



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2021

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 23 June 2021

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 23 June 2021

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) took the chair at 12 noon, acknowledged country and read prayers.

PAPERS TABLED

Papers were tabled and ordered to lie upon the table of the house.

BILLS

Notice of Motion to Introduce

1. Health Services Amendment Bill 2021.

Notice of motion given by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)** on behalf of Mr R.H. Cook (Minister for Health).

2. Industry and Technology Development Amendment Bill 2021.

Notice of motion given by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)** on behalf of Mr R.H. Cook (Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade).

3. Ticket Scalping Bill 2021.

Notice of motion given by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)** on behalf of Ms A. Sanderson (Minister for Commerce).

PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION BOARD

Appointment of Members — Notice of Motion

Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House) gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move —

That the member for Bicton and the member for Moore be appointed as members of the Parliamentary Superannuation Board in accordance with section 6(3)(b) of the Parliamentary Superannuation Act 1970.

LAND FORCES 2021 EXPO

Statement by Minister for Defence Industry

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Defence Industry) [12.05 pm]: It is with great pleasure that I stand here today to share my recent experience at the 2021 Land Forces International Land Defence Exposition held in Brisbane from 1 to 3 June. As I previously updated the house, Land Forces is the region's premier international land defence exposition, showcasing equipment, technology and services for the armies of Australia and the Indo-Pacific.

As Western Australia's Minister for Defence Industry, I led a delegation of WA organisations to Brisbane with an aim to attract new defence contracts and opportunities for WA. A total of 19 companies, the Defence Science Centre and Henderson Alliance were hosted at no cost on the WA government stand and were supported by a dedicated team from Defence West. This representation from Western Australia demonstrated our state's capabilities to the largest possible defence audience. The stand had fantastic energy and the companies represented our state very well through a team WA approach, which attracted praise from visitors to the Defence West stand.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions and border closures in Victoria, the 2021 Land Forces trade show attracted 12 766 attendees over its three days. Attendance offered a unique opportunity for our Western Australian companies to communicate directly with the Australian Army to better understand the needs and challenges of the end user. During my visit, I facilitated meetings between WA companies and defence primes including BAE Systems, Rheinmetall, Hanwha, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Navantia Australia. I also hosted visits to the Defence West stand by the Deputy Chief of Army and the Special Operations Commander. These meetings provided an invaluable opportunity for WA companies to showcase their capabilities and push these primes to visit WA to see firsthand what the defence industry has to offer. These companies readily engaged with our WA small to medium-sized enterprises and were keen to discuss the innovation and technology being developed in Western Australia.

Western Australia was consistently considered by prime contractors as a good location to establish test areas for aerial and autonomous undersea and surface vessels, along with space domain opportunities, including launch zones. Some key WA company highlights include Austal announcing its intention to bid for Land 8710—amphibious capabilities—which is consistent with the federal government's designation of Henderson as the location for construction of all watercraft under 100 metres in length. Further, Orbital announced during the show the delivery of its first unmanned aerial vehicle engine system to one of Singapore's largest defence companies. These achievements demonstrate that WA companies have the capabilities and experience to contribute to the Australian Army's future needs. I will continue to advocate for these opportunities and the 19 Western Australian companies that attended 2021 Land Forces to ensure that they deliver tangible outcomes for the benefit of both WA and defence.

SPORT DEVELOPMENT FUND*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [12.08 pm]: I rise today to inform the house about the sport development fund grants program. The sport development fund was established as part of the McGowan government's COVID-19 response to support small to medium-sized clubs to develop and sustain the growth of their sport in the midst of this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

The sport development fund provides funding for small and medium-sized state sporting associations to assist them to build their capacity to deliver programs and services, as well as policies to help them develop their operations. Funding can be put towards employment of staff, engagement of consultancy services and projects that support the organisation's strategic plan, as well as interstate travel and accommodation costs associated with project delivery.

In this latest round, the sport development fund is providing funding support to Equestrian Western Australia for a sport development officer to manage its strategic high performance pathways as well as athlete development and officiating goals through educational, athlete and officials development programs; Softball Western Australia for a regional participation and development program to increase Softball WA's capacity to deliver softball programs to regional Western Australia; Touch Football Australia for a junior growth and servicing initiative to attract players transitioning out of junior competitions into organised senior competitions, while also supporting junior clubs to maintain a welcoming environment for kids looking to get into the sport; and the Western Australian Clay Target Association for a sports development officer to grow the capacity of the organisation to increase membership and participation numbers through a recruitment, participation and membership strategy and club development plan. The fund will also assist many other organisations.

It is pleasing, as Minister for Sport and Recreation, to support these organisations to grow and encourage community participation in their sports.

ROYALTIES — COLLECTION*Statement by Minister for Finance*

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Finance) [12.10 pm]: I rise today to advise the house that cabinet has approved a machinery-of-government change to transfer the royalty collection and administration function from the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to the Department of Finance's RevenueWA from 4 October 2021. In recent years, more complicated company structures and the use of transfer pricing have increased the complexity of the auditing task for royalties. Integrating the existing knowledge and expertise in royalty collection of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety with the specialised information technology systems, knowledge and information-sharing networks of RevenueWA will enhance royalty collection and auditing, and address avoidance practices. New South Wales and Queensland have moved their royalty collection and auditing responsibilities from mining and industry-related departments to their state revenue agencies in recent years.

Royalties are now our single largest source of revenue—almost one-third of the state government's total revenue base in 2020–21—so it makes sense for the state's specialist revenue collection agency to be collecting this revenue, drawing on its scale and expertise.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY — ADVOCACY SERVICES*Statement by Minister for Disability Services*

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services) [12.11 pm]: I rise today to reaffirm the McGowan government's commitment to supporting people with disability in Western Australia through ongoing investment in advocacy services. I am very pleased to advise that the state government recently provided \$3.44 million to eight advocacy organisations to enable people with disability to engage support through those advocacy services. The eight advocacy services are located across metropolitan and regional Western Australia and were successful through an expression of interest process. Two Aboriginal community-controlled organisations providing services to Aboriginal people with disability and a mobile outreach service assisting people on the streets to access disability supports are among the successful funding recipients. This funding will support the delivery of community initiatives in Western Australia, which will increase the capacity of people with disability, their families and carers, and local champions within the community, to advocate for better outcomes for people with disability, including access to services. In 2020–21, the state government allocated a total of \$8 million for advocacy for people with disability, their families and carers. Existing advocacy providers received \$4.56 million through direct allocation to continue delivering positive outcomes for people requiring individual and specialist advocacy services.

Disability advocacy enables people with disability to participate and be involved in the decision-making processes that safeguard and advance their human rights. A properly funded advocacy sector is essential to ensuring that the National Disability Insurance Scheme is held to account and that decisions made under the scheme are in the best interests of participants. Funding a range of disability advocacy organisations is a key mechanism through which the four pillars of change underpinning the McGowan government's state disability strategy for an all-inclusive,

accessible Western Australia will be realised. This state government remains committed to promoting an inclusive society that supports people with disability in Western Australia, together with their families and carers, to participate in and contribute to the economy and their community.

ARTS AND CULTURE TRUST BILL 2021

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Minister for Culture and the Arts)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.14 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Arts and Culture Trust Bill 2021. Most of the state's iconic theatres, such as His Majesty's Theatre, are managed by the Perth Theatre Trust—the PTT. The PTT has served this role for many years in accordance with the goals granted to it under the Perth Theatre Trust Act 1979. However, the PTT has been hindered by the limitations of the act. Although the act has done what it was designed to do, it has also restricted the PTT's potential and prevented it from moving beyond the narrow role assigned to it, which is to manage theatres.

Successive governments over many years have identified the need for reform for the PTT and the management of state cultural assets. This included the 2015 agency expenditure review and the other reviews conducted by the Public Sector Commission. The McGowan government initiated a number of reforms to ensure that the public sector is modern, high performing and maintains its ability to deliver future services to the community.

The PTT is part of the public sector and this is the perfect time for the PTT to be included in the broader reform process. Although there have been some amendments to the act over the past 40 years, these amendments were not related to comprehensive and wideranging reforms needed for a PTT that will effectively meet current government or community needs. The McGowan government has a vision of a PTT that will manage not only theatres, but also cultural centres and other valuable cultural assets—a vision that cannot be achieved with the PTT in its current form. For this reason, this bill will completely replace the legislative framework under which the PTT formerly operated. The PTT will be transformed into a new statutory authority known as the Arts and Culture Trust—the ACT. This new authority will have greater responsibilities, broader powers and more flexibility to manage, care for and develop cultural assets for our future generations.

Creation of a new and modern trust: The trust will be similar to the PTT in some regards. It will be a key government arts entity. It will be a statutory authority and a body corporate. It will be managed by a board. It will have a list of duties and the legal powers needed to carry them out. It will be accountable to the Minister for Culture and the Arts, the government and the Parliament. However, the trust will also have many important differences. The most important of these reforms relates to the trust's core functions. The trust's responsibilities will not be limited to theatres; it will have the power to manage all kinds of cultural venues, including outdoor spaces such as the Perth Cultural Centre. This will include state-owned assets assigned to the trust and potentially any privately owned assets that enter into partnership with it. The trust will also have a greater power to engage in business arrangements subject to the Treasurer's approval.

Many reforms in the bill relate to the board that will manage the trust. The new trust's board will consist of nine members, compared with the PTT's eight members. This will make quorums and majority decisions easier to obtain. The bill will require board members to have specific skills and experience that relate to the trust's operations. It will also require board members to have different skills. This will ensure that the board has a broad spectrum of knowledge to draw upon. Moving to a skills-based board will no longer see almost half of the trustees nominated by the City of Perth. Although this made sense in the early days of the Perth Theatre Trust, the PTT now manages theatres in Subiaco and Albany. The new trust will reach even further and potentially control assets across the whole state. This change is not a reflection on the City of Perth in any way; it simply reflects the fact that the management of the trust is a statewide concern, not just for the City of Perth.

There will also be reforms in the bill to increase the trust's accountability, beyond the annual audits by the Auditor General, to ensure that its affairs will be transparent and beyond reproach. The trust will be subject to special safeguards regarding the use of information and the disclosure of conflicts of interest.

Increased partnership with arts organisations: an important provision in the bill will allow the government to declare a state-funded arts organisation to be a resident company for the purposes of the bill. This reform will provide clarity for the relationship that exists between these designated state-funded arts organisations and the trust.

Maximising commercial potential: the bill will also grant the trust with increased power to participate in commercial activities and business arrangements. This will provide the trust with the ability to optimise the potential of the

assets it controls, including assets that are located near major commercial and tourism hubs. An example of this role involves attracting and contracting events, activities and commercial tenancies that will enliven the Perth Cultural Centre and encourage people to visit both the PCC and the resident cultural institutions: the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the State Library of Western Australia and the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip. Place activation activities include short-term events, such as the annual Fringe World Festival staged in the PCC, as well as permanent or temporary food and beverage outlets. By allowing the trust to capitalise on this potential, it will be able to maximise its resources and create flow-on benefits for local businesses around trust property. It will also help create much-needed jobs in the cultural tourism sector, along with the hospitality and retail sectors.

For accountability purposes, the bill requires the trust to obtain the approval of the minister and the Treasurer before entering into certain business arrangements beyond an agreed financial limit or class of arrangement. This will ensure that the power is used with appropriate checks and will provide maximum benefit for trust operations. These business arrangements give the trust the opportunity to increase the quantity and diversity of the performances on offer at its venues. They also allow the trust to present international and national artists that would not come to Perth without investment by the trust.

Declaration of places to be venues: the Perth Theatre Trust is currently restricted to managing the specific theatres vested in its care. The current legislative regime is restrictive and does not easily facilitate short-term events or opportunities that can arise within the cultural and artistic sectors. To enable the new trust to hold artistic and cultural events to be enjoyed by the community, the bill will grant the minister with the power to declare any part of the state a venue, if it is intended to be used partially or wholly as a place for cultural and artistic purposes, and for any duration of time that the minister thinks appropriate. A declaration will enable the area to be used by the new trust to hold events and will provide the trust with broad powers to manage and conduct those events. This reform provides a long overdue opportunity for the government, through the trust, to host cultural and artistic events anywhere in the state.

Consolidation of the state's cultural assets: under the current legislative regime, arts and culture assets fall under the management of the state government, including the Perth Cultural Centre and the Sunset Heritage Precinct. There is a growing argument that many of these assets should be managed by an organisation that specialises in cultural asset management. For this reason, the bill will grant the government with the power to vest any of the state's artistic and cultural assets, including public spaces, under the control of the trust. This will provide a long-overdue opportunity for the government; it will give the state a mechanism that it can use to consolidate cultural assets under a trust that is best placed to manage them, and then use those assets by hosting arts and cultural events to be enjoyed by the community and to attract visitors to this state.

Create now, enjoy later: the bill expands the previous definition of "activity" being related only to an event, performance or production, to include activities related to creating works to be enjoyed at a later date. Our experiences with COVID-19 have demonstrated more than ever that livestreaming and accessing content at a convenient, later time is here to stay. This provision will allow the trust to establish, own and operate the proposed \$100 million state-of-the-art screen production facility, which is a key election commitment. This facility will contain a number of purpose-built, highly sound resistant stages and other onsite facilities, such as offices, construction space, parking, set storage and other amenities. The construction of the facility will create more than 580 jobs, with approximately 2 800 film production and precinct hospitality jobs supported per year for the longer term. The studios will support the creation of feature, factual and animation productions for television and cinema screens, as well as commercials, streaming and gaming. The government's commitment to this facility fills the gap that has been a major disadvantage in attracting international productions to Western Australia, despite our state's unique and diverse natural pristine beauty, stunning light, vast open blue skies and local talent. Showing WA stories, culture and landscapes will showcase our state to the world, providing a boost for tourism.

Accountability of the trust: as a statutory authority and part of the public service, the new trust will be accountable to the minister, the government and the Parliament, and will be required to comply with all legislation governing the public sector.

Protection of trust property: in order for the trust to have the ability to ensure the orderly operation of permanent and temporary trust venues and to recognise the broader remit of the new trust, the bill will also allow the Governor to make regulations on various operational matters regarding trust property. This will include management of venues; admission of people to trust property; the behaviour of people who visit trust property; consumption of liquor at trust venues; the imposition of fees by the trust; and parking management on trust land. These regulations can be enforced with fines, and will provide the trust with a greater ability to manage and protect the assets vested in its care.

Transitional arrangements: this bill will transform the Perth Theatre Trust into the Arts and Culture Trust. The bill includes consequential amendments to many pieces of legislation. These amendments will remove references to the Perth Theatre Trust and replace them with references to the new trust where necessary. The bill also includes transitional provisions to allow an orderly handover of the Perth Theatre Trust's assets, liabilities and contractual obligations. This will ensure that the transition will not compromise any pre-existing matters or, importantly, the rights of employees. If the bill is unable to provide for a transitional matter, the Governor will have the power to make regulations to deal with that matter.

Conclusion: this bill provides a significant and long-overdue reform to the management of cultural assets in this state. It gives me great pleasure to be part of this reform because, as the house knows, I value art and culture very highly. I believe this bill will provide great benefits to our state, both now and into the future. It will ensure that this government and future governments protect and develop the cultural riches that the people of Western Australia have entrusted to us. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I commend this bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr P.J. Rundle**.

ANIMAL WELFARE AND TRESPASS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr J.R. Quigley (Attorney General)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Attorney General.

Second Reading

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [12.29 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The bill was introduced into the previous Parliament as the Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. The 2021 bill I am reading in today is identical to the 2020 bill that passed the Legislative Assembly last year, and includes the government amendment made in the Assembly.

The bill will amend three primary acts: the Western Australian Criminal Code, the WA Restraining Orders Act 1997 and the WA Animal Welfare Act 2002. This bill has been prepared in response to a number of incidents occurring nationally and across our state when people have trespassed on land used for commercial animal food production, and interfered with those businesses, purportedly to draw attention to inhumane animal husbandry practices. There is a need to protect our agricultural sector and, in particular, regional farming families from the adverse economic, biosecurity and personal effects of this type of trespass. It is also evident that the WA community cares very strongly about animal welfare. There is a clear need to maintain community confidence in the animal welfare protection practices employed by our agricultural sector. High consumer confidence in animal welfare has the added benefit of securing the long-term viability of commercial animal food production. The bill responds to these two complex issues by bringing together a number of law reform measures in a single package. I will address each of these in turn, starting with the reforms set out in parts 3 and 4 of the bill.

Criminal Code and Restraining Orders Act amendments: The amendments to the Criminal Code and the Restraining Orders Act are aimed at deterring trespass on land used for animal-source food production. The bill increases the applicable penalties and improves accessibility to misconduct restraining orders in certain circumstances. The current maximum penalty for trespass under section 70A of the Criminal Code is imprisonment for 12 months and a fine of \$12 000. The bill seeks to amend the Criminal Code to provide for circumstances of aggravation when in the course of or as a result of the trespass on an animal-source food production place, an offender interferes with, or intends to interfere with, animal-source food production; or assaults, intimidates or harasses, or intends to assault, intimidate or harass, a person in the context of their engagement in animal-source food production or a family member of the person. That the trespass occurred on an animal-source food production place is a key element of the aggravated offence. This is defined to mean an abattoir, a knackery or an animal-source food production facility, and is intended to capture traditional family animal farms, piggeries, poultry barns, feedlots, abattoirs and knackeries. Finally, the offence must be committed in circumstances of aggravation.

The first circumstance of aggravation is that the person has interfered with animal-source food production. This includes negatively impacting biosecurity, damaging or stealing property, or releasing or causing animals to escape. The second circumstance of aggravation is that the trespasser intimidates, harasses or assaults a person engaged in animal-source food production or a family member of such a person. The reference to “family members” recognises the reality that farms are often family homes as well as commercial operations. This circumstance of aggravation applies only when the intimidation, harassment or assault occurs in the context of the person’s engagement in animal-source food production. This is designed to exclude disputes of a purely personal nature. This offence has been narrowly framed with the deliberate intent of minimising the risk of unintended impacts. The amendments introduced by this bill are not aimed at stifling protest; instead, they are intended to deter or prevent trespass that has an adverse effect on relevant commercial operations or that unreasonably targets persons engaged in such operations. It is also important to note that the new offence contained in this bill does not propose to expand the circumstances in which a person commits the offence of trespass. When a person has a lawful right to access land or to enter property, the offence of trespass is not committed and the proposed circumstances of aggravation do not apply. This principle applies in the industrial context; for example, a person exercising the right of entry under division 2G of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Act 1979 or part 3-4 of the commonwealth Fair Work Act 2009 does not commit trespass and will therefore not be affected by the new measures. The government has been very considered in drafting this new offence to ensure that it is appropriately directed.

