion?

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Adele Farina): Members, I have ruled on this previously and there is no point of order. The motion mentions the McGowan government, but it also relates to election commitments and the convention in this house is to enable a broad-ranging debate on the motion. I believe that the comments and comparisons being made by the honourable member fall within those practices and conventions. However, I will ask the honourable member to keep relating that back to the motion.

Debate Resumed

Hon DARREN WEST: Thank you, Madam Acting President. I will just finish this quote from *The Geraldton Guardian* and then I will move to something else. It states —

Geraldton MP Ian Blayney said he was sceptical of the announcement, labelling it political manoeuvring. “Obviously, that’s a commitment that has to be approved by the premier and treasurer and it in no way would cover the entirety of what we are going to spend on the hospital ...

“What they’ve done is make an announcement like this so when funding is actually allocated, they can swoop in and say they worked for it.”

That was the level of distrust and disunity within the former Barnett Liberal government and ultimately that let down the people of Geraldton because there was never a serious commitment. Labor has committed to that project

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and Labor is building that project for \$73.3 million. Tenders close any day now, so people who are interested in getting some of that work, especially if they are in the midwest area, should get on to Tenders WA and pick up some of that work.

We are proceeding with that project, and work will start in coming months. I am very proud to be part of a government that put its hand up and promised to the people that we would deliver on our election commitment, and then delivered on that election commitment. It is actually an even bigger commitment than the one we gave at the time of the election. That is because we could see the areas of unmet need, such as mental health. A step-up, step-down facility is being built in Geraldton now. I know the honourable member is somewhat critical of the way we are going about that. Those facilities will be a godsend in regional Western Australia. We are committing to this project, with 38 extra beds, and a much improved emergency department. A lot of benefits are coming to Geraldton. Just as important as this fantastic new project that we hope to be built by regional Western Australian and midwest businesses is the 100 additional staff who will be required once the hospital is upgraded. There will be 100 more jobs in the city of Geraldton as a result of our government's fulfilment of that commitment.

We have a Plan for Geraldton. We circulated that before the last election. We are methodically working through this plan and delivering on everything in it. It is disingenuous for members opposite to be critical of how our government is delivering its election commitments in regional Western Australia, especially against the backdrop of the financial mess that we inherited. Our biggest commitment was to fix the finances of the state and get people back to work. We are fixing the finances and getting people back to work. We are delivering on our election commitments right across regional Western Australia. I am proud to be a part of the McGowan Labor government.

HON NICK GOIRAN (South Metropolitan) [2.51 pm]: The motion before us is not complicated. It is clearly the case that the McGowan Labor government has failed to fulfil its election commitments. Given the limited time that I have, I will give members one example from my portfolio as shadow Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. In the propaganda that the Labor Party pushed out to the people of Western Australia prior to the election, it listed myriad things that it said it would do. We need go no further than the very first commitment. Let us see whether the government could deliver on that. The first commitment was to establish two additional women's refuges to strengthen service responses and ensure that women and children can access appropriate services.

Hon Simon O'Brien: Fail!

Hon NICK GOIRAN: If we listened to the speech by the member—I feel like saying Nollamara, but I am not sure that is the case. Janine Freeman is her name. Is it Nollamara? Okay.

Hon Stephen Dawson: Mirrabooka.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Last week, on 11 March 2020, the member said, according to the uncorrected proof *Hansard* —

I congratulate the government on increasing the number of domestic violence refuges in our community.

If we listened to that speech, we would think the government has delivered on this first promise that it made for the prevention of family and domestic violence. What absolute rubbish! Government members cannot even communicate among themselves to understand that this has not been achieved. I have been asking about this matter since 2017. I have asked on numerous occasions through the budget estimates process. In August 2017, I asked the government whether it had done any work at all. The answers revealed that it had done nothing. Myriad other members took up this cause, including Hon Charles Smith on 23 August 2017, and he was treated with the same disdain as I was. In September 2017, Hon Samantha Rowe boasted about it and indicated that work would commence in 2018. On 21 September 2017, the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, Hon Simone McGurk, MLA, indicated that the government had made a commitment to fund two new refuges. In October 2017, Hon Martin Pritchard examined this issue during budget estimates and managed to extract out of his own government a revelation that the locations would be Peel and Kwinana. Therefore, at least in 2017, it felt as though the government was making some progress.

The member for Nollamara—Mirrabooka —

Several members interjected.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: That member is doing such a great job that we do not even know which region she represents.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon NICK GOIRAN: She says, falsely, that she congratulates the government on increasing the number of domestic violence refuges. The number of times that we have asked about this particular issue could take up the two hours allocated to this particular motion all on its own. Hon Dr Mike Nahan has pursued this matter. Hon Colin de Grussa has pursued this matter. Nothing was done in 2017, so we looked at 2018 to see whether a bit of progress has been

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made. Again, I took up this matter in budget estimates, and I was told that these two refuges would be operational in July 2019 and July 2020. One of those dates has passed and the other one is yet to occur—for those members opposite unfamiliar with simple matters of chronology. The member for Nollamara or Mirrabooka—whichever region she represents—seems to think that this has already occurred. I draw to members’ attention—although perhaps it will not surprise members at all—that once I am told something, I will follow it up. I was told on 5 June 2018 that these refuges would be operational in July 2019. So I made a little note that after July 2019, I had better check to see whether this is correct or just more lies. I did ask, indeed. I even gave the government a few extra months. On 27 November 2019, I put a question on notice to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence. The question referred to the answer that I had been provided, which said that the Peel refuge would be operational by July 2019. I asked whether the refuge was operational, and the answer was no. I also asked, if the refuge was not operational, why not, and what is the revised commencement date. The answer was —

The Peel refuge is planned to commence operations in November 2020.