The proposed maximum penalty for the new offence of aggravated trespass is two years' imprisonment and a fine of \$24 000. This is double the usual maximum penalty for trespass, reflecting the seriousness of the conduct. If a court does not impose a term of imprisonment, it must impose a minimum penalty of a community order and a fine of at least \$2 400, unless exceptional circumstances exist. A community order made pursuant to the minimum penalty must contain a direction prohibiting the offender from attending specified places—for example, animal farms—and require that the offender undertake unpaid community service. A person who commits another offence while subject to a community order or who breaches a condition of the community order may be resentenced for the original offence. This will allow penalties to be escalated for repeat offending to the maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment and a \$24 000 fine.

In addition to the harsher penalties available under the proposed new Criminal Code offence, part 4 of the bill amends the Restraining Orders Act to make it easier for a person who has been, or may in the future be, affected by aggravated trespass to obtain the protection of a misconduct restraining order.

Animal welfare amendments: I now turn to the amendments to the Animal Welfare Act, contained in part 2 of the bill. The Animal Welfare Act creates powers of entry and inspection for the purposes of investigating animal cruelty. At present, these powers do not allow for the implementation of a monitoring program and permit only general inspectors to enter a place either by consent or when the inspector reasonably suspects that an offence has been, is being or is likely to be committed. These powers are inadequate to meet the community's expectations; namely, that the appropriate authorities have, and exercise, the necessary powers to monitor for compliance with welfare standards in animal-source food production.

The powers-of-entry provisions in this bill are limited to designated inspectors employed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and may be exercised only when monitoring activities in abattoirs, knackeries and intensive food production places. An "intensive food production place" is defined to mean a non-residential place where intensive food production is carried out. This definition will ensure that the powers of a designated inspector do not extend to a residence. Limiting the powers of entry in reference to intensive production places, abattoirs and knackeries will also ensure that inspections are targeted towards higher risk production methods. This specifically excludes extensive farming operations for which grazing is a key component of the animal food production system.

The proposed amendments will provide a level of assurance to concerned members of the public that animal welfare standards in these types of establishments can be properly monitored by the appropriate authorities. Taken together, these reforms address the difficult question of how best to encourage transparency in and extend protections to commercial animal farming operations. Most of us here in WA consider ourselves to be animal lovers and do not want to see animals being mistreated. However, we equally do not support the activities of those who trespass on agricultural land, causing distress to animals and farmers and their families, as well as negatively impacting on biosecurity.

The government recently released the report of the independent review of the Animal Welfare Act. It is pleasing to see that the independent review panel has put forward a number of recommendations that will both modernise the Animal Welfare Act and reflect the community expectation for a more proactive approach to compliance activities by inspectors. The bill we have developed, although focused on a narrow set of primary production activities, is consistent with those recommendations.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr P.J. Rundle**.

COURTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MAGISTRATES) BILL 2021

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr J.R. Quigley (Attorney General)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Attorney General.

Second Reading

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [12.43 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Courts Legislation Amendment (Magistrates) Bill 2021 will amend the Children's Court of Western Australia Act 1988, which is the Children's Court act, and the Magistrates Court Act 2004, which is the Magistrates Court act, to provide a framework for the allocation of juridical resources between the Magistrates Court and the Children's Court of Western Australia; clarify the powers of the President of the Children's Court and the Chief Magistrate in respect of issuing directions to magistrates; and ensure a flexible magistracy that is available to perform the various functions for which magistrates are appointed.

Members may be aware that prior to the commencement of the Magistrates Court in May 2005, there were multiple Courts of Petty Sessions and multiple local courts. Each individual court operated independently, meaning there was operational complexity in judicial officers moving between jurisdictions and no uniformity of procedures. This led to inefficiencies and dysfunction, which the establishment of the Magistrates Court sought to address.

A reform package of legislation was introduced to Parliament in 2004, consisting of some seven separate bills, which, in part, authorised magistrates to exercise certain functions without moving in or out of any particular jurisdiction. One of the key outcomes of the reforms was to enable magistrates of the Magistrates Court to be appointed to multiple commissions to exercise those jurisdictions anywhere in the state, ensuring the court was able to deal more efficiently and expeditiously with the cases that came before it.

The Chief Magistrate was also recognised in statute as the principal judicial officer of the court and given express powers to assign duties and issue directions in respect of a magistrate's judicial and administrative functions. These amendments served to provide judicial and administrative leadership to the court, as is the case with the Supreme and District Courts. Supporting provisions were introduced to provide that a magistrate must comply with the directions given by the Chief Magistrate or risk suspension from office.

The reforms also clarified the role and position of magistrates attached to the Family Court of Western Australia by ensuring that those magistrates are responsible to the Chief Judge of the Family Court. It is now the case that all magistrates of the Magistrates Court also hold commissions as magistrates of the Children's Court as well as being appointed as industrial magistrates under the Industrial Relations Act 1979 and wardens of mines under the Mining Act 1978. A person appointed as a magistrate under the Magistrates Court Act is also deemed to be appointed as a coroner under the Coroners Act 1996. These appointment arrangements mean magistrates are available to perform the various functions for which they are appointed under a range of statutes. This, in turn, ensures a flexible magistracy that can respond to judicial resourcing requirements as they arise.

Despite the breadth of the 2004 reform package, it did not address the way in which the President of the Children's Court and the Chief Magistrate interact for the purposes of dealing with the workload of the Children's Court. The Courts Legislation Amendment (Magistrates) Bill 2021 will address this by clarifying for future purposes the respective powers of the President of the Children's Court and the Chief Magistrate in respect of the administration and workload allocation of the Children's Court. In particular, the bill will provide the President of the Children's Court with the discretion about the best way to operate a specialist court and to maximise the utilisation of judicial resources, recognising that the Children's Court is a separate court to the Magistrates Court and the president is the head of jurisdiction.

The amendments proposed by the bill are consistent with the 2004 reform package to ensure that court jurisdictions in this state are efficient and flexible, with appropriate powers allocated to the respective heads of jurisdictions to manage the workload of the courts.

Before I turn to the detail of the bill, I note that there is a proceeding on foot before the Supreme Court of Western Australia commenced by the plaintiff, Magistrate Catherine Crawford, against Judge Hylton Quail, President of the Children's Court. The parties to this proceeding raised issues related to whether the president had the power to make certain directions to the plaintiff. The State of Western Australia intervened in the proceeding with the primary purpose of addressing the proper construction of the president's powers. The power under new section 12A will not be retrospective and will apply from commencement. The passage of the bill will resolve, for future purposes, issues about the scope of the president's powers. The future conduct of the proceeding will be a matter for the parties and the court.

I turn now to the detail of the bill. New section 11 of the Children's Court act will prescribe a process whereby the president may inform the Chief Magistrate that a particular magistrate is required to deal with the workload of the court, either on a part-time or full-time basis. It will introduce the concept of a "dually appointed" magistrate, being a magistrate who holds office as a magistrate of both the Magistrates Court and the Children's Court. The magistrate will be made available to perform Children's Court functions only if the Chief Magistrate consents. If the president no longer requires a particular magistrate to perform Children's Court functions, or requires the magistrate on a reduced basis, the president may inform the Chief Magistrate accordingly. The president will have absolute discretion in determining which particular magistrate is, or is not, necessary or desirable for the time being to deal with the workload of the Children's Court. The reason for the breadth of this discretion is to enable the president to operate the Children's Court in the manner that appears to be best to the president, without any person having an expectation that they will remain in the Children's Court upon the basis of their past service.

The power to request a particular magistrate is for practical purposes. For example, the president will be able to request that a particular regional or remote magistrate, who may already be performing judicial functions in a court location where there is a resourcing need, also perform Children's Court functions. The transitional provisions in clause 9 of the bill make clear that the president is not required to give a notice in respect of a dually appointed magistrate who is currently performing, or has performed, functions in the Children's Court.

New section 12A of the Children's Court act will provide the president with the power to give directions to a magistrate in respect of the magistrate's functions in the Children's Court. These powers are broadly consistent with the powers available to the Chief Magistrate in directing magistrates. In clauses 8 and 11, the bill provides a clear delineation between the powers of the president and the Chief Magistrate to direct magistrates to the extent they are performing functions in their respective courts. Consequential amendments will also be made to ensure that noncompliance by a magistrate with a direction of the president has the same potential consequence as noncompliance

with a direction of the Chief Magistrate; that is, suspension from office. As well, the Attorney General will be required to consult with both the Chief Magistrate and the president prior to issuing a show-cause notice regarding a proposed suspension to a Children's Court magistrate under the applied Magistrates Court Act schedule 1, clause 14.

The principal amendment to the Magistrates Court Act contained in clause 12 reflects that the appointment of magistrates to the Children's Court is for the purposes of satisfying a need to deal with the "workload of the court" at the time of appointment and to ensure the resourcing needs of the court can be met into the future. Under the current arrangements, if a person ceases to be a magistrate under the Magistrates Court Act 2004, they cease to be appointed as an industrial magistrate, warden of mines and coroner. However, a similar arrangement does not apply to appointment as a magistrate of the Children's Court. This means a magistrate can resign as a magistrate of the Magistrates Court and remain appointed as a magistrate of the Children's Court only, undermining the purpose of appointing magistrates to multiple offices. Accordingly, the bill includes a provision that provides when a person appointed as a magistrate of both the Children's Court and the Magistrates Court resigns from one of those offices, they will be taken to have resigned from both offices. This will assist in ensuring magistrates are available to perform the various functions for which they are appointed and the courts' resourcing requirements can be addressed as and when they arise.

The bill aims to strike a balance between prescribing a clear process and leaving room for judicial comity in the allocation of magistrate resources between the jurisdictions. Overall, the proposed amendments are consistent with the practical operation of the courts and will ensure the effective operation of courts and administration of justice in Western Australia.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr P.J. Rundle**.

LEGAL PROFESSION UNIFORM LAW APPLICATION BILL 2021

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr J.R. Quigley (Attorney General)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Attorney General.

Second Reading

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [12.59 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Bill 2021. In 2004, Hon Jim McGinty, MLA, then Attorney General, signed a memorandum of understanding that committed Western Australia to adopting the provisions of the national model bill on the legal profession. When the Legal Profession Bill 2007 was introduced into Parliament in 2007, Hon Jim McGinty stated —

The need for a national approach to regulation is in recognition that the legal profession and legal services sector are increasingly adopting a national outlook.

That bill followed the structure of the national model bill.

In April 2009, the commonwealth Attorney-General set up the National Legal Profession Reform Taskforce to prepare draft uniform legislation to regulate the legal profession in Australia. A draft legal profession national law was presented to the Council of Australian Governments but the project lacked support from states and territories.

In December 2013, Victoria and New South Wales entered into a bilateral agreement on the legal profession uniform framework, and legislation was enacted in both Victoria and New South Wales to give effect to the agreement. The Victorian Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014 and the New South Wales Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014 were enacted in March 2014 and May 2014 respectively. The Legal Profession Uniform Law is schedule 1 to the Victorian act and that schedule is applied as a law of New South Wales. The uniform law scheme came into operation in Victoria and New South Wales in July 2015.

The regulatory authorities for the uniform law scheme are the standing committee, the Legal Services Council, the Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation and the admissions committee. The standing committee consists of the Attorneys General of each participating jurisdiction. The Legal Services Council makes uniform rules and monitors their implementation. The Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation is responsible for the operation of the Legal Services Council and has an important oversight role in promoting compliance with the requirements of the uniform law and the uniform rules and ensuring their consistent and effective implementation. The admissions committee is responsible for the admission rules.

In 2017, the state government commenced negotiations with Victoria and New South Wales, with a view to joining the uniform law scheme and, in 2019, an intergovernmental agreement was signed by Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia. The intergovernmental agreement gives effect to the agreement reached between the parties for Western Australia to join the uniform law scheme. In September 2019, the Victorian Legal Profession Uniform

Law Application Amendment Act 2019 was given royal assent. That act officially accommodates Western Australia's entry into the uniform law scheme in line with the intergovernmental agreement. The amendments made by the act to the uniform law scheme enable Western Australia's participation in the scheme's governance arrangements. First, the number of members of the Legal Services Council has been increased to include one additional member appointed on the recommendation of the Law Council of Australia and one additional member appointed on the recommendation of the standing committee. Second, the standing committee must ensure that at least one member of the Legal Services Council is drawn from Western Australia. Third, Western Australia will be able to have a judicial member on the admissions committee.

In order to join the uniform law scheme, Western Australia must also enact legislation to apply the Legal Profession Uniform Law set out in schedule 1 to the Victorian act as a law of Western Australia. This bill will apply that schedule as a law of this state, subject to minor modifications concerning professional indemnity insurance. The bill also contains provisions that supplement and complement the Legal Profession Uniform Law in the same way as in the Victorian and New South Wales application acts. Although the bill will repeal the Western Australian Legal Profession Act 2008, many of the existing features of the Legal Profession Act have been retained to the extent that those provisions are compatible with the Legal Profession Uniform Law. This is because the uniform law scheme accommodates local variations in the way in which participating jurisdictions operate. The local variations are accommodated in this bill.

The annual operating costs of the Legal Services Council are currently shared by Victoria and New South Wales. Any direct funding contribution is funded in accordance with each participating jurisdiction's proportion of the total number of legal practitioners to whom practising certificates were issued in the previous financial year unless the standing committee agrees otherwise. Each party individually determines how it will meet any funding obligations that arise with direct funding contributions. Western Australia will be expected to share the operational costs when it joins the uniform law scheme in accordance with the intergovernmental agreement. The triennial operating budget of the Legal Services Council has to be unanimously approved by the standing committee. Western Australia's funding contribution will be significantly less than that of Victoria and New South Wales because Western Australia has significantly fewer legal practitioners than those states.

In the second reading speeches for the Victorian and New South Wales application acts, the Attorneys General said —

The uniform law aims to simplify and standardise regulatory obligations, cutting red tape for law firms, especially those operating across jurisdictions, while still providing for a significant degree of local involvement in the performance of regulatory functions. The principles of co-regulation, with involvement for the profession in critical areas of regulatory responsibility, are preserved, while consumers of legal services will also benefit from greater consistency of experience across jurisdictions and from improvements to key regulatory requirements.

The Attorneys General then identified some of the key benefits of the scheme. First, they noted that lawyers will be able to practise seamlessly across jurisdictions under uniform legislation and regulatory standards rather than disparate legislation and that this will reduce compliance costs for firms operating across participating jurisdictions. Second, they highlighted the benefits for consumers and observed —

- Consumers will enjoy the same protections, rights and remedies across participating jurisdictions.
- Consumers will have access to new low cost and informal ways to resolve service complaints with law practices. A tailored set of consumer-friendly orders will give consumers access to the kinds of practical remedies they need—like a simple apology or an order that work be redone at a reduced cost.
- The legislative duty on law practices to charge fair and reasonable costs and new, streamlined costs disclosure requirements will foster better communication and lead to fewer disputes.
- Billing practices have been strengthened to ensure that principals are responsible for the legal costs charged by their law practices.

Third, the Attorneys observed that for the courts, applications for admission will continue to be processed at the local level, but under uniform rules developed by the new statutory admissions committee, applicants will know well in advance what standards they will need to meet to be admitted in each participating jurisdiction.

I now turn to the bill itself. Part 2 of the bill applies the Legal Profession Uniform Law, the uniform regulations and uniform rules as laws of Western Australia. This part also specifies the designated local regulatory authorities and the designated tribunals for the purposes of the Legal Profession Uniform Law. The Legal Practice Board and the Legal Services and Complaints Committee are designated local regulatory authorities. The Supreme Court and the State Administrative Tribunal are designated tribunals.

Part 3 of the bill makes provision for the establishment of local authorities that will perform functions under the act and the Legal Profession Uniform Law. These local authorities are the Legal Practice Board, the Legal Services and Complaints Committee, the Legal Services and Complaints Officer, the Legal Costs Committee and the Legal Contribution Trust. These local authorities currently perform functions under the Legal Profession Act 2008.

Part 4 of the bill contains provisions relating to admission, practising certificates and registration certificates that will supplement the provisions of chapters 2 and 3 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law. This part also contains provisions relating to government lawyers in Western Australia and the functions of the State Solicitor.

Part 5 of the bill contains provisions relating to trust accounts, which support the provisions of part 4.2 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law.

Part 6 of the bill relates to legal costs, particularly legal costs determinations and costs assessments. This part supplements part 4.3 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law. Legal costs determinations will continue to be made by the Legal Costs Committee in the same way as under the Legal Profession Act 2008. Costs assessments will continue to be undertaken by taxing officers of the Supreme Court, referred to as costs assessors.

Part 7 of the bill concerns professional indemnity insurance and supports part 4.4 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law. As far as possible, the current arrangements and schemes for professional indemnity insurance under the Legal Profession Act 2008 have been retained, together with the law mutual fund. To ensure the current arrangements are not undermined by Western Australia's entry into the Legal Profession Uniform Law scheme, modifications have been made to the Legal Profession Uniform Law. Such modifications ensure that professional indemnity insurance provided in accordance with the bill is an approved insurance policy for the purposes of the Legal Profession Uniform Law and limit the exemptions from the requirement to hold professional indemnity insurance that are applicable to national law firms.

Part 8 of the bill relates to fidelity cover. Again, as far as possible, the current arrangements in respect of fidelity cover under the Legal Profession Act 2008 will be retained, together with the Solicitors' Guarantee Fund. A statutory obligation will no longer be imposed upon authorised deposit-taking institutions—ADIs—to pay interest on trust accounts to the Legal Contribution Trust. Instead, interest must be paid in accordance with arrangements made between the ADI and the Legal Contribution Trust.

Part 9 of the bill contains provisions relating to proceedings under the Legal Profession Uniform Law and, in particular, disciplinary proceedings in the State Administrative Tribunal. These provisions complement chapter 5 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law insofar as that chapter relates to professional discipline.

The Legal Practice Board currently maintains registers and publicises disciplinary action under the Legal Profession Act 2008. Part 10 of the bill makes provision for various registers to be kept and maintained by the board and for the publication of information about disciplinary action. These registers are the register of local practising certificates, the register of local registration certificates and the register of disciplinary action. I note that under part 9.3 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law, the Legal Services Council may maintain an Australian legal profession register.

Part 11 of the bill relates to enforcement and contains provisions about search warrants and contraventions of the act or the Legal Profession Uniform Law. This part supports chapter 7 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law.

The Law Society Public Purposes Trust Act 1985 is to be repealed, as set out in part 15 of the bill. However, part 12 of the bill requires an authorised ADI to pay interest on trust accounts to the Law Society and for that money to be applied in accordance with the Law Society Public Purposes Trust deed.

Members may recall that in 2016 the law libraries of the then Department of the Attorney General and the Supreme Court were amalgamated to form one library at the David Malcolm Justice Centre. This law library is owned and operated by the state for the use of the judiciary, local lawyers and other prescribed persons. Part 13 of the bill continues the current arrangements relating to the law library except that the provisions relating to the law library contribution by the board are contained in a separate bill—the Legal Profession Uniform Law Application (Levy) Bill 2021.

Part 14 of the bill contains miscellaneous provisions, including provisions for the making of local regulations, provisions relating to local approved forms under the act, powers of delegation and a statutory review provision.

Part 15 of the bill provides for the repeal of the Legal Profession Act 2008 and the Law Society Public Purposes Trust Act 1985. Parts 16 and 17 of the bill contain transitional provisions and consequential amendments to other acts respectively.

Following on from the Legal Profession Act 2008, this bill continues to set high standards for legal practitioners in Western Australia and promotes the interests of clients. When Western Australia officially joins Victoria and New South Wales in the uniform law scheme, the scheme will operate in respect of 77 per cent of the legal profession in Australia. I acknowledge the support of the legal profession, the Legal Practice Board, the Legal Profession Complaints Committee, the Law Society of Western Australia and the Western Australian Bar Association, together with many other stakeholders who have contributed to the development of this legislation.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr P.J. Rundle**.

LEGAL PROFESSION UNIFORM LAW APPLICATION (LEVY) BILL 2021*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr J.R. Quigley (Attorney General)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Attorney General.

Second Reading

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [1.17 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

In 2016, the Western Australian Legal Profession Act 2008 was amended by the Western Australian Legal Profession Amendment Act 2016 to amalgamate the law library of the Supreme Court with the law library of the then Department of the Attorney General and to impose an obligation upon the Legal Practice Board to pay the state an annual amount as a contribution towards the cost of providing and maintaining the law library. The amalgamated law library is currently situated at the David Malcolm Justice Centre and is operated by the Department of Justice on behalf of the state. The law library is for the use of the judiciary, local lawyers and other prescribed users.

Under clause 243 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Bill 2021, the state may establish and manage a law library for the use of the judiciary, local lawyers and other prescribed persons. A transitional provision contained in clause 325 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Bill 2021 continues the law library established under the Legal Profession Act 2008 as the law library that may be established under clause 243.

Clause 244 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Bill 2021 provides for the board to pay to the state an annual amount as a contribution towards the cost of providing and maintaining the law library. The amount of the contribution will be calculated in accordance with regulations. This contribution will be credited to the law library fund, an agency special purpose account established under the Western Australian Financial Management Act 2006. The funds credited to that account may be used to provide and maintain the law library, to provide library services and for other prescribed purposes relating to the law library.

The Legal Profession Uniform Law Application (Levy) Bill 2021 will amend section 244 of the Western Australian Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2021, once passed, by the addition of a new subsection (9), providing for a levy to be imposed by section 244, or regulations made thereunder. This second and separate bill is necessitated by section 46(7) of the Western Australian Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899, which provides that bills imposing taxation must deal only with the imposition of the tax. Therefore, I commend this bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr P.J. Rundle**.

RAILWAY (BBI RAIL AUS PTY LTD) AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021*Second Reading*

Resumed from 2 June.

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [1.20 pm]: It is actually moments like these that I miss the former member for Nedlands, because if he were here in this capacity, he could regale us with the entire history of the midwest mining region and tell us about all the characters there. Unfortunately, I am deficient in that regard.

Mr R.H. Cook: He would certainly speak at length; there is no doubt about it.

Dr D.J. HONEY: He would speak at length.

Mr P. Papalia: You meant the former!

Dr D.J. HONEY: I said the former, minister! That is true. I apologise for not adding his excellent colour to this discussion. I rise to speak on the Railway (BBI Rail Aus Pty Ltd) Agreement Amendment Bill 2021. I indicate at the outset that I am the lead speaker, I am the only speaker, and I will make a brief contribution to the second reading debate on this bill. I also indicate, and I think the minister is aware, that we will not be seeking to go into consideration in detail on this, so if he has any officers here, they are free to go. I have one question.

Mr R.H. Cook: You have one question, so I will ask them to hang around just in case.

Dr D.J. HONEY: It is not a complex one; I am sure the minister will be on top of it.

As members who have read the bill will know, in 2017, a state agreement was entered into and ratified by the government for the development of the Balla Balla Infrastructure Group's 165-kilometre heavy haulage railway. That railway was primarily for its own iron ore mine, but the intention was that that line could be used to link other mines to Balla Balla Harbour. The agreement was that it should be capable of exporting not less than 50 million tonnes of ore per annum, and, as I understand it, that is the intended output by the Balla Balla Infrastructure Group at its mine. The agreement states that a special railway licence will be granted for 20 years, with a provision for two 10-year extensions, and the government has indicated that significant capital will be expended on, and significant jobs will be generated by, that project. I see that the minister's notes refer to 3 300 jobs during construction and 900 jobs once in operation, so that project will be a very significant contributor to the state economy when it goes ahead.

There are three parts to the bill. One is to extend the deadline from 30 September 2020 to 31 March 2022. It will also give the minister discretion for a further extension of up to 18 months beyond that date, should factors necessitate that. The second part provides that a force majeure may not be claimed by the company for any reason to justify any future delay past those times. The third part, obviously in line with the state government's preference and, I might say, the opposition's preference as well, is to ensure that we have as much local content as we can in these projects; it will expressly recognise that the state may enact general legislation that may substitute for, or modify, clauses in the BBI state agreement relating to local participation.

This is not a controversial bill in any sense whatsoever; it will simply allow the continuation of an existing state agreement. I thank the minister for the briefing that his officers provided. Those officers were able to confirm that this is not a speculative project, which has been the issue, with some recent contention between the state government and Mr Palmer. This project is a substantive project. The proponents have made very serious efforts to progress this project. They have been obtaining the appropriate approvals to progress the project. It was indicated that issues around the COVID-19 pandemic have delayed the progress of the project, but otherwise it is progressing apace. I was also reassured that this project would be financially sound purely on the basis of the ore mined by BBI and that additional ore being transported on this rail line would simply improve the economics of the project. Hence, in all regards, this seems to be an appropriate bill. It is a good project. The proponents are working in good faith to develop this project as quickly as they can. As such, this bill has the opposition's full support.

Mr R.H. Cook: What was the question?

Dr D.J. HONEY: Sorry, minister. And, I should say, for the purposes of *Hansard*, I have one question; thank you, minister. My question is on clause 2(5) of the schedule, which seeks to insert after clause 19(4) a new subclause that refers to the state's right to enact general legislation to include local participation. I was simply interested in what form the minister anticipated that might take. I am not seeking any sort of commitment on it; I was just interested in what form that might take. Clearly, local participation is a key matter for this state. Recently, I was looking at an article that stated that Fortescue Metals Group has just completed or at least is completing a major project in the north of the state; in fact, the project has a bridge that I understand includes the largest steel girders ever built for such a bridge. The minister will be very pleased; they were constructed in his own electorate.

Mr R.H. Cook: Excellent.

Dr D.J. HONEY: It indicates that we have serious and substantial manufacturing and construction capacity in this state. As I say, we welcome any greater participation by Western Australian companies in this project that the government can extract. I commend the bill to the house.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade) [1.28 pm] — in reply: I am happy to respond to the bevy of speakers who have spoken on the Railway (BBI Rail Aus Pty Ltd) Agreement Amendment Bill 2021! I thank all members for their interest and participation in this debate, lengthy though it may be. For those who are fairly new to this place, this legislation is unique to Western Australia in that we ensure that large infrastructure and resource projects are undertaken under the auspices of state agreement acts. They are a very important part of the development of the state, particularly in the north west, because they allow for clarity and provide certainty to the proponents to make sure that all their needs—whether around tenure or access to infrastructure, power and so on—are provided for through an act of Parliament. My understanding is that this is a unique feature of our state, and it has been going on for some time. I do not know whether the first state agreement was around the BP Kwinana refinery, but I certainly know that the organisation the member for Cottesloe used to be involved in, Alcoa, has a very substantial state agreement. They are not for just remote areas but for any complex resource projects.

Dr D.J. Honey: As you would well understand from the history, I think our state agreements are pretty well the envy of the world and one of the reasons we have such a substantial resources industry in this state. The agreements give great assurance to the community, to government and to the proponent.

Mr R.H. COOK: That is right; they provide the opportunity for companies' rights and interests to be clearly spelt out in the context of a project. I think, again, of the member for Cottesloe's old outfit at Alcoa, which has pipelines and easements going across roads and different tenures and interacting with other businesses and aspects of the metropolitan area. State agreements are really important in providing guidance around these complex projects. They also provide the opportunity for this state to be a key partner with proponents to make sure they can undertake a range of developments that are in the interests of the state. It might be around the development of a township to support a major project or in relation to what the member has pointed to here, in terms of other interests that the state has. As the member correctly pointed out, part of the agreement with BBI in this context is that, by way of act or other law, the state may vary the agreement for future general legislation to enhance local participation and procurement. This may apply to the railway project under the BBI state agreement in substitution for or in modification of existing provisions of the state agreement relating to local participation. In response to the member's question, this is, essentially, the local—the name of the act has just gone completely out of my head!

Ms S.F. McGurk: WA jobs act?

Mr R.H. COOK: The Western Australian Jobs Act. Mercifully, Hansard will be kind to me on that particular stumble. The Western Australian Jobs Act places an obligation on proponents to make provision for local participation by Western Australians in jobs and the procurement of contracts that extend from the project. The insertion of this clause is by agreement with the proponent and simply makes sure that the state's interests are contemporised, as we have placed a very strong emphasis around local participation in both jobs and procurement. It is good that that agreement has been made. It is important, because we want to make sure that Western Australian workers, families and communities are the key beneficiaries of these great developments. As the member for Cottesloe said, 900 jobs are contemplated in the context of this state agreement, so it is not insignificant and will provide a very important opportunity for the continued development of our great resources in the Pilbara.

As the member said, the Railway (BBI Rail Aus Pty Ltd) Agreement Act 2017 was entered into by the state and ratified by Parliament to facilitate the development by the Balla Balla Infrastructure Group of a 165-kilometre heavy haulage railway that will link a number of iron ore deposits, known as the Pilbara iron ore project, to a transshipment port to be constructed at Balla Balla Harbour. As the member observed, it is also an opportunity to incorporate other resource projects to utilise this important piece of infrastructure. Nowadays, the Pilbara is, of course, crisscrossed by a range of road and rail projects to facilitate these great mining operations. The state agreement provides an important way to define the rights and interests of all those proponents to make sure that the proper frameworks and governance are in place. This will ensure that we can continue to develop the state by providing smooth pathways for future projects to take hold, but without unnecessarily impacting upon projects that are already in operation. This comes after extensive negotiation between the state and the proponents. I thank the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation for the work it has done in negotiating the way forward on this matter. My participation in this has obviously been extensive—I have second read the bill, which is about it! Negotiations were obviously undertaken by the previous Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade, and I am very fortunate at this point to see this bill go through with the unanimous endorsement of all parties. That is another feature of state agreement acts. Although state agreements are put under stringent scrutiny by the opposition to make sure Western Australian community interests are protected, they generally go through with bipartisan support. That is obviously an important feature of state agreements.

This bill was introduced in the last Parliament but did not manage to make its way through the Parliament, so it is very good that we can now see the conclusion of this legislation. It will go forthwith to the other place, where I am hoping it will have an equally speedy passage and, in doing so, we will see this project go forward. I think it is important for members to note that through these state agreement acts, we have an opportunity to make sure that we can continue to be an active partner in these projects, in both performance and quantity. By that I mean we have an opportunity to put performance criteria around these companies to ensure they meet their obligations to the Western Australian community and the economy. That is an important way that we can continue to benefit from them. We have an opportunity to specify how they will undertake their projects, where they will undertake them and the quantities that are related to them. These are important tools for the state government to manage to ensure that the Western Australian community benefits from these projects. Any mechanism that seeks to curtail the state's role in these things would obviously be very detrimental to our state. State agreements have thrived under both coalition and Labor governments, and they should continue to be a hallmark and a pillar of the economic prosperity of Western Australia.

I want to thank members opposite for their support for this bill. It is not the largest of the state agreement acts that we will be considering in this place over the course of this government, but it is an important one that will see the ongoing development of the great north west. In doing so, I think we all acknowledge that Western Australians everywhere benefit from these projects, most of which most Western Australians will never see. We have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of a thriving resources industry but often do not appreciate, or never see firsthand, just what goes on in the north west—the Pilbara, the Kimberley and the midwest—with these great resource projects, and that is a pity in some respects. It is also a pity that those on the other side of the country do not appreciate just how much these projects underpin the economic prosperity of not only Western Australia but also the country as a whole. We constantly hear from those on the eastern seaboard about the importance of Sydney, Victoria and New South Wales and national programs that do not work anywhere west of Geelong. However, I think it is important that Australians everywhere note just how important these projects are and the important role that state agreements play in making sure that we continue to secure the prosperity and economic interests of the state.

I thank members for their support for the bill. This has been a brief but important debate, and I look forward to the speedy passage of this bill through the other place.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.]

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Mr R.H. Cook (Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade)**, and transmitted to the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT (SAFE ACCESS ZONES) BILL 2021*Second Reading*

Resumed from 26 May.

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) [1.40 pm]: I rise as the lead speaker for the opposition and the shadow spokesperson for health to speak on the Public Health Amendment (Safe Access Zones) Bill 2021. I appreciate that this bill was introduced in Parliament last year. The position of the alliance and the state Parliamentary Liberal Party is consistent with last year and will allow for a conscience vote on this bill. My position on this bill has not changed; I support the bill. A great body of work has been undertaken to get to this place. I take the opportunity to thank the advisers, who have always made themselves available, and also those from the Department of Health who have undertaken a significant body of work to prepare the department's recommendations, a product of the public consultation that was undertaken, and produce the Public Health Amendment (Safe Access Zones) Bill 2021. As I stated, a significant body of work was undertaken with a public consultation period that resulted in about 4 000 responses. The Department of Health put together a report that was published on its website last year. It considered the recommendations and put forward two options. The first option was to maintain the status quo, which would mean that abortion clinics would be responsible for managing security and the challenges faced at these clinics with the presence of anti-abortion protesters or people approaching the women as they go to the clinic. The second option was to legislate for the provision of a safe access zone, which has resulted in the bill that we are currently debating.

A couple of changes have happened since this bill was first proposed last year. The first is that we are now the only state that has yet to implement such legislation. I understand that South Australia has now passed similar legislation that was in the throes of being implemented when this bill was proposed late last year. This bill also contains a review clause, which will consider the legislation five years after its introduction. This bill brings the legislation in line with other jurisdictions around the country. As I stated, over 4 000 public submissions were received on this legislation, which produced a great body of work. I appreciate that about 70 per cent of respondents supported this bill, which seeks to support an individual's rights and access when they undertake a lawful activity. I will be supporting this bill as I believe that women who attend abortion clinics to undertake what is a legal procedure deserve to do so with privacy and respect. According to Marie Stopes Australia, each year picketers spend approximately 2 295 hours outside the Marie Stopes clinic in Midland. In 2018, the clinic spent more than \$6 000 on upgrading its facility with security cameras and protective measures for staff and clients. Each week, the staff provides support to clients who are distressed by the presence of the picketers outside their clinic.

In consideration of this bill, I have been in contact with those who have raised concerns about it. I have also been approached by, and have spoken with, people who have provided what they believe to be kerbside counselling. I appreciate that they feel that they are supporting these vulnerable women at this time, but I do not believe that this is the place to do so. People have a right to protest and object, but the place to do that is not outside the front of an abortion clinic. It is evident that the existing laws inadequately address the confrontation experienced by women accessing these services, especially vulnerable young women, and I appreciate the mental anguish that many of those women who approach the clinics go through at the time. To be approached by others oversteps an acceptable boundary. This bill accepts and respects the rights of women to access a medical service. It allows women to access reproductive health service facilities safely and with dignity, which they have every right to do. It also respects and protects the workers at these clinics from levels of harassment, obstruction and intimidation. These people turn up to work each day just to do their job and they have every right to do so.

As I stated earlier, Western Australia is the only state yet to bring in such legislation. The safe access zone will provide a 150-metre safety bubble around the clinics. It proposes to not only stop people from approaching and confronting women who want to undertake an abortion at a clinic, or the staff who work there, but also restrict these people from distributing published material. It should be remembered that this bill will neither prohibit protesting nor limit free speech in any way. There are many avenues to do that. People who feel passionate about any issue have every opportunity to do so, and we, as members of Parliament, are able to hear concerns in this place and outside Parliament. This bill seeks to respect the rights of individuals to undertake a lawful activity and respect the rights of workers to support them in that process.

This legislation is not about the legality or illegality of abortion—that debate has well and truly happened and that time has passed. This legislation is about the establishment of, and support for, a woman's right to be in charge of her own body, and that is an outcome that we must respect.

I appreciate that similar legislation in Victoria has been challenged in the High Court. The High Court took the position that such legislation should be supported. With those few words, I support this piece of legislation that has been presented. I understand that there will be a conscience vote and other speakers will speak on this bill today, so I will leave my comments there.

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Women's Interests) [1.51 pm]: I am very happy to have the opportunity to speak to the Public Health Amendment (Safe Access Zones) Bill 2021, as I did when it was introduced

during the last Parliament. I know that the bill has been very widely supported by women who are aware of the issues of providing safe access to very personal services for some women and their partners. They want to know that those services not only are physically accessible and affordable, but also will be able to be accessed with dignity. Women want to know that when they go to access those services, the service providers have the expertise needed, whether it is for advice about an unwanted pregnancy, contraception, family planning, a vasectomy for their partners or termination services.

As the member for Vasse pointed out, we are now the last state to legislate for safe access zones, putting beyond doubt the intent of this government, on behalf of the community, for anyone to be able to access services at a termination clinic—including, as I said, the variety of services available there—free from intimidation or being approached by members of the public. That is important to us.

It was interesting to look at the debate that occurred in the last Parliament on this matter. I remember that one of the people who spoke after I did was the now Leader of the Liberal Party, David Honey. I was a little surprised by his contribution to the debate at the time. First, he said that we had introduced the bill simply as a stunt, which I know was an offensive allegation for me and, I imagine, the Minister for Health. A large number of people responded to the survey that the member for Vasse referred to. Thousands of people responded to the survey that the Department of Health put out on the issue and the vast majority—I think over 70 per cent—said that they were in favour of safe access zones. Therefore, to say that the introduction of the bill by the previous McGowan government was a stunt says more about the member for Cottesloe and speaks to—what has been observed by others—his tin ear to understanding the intent of those around him.

On 11 November last year in the debate on this bill, David Honey said —

I understand in great detail the intent of this bill.