Every time we ask, the government keeps pushing out the date. That is fine. It is in government. It is entitled to do that. But do not get the member for Mirrabooka or Nollamara or whatever it is to start boasting to people and saying —

Point of Order

Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD: Madam Acting President, I understand the passion with which the member is speaking, but he is now aware of the correct title, and I would ask him to use it if he could, please.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon Adele Farina): I will take that point of order. It is appropriate that we address people by their correct title when referring to members of Parliament in this chamber and in the other place.

Debate Resumed

Hon NICK GOIRAN: The member for Mirrabooka—this genius—said last week —

I congratulate the government on increasing the number of domestic violence refuges in our community. That is rubbish! That is lies! We cannot congratulate the government on increasing the number of domestic violence refuges in our community. When I asked the minister when the Peel refuge will be operational, she told me by July 2019. In November 2019, when I asked the Leader of the House, who is away on urgent parliamentary business, whether it was operational, she said no. She then said that the Peel refuge would be operational in November 2020. That is the top priority of the government for the prevention of family and domestic violence. I could spend hours telling members about the inability of this government to achieve any of its commitments. The Labor Party told the people of Western Australia prior to the 2017 election to vote it into government because it would do something about the prevention of family and domestic violence in our community and establish two additional women’s refuges. No, it has not. Every time I or other members ask the government questions about it, it keeps pushing it off.

We now have this silly response from the Leader of the House to the informed motion that was moved today by the honourable shadow Attorney General. That demonstrates once again that this government treats the people of Western Australia with disdain. The government has no intention whatsoever of fulfilling its election commitments. I regret that I cannot continue my contribution due to the standing orders.

HON MICHAEL MISCHIN (North Metropolitan — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [2.59 pm] — in reply: I thank members for their contribution to this debate. I have to say, unfortunately, that the Leader of the House’s response was all too predictable. It started off with a personal insult and then moved on to avoiding answering the motion. It was a bit of a quasi-curate’s egg approach. Instead of pointing out that the egg is bad and that, yes, parts of it are excellent, she would not even admit to that. Even when we read out the commitment and pointed out that it has not been met, she would not admit to that, but told us, “Don’t worry about that. Look at all the stuff on the rest of the plate, the stuff that others have passed on to us from the previous government. We’ve done all that, and we have done a lot of other things”, which we would expect was the small change of government, such as maintaining schools. But she did not address the actual criticism. I have heard about all the things that the government has done, but not one of them is related to an election commitment that has not been fulfilled. It is not hard. The government has the platforms that it published. It has to go through them and tick them off and simply explain that one did not prove practical, one had to be deferred, or one has already been superseded by events. But it will not do that. Instead, we have Hon Darren West banging on about Geraldton hospital, which is not finished yet. Maybe something else will be started by this government, but in the meantime, it does not address the issue.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order, members! Hon Michael Mischin has the call.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: I can go on with others. A month before the election, a commitment was made to the Housing Industry Association that a McGowan government would not pursue work health and safety harmonisation.

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What are we now looking at? There is a bill dealing with precisely that issue. A commitment was made at that same time that there would be full private certification of building matters within six months of getting office. Let us forget about that one. We have not heard that one since. Other things were committed to in “WA Labor: Law Reform Initiatives”, such as the Law Reform Commission focusing on sentencing policy and reducing the rate of incarceration of people for various matters and the number of prisoners on remand. The government has made four references to the Law Reform Commission, and none of them relate to those matters. There was the review of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984, and a few other little things, such as damages under the Fatal Accidents Act 1959 and a raft of other things, but the government made four references and none of them had to do with one of its major platforms.

I go on to the Director of Public Prosecutions. There was a commitment that a parliamentary committee would be set up, like the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission, whereby the DPP would report to the committee why it discontinues charges, and include those reasons in its annual report. That has not been done. We had a mealy-mouthed explanation that some recommendation that flowed out of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse had been looked at by the DPP, and it had worked out ways that the DPP will tell people why it dropped charges and will do a better job of it. That is the end of that. It was not limited to that. It was a bald, broad commitment. We have not had an explanation of why that has not been pursued. This policy document is worthless as a platform. It shows Labor’s law and order commitments before the March 2017 election, but only a fraction of them has been looked at in one way or another, and the others ignored. We have not had any advice from the government, rather than personal abuse, to accept responsibility for not fulfilling these commitments or the others that have been raised, and an explanation. Instead it goes back to bashing the Liberal and National Parties. If members opposite want to do that, good luck, but the government will be held to account for the commitments it has not fulfilled.

Hon Darren West interjected.

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN: Hon Darren West seems to think that it runs only one way and that politicians are distrusted because they play a game. What has he been doing? Instead of going on about Geraldton hospital, how about he addresses any one of the commitments that has not been fulfilled but promised, not just the one of fixing the economy, but the one about no additional taxes and charges. Remember that one? Apparently that one is not that important anymore.

Question put and passed.