He went on to quote the purpose of the bill —

- (a) to provide for safe access zones around premises at which abortions are provided so as to protect the safety and wellbeing, and respect the privacy and dignity, of —
 - (i) persons accessing the services provided at those premises; and
 - (ii) employees and other persons who need to access those premises in the course of their duties and responsibilities;
- and
- (b) to prohibit publication and distribution of certain recordings.

That was what the member for Cottesloe read out to be the purpose of the bill. He went on to talk about the material that would be prohibited to be distributed within 150 metres of the services. Basically, he said—I will paraphrase him—that he did not think that many people would object to the broad intent of the bill. But then he went on to say —

I do not believe that any person in this place believes that it is appropriate for women using these services to be subject to harassment or vilification. Some people in this place would know that some community groups are concerned that not all women accessing abortion clinics and hospitals are doing so of their own free will. They are concerned that some women have been subject to harassment by their partner, their family and even their friends. They are concerned that some women may be accessing the services because they do not know how they will be supported during pregnancy or after the child is born.

The member for Cottesloe then gave an example and said that, maybe, it was extreme, but it illustrated his point. He referred to an article published in the *Daily Mail Australia* in March 2017, which refers to people who were pressured into having abortions. He quoted a number of examples from this article —

... **Former girlfriend ... ‘was paid \$50,000 to get an abortion ...**

- **The 24-year-old woman fell pregnant while dating ...**
- **A contract was drawn-up stating the pregnancy was to be terminated**

The member for Cottesloe talked about this being an example of someone being coerced into having an abortion for \$50 000. He then said —

I fully understand that this is an extreme example. However, I have heard other stories about women who felt that they were subject to extreme pressure by their families ... or their partner to terminate a pregnancy. As I have indicated already, I strongly agree with the contention that women should have safe access to abortion services and be free from harassment. My key concern with the bill is what may be seen to be, to quote the phrase in proposed section 202P ... of the bill, “reasonably likely to cause distress or anxiety”.

The member for Cottesloe then said —

That is a very broad description that could encompass a very wide set of behaviours. As I have indicated, I have no sympathy for people who deliberately try to impede or cause distress or anxiety to women accessing abortion services. The key question is: does that mean that there can be no interaction with a woman accessing the service?

A concern has been expressed to me by a Christian organisation that the very broad scope of this bill will unfairly impede the work that it does to assist women who may be accessing an abortion service but who are doing so because they are suffering from undue pressure or financial distress. One such group is 40 Weeks to Life.

He described them as “well-meaning people”. He continued —

Members of this group conduct prayer vigils outside the clinics and also hand out brochures to women attending the clinics, offering help and support. They claim that since 2012 at least 55 women have accepted their offer for help and went on to have their baby. They believe that 55 people are alive today because of their action.

...

But I also believe that it is fair that people with good intent should have the opportunity to politely offer to help someone who is accessing those services because of extreme pressure or financial distress.

... I appreciate that there will be a small number ... but some women are subject to enormous duress and pressure from their partners and may be suffering extreme financial distress and access the service only because of that and not because they, in fact, wish to terminate the pregnancy. But I would like to know what other avenues will be provided to ensure that all the women who access these services are doing so of their free will?

One of the things that is very telling about the member for Cottesloe’s endorsement of the Christian groups that have been protesting relentlessly outside termination clinics is his inability to understand the distress and anxiety they cause clients and staff who are accessing or working in those clinics—extreme distress and anxiety. It also goes to his lack of understanding of what we can expect from protest groups outside those clinics. Do they have any expertise?

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 1943.]

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

SAFEWA APP — ACCESS — POLICE INVESTIGATION

275. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

I refer to information revealed today in the Legislative Council’s Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations regarding who was aware of the SafeWA data access by WA Police and when. Given the Chief Health Officer has confirmed that he was aware of the SafeWA access in early January this year and the director general of his department weeks later on 25 February, does the minister maintain that he was not aware until 31 March, two months after the Chief Health Officer and four months after the event?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Yes.

SAFEWA APP — ACCESS — POLICE INVESTIGATION

276. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. Why has there been such a failure in communication between the minister and the top officers of his department? This was critical information that I suspect was not being shared due to the election campaign.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

At all times the Department of Health and the WA Police Force work closely together during this COVID-19 pandemic, and have done a remarkable job. I thank them for all their incredibly hard work. A lot of discussions go on in the background to continue to facilitate the mission of keeping Western Australians safe. But the member is quite correct; there was something going on at that time, and, as she says, it was the election campaign. We were in caretaker mode —

Ms M.J. Davies: You were meeting with them regularly.

Mr R.H. COOK: That is right. We met regularly, but obviously we met only for the purposes of continuing to conduct meetings of the emergency management team and to make decisions with regard to COVID-19 or other related matters, which were quite appropriately dealt with within and between departments.

GST DISTRIBUTION

277. Ms C.M. COLLINS to the Premier:

I refer to the hard-fought efforts of the McGowan Labor government to finally secure a fairer share of GST to Western Australia.

- (1) Can the Premier update the house on the growing campaign by other states to overturn the fair and equitable GST deal that this government secured for WA?
- (2) Can the Premier outline to the house how this government's record of responsible financial management compares with that of other states, in particular, New South Wales?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Hillarys for the question.

- (1)–(2) It is true that in 2018 we managed to secure a better arrangement on the GST distribution for Western Australia that ensured that we got a minimum of 70¢ in every dollar we put in. We fixed the flawed deal that was entered into by the Liberals and Nationals in 1999, state and federal, that so badly damaged Western Australia's finances. The deal that was entered into by the Liberals and Nationals meant that our share hit 30¢ in the dollar and stayed below 38 per cent from 2012–13 onwards. I was very pleased that this government was able to secure a better deal. Under the deal, we still receive only 70¢ in every dollar we put in. At this point in time, New South Wales receives 96¢ for every dollar that it puts in. I find it very galling and disturbing that the New South Wales government is now complaining and leading the charge in trying to overturn Western Australia's fair share. It said in its budget release yesterday that it will continue to advocate for overturning the deal. I can confirm, Madam Speaker, that it does that regularly in many of the meetings that I am involved in. The Berejiklian–Barilaro government is undertaking that advocacy to overturn the GST arrangements.

The first claim that the New South Wales government makes is that the deal means that other states are subsidising Western Australia. Give me a break! According to the latest data, in 2018–19 Western Australia's net contribution to the national revenue of the country—that put in versus what we get back—was around \$17.4 billion that we subsidised the other states. Per capita, that was \$6 600 per Western Australian. That is five times the net contribution of what New South Wales puts in and 100 times the net contribution of what Victoria puts in. That means that since 1986, Western Australia's total net fiscal contribution has been more than \$257 billion. We have provided \$257 billion. Throughout the pandemic, of course, we have been the backbone of the nation's economy. We poured billions of dollars into federal coffers and ensured that other states were the beneficiaries of all that effort on the part of the state.

The second claim by New South Wales is that it “is inequitable and unfair to other states” that GST revenue is directed to Western Australia when Western Australia is running a surplus. Essentially, because of this government's strong financial management, we should be penalised. That is the argument it is putting. This is from the New South Wales state government: in 2017–18, it had negative net debt. It sold off all its assets, which meant it had negative net debt four years ago. It is now projected to take that out to \$103 billion. It sold all its assets, went down to less than zero debt—in fact, it was in positive territory—and now it is going to \$103 billion. Instead of taking responsibility and dealing with it, it blames Western Australia. New South Wales should stop trying to rob our state and actually look after its own budget.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Here we have one, Madam Speaker—Mr Barilaro and Mr Joyce's friend over there; the National Party member, John Barilaro and Barnaby Joyce's mate over there! He conducts himself in a very similar way to both those gentlemen.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I ask you to stop interjecting, please.

Mr M. McGOWAN: We will continue to take up the case against New South Wales and other states that are continuing to undermine the GST arrangement that we secured on behalf of the people of Western Australia, and we will continue to fight them.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE — SERVICE DELIVERY

278. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Standing Committee on Public Administration's inquiry into the delivery of ambulance services in WA. Why is the government considering terminating the ambulance contract with St John Ambulance when ambulance ramping is at record highs, code yellows are being called on a daily basis and our health system is in crisis?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

The premise of the question is just incorrect.

Ms L. Mettam: You don't consider their reports?

Mr R.H. COOK: Is the member telling me that we should not consider a report from one of the parliamentary committees?

Ms L. Mettam: Yes, a Labor-stacked committee.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: There we go, Madam Speaker—the pathetic depths to which they stoop on the other side. An independent parliamentary committee is undertaking —

Ms L. Mettam: Independent!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, I caution you about reflecting on the other house, which is contrary to the standing orders. Minister for Health.

Mr R.H. COOK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It was a ridiculous suggestion and totally inappropriate to reflect on a parliamentary committee in that way—a committee that I note the member described as “Labor-stacked”, as though to have a majority in any committee is to somehow stack it. This is one of the cornerstones of our democracy, member for Vasse. If you do not understand that tenet, I am not quite sure what you are doing in this place in the first place!

St John Ambulance runs an outstanding ambulance service on behalf of the people of Western Australia. We have the best ambulance response times of any state in Australia. St John does an extraordinary job. It is not unusual for an inquiry to be undertaken into these matters and, if any great learnings come out of it, obviously any government would take notice of them. Indeed, a previous government undertook an inquiry into St John Ambulance—the previous Liberal government, under Hon Kim Hames, in October 2009.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE — SERVICE DELIVERY

279. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister confirm that any moves to terminate the St John Ambulance contract would simply be his government looking for ways to bury unfavourable health statistics?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

No.

WESTPORT — FUTURE OF FREMANTLE PLANNING COMMITTEE

280. Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY to the Minister for Ports:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to a new container port for Perth that will create jobs, meet our long-term trade needs and get trucks off suburban roads in my electorate. Can the minister outline to the house how this government's planning for Westport will also look at future economic development opportunities for the future of Fremantle, and can the minister advise the house how this government's responsible, sustainable and job-creating plan compares with the efforts of the Liberal and National Parties?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for the question. Of course, the McGowan government is getting on with the job of planning and developing a new port in Kwinana and also developing a vision and a future for Fremantle. At the 2017 election, we set forward an agenda to not build Roe 8–9 and to build a new container port, plus also now to look at the vision for Fremantle. Member for Bicton, I am happy to announce that we are establishing a new Future of Fremantle Planning Committee. That committee will look at how Fremantle should look into the future. We have already made some significant decisions. For example, the A-shed will be redeveloped into a new brewery and, of course, a new film studio will be located in that area. But we know that a lot of stakeholders, industry groups, the community, the council and of course the local members want to be involved in developing a vision for the future.

Of course, we are getting on with the job and delivering our commitments. Last night, we saw yet again a demonstration of how pathetic the Liberal Party is on this issue in this state. Let me go through the record. The Liberal Party was in government for eight and a half years, but it could not deliver Roe 8–9. Then, in opposition, it could not even commit to Roe 8–9, even though it was a core election commitment. It could not commit enough funding to build even one-third of Roe 8–9. Last night in this house, on what was the biggest election battle in both 2017 and 2019, the opposition could not even vote against the Beelihar wetlands bill! The Liberal–National Parties did not vote against the Beelihar wetlands bill, the one that they were absolutely protesting against. Do members know

what? There was no-one here! There was one member, the member for Cottesloe. He was outside the chamber for a bit, which is fair enough, and then he sat in the corner. When we got to the second reading, third reading and consideration in detail stages of the bill, the opposition did not vote against the bill. It was the biggest issue that the Liberal and National Parties—the Liberal Party in particular—had raised and the opposition could not be bothered to turn up for a couple of hours of debate on a Tuesday night. The member for Vasse, who was the spokesperson against the Beelihar wetlands bill—“Honk for Roe 8”—could not be bothered to sit in the chamber and debate and vote against the bill. Yet again, this demonstrates just how lazy this opposition is. I am glad opposition members did not vote against the bill, but members of either the Liberal or National Parties cannot now say anything about Roe 8–9 because they could not —

Dr D.J. Honey: Just wait!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Just wait?

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I was waiting last night for a division on the bill and I got nothing, members. I am glad that the member for Cottesloe interjected. Many people were in the chamber last night; it was an extremely good night here in this chamber.

Dr D.J. Honey: A bigger percentage of our members were here than you had!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I actually doubt that. If only there had been a division, we could count back, but we did not have a division.

Of course, what we outlined, which the member for Cockburn also outlined, was that when the member for Cottesloe was in charge of the Kwinana Industries Council, its position paper and letters all claimed that the new port in Kwinana was a must for economic development in Western Australia. It was a must!

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the House, it would be great if you could set an example.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: In a letter from the Kwinana Industries Council to the Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References in 2015, when the member for Cottesloe was actually the president of the Kwinana Industries Council, he said —

Over many years there has been bipartisan agreement over successive governments that there needs to be an Outer Harbour built in Cockburn Sound adjacent to the KIA, the State’s premier industrial area.

Dr D.J. Honey: Zinger!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: A zinger? I thought it was pretty good. The member is now claiming that there is no way Cockburn Sound should be the home of the new container port. For year after year when he was president of the Kwinana Industries Council, he was demanding a new port in Kwinana. That is pretty good, member for Cottesloe. I thank him for turning up last night because the person next to him, who was the spokesperson against this bill during the election campaign, could not be bothered, and members of the National Party, who have also argued for Roe 8–9 and against the Beelihar wetlands, also could not be bothered to turn up.

INDIA — TRADE COMMISSIONER

281. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:

Given that India has been identified as the largest market for export growth from Western Australia, why has the minister removed the trade commissioner permanently based in India and replaced them with a commissioner who covers all of the Middle East and Africa, the Persian Gulf and India, and who is now fly-in fly-out to India from Dubai?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

As the member would be aware, as a result of some events that took place in Japan, the government undertook an extensive review of all our trade commissions. We could go into some detail, member, about those events in Japan, but clearly they involved some cultural immersion —

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: — in which a member of Parliament soaked up the cultural experience that Japan had to offer.

Mr P. Papalia: They immersed themselves.

Mr R.H. COOK: Indeed, they immersed themselves and slid right across the details of what they could find out by working very closely with the trade commissioner in Japan!

Obviously, an extensive review of our trade missions was undertaken by the government in its first term. A range of observations came out of that. One was that we needed to make sure that our trade missions undertook a much more proactive and strategic approach to how we address issues of trade, particularly in the South-East Asian market,

and that we had an opportunity to pivot out of longstanding arrangements to ensure that we could undertake strategic activities in relation to emerging markets. For that particular reason, under the previous McGowan Labor government, we put those changes in place. There has been some hindrance in how we see this new model working. That is fundamentally because many of our trade commissioners are not able to travel overseas, for a whole range of reasons, which will be obvious to one and all.

In relation to how the system works, in the coming months and years we will see just how important these new arrangements are. We have a fresh team of energised, intelligent, qualified and strategic-thinking trade commissioners who I am sure will do this state proud and ensure that we can continue our strong economic relationship with West Asia and South-East Asia.

INDIA — TRADE COMMISSIONER

282. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:

I have a supplementary question. I think the minister is aware that Japan is quite some distance from India. Is he also aware that Western Australia's reputation —

Mr D.J. Kelly: There's a Liberal Party connection!

Dr D.J. HONEY: I care about trade with India.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water, please do not interject.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I care about trade with India.

Is the minister also aware that Western Australia's reputation has been significantly impacted across Asia because of his government's decision to remove the permanent commissioners from our key markets, especially from our friends and allies in India, South Korea and Indonesia?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

We have the strongest trade figures in history with Asia. We have very strong relationships, both cultural and economic, right across the region as a result of the activities of this government. Certainly before COVID-19 hit, we had strong engagement right across the Indian market. I undertook a mission, I think it was in 2018, and I see the former Minister for Tourism undertook four missions and I know the Premier himself undertook missions. I remember back in 2018, the trade mission that I undertook was frenetic because it had been so long since a state government minister had been to India to engage with people face to face. There was a waitlist as long as my arm of organisations and governments, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, that we needed to meet.

I do not think the member should be coming into this chamber on behalf of his group to talk about engagement with South-East Asia and West Asia.

CORONAVIRUS — VACCINATIONS — JOONDALUP

283. Ms M.M. QUIRK to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the state government's efforts in getting as many Western Australians as possible vaccinated against COVID-19. Can the versatile minister update the house on the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination program and outline the arrangements that are now in place at the Lakeside Joondalup Community Vaccination Clinic and what this means for those in my electorate and across the northern suburbs?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for her question. She is one of the great group of northern suburbs members who are strongly advocating for their communities. It is a really important question. The events in Victoria and, in particular, New South Wales remind us that COVID-19 is an ever-present danger to our community and the only way we can get through this global pandemic is if we take the opportunity to get vaccinated when we are due. That is the reason I was delighted to be with some members earlier in the week at the Lakeside Joondalup Community Vaccination Clinic. I note that that clinic is now offering the Pfizer vaccine to eligible people, which includes those aged 50 to 59 years. Demand at the Joondalup clinic has been very strong. We were pleased to see that more than 44 000 people have booked their vaccinations at this centre. I was particularly pleased to be there with the member for Kingsley, who rolled up her sleeve for WA and made sure that she was part of the growing cohort of people in the community who are getting themselves vaccinated. The clinic has the capacity to vaccinate 5 800 people a week. We aim to boost access to vaccination for people living in the northern suburbs. We now have a clinic operating in Claremont, we have the clinic in Kwinana which yesterday had queues right out the door and, as I said, the Joondalup clinic is running red hot.

Those aged 30 to 39 years who have made bookings at our state-run clinics will be vaccinated. Bookings for this cohort have been extremely high—appointments are already booked out until August. People aged 30 to 39 who have not yet made a booking are encouraged to do so at rollup.wa.gov.au. They need to register their details, then they will enter a virtual waiting room and be contacted as soon as more Pfizer supplies are available from the

commonwealth. Pfizer appointments will be offered Sunday to Wednesday each week in the community vaccination clinic in the west mall of Lakeside Joondalup Shopping City. Community members aged 60 years and over who are eligible for the AstraZeneca vaccine can book their appointments for Thursday through to Saturday. If people have already received the AstraZeneca vaccine, like the Premier and I, please note that the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation—ATAGI, as it is colloquially referred to—advises that it is very safe to receive a second AstraZeneca vaccine.

I am very proud to say that yesterday was a record in our clinics so far, with 6 345 people getting themselves vaccinated. That now means that Department of Health staff have administered more than 254 000 COVID-19 vaccinations right across Western Australia. This is in addition to our GP networks that are undertaking this task and the commonwealth-funded respiratory clinics.

The message to everyone is: if you have not been vaccinated, please book your appointment today and roll up for WA.

MARINE FINFISH NURSERY — GERALDTON

284. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the finfish nursery project in Geraldton, which was a commitment announced in 2019.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the project has been delayed indefinitely due to the mismanagement by both of the former fisheries ministers in this house, who have left the minister to mop up the mess?
- (2) What is the minister doing to get the project back online?

Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) We are continuing to work to make sure that the project is delivered.

MARINE FINFISH NURSERY — GERALDTON

285. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Fisheries:

I have a supplementary question. I am sure that the people of the midwest would want a further explanation than the minister's very short statement. Exactly what measures is the minister taking to ensure that this project goes ahead so that these jobs can be created and this industry kickstarted in the region?

The SPEAKER: Minister for Fisheries, that was a little more of a statement, but the option is for you to respond.

Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:

I am very happy to respond. The department continues to work on that project. There is a partnership, of course, with the private sector, Huon Aquaculture in Tasmania. We will continue to work on it. The project was delayed as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that there are some engineering issues associated with the intake and offtake pipework for the nursery, but we will continue to work on it and make announcements in due course.

HOMELESSNESS — LOTTERYWEST SUPPORT

286. Mr P. LILBURNE to the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's significant support for community organisations and helping people in need of emergency assistance.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how support provided by Lotterywest is assisting people experiencing homelessness in Perth?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how this assistance is supporting those sleeping rough to access supports and services to transition out of homelessness?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) All members are hopefully aware that in 2020, as a result of the pandemic, a lot of the government's financial resources were dedicated to make sure that they were going to where they were really needed. That was certainly the case with Lotterywest. It set aside money from lotteries to make sure it would be targeted to people in need as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Late last week, I was very pleased to go out to Tranby, run by Uniting WA in East Perth. It is a day centre available for people who require a meal, might need a shower, might need to be linked up with services to know where to go to ensure their income is sorted or to know how to get onto the public housing waitlist, or where to get some financial counselling and the like. The Premier, the member for Perth and I went out to Tranby in late 2019 to look at the centre. Lotterywest was able to allocate \$1.7 million to Uniting WA for the refurb of Tranby. It has now been opened. It is a fantastic new facility that really is fit for purpose.

It is warm and welcoming, and it provides an excellent entry point for people to be linked in with the services they need. While I was at Tranby, I met Kevin, who was previously a client of Uniting WA. He was showing off the industrial kitchen there. They produce breakfasts and lunches there, but also at times they get corporate groups in who might spend some time producing a meal for people as part of their corporate “givings”. Also, it was good to meet some of the financial counsellors that were there. My electorate office is next to Uniting WA in Fremantle, so I know some of those staff. It was good to bump into them again. Thanks to Amanda Hunt, who is the CEO of Uniting WA, and also to Susan Hunt, who is the head of Lotterywest and was also at the event.

There is a lot to do with regard to meeting the needs of people who are homeless and people who are vulnerable, but I know in partnership with community sector organisations like Uniting WA, and with those sorts of facilities, we are in a good position to make sure that people can get the assistance they need.

CARNARVON FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS — FLOOD FUND

287. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier’s promise in February 2021 that a re-elected McGowan Labor government would move to immediately establish a \$1 million fund to support fruit and vegetable growers in Carnarvon impacted by recent flooding. Given that the Minister for Agriculture and Food said yesterday that a flood fund has now been elevated to priority status, why was this not considered a priority previously, given that growers are already halfway through their season?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The floods that occurred in Carnarvon were obviously very difficult and devastating for some farmers in that community. I went and visited the day after, or the day after that, and saw some of the results of the flooding that occurred. That was worse than in past years. The total volume of the soil that was lost is estimated to be about 43 700 cubic metres. We made a commitment of \$1 million during the election campaign in order to assist in dealing with that. There has been some extensive effort to ensure that we could provide additional soil back onto some of the affected properties. An assessment was made to identify whether there were any small pits from mining leases that could be accessed quickly. Suitable soil was identified on one active lease operated by a local provider with capacity to deliver. However, it turned out that that was a sacred site for the local Aboriginal people; therefore, significant heritage issues prevented that soil being used.

Two sites have now been identified as preferred sources of soil on land designated for the Gascoyne food bowl project. Both blocks are available and both are crown land. The department is progressing the regulatory approvals required before accessing the soil. The department will identify a preferred local provider to mine and supply the soil through a request that will be released later this week, I am advised. We anticipate there will be access to suitable soil within two to three weeks.

CARNARVON FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS — FLOOD FUND

288. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Will the Premier give growers in Carnarvon an ironclad commitment that the flood fund he promised will flow to the community within the next two weeks, as stated by the Minister for Agriculture and Food, six months after the flood damage occurred?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

To the best of my recollection, the floods occurred in February and it is now June. But in any event, notwithstanding the inability of the member to count, as I said we have allocated the money. We have been working to provide the soil. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development anticipates suitable soil will be available within the next two to three weeks.

DIGITAL STRATEGY FOR THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT 2021–2025

289. Mr G. BAKER to the Minister for Innovation and ICT:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government’s ongoing efforts to improve the delivery of services to the Western Australian community and Western Australian businesses. Can the minister outline to the house how the new whole-of-government digital strategy will help drive better service delivery, reduce the regulatory burden on businesses and make it easier for Western Australians to engage government?

Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:

I am delighted with that question and I thank the member for South Perth for his great interest in all things technology and online. Thank you.

The digital economy is an exciting field. The digital world is growing exponentially with new advances in technology daily. Digital technology is fundamentally changing the way that citizens relate to government. We understand on

this side of the house that any successful digital strategy must be centred on the needs of people, communities and businesses. It is about putting people first. The McGowan government's digital strategy will address four strategic priorities: better services; informed decision-making; safety and security; and digital inclusivity.

The first of those strategic priorities, better services, is focused on ensuring people and businesses can make the most of their transactions with the WA government online. It will integrate government services so that Western Australians can interact with one government agency rather than multiple agencies. People will soon be able to securely log on to the WA gov portal and access government services in one safe place. It is aimed to put people and businesses at the centre of our online strategy by designing an online presence built around the needs of people and businesses. Smarter services will be driven by data insights enabling the WA public sector to evaluate how effectively daily operations are servicing Western Australians. We will continue to listen and learn from citizens and industry, as this government has always done, and make it easier for them to communicate with us. It will also mean that our digital strategy will ensure decisions made by the state government are backed by data. Using data to inform our decisions will optimise outcomes and enable us to achieve better outcomes.

We also understand that data protection is crucial in the current environment in which cyber attacks are being experienced around the world in unprecedented quantities. The scale of cyber attacks means that we have to act. The strategy focuses on protecting our systems and online services from cyber attacks and will strengthen the state government's capability to detect and prevent such attacks. Initiatives under the strategy will include a cybersecurity incident reporting portal that will allow agencies to report cyberthreats and help in the coordination for a united government response, as well as stronger privacy protections for personal data.

The McGowan government is ensuring that no-one is left behind as our services become more digital. The digital strategy will remove barriers to inclusion so that all Western Australians can access and use the internet and digital technology. Life is becoming more digital and we need to make it easier for Western Australians to communicate with government in a convenient, smart and secure way. At the heart of this strategy is the premise that all Western Australians should have access to quality, affordable internet services and the skills needed to take advantage of the digital economy.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE — SERVICE DELIVERY — REGIONS

290. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Volunteering:

I refer to the important role that volunteers play in supporting ambulance services and first aid at sporting and community events across Western Australia, especially in regional WA. What impact would the loss of commercial operations have on the not-for-profit charity St John Ambulance's ability to deliver volunteer services for the broader community, especially in regional WA?

Mr R.R. WHITBY replied:

I thank the member for the question. I value the contribution of all volunteers across Western Australia and I know that the ambulance volunteers work very well, as do the State Emergency Service volunteers, the various firefighting and fire brigade volunteers, marine rescue volunteers and, indeed, all volunteers across Western Australia. I do not know how the member's question relates to me, given that there is no government proposal that I am aware of, but an investigation by a committee of the Parliament.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE — SERVICE DELIVERY — REGIONS

291. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Volunteering:

I have a supplementary question. In the minister's experience, will the government be able to deliver ambulance services cheaper and more professionally than the not-for-profit charity St John Ambulance, considering how much free assistance is provided by volunteers, especially in regional WA?

The SPEAKER: I am sorry, member, I am going to rule out that question. It does not relate to the particular minister's portfolio; it relates to another portfolio. I will move on to the next question.

GREYHOUNDS — MUZZLING

292. MR S.J. PRICE to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to bring an end to the unnecessary muzzling of greyhounds in public. Can the minister update the house on the work underway by the government to deliver on its commitment to end the muzzling of greyhounds, and can he advise how its Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill, which received overwhelming support at the last two elections, will benefit families who have rescue greyhounds as pets?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I thank the member for his question. I know that he is a passionate dog owner and is the owner of two rescue greyhounds. What are their names?

Mr S.J. Price: Grace and Tyler.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Grace and Tyler—very appropriate greyhound names. It is amazing what people call their dogs these days!

It is very clear. This is my fifth year of being a member, and the passion that Western Australians have for their dogs still surprises me. They are very passionate. Greyhound owners are probably the most passionate bunch. One issue that we all know has held back the greater adoption of greyhounds and the general ownership of greyhounds is the muzzling laws; that is, a muzzle is required in public spaces. We know that, at the moment, if a greyhound owner does not want their dog to have to wear a muzzle, they have to go through the very onerous process of applying for a green collar. We want to make it easier. We want more Western Australians to adopt refuge dogs, particularly greyhounds. I want to say that the level of interest and passion, I think as any member who has posted on social media will have seen, is overwhelming. There is a strong desire to see reform and change to these laws. In fact, when there was a statutory review of the act in regard to this specific change, there were 1 192 responses asking for the removal of muzzles. In addition, there was another petition of 2 700 Western Australians all asking for this.

I am proud that this government will deliver the removal of muzzles for greyhounds, and we will be remembered for that! But we will also be remembered for the stop puppy farming laws. I have to say, the opposition is a bit like Vicky Pollard: “Yeah but no, but yeah, but no but”. If we look at the last time this stop puppy farming legislation came through the Parliament, it said, “Yes, we do support the broad part of it, except every part of it that we do not support.” That is a classic position by the opposition. But we know that, overwhelmingly, Western Australians want to stop puppy farming. The proposals in our legislation, particularly a central registration system, are actually critical to preventing animal cruelty, and I think everyone in this house does not want to see animal cruelty.

HOUSING — AFFORDABILITY — REGIONS

293. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to Tiffany Dixon, a 22-year-old childcare worker in Kununurra who was forced to live in her car and then in a hotel to keep her job due to a lack of housing, and to the concerns raised with me by the Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry of WA last week that a shortage of childcare workers is preventing its members from attracting and retaining staff across the state. Why has the minister’s government failed to put measures in place to ensure that essential workers like Tiffany have access to affordable housing in regional WA?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I thank the member for the question. In fact, under this government, we are seeing an extraordinary growth in housing supply in Western Australia. As I have already said in Parliament, we have seen 24 000 building approvals in the last 12 months, and that is 70 per cent growth. That has been facilitated by our building bonus grant. That is enabling thousands of Western Australians to own their first home. We have also increased the borrowing limit of Keystart and increased the income thresholds, which has also meant a large number of Western Australians owning their first home. This is also reflected in the regions, where 3 344 new properties have been approved for construction in regional Western Australia. If we look at the increases, we see that, for example, in Albany, there has been a 110 per cent increase; in Esperance, a 51 per cent increase; in Geraldton, a 100 per cent increase; in Broome, a 145 per cent increase; and in Karratha, a 470 per cent increase. Across Western Australia, we will see an increase in housing supply. They are extraordinary numbers. When we listen to the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia, it also makes it very clear that as those properties come online across regional Western Australia and in metropolitan Perth, we will see relief in the Perth rental market. As new home owners leave their rental properties and go into new homes, we will see that relief in the market.

HOUSING — AFFORDABILITY — REGIONS

294. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Housing:

I have a supplementary question. My question was actually about access to affordable housing in regional WA. Will the government immediately act to prioritise planning and development of service workers’ accommodation in regional towns like Kununurra so that businesses and government services can attract and retain essential workers, as the previous Liberal–National government did with Warambie Estate in Newman and the Osprey Key Worker Village in South Hedland?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I thank the member for the question. I note that her government in 2014–15 started an aggressive sales program of Government Regional Officers’ Housing. It collected a debt of \$180 million. The previous government started it. The member’s government kickstarted the process with a large aggressive sales target. We have put a pause on GROH and I am working with the Minister for Lands and the Minister for Planning on how we can accelerate further regional land availability, for example, through our \$116 million Regional Land Booster program, which has already put a number of new lots in regional markets. In fact, right now, DevelopmentWA has around 850 lots available for sale. We are using a range of mechanisms. Through our building bonus grant and the \$116 million Regional Land Booster program, we are making those serious commitments to boost housing supply across Western Australia.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.

McGOWAN GOVERNMENT — PERFORMANCE*Matter of Public Interest*

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) informed the Assembly that she was in receipt within the prescribed time of a letter from the Leader of the Opposition seeking to debate a matter of public interest.

[In compliance with standing orders, at least five members rose in their places.]

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition) [2.50 pm]: Madam Speaker —

Mr D.J. Kelly: Not a single National Party member was here last night.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Where was I?

Mr D.J. Kelly: No; I said not a single National Party member was here last night.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: We are a hardworking opposition, minister.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water, I have given the Leader of the Opposition the call on a matter of public interest; she is the person I want to hear from.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I move —

That this house condemns the WA Labor government for its failure to deliver a gold standard of transparency and accountability, and breaching the trust of Western Australians since the state election in relation to matters including COVID-19 management, electoral reform, the health crisis and the appointment of the Corruption and Crime Commissioner.

I remember the words of the Premier just before the election: he promised to keep us safe, he promised a sensible government and he promised to keep us strong. I remember also the words of the Premier —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am not inviting interjections, Madam Speaker.

I remember also the words of the Premier from the 2017 state election, which were that he would deliver gold-standard transparency in government—gold-standard transparency in government. This government, in its first 100 days, has been drunk on power. It has drunk its own Kool Aid, and its members have spent too much time in this place patting each other on the back and congratulating themselves while crises plague our health sector and our housing sector. This is a government that has been unable to resist the temptation, newly minted with a massive majority, to take a “we know best” approach. What do I mean when I say “we know best”? I mean that the government refuses to acknowledge what everyone in the state can see as plain as the nose on the face of the Premier that while the government continues to run a narrative of “destruction, deception and diversion”, there are significant crises in our health services and our housing sector. A number of areas need to be addressed. Although the Premier rode into government at the 2021 state election on the wave of the COVID-19 approval, in the first 100 days, it has failed to prove it can meet its own standard of transparent accountability and it has failed to meet the promises it made to the Western Australian people that it would keep them safe and strong. I think we are finding out that the government is a one-trick pony—safe and strong!

The Premier posted a message to all Western Australians on his Facebook page in February this year, directed towards people who might never have thought to vote Labor before, saying —

My promise is simple — I will lead a sensible, responsible, and experienced Government.

We will keep our promises, and properly manage the finances.

And we will always keep WA strong.

That is what the Labor Party promised in 2021, and in 2017 the Premier promised the gold-standard transparency. I cannot imagine that he would walk away from that commitment, so we hold him to that promise as well. In just a few short months of its second term, we have been served up anything but. As we head into the winter break, when members are about to go back to their electorate and check in with their constituents, I think there will be some questions for those in government. I am reluctant to say “on this side of the house” because we are all on this side of the house, but they will all have to go back to their electorate and talk to their constituents. I want to go through the list. The regional MPs sitting in this house will need to explain why electoral reform magically emerged despite repeated denials from the Premier prior to the election saying that it was not on the agenda.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Self-interest.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Self-interest indeed—the Labor Party’s self-interest.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Self-interest indeed—from the Labor Party, Minister for Water! That is exactly what this is about. Electoral reform is nothing but self-interest from the Labor Party.

Several members interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: All MPs will need to explain why there has been a massive breach of the public's trust through the use of its data and that of Western Australia Police.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water, I ask you not to continuously interject.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

All MPs will need to explain why there has been a massive breach of the public's trust through the use of their data by the WA police, allowed by this government and I think overlooked or covered up—I am not sure which; we cannot tell—by the Premier, the Minister for Health and the Attorney General. I think members will be asked why the government has chosen the path of an astonishing misuse of power with its parliamentary numbers to install a captain's pick for the Corruption and Crime Commissioner accompanied by the Machiavellian moves to remove any person in the Labor Party who might oppose the Premier's position. They will also be asked about the failure of the Premier and the health minister to act properly on multiple recommendations from health experts to improve our system of hotel quarantine and an inability in this place, in the first 100 days, to answer even the most basic of questions when asked about progress on these recommendations that the government agreed to implement. We still do not have a response to that, Minister for Health. The minister promised to keep us safe and strong but he has failed to manage the system that allows us to continue to do this. If government members' electorate office tables are anything like mine and their mail is anything like mine, they will also be dealing with the health minister's persistent and arrogant failure to acknowledge or concede that there is a health crisis in this state. Statistics and data have been manipulated to cover his own failure to adequately resource the health system, and that is exactly what has happened.

Today, we saw new heights of arrogance with the announcement that we will see a sham of an inquiry into the St John Ambulance service, setting it up no doubt to take the blame for the Labor government's failure to invest adequately in or resource the health sector. Our regional MPs—I will put this on the end of the list; we talk about it regularly—are always asked about the continuing smoke and mirrors in relation to royalties for regions, that sneaky shifting of funding from government departments for ordinary everyday expenditure into the state government's only regional development program. The government is short-changing the people of regional WA and the whole state while glibly and deceitfully continuing to deliver the line that it is still there and it is still delivering.

They are the questions I think every member will be asked when they head into their electorate. My colleagues will elaborate further on some of them because the list is long, but I would like to focus specifically on the failure of this government to be honest with the people of Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I am just going to interrupt you again. Members of government, you will have the opportunity to respond when the government's 30 minutes' time comes on the clock. Incessant interjections by a lot of members makes it difficult for Hansard to be able to transcribe the member on her feet.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I will focus specifically on the failure of this government to be honest with the people of WA on electoral reform and the misuse of data it has presided over and failed to disclose to the people of Western Australia. My colleagues will focus on some of the other matters I have raised in my introduction.

On the matter of electoral reform, it took 44 days for the Premier to let the numbers that won him government go to his head—44 short days between the formation of the cabinet, to rewrite history and reframe an argument that is laughable at best and deceptive at worst. The Premier would never ever have admitted before an election that he wanted to reduce regional representation. He just would not have done it; it would have been political suicide. He is politically savvy enough to know that there is no way that prior to the election, he could have admitted to having an electoral reform agenda. However, I can guarantee that it was being discussed. He had very polished lines for the media, carefully crafted and ready to be trotted out when the media, the Nationals WA and the Liberal Party started asking questions about this very important matter. We all wanted to know the Labor Party's intent before the election because we thought the voters deserved to know. It was not as though the issue was not canvassed or was not raised. The Premier was asked directly again and again. On Tuesday, 9 March, just days before the state election, the Premier was asked by Dan Mercer of the ABC Albany a very precise and careful question. He was specifically asked whether the country-city weighting in the Legislative Council would be changed. The Premier's repeated answer was, "It's not on our agenda." He said it again and again and again. He added to the farce by saying, "We will always ensure that regional WA receives enhanced regional representation." He would not explain at the time what that meant. I will tell members that at the time it confounded the media and the public and no-one actually understood what he was talking about. We knew they were weasel words because it was a very carefully crafted response. We

knew they hid the fact that the Premier and the Attorney General had a plan to slash regional representation, but they did not want to tell regional voters before the election. Then they added insult to injury, perhaps thinking that regional people would not care, were not interested or were foolish, when they announced their intention to create a committee to contemplate a system of greater equality—I cannot put the quotation marks into *Hansard*, but that is certainly what I meant. Greater equality will not be an outcome of this process. I wonder whether the Premier actually thinks that anyone is buying this ridiculous act—his manufactured surprise as he trots out the lines on what a vote is supposedly worth if a person resides in Wundowie as opposed to Wooroloo.

The Premier's contempt is so great for the voting public that he and his Attorney General barely even pretend that they are running a line. This government has become accustomed to the fact that the public were compliant, willing and supportive during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has exploited that fear and concern by demonising anyone in the opposition who dares to question legislation or policy about that matter. I have seen it happen in this place with the government's members, who have become infected with the hubris and are willing to spin the talking points, peddle the lines, pat the public on the head and soothe them with the cry: "We kept you safe and strong, so trust us. Ignore all these matters that we have let slip. We'll keep you safe."

Mr M. McGowan: Don't you think that what you're saying is slightly extreme?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: No, Premier, I do not. While the Premier is dealing with all these issues that were not on the agenda —

Mr M. McGowan: Do you actually believe this?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Absolutely. The Premier said electoral reform was not on the agenda. The Minister for Health refuses to admit that there is a health crisis. The Minister for Housing says that we have a tight market instead of admitting that it is a housing crisis. All these matters have emerged over the last four years and they are of the government's own making.

I have a media statement in front of me written by Hon Darren West, member for the Agricultural Region. He runs these lines out into my electorate on a daily basis. He cannot actually rewrite the media statement that he is given as a shell, so it makes no sense. I will not embarrass him further by repeating what he actually wrote, but he ran out the government line that the current Electoral Act dates back to 1907 and that it is time this is reviewed and updated in line with the times. What a load of bulldust! The act was reviewed and substantially changed in 2005. That was the advent of one vote, one value in the Legislative Assembly, which ripped regional representatives out of this Parliament. That was the Labor Party's doing. It was engineered by the Labor Party. Once again, we have deceit, spin, hubris and dishonesty from the government. It said that reform of the electoral boundaries was not on the agenda, only to concoct some outlandish excuse to pursue a long-held ideological position of the Labor Party. If the Premier had come into the house and said that he wanted to deal with the apparent issue around the Daylight Saving Party, we would have supported that wholeheartedly.

I turn now to the breach of trust that this government has presided over when it comes to the SafeWA app and the G2G PASS. Last week, it was revealed that Western Australian police had applied to the Department of Health to access the data that had been collected directly by the SafeWA app. I will put it on record that I use the app. I will continue to do so and I hope that the Western Australian public continues to do so. A briefing note that has sat with the Minister for Health since 31 March specifically pointed out that if this information became known, it would undermine public confidence, yet nothing was done about it until last week. We certainly know that high-level officials from within the department and the Western Australia Police Force understood very well the impact that this had, and I think that the Premier has sought to sweep this under the rug. The Premier should have come out at the time and just called it as it was. He should have come out when he first knew about it. I cannot imagine that he did not know about this at the time when these applications were being made. He should have encouraged people to continue to use the app and he should have apologised for the loophole in his legislation. Instead, he sat on that information before he rushed legislation into the house and used his numbers to push it through. Again, that does not bode well for the next three years. We will continue to detail some of these matters during private members' business.

I know that my colleagues want to go through some of the issues that they have seen around accountability and transparency. As the Premier turned his mind to coming back for a second term, this government, led by the Premier, has done a number of things that have come up wanting in terms of accountability and transparency. As government members head out to the electorate for their five-week break —

Ms S.E. Winton: We are always in our electorates!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: As they head back into their electorates for the winter break, their constituents will be asking those questions.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members! Member for Wanneroo, if you want to have a conversation, take it outside, thanks.

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [3.05 pm]: With all the extra noise, Mr Deputy Speaker, it was hard to hear that it was my turn. I wish to vigorously join this debate. We have a Premier that now sees himself as a statesmanlike figure, a sort of Churchillian figure, who is lecturing federal Labor and the New South Wales government on how they should be running their affairs. This Premier and this Labor government have let down the public of Western Australia in many ways, as was excellently outlined by the Leader of the Opposition. There is no greater betrayal of the people of Western Australia than the absolute tainting of the appointment of the Corruption and Crime Commissioner in the way that this Premier, Attorney General and Labor government are choosing to go about it.

We have had a Corruption and Crime Commission in this state since 2000. In all that time, that commission has been regarded as bipartisan and above partisan politics, and critically so. When that commissioner decides whether to undertake a prosecution, it is critical that it be done without fear or favour and with the certainty that that commissioner is acting in the best interests of the state, and not in the interests of a particular person. Why is the government undermining that with the legislation that it wants to put in? It is absolutely clear to that commissioner and to every person in Western Australia that that appointment is a Labor Party appointment. Whenever that commissioner considers any matter, whether it be to undertake a prosecution or to not undertake an investigation that would lead to a prosecution, decisions will be tainted by a perception of political bias. This Attorney General and this Premier are the two people responsible for that. It is a betrayal of the state. Nothing is more important, ultimately, to the integrity of the executive side of government, this Parliament and government agencies, which are so critical to the people of Western Australia, than the Corruption and Crime Commission. The commission is there to investigate matters, as I said, without fear or favour.

What have we seen happen on top of this? The Premier appointed the member for Bunbury—we know it is the Premier's appointment; we have heard the ruse about who voted for whom—as the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission. The member for Bunbury, who in his Facebook posts tried to disclose the affairs of that committee in a previous Parliament —

Mr W.J. Johnston: The member for Bunbury is a minister!

Dr D.J. HONEY: The member for Kalamunda, I should say; I apologise. The member for Kalamunda tried to reveal details in the last Parliament of that committee's actions. He was only stopped from revealing those details in this Parliament by the vigorous actions of the Madam Acting Speaker at the time. That member has been put in that position—the least experienced person one could imagine to be put into that role. We can only wonder why the Premier has done that, but it is certainly not to strengthen that committee.

In the last Parliament, an outstanding member of Parliament was the chair of that committee. The former member for Girrawheen, the current member for Landsdale, was on that committee. She is above repute and an outstanding lawyer. She carried out that role without fear or favour, but if a person in this Labor government does something without fear or favour, do members know what happens? They get sacked—see you later! That outstanding member of Parliament, that outstanding member of that committee, was punished. Not only was she punished; they thought they were pushing her into a seat that she could not win in the next election just to get rid of her out of Parliament altogether. This is where government members foiled themselves: their election result was so good that that member is back in this Parliament as the member for Landsdale.

More than that, what have we seen in this place about transparency? We saw the President —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister! As the Speaker said —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Sport and Recreation, I am going to call you for the first time.

Members, as the Speaker said previously, you will get your chance to have a say in 12 minutes. Carry on, Leader of the Opposition.

Dr D.J. HONEY: We saw the President of the Legislative Council—again, I suspect, one of the most respected members in this whole Parliament—sacked. Why was she sacked? She was sacked by this Premier because she did her job! She defended privilege in this Parliament against an Attorney General who does not care about privilege, who does not care about process, but cares only about the “might is right” and using his strong arm to get his way. That is what we have seen in relation to the appointment of the Corruption and Crime Commission chair, a matter that we know will go through the upper house. Why will the legislation go through the upper house? It will go through because the government members there will not scrutinise it; they will just push it through. That fundamentally undermines the integrity of that most important tradition in this Parliament.

What do we see in terms of transparency around other projects? Look at Metronet. Metronet is the single biggest capital spend of this government. Can we get one fact out of this government about the actual capital cost of this project? We know that it is the largest capital blowout of any project in the history of this state, and this Minister for Transport is responsible for it. Government members boast about how good they are counting numbers—they certainly count their own numbers within the party well! We see this government not only blowing out that project, but also refusing to reveal any details on the ongoing operating costs for that project.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister!

Dr D.J. HONEY: There is no transparency. We do not have gold transparency; we have a government drunk on power.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo!

Dr D.J. HONEY: As the Leader of the Opposition said, we have a government that has drunk its own Kool Aid. We have a government that does not care about the people of Western Australia but cares only about the ruthless exercise of its power for its own dogmatic reasons.

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) [3.12 pm]: I also rise to support this worthy motion.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister!

Ms S. Winton interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo!

Ms L. METTAM: This motion highlights the fact that this arrogant government has certainly failed in its promise of gold-standard transparency. Once again, today, issues were raised about the deflection of blame when it comes to these issues as they affect the health sector. Issues have been raised today about the government's lame attempts to deflect attention away from the health crisis that has, quite obviously, happened under this government's watch. This government has major issues with gold-standard transparency. We have had more unanswered questions in the first term of the Labor government than seen under two terms of the previous Liberal–National government, making this the most secretive government since WA Inc.

In relation to the government's lame promises to keep WA safe and strong, we have seen a health system obviously in crisis. There are record levels of ambulance ramping. For 12 consecutive months, we have seen ambulances ramped outside hospitals, and month after month statistics highlighting that the government has failed its own benchmarks of what was supposedly a crisis when the minister was the shadow Minister for Health under the previous Liberal government. What is the government's approach to addressing ambulance ramping? The first approach is to stop recording those statistics. When it came into government in 2017, the government's first approach was to stop recording ambulance ramping statistics. Fortunately, St John Ambulance has provided that information in the interests of transparency and in the interests of the public. We now have a Labor-dominated committee that is looking into whether it is worth investigating St John Ambulance—a not-for-profit charity that has been providing an efficient service to the WA public for over a century—and the merits of such a service going into government hands. This is an extraordinary witch-hunt and an extraordinary opportunity for the government to deflect blame—something that is very obvious to the public.

Obviously, this government cannot manage health. We have seen that right across the health sector, whether it is with code yellow internal emergencies or the fact that although Victoria is able to resume elective surgery, this government still has restricted elective surgeries under its watch despite there being no COVID in the community. The elective surgery waitlist has now blown out by over 50 per cent. This government has failed in this area.

Regarding statistics, I asked in this place yesterday for emergency department numbers. We received an arrogant response from the minister, who stated that those were available on the Department of Health website. Although the last 12 months of statistics may be on the website, we were asking for the last four years of statistics. We wanted to compare the emergency department attendances, not with a locked down COVID year, but with 2019 when we saw a predictable trend on emergency department figures. The statistics point to the fact that this government has had every opportunity to invest in our hospitals. But we do not get that level of transparency. We do not get that information. It is never forthcoming. Quite obviously, this is an issue of the McGowan government.

This is not a new concern. When government members were in opposition, they talked a lot about the presentation and publication of stimulant statistics. In the months after becoming the Minister for Health in 2017, Roger Cook promised to continue publishing an important report that kept track of the number of stimulants such as amphetamines being prescribed by WA doctors for conditions such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. But what happened when those members came into government? From 2017, those figures are no longer available.

Again and again, we see this government fail. Whether it is in health, housing or electoral reform, we hear spin from the government. What really concerns patients and health workers on the ground regarding the health crisis is that

every effort has been made by the government to deflect blame and provide excuses instead of putting patients first and investing in our health system for the benefit of Western Australians. That is the real issue. That is the crux of the concern, whether it relates to St John Ambulance, the deflection of responsibility or any other matter.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [3.18 pm]: Rolled-gold transparency—that is what this Premier promised when he came into power in 2017. But what did we see? We saw a wage freeze for the public service, but we also saw the Premier’s pension go up! He voted to get rid of the pension for members of Parliament, but kept his own. So when he froze the wages of public servants, he kept his pension to make sure that it went up in value.

The Premier is focused on focus groups. When the former Leader of the Opposition said that we should close borders, the Premier said, “Don’t be silly; don’t be stupid”, but what did the Premier do after he had his focus group? He closed the borders! This government is all about focus groups creating policy on the run. Look at the real issues affecting Western Australians. I wish Western Australians could see the spin and the arrogance that comes from the Premier and this bench. Look at the health crisis and the housing crisis and at what the Premier during the election campaign said: “I’ll replace the soil from the floods in Carnarvon.” It will be six months until they first see a drop of soil come to their properties. But then he keeps going on. Look at the collapse of Pindan. The Labor Party’s legislation and policy was to protect subcontractors, and it failed to do that. The Labor Party has been bought out. It will be interesting to see when donations are suddenly put on the table. It will be interesting to see who has donated to the Labor Party.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: What deals has it done with the construction industry to change its legislation that does not protect subcontractors?

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finished minister? Thank you. Carry on, member.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The Premier has failed to protect subcontractors. He has failed to follow his own legislation. The Premier is not sober; he is drunk on power.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Mines and Petroleum!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The people of Western Australia will find that out and these backbenchers, all these temporary backbenchers, will soon go. We will start to see that swing.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: We are not talking about a “McClown”, we are talking about this Premier who has failed the people of Western Australia and has not been open and transparent. Time will tell over the next three years how public opinion will change because of the Premier’s failures in health, his failure to address the housing crises, and his failure to protect subcontractors and provide housing for the workers in Western Australia.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [3.21 pm]: Obviously, the government will not support this matter of public interest today, so I want to go over some of the things said by members of the opposition and explain why not. The first point that the opposition made is about transparency and accountability. I want to address something that occurred recently, which I think is very important in that regard. Members might recall that before the state election in March the government submitted all our policies to Treasury for costing every week in the lead-up to the election. Every week we provided a folder of all our policies, fully costed, that we put to Treasury for costing, and on a weekly basis it released the costings of what we committed to for the following four years. In the final week of the election campaign all our policies were collated by Treasury and the outcomes were published. The total cost of our policies was \$2.4 billion over the coming four years. We were clear, concise and honest and open with the people of Western Australia in an extremely accountable way, so much so that that had never been done before by a Labor government or opposition in the history of Western Australia. That is what we did for transparency and accountability.

What did the opposition, the Liberals and the Nationals do? They did not submit their policies for costing, they did not get them independently costed and the National Party did not have any costing whatsoever. It did not even get some accountancy firm, someone with an economics degree or someone who went to Bentley TAFE to collate its policies and do a costing before the state election. It did none of that before the state election. The Liberal Party’s effort at transparency was there for all to see from Sean L’Estrange on a Thursday before the election. Where is he now? He is long gone. He is out of Parliament, because the Liberal Party lost the electorate of Churchlands. When

we think about transparency and accountability, what is more transparent and accountable than having all our policies fully costed by Treasury on a weekly basis and then released before the state election? What is less transparent and accountable than the National Party not having any costing process around its policies, and the Liberal Party bodgying up something that was totally inaccurate? When it had its policies costed, it turned out that one of its policies cost \$15 billion. That was the first point, on transparency and accountability.

On the second point, the Leader of the Opposition seemed to denigrate our efforts to keep the state safe and strong. Somehow she indicated that we failed in that regard. We have the strongest economy in the nation, by far; we kept the economy strong; we kept people in work; we have the lowest unemployment rate in Australia; we have the highest participation rate of any state in Australia; we have the highest consumer and retail confidence in Australia; and we have the highest business confidence in Australia, all under this government because we took the steps necessary to ensure that would happen. Western Australia has the strongest set of public finances of any government in Australia and potentially any government in the world. It has the strongest set of public finances. The only government in Australia in surplus is this government, because of the actions that we have taken as a government.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I hear the Leader of the Liberal Party constantly whining and complaining over there. Maybe it is because there are women in the room. Maybe he hates being in this room because there are women here, so he is constantly undermining and complaining. He hates being in a room where there are women. Maybe that is what he is doing. He hates being in a workplace, or somewhere of some significance, where there are women around.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is safe and strong. That is the economic outcome of Western Australia at the moment. It is the strongest in Australia under this government and we will fight tooth and nail to keep it that way. We had to turn around the deficits and debt of the last government. That is what we had to do for four years and thank goodness we did, because otherwise, when COVID hit, with all the costs and loss of revenue and all the efforts we made for recovery, where would we be? We would be in the position of New South Wales, with zero debt to \$103 billion in three years. That is where we would have been. Fortunately, we had a government that actually put effort into it.

Then the opposition criticised our COVID management. It is actually in the motion. Today the Minister for Health and I announced that we are reinstating a border with New South Wales. That is what we have done today and the opposition attacked us for our management in its motion. This is the group that supported Clive Palmer in the High Court. That is what it did. Liza Harvey, the then Leader of the Opposition, was out there backing Clive Palmer.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party!

Mr M. McGOWAN: As did the federal Liberal–National government. Clive Palmer is a life member of the Liberal National Party. He was a National Party activist in Queensland for years. He funds the Nationals WA's election campaigns in Western Australia. That is how close members opposite are to him. Members might recall that he was coming over here with those two private jets, their friend Clive, and flying members of the National Party around the state, including some who are here presently. That is what was occurring with their friend Clive Palmer. Members opposite criticise us over our COVID management.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Your friend, Clive; that is who I am talking about. The member for North West Central's friend Clive Palmer; that is who I am talking about. Brendon Grylls' friend Clive Palmer; that is who I am talking about.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition! Opposition, you had your go. It is time to sit and listen.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Today we reintroduced a hard border with New South Wales and opposition members came in here and criticised us on our management of COVID. We took the steps that were necessary to protect Western Australia, and we stood up to those people in the east who tried to bring it down, and those people here, in the Liberal Party in particular, tried to bring it down. That is what we did. Members opposite come in here and actually criticise us over it. Do they know what the last 18 months has been like? It has been hard and we have had to make many difficult decisions. They could not even comprehend how difficult it has been, the sorts of measures we had to take and the sorts of conversations and negotiations we had to go through. They would not have a clue and they would not comprehend it.

Then they came in here and blithely moved a motion like this. Then the Leader of the Opposition stood up and said that I, the Premier of Western Australia, “exploited fear and concern”. How disgusting. That is what she said. We have been through a crisis the likes of which we have not seen in 100 years and we have made difficult decisions to protect the state. We have gone through the most protracted set of meetings, negotiations and considerations with the commonwealth, state government agencies and the private sector and had to consume voluminous amounts of information in order to make these decisions, and then the opposition comes out and blithely and very impolitely says something as gross as that I “exploited fear and concern”. The member should be ashamed of herself for saying that in here.

Obviously, we have done all of that to keep the state safe and strong, which the Leader of the Opposition criticised a moment ago. Opposition members would prefer—I hear it all the time—that we had deficits as far as the eye could see, that we continued to rack up debt as they did when they were in office and that we kept open the borders; imagine the consequences there! That would have been the opposition’s response to the situation that we faced.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is because I hear you say it; that is how I know it. It is because I hear you say it all the time.

I will come back to the issues the opposition referred to. Let us start with the Corruption and Crime Commission. Before the state election, we said that we were going to do what we have done. If we could not get the appointee recommended by the selection committee appointed, we said that we would legislate. That is exactly what we said. I can pull out for members all my quotes from before the state election.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party!

Mr M. McGOWAN: That was what we committed to. What is going on here is actually corrupt. The reason the Liberal and National Parties do not want Mr McKechnie reappointed is that he investigated their members; that is why.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: You are totally and utterly conflicted. He investigated the upper house Liberals. He found corruption in their ranks and so now the upper house Liberals cannot stand him and do not want him reappointed. That is actually corrupt. That is corrupt on the part of the Liberal Party. We will not stand for that. We will not stand for that and I will not stand for that—that level of corruption.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: How can you justify the finest corruption fighter this state has ever seen being blocked by the people he investigated? That is like someone out there in the community who gets charged by a police officer then having the right to dismiss that police officer. What the Liberal and National Parties are doing here is wrong and we will not stand for it.

Point of Order

Dr D.J. HONEY: I have a point of order. The Premier has implied that the Liberal members on the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission were being investigated by the CCC. I believe that is a slur on those members and I believe that to be completely untrue.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the Liberal Party.

Ms S. Winton interjected.

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

Leader of the Liberal Party, there is no point of order. The Premier was not naming or referring to any specific person. Carry on please, Premier.

Debate Resumed

Mr M. McGOWAN: We are doing exactly what we said we would do before the election. We are seeking to reappoint the appointee recommended by the selection committee, chaired by the Chief Justice. The Liberals and Nationals do not want him reappointed because he investigated their parties —

Dr D.J. Honey: That is untrue and you know it; it’s a straight lie.

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is absolutely why. There is no reason given. They cannot give a reason.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party!

Mr M. McGOWAN: The Commissioner of Police has verified —

Withdrawal of Remark

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, Premier. Leader of the Liberal Party, you cannot actually accuse someone of lying. Please withdraw that, thank you.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I withdraw.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Carry on, Premier.

Debate Resumed

Mr M. McGOWAN: The police commissioner —

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party, no more interjections, please.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Honestly, the Liberal Party in this state is an embarrassment. There are two of you out of 59 members; does that not tell you anything? You do not like going into a room with women in it; does that not tell you where the Liberal Party is at today?

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: What a disgraceful organisation the Liberal Party is. What a hopeless organisation it is. When I arrived in this Parliament, there were people I could respect. These days, there are not. The reason the Liberal Party is where it is at is its members. They need to look in the mirror. One of the issues that was in play in the state election campaign was the CCC—an organisation that was rudderless for years, that the Liberal Party did not appoint anyone to head, but finally, the Liberal Party in government appointed John McKechnie. I received, as I recall, some correspondence from Colin Barnett, which asked my views on these matters or advised me that he was going before the committee. I said, “Great”. He is an ex–Supreme Court judge and an ex–Director of Public Prosecutions in Western Australia. So he was appointed. What did he do? He sorted out the CCC. It then became a functional organisation. What did it do? It investigated an act of corruption in our trade office in Japan that occurred over many years. As part of that investigation, it uncovered that there were Liberal Party members behaving inappropriately. The CCC investigated that. It was published. What did the Liberal Party do? It blocked his reappointment. That is what happened. In any other state in Australia, what it has done would be regarded as worthy of a royal commission. If it had been Labor in office, the world would have fallen on us. The Liberal Party in the upper house, the Liberal Party in here and the National Party members who are backing this sort of conduct should be ashamed.

I wrote to the Leader of the Opposition to advise what the committee had recommended.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court recommended him, my friend. The Chief Justice of the District Court recommended his reappointment. The Commissioner of Police recommended his reappointment. What did the opposition do? It blithely ignored that. The Leader of the Liberal Party comes up with silly interjections that show how shallow and useless he is. Honestly, the Liberal Party is so useless. In question time, I feel sorry for all of the members in opposition. They are so bad. In question time, during which a government is meant to be held to account, they ask the dumbest questions.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I cannot believe how bad it is. It is no wonder that lifetime members of the Liberal Party come up to me and say that they cannot vote Liberal—it is because of how bad it is. Both members should resign actually to make way for someone with a bit more ability.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is true. If the Leader of the Liberal Party wants to perform a service for the Liberal Party, the best thing he could do is resign. That is the best thing he could do. But, fortunately, he will not, so I am very happy with him continuing in his role. I am very satisfied with his performance.

That is what occurred with the Corruption and Crime Commissioner. We are just trying to appoint the recommended appointee, an ex–Supreme Court judge and ex–DPP of Western Australia, who has been the best corruption fighter in history, and the opposition blocked it.

Dr D.J. Honey: Your man.

Mr M. McGOWAN: What another dumb interjection. Just so the Leader of the Liberal Party understands, he was appointed by Colin Barnett. He was appointed by the Liberal government. I received correspondence about it. As if we would seek to interfere in that process. For some reason, the Leader of the Liberal Party has the brazenness and sense of entitlement to think that somehow the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of the District Court and the Commissioner of Police are wrong. That is how entitled the Liberal and National Parties are.

We will seek to do what we have a mandate to do, which we took to the people before the state election, and seek to ensure that a proper and appropriate person is appointed to head that organisation.

Over the course of the rest of the debate, a grab bag of complaints was run by the opposition. On electoral issues, at the state election, a member of the Daylight Saving Party was elected with 98 votes. Obviously, we did not know before the state election that that was going to occur. I do not know about anyone else, but I do not think that is right—that he should get 98 votes and game the system. We have Mr Druery, this character from over east who gets payment for organising these arrangements. He gets \$50 000 for every person who gets elected through these arrangements. He gets \$50 000, games the system, and someone gets elected to Parliament for four years with 98 votes. I actually do not think that is right. I think that should be reformed. We have an eminent Western Australian, Mr McCusker, reviewing the system. Mr McCusker will present a report at some point.

What I also think is wrong, as I have said before—I was not aware of this before now—is that someone's vote in Kalgoorlie is worth four times as much as the vote of someone in Albany.

Dr D.J. Honey: It only took you seven years!

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Cottesloe assumes that I know everything, but I do not. I did not know that the vote of someone in Wooroloo is worth a quarter of the vote of someone in Wundowie. The member assumes that I know all these things, but I do not. I am not as knowledgeable as he gives me credit for.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: All of these things were not on our agenda before the election, but obviously Mr McCusker is now looking at these issues.

Let me go back to Mr Tucker. Honestly, Mr Tucker, with 98 votes, is in the Parliament. People who scored many thousands of votes are not in the Parliament, including Liberal Party members. They got many thousands of votes and they did not get elected. One guy got 98 votes and he did get elected. If members opposite think that is fair, they are wrong. It is not fair. All of this needs to be reviewed. If there is unfairness in the system, it needs changing. Mr Tucker is from the Daylight Saving Party. He represents the Mining and Pastoral Region. He was living in America. We had one Tucker and the other Tucker. It turns out that his mother was running as well. I think members will know where I am heading. We had the Tucker family running: Mother Tucker, young Tucker and another young Tucker were running for office, and one Tucker, Wilson, got elected. Out of the three Tuckers, we got one. In any event, for 98 votes, we got one Tucker. I do not think it is right; I think it needs reform. We have given it to Mr McCusker to look at. He will prepare a report. He is an eminent Western Australian. I urge the opposition to stop attacking him.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health) [3.42 pm]: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak on this debate, which hinges on four words: safe, strong, accountability and trust. On being safe and strong, I will take our side of the fence any day of the week. We are the government that has kept Western Australians safe. We are the government that has maintained our economy and kept it strong. That has been recognised by a most extraordinary authority—one of the greatest authorities that we have—that is, the people of Western Australia. The people of Western Australia asked: Who do we trust to keep us safe during the COVID-19 pandemic? Who do we trust to keep the Western Australian economy strong and to keep Western Australia moving forward? They voted in droves. They supported the WA Labor leader, Mark McGowan, and returned the government for the great work that it did during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Let us contrast that with those on the other side. The Premier said it, and it bears repeating. Who did those opposite side with during the COVID-19 pandemic, at a time when we needed support and needed to stay strong? They equivocated, they caved in, they hid behind Clive Palmer—there is a lot to hide behind—and they tried to destroy our borders by backing Clive Palmer's bid in the High Court to tear down our borders. The Leader of the Opposition at the time, the Leader of the Liberal Party, was 100 per cent behind Clive Palmer. We know where members opposite stood on this; they stood against the people of Western Australia and the people —

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party.

Mr R.H. COOK: We see that Clive Palmer, the friend of those on the other side, is at it again. It was not enough for him to challenge us in the High Court on our response to the COVID-19 pandemic—he is out there again,

putting out leaflets to undermine the vaccine campaign. I might ask: Where does the Leader of the Liberal Party stand on this particular Clive Palmer intervention? Does he stand behind the COVID-19 vaccine or is he once again hedging his bets? The member for North West Central is very quiet on this particular point. We know where his loyalties lie: they lie between the Nationals in North Queensland and his mate Clive Palmer. We know where his loyalties lie, and they are not behind the person who is sitting in front of him right now.

We have kept the economy safe and strong. When the Leader of the Opposition stands up and tries to make COVID-19 part of the opposition's attack on us, I say to her, "Look at the numbers." We have been absolutely honest with the people of Western Australia on COVID-19. When we answer truthfully questions without notice about whether we were aware of the issues surrounding the SafeWA app, an app that all Western Australians have got behind, the opposition says that it does not believe us. What we have here is not a failure to be accountable but a failure to be believed by those opposite who, quite frankly, cannot be trusted when it comes to the issues around COVID-19.

A lot has been said about the accountability and transparency of this government. The member for Vasse raised it in the context of ambulance ramping and all the efforts that we have made in health in Western Australia. I place on the record that during the Liberal Party's time in government, ambulance ramping numbers were on the website for a matter of days. The only reason the previous opposition, WA Labor, could present those numbers to the people of Western Australia was because every day we had someone tot up those numbers and make sure that there was a total monthly figure to present to the people of Western Australia; otherwise, the then government would have tried to keep the figures secret and hide them from the people of Western Australia.

Since we came into government, we have undertaken a rolled-gold approach to accountability. We now list emergency department numbers, elective surgery numbers and the number of admissions to hospital, and we livestream the waiting times for people in our EDs. We have produced transfer-of-care statistics and we insist that St John WA provides ambulance ramping statistics via a link on the WA Department of Health website. In addition, we introduced Care Opinion, a publicly available website that publishes people's opinions about the care they receive in the WA healthcare system. We also produced the Your Voice in Health survey, an absolutely accountable system of ensuring that staff in the healthcare system feel they are valued. We care about their morale in the workplace. This is rolled-gold accountability. This is rolled-gold transparency. The only problem is rolled-gold laziness on the other side. When those opposite come into this place and say, "Give us the statistics", we say, "Do the work. You get the statistics. They are available publicly. If you want them to be made available, put forward questions on notice and come into this place and do some hard work for a change rather than sitting there carping, whingeing and failing to represent the people you purport to represent." What we have here is not a failure of accountability, but a failure of commitment to do the hard work in opposition.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [3.48 pm]: I wish to speak to the matter of public interest by adding to the words of the Premier and supporting his comments on the appointment of, and failure of the system to appoint, Mr McKechnie, QC, to the role of Corruption and Crime Commissioner. I just add this: the Premier said that Mr McKechnie was stopped and blocked during the process because he was investigating, and had investigated, members of the Legislative Council. Might I remind the house that at the time Mr McKechnie handed down his report identifying Mr Phil Edman as being corrupt, he said that it was an ongoing investigation of members of the "Black Hand" group of the Legislative Council, which constituted Liberal members of the Legislative Council, and he warned, "This is only the start; there is more to come." That warning contained in the report sent a shiver up the spine of all those Liberal members of the Legislative Council who were members of the "Black Hand" group and who were subsequently identified by Hon Peter Collier.

One of those members on the committee, Jim Chown, was a member of the "Black Hand" group. He voted against the reappointment of Mr McKechnie, whom Mr McKechnie said, "I warn you I have an ongoing investigation into these people." The next thing that the member for Cottesloe did was criticise the member for Kalamunda for being the chairperson. The misconduct identified by the member for Kalamunda previously was a posting on his Facebook page, which was hardly controversial. He said that those members on the committee who voted against the reappointment of Mr McKechnie should publicly state why. That is reasonable.

We know that has gone to committee again and the member for Moore has voted against it. During debate in this chamber on the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Amendment Bill 2021, the member for Moore refused to stand to his feet when I challenged him and say why he voted against Mr McKechnie. What has he got against Mr McKechnie? What they had against him was the warning that there is an ongoing investigation.

As to transparency, the Leader of the Opposition complains about there being an inquiry into electoral reform. What were the terms of that inquiry: "Mr McCusker, could you please advise how the votes of Western Australian citizens could be counted equally?" The Leader of the Opposition, in speaking to this motion in the manner she has, has identified as being against equality between citizens when they enter the polling booth. She does not want them equal; it is a part of the privileged class who have an entitlement that their vote should be more than someone else's vote. All we are asking Mr McCusker is: "Could you advise us on how you could achieve equality?" As for transparency, Mr McCusker's report will be made available to the public. All the submissions, as they come in, are being posted on the website. How could we be more transparent in reviewing how to make the citizens of

Western Australia equal in their vote? That is not something that the Leader of the National Party or her party wants; they do not want people to have an equal say. It is counterintuitive to a democracy when it is assumed that everyone's vote will be equal.

Division

Question put and a division taken, the Deputy Speaker casting his vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (6)

Mr V.A. Catania	Dr D.J. Honey	Ms L. Mettam
Ms M.J. Davies	Mr R.S. Love	Mr P.J. Rundle (<i>Teller</i>)

Noes (45)

Mr S.N. Aubrey	Ms J.L. Hanns	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Mr G. Baker	Mr M. Hughes	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Dr K. Stratton
Ms H.M. Beazley	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr P. Papalia	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr H.T. Jones	Mr S.J. Price	Mr D.A. Templeman
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr D.T. Punch	Mr P.C. Tinley
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Ms E.J. Kelsbie	Mr J.R. Quigley	Ms C.M. Tonkin
Ms C.M. Collins	Ms A.E. Kent	Ms M.M. Quirk	Mr R.R. Whitby
Mr R.H. Cook	Dr J. Krishnan	Ms R. Saffioti	Ms S.E. Winton
Ms D.G. D'Anna	Mr P. Lilburne	Ms A. Sanderson	Mr D.R. Michael (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr M. McGowan	Mr D.A.E. Scaife	
Ms K.E. Giddens	Ms S.F. McGurk	Ms J.J. Shaw	
Ms M.J. Hammat	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms R.S. Stephens	

Question thus negated.

MEMBER FOR MOORE

Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission — Personal Explanation

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.58 pm]: I rise to make a personal explanation under standing order 148.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

Mr R.S. LOVE: During today's matter of public interest, the Attorney General indicated that in a previous debate he had asked me to explain reasons behind a vote that took place on the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission. I have declined to do so. I have done so because it is my understanding that deliberations that take place in committee are matters that are done in closed session and are therefore private. That is actually contained in standing order 270 of this place. Until the house or some other authority directs, I will not be revealing the deliberations of that committee and any of the matters that took place in that area. I put on the record my deep affront at the thought that in some way I am expected to be protecting the "Black Hand" society or some other group of MPs.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just wait two seconds, please.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members! Member for Wanneroo, member for North West Central, member for Mount Lawley. Thank you very much.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for North West Central!

PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT (SAFE ACCESS ZONES) BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Women's Interests) [3.59 pm]: I suspect I have only a couple of minutes before we get onto private members' business. Hopefully, I will get the opportunity to make a couple more points tomorrow when this debate resumes.

Before question time, I was making the point that I felt a little frustrated at the member for Cottesloe's defence of protesters outside abortion clinics in Perth. The excuse that the member for Cottesloe gave for defending those protesters was that he said he was led to believe that there could be times when women were coerced or pressured into undertaking abortions; therefore, those protesters outside abortion clinics were perhaps there just to provide a bit of counsel. In fact, he quoted the group 40 Days for Life.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

McGOWAN GOVERNMENT — FIRST 100 DAYS — PERFORMANCE*Motion*

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.02 pm]: I move —

That this house condemns the WA Labor government for its abject failure to deal with critical issues facing the state of Western Australia in its first 100 days.

One hundred days is an accepted measure of performance in political life. It is a point at which we take time to have a bit of a look and see how the government is performing since it came into office. If we look on the internet, we will see much discussion about whether Joe Biden has passed the benchmarks of what he set out to achieve in his first 100 days.

Last weekend was 14 weeks—98 days—since the election. Of course, that means that this week we have passed 100 days. What report card can this government expect? If the government were going to receive a mark from its schoolteacher for the performance that it has put in, I think it would expect to see an F for fail. It has failed on many fronts. As we know, we have a health system in deep crisis. We have a minister who seems to wish to deny that crisis. We have ambulances basically running hospital wards in car parks because the hospitals cannot provide the necessary beds. We have a high and shocking rate of failures occurring in the medical system, not necessarily because of faults of staff, but faults of the resources and systems that are in place, and we have a minister who denies that there is any sort of health crisis.

We know that even today we had an indication that this government, through one of its pet committees in the other place, is seeking to look into the ambulance services that look after Western Australia. The member for Roe asked a question that is very, very relevant to those of us in regional WA, because we rely on the volunteer services that St John Ambulance provides. No other organisation that I am aware of uses volunteers and provides that level of service at that cost for so many people across regional areas. The government seems to be seeking to not give proper extensions to St John Ambulance and to put out misinformation or, if you like, set out the framework for a move on it as the provider through this purported committee process. If we lose the professional organisation that provides that service in the city, St John will be less able to provide that service statewide, and that is a huge problem.

We also have a housing crisis in this state. If we drive down the main streets of the city, we see people lying on footpaths and bedding out on the streets. We know that there is a massive housing crisis going on right now throughout regional WA. There are 17 000 people on the waitlist for public housing. We have towns in which workers cannot be accommodated. In the areas affected by cyclone Seroja, this is especially going to be a huge problem that needs to be addressed by urgent action, but this problem of inadequate accommodation for essential workers is occurring throughout regional WA. We know that agencies are paying for people's car registration so that they can continue to live in their car, camp in their car and use it as a house. Sometimes these people have young children. There is an absolute dire need for further investment and a government that is going to take the time to look at the problems that are besetting the state.

All this is occurring under a government that has had a massive windfall from the iron ore price boom and the demand from China for that commodity. That windfall has not come from having a diversified economic base or from getting on the job and finding new markets and doing all those things; it is simply on the back of the development of the iron ore industry by industry players. It has not come from anything that this government is doing, because we know that the government is putting less effort into finding new markets and has less representation throughout Asia, which is an area of massive growth and a potential market for a whole range of products. I represent an area in which towns and people's livelihoods are very dependent on the Chinese market for the crayfishing industry. I can assure members that high dependence on one market is a very risky thing to have—just go and ask any western rock lobster fisher about the risk of putting all one's eggs into the China basket. We need to have diversity. We need to be out there finding opportunities in India, Vietnam and a range of other countries. We do not need to see a retraction in effort by this government in that area, purportedly on the back of some sort of review about what happened in Japan. That has nothing to do with providing an effective trade presence throughout the rest of Asia.

We know that the Metronet program has been subject to a lot of delays and that, as we move forward, we will see huge cost overruns in Metronet. The expectation on this side of the house is that the Metronet program will end up costing at least \$10 billion. Even within this 100-day period, we have evidence that that program is in trouble. We know that the Forrestfield–Airport Link has been delayed. It was announced on 7 May that there would be a further delay of six months, pushing it back by 18 months in total from when it was first to be delivered. The Yanchep extension appears to be in some sort of trouble as well. I noted an article in the Yanchep local press the other day, the *Wanneroo Times*, which reads —

Stalled: Yanchep Rail Extension work veering off track

Plans to complete the Yanchep Rail Extension next year may be veering off track, as work appears to have all but ground to a halt.

There is another Metronet project that we know is in a degree of trouble if this newspaper report can be relied on.

Worryingly, we also know that there are plans to shut the Mandurah line as part of the work on the Cockburn–Thornlie link and that that will mean massive disruption between Aubin Grove and Elizabeth Quay. That will basically cut off Fiona Stanley Hospital from the CBD and with the loss of the rail network, increase traffic at a time when the freeway is already struggling to cope. I wish we could believe the minister’s assurances that this will be done on time and there will be no further delays, but if those delays take us into a period beyond the school holidays, we can expect to see massive chaos on the freeway and there will be massive problems for people trying to get to and from work. That will have real impacts on productivity in this state. It is not about just convenience; it is a real economic cost. It is a safety issue and a whole range of problems will manifest. I have no confidence that the sort of management we have seen of Metronet so far will lead to a good outcome in that area. We know of so many issues that this state is facing that I do not have sufficient time to go through them all today on my own, but many members here will be able to go through the problem areas.

However, today I want to point out that I asked a question of the Minister for Fisheries. The other day he was asked a question and he had commented that nobody seemed to want to ask him questions. I can understand why, because he gave the shortest, most offhand answer to a very serious question that I think I have ever heard in this house. I am referring to the question asked about the finfish nursery in Geraldton, another project that has been mismanaged and is going off the rails. *The Geraldton Guardian* last Friday has a picture of the minister releasing yellowtail kingfish at Cockburn Power Boats Club. Interestingly enough, a note on the WA Recovery website indicates that the finfish nursery in Geraldton has already been built and there is a picture of it. I do not know what the picture is of but it certainly cannot be of the finfish nursery in Geraldton because we know it has not been built. We know the minister has no plan to get it back on track, and there is no indication from this minister that he is taking this issue very seriously at all. I can tell members that to the people of the midwest, it is a very serious issue.

There was a long period of investment; the royalties for regions program helped the local industry group to prove up some of that kingfish knowledge and expertise in the area. This government gave the project to a Tasmanian outfit to run, which has since put it on hold. That is probably the reason behind the delay to the development of this nursery. However, this infrastructure needs to be put in place so we can get an aquaculture industry up and running in the midwest. The minister must stop this delay and get on and get this project built. The money has been apparently set aside in the budget but I have grave fears we will ever see this finfish nursery running. It is beginning to have all the hallmarks of the failed Albany wave project for which the government offered the regional community some sort of marquee project of economic development and we all know where that ended up. The same sort of situation seems to be developing here in Geraldton and we need this minister and this government to take that matter very seriously.

My colleagues will now tell members about a range of issues that in the first 100 days of this government have not been satisfactory. I am sure that the report card at the end of their contribution will read that this government has achieved an F for fail in the most dire terms imaginable; yet it has had such opportunity with its windfall from royalties that have come from the iron ore industry that it could be addressing many issues but it is choosing not to.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition) [4.13 pm]: Thank you, member for Moore and Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I rise to support this motion —

That this house condemns the WA Labor government for its abject failure to deal with critical issues facing the state of Western Australia in its first 100 days.

It is 100 days—it is a milestone. As I said in the matter of public interest, we are about to head into the winter break when members will have an opportunity to spend concerted time in their electorate and I think it is timely in this place that we reflect on the performance of the beginning of the second term of this McGowan Labor government.

Let us cast our minds back to February 2021 when the Labor Party was presenting its pitch to the Western Australian public. The Premier was playing to the people who might not have voted for Labor before. I said this in the MPI. I think it was a safe bet. Given we were in the shadow of a pandemic, a number of people were considering that they might reward the Premier and the Minister for Health for the work done in the previous 12 months. Many were contemplating that; we do not deny that and we certainly have never not acknowledged the hard work put in during those very difficult months. We are talking about what they have done with the votes they have picked up as a result of that. Before the election, as I said before, the Premier posted on his Facebook page the following words —

Western Australians, this is my promise to you.

If you’re thinking about voting for me and my WA Labor government for the first time this election, this is my message to you.

You should feel confident in that decision.

My promise is simple—I will lead a sensible, responsible, and experienced Government.

We will keep our promises, and properly manage the finances.

And we will always keep WA strong.

As I said before, around the state, candidates and many MPs from the Labor Party were making similar comments on their social media that were very diligent in the way they utilised the popularity of the Premier. As I said before, in my part of the world Hon Darren West shared his post —

If you're considering voting WA Labor for the first time, Mark McGowan makes this commitment to you.

I've known Mark for over 20 years. He keeps his commitments.

He's a great bloke, a great Premier and he'll keep WA strong.

That was the pitch off the back of what was an extraordinary year—safe and strong; trust us; we will be sensible and responsible. I think the voting public went to the polls on one issue. I understand that the Premier, his cabinet and other members of the government think they now have a mandate to carry out a multitude of other things. However, I disagree with that. I think most people in the community will tell us now that outside the pressure of those very challenging months we went through at the peak of the COVID pandemic and the worry of having appropriate management and continuity going forward—as has been reflected in jurisdictions right around the nation and indeed in international jurisdictions—it was highly unlikely that we would see a change in the government and that people were voting almost 100 per cent on the basis of the management of COVID. I know the Premier disagrees with that because he said that he has a mandate to carry out the farce of the process we have seen for reappointing the Corruption and Crime Commissioner and electoral reform, which he continues to pretend is all about dealing with the issue of the Daylight Saving Party and the like rather than the real intent of what the Labor Party has had long-held intentions to deliver on—that is, a reduction in regional representation. It believes the mandate it has been given will allow it to do all that and, in fact, it said one thing before the election that is completely different from what it is currently doing.

In our MPI today we addressed the fact that the government has failed to meet its own promises to the people of Western Australia, and that was around openness, accountability and transparency, and its failure to keep people safe. I understand that that safe and strong mantra was very much in line with the management of the COVID pandemic. However, as a government, it has to be more than a one-trick pony, and this government has had four years. We have moved from those heady peaks—those very challenging months at the peak of the pandemic—and are now at a different stage of that management process. There is a requirement for government to turn its mind to making sure it is looking after all aspects of government, not just the one thing that falls under the banner of “safe and strong”, the mantra that was left ringing in the ears of every Western Australian as a result of the election campaign. Those words were splashed across every single outlet—media, placards, billboards and papers—drawing attention to the government's response to COVID. The government was rewarded handsomely as we see every day when we walk into this chamber. Since the 100 days of the government's election of an overwhelming majority, I think there is no doubt that the same citizens who have placed their trust in this government are now starting to see an ugly truth.

This is a Labor government that is prepared to do anything with the numbers that it has in this place, and it is also prepared to do it in an incredibly disingenuous way. The contribution that the Premier made during the matter of public interest debate about the rationale for pursuing electoral reform and stripping regional representation from Western Australia could not have been more disingenuous. He went straight back to the talking points that were trotted out before the election. That is the challenge that we have. That “safe and strong” phrase and those placations that were provided or those weasel words that were used to ensure that everyone thought that they were going to get a sensible and safe government that would use its majority with great caution has disappeared and it has taken just 100 days. While we have been dealing with those matters, public confidence has been undermined, which certainly sets a difficult tenor in terms of how the government will progress over the next three and a half years, and a raft of crises has emerged that we have spoken about in the areas of housing, health, homelessness and labour shortages, with support and funding failures across many key sectors. Those sectors are all crying out for help yet this government continues to refuse to acknowledge that. The Minister for Health says that there is no health crisis. The Minister for Housing says that the market is tight.

Mr V.A. Catania: They're more interested in puppy farming.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: That question today in question time really took the cake. We have articles in the daily paper about a gentleman suffering from cancer being parked in the corridor of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, unable to access a room and feeling completely violated because he has no privacy to deal with an extraordinarily difficult moment in time. Meanwhile, the Minister for Local Government is talking about a matter that is, no doubt, important to some, but I suggest that the vast majority of the public of Western Australia would like the entire cabinet focused on dealing with the health crisis to make sure that our frontline workers—our nurses, doctors and clinical providers who work in the hospitals—are supported and resourced. While the government is at it, it should just fess up to the fact that we have arrived at this problem, not because of the COVID-19 pandemic, St John Ambulance or any external factor, but because this government took its eye off the ball for four years and failed to resource that sector appropriately.

I have a feeling, members, that the health sector is not the only one that will emerge in crisis over the course of the next 100 days or the next three and a half years. I know that there are issues within the Department for Child

Protection and Family Support; it is a sector in crisis. We already know that there is a housing crisis. I will go into that a little bit more and talk about the challenges that some of our Western Australians are facing in terms of housing and the wait list. It affects not only those who are waiting for the Government Regional Officers' Housing, but also those in the private market, which will impact not only our most vulnerable, but also our ability to attract and retain key workers. I asked the Minister for Housing about the childcare issue and whether the government would give any consideration to an essential worker investment program, as we did when we were in government, in Port Hedland, Karratha and Coral Bay where there was a role for government to play. We used royalties for regions, because at that time royalties for regions was actually being used properly. There was a crisis in housing, the market was tight, we were having difficulties finding places for people to live and it was impacting the ability for small businesses, essential workers and government workers to find appropriately priced accommodation, so we did something about it.

I did not get an answer from the Minister for Housing on whether he would even consider something like that. I got the same answer he has given for the last four weeks of Parliament: "We understand there's a problem. It can't be fixed overnight." There have been calls from the regional chambers of commerce and industry, the childcare sector, the business sector and government departments for essential worker housing in our regions. In his answer, the minister was focused very heavily on the fact that he thinks that the rental market in the Perth metropolitan area will ease up over time. Of course it will, at some point, but we were asking specifically about how the government could assist our communities in regional Western Australia and ensure that we are able to access every available worker. If we do not have access to child care because the people who actually provide that essential service cannot access a house, then we cannot release those workers who are available in our communities. If we cannot get anyone from overseas, businesses and individuals will choose not to stay, which will place a restriction on the services that we can provide in communities like Kununurra, the goldfields, Karratha, Geraldton and all over the place. That is completely unacceptable to us when there is a \$5 billion surplus. Again, during the MPI, the Premier patted himself on the back and said that this government has that surplus because it has worked hard. This government has a record royalty rate that is rolling in the dollars. It has starved essential services over the last four years and now we have reached a crisis point that has a convenient pandemic placed across the top of it, which allows this government to deflect all of those issues, except we all know that those flags existed well and truly before then.

We have raised these issues again and again in this place during the first 100 days of this government. We have reflected on the fact that in the first 100 days, this government had the opportunity to address some of these matters, knowing that it had those dollars rolling in the door. Yet, one of the first things it did in the roll up to the state budget—to get the bad news out of the way, I suspect—was to announce that all the household fees and charges would go up. Everybody who was already stretched, who could not afford a house and who was already unable to pay their bills, was lobbed with another \$100 in fees and charges per household. There are people who are in real crisis. Today, in question time, I asked a question of the Minister for Housing about Tiffany, a 23-year-old lady who works in the childcare centre in Kununurra. She had to live in her car and then she had to live in a hotel so that she could provide that essential childcare service to the families of Kununurra. There are another 83 families on that centre's waiting list because it cannot access more staff due to their inability to access housing. That childcare issue is happening right across regional Western Australia. As I said in my question to the minister, this was raised with me in the regional chambers of commerce forum that was held last week where all the regional chambers came together; they come to Parliament a couple of times a year. I have no doubt that it was raised with the ministers of the government and I would be very interested to know what they said in response. One of the issues that they put on the table was exactly what we asked about today: can the government provide us with essential workers' quarters for our workers, such as childcare workers? The Minister for Housing provided no response to my question today. That is a very real example that has emerged. One hundred days have passed and we are yet to see any action from the government to address these said issues.

As I said, we have crises in the areas of housing, health and homelessness and we have labour shortages. This government has failed to fund many key sectors and it has not even acknowledged that there is a problem. These sectors are crumbling and have reached breaking point. Tragic incidents are happening in our state's emergency departments. I know that the hardworking shadow Minister for Health will no doubt talk about some of those issues in our health sector. It was incredibly difficult to watch but remarkable how the Australian Nursing Federation and the Australian Medical Association came together to protest outside Perth Children's Hospital. However, we were mocked by the government when we raised this issue in the Parliament. It was a moment in time that reflected the sheer frustration of those workers and the people who they seek to look after. Again, this is something that the government could have addressed in its first 100 days. Certainly, it could have addressed this issue well in advance because the red flags were there, but it chose not to.

The 17 000 Western Australians who are on the public housing waitlist are facing up to two years without a place to call home. I do not understand how the government can meet its promise to keep the people of Western Australia safe and strong when some of them do not have a roof over their head. This is notwithstanding the additional challenges faced by some of our communities, particularly those in the midwest and Gascoyne, and I would also include Wooroloo, Gidgegannup and the communities impacted by bushfires. We understand that natural disasters

are not within the control of the government of the day, but how it responds is and these communities are still facing real challenges. Today in question time, the member for North West Central asked why it takes so long for the issues of people who are so far out of sight and mind to be prioritised by the government. That is what it feels like for them. They say that they do not feel like they are being looked after. These matters needed to be on the government's agenda the day the new cabinet was sworn in.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.J. DAVIES: These matters needed to be first and foremost for the government, but they were not, despite its \$5 billion surplus.

I have talked about electoral reform; I will not go back into it. I say to the regional members sitting on the government's side and around the table that when the time comes to vote on this matter, they must remember that their voice means something and they can make a difference. If the legacy that they want is to remove regional representation from this state Parliament—a permanent reduction in representation in regional Western Australia—I will look forward to seeing how they plan to explain that to their community because if they do not, we certainly will in 2025. I know that when that debate comes to this house, it will be a day for fairytales, spin and all the ridiculous statements that we have heard in this place again and again about fairness and equality, which is absolutely correct, but the notion of equality as a mathematical statement misses the point completely. Regional government members should be left in no doubt that if they think that their constituents will have moved on from this devious and deceitful move—it has been driven by ideology, nothing else—by the time we reach 2025, I promise them that their words and vote will be here forever and we will remind them of how they voted. Regional government members have a chance to be courageous; they should stand up against the party machine and use the voice that they have been given by their electorates because what I have seen so far in the first 100 days is a distinct unwillingness to take this issue to their electorates and say anything other than the talking points that have been provided by the government.

We have been talking about the breach of trust in the data collected by the SafeWA app, but there is a raft of COVID-19 management issues on which the government has been found wanting. Before we found out about the data breach, we had in this place relentlessly pursued information about the government's plan to shift from an emergency footing to a more sensible approach—not a more sensible approach, but the next phase of the management of the pandemic now that we have moved on from an acute emergency status. We looked to Professor Weeramanthri's report about the issues that emerged with hotel quarantine very early on this year. A number of reports have been done. We knew at that point in time that the government had dragged its feet on implementing some of the initiatives that would have prevented some of the COVID-19 outbreaks, particularly the outbreak that resulted in lockdown on the Anzac Day weekend. There was plenty of evidence in other jurisdictions that we needed to apply certain measures in our hotel quarantine system that were not applied and, as a result, we went into lockdown. Many businesses are still feeling the impact of that and other lockdowns.

Professor Weeramanthri's report made a raft of recommendations—16 recommendations—one of which was a quarantine advisory panel. The whole basis of his report was about shifting from crisis management and joining the different arms of government that were involved in managing the pandemic and hotel quarantine. He made a good point at the back of his report that we should take the next six months—this was written on 12 March 2021—as a window of opportunity to optimise hotel quarantine governance for the period that follows, which may include changes to our emergency management arrangements. That is a safe and sensible approach. That one paragraph in the conclusion of his report goes to the fact that there is recognition within government departments and those who are managing this on a daily basis that we need to think differently about what we do in response to COVID-19 now and in six months, 12 months and the rest of it. I wonder whether that thinking is being done. Certainly, when we asked the Premier and the Minister for Health again and again what the Quarantine Advisory Panel was doing, when it was meeting, what it would be charged with, whether it was doing work on finding alternatives to hotel quarantine, whether it was expanding hotel quarantine, whether we were looking at options outside Perth, we were met with a wall of silence. In fact, it was not silence; it was confusion. We could not get an answer from the Premier, we got the wrong answer from the Minister for Health and a different answer in a question on notice.

These are the concerns that we have because these are the promises that the government has made to the people of Western Australia. If we take it at its most genuine, the statement about keeping Western Australians safe and strong relates to the government's management of the COVID-19 pandemic. The next phase has challenged the government to deliver joined thinking and it has far more challenges in terms of risks for the state going forward. The government has got us through the last 12 months, but now what is the plan? I have not seen a plan in the first 100 days. We as an opposition asked for a review. We asked for a review last year—after every major emergency or natural disaster, typically, there is a review of the government response, what the agencies did, who was involved, what happened and whether we could take any learnings forward—because presumably this is not going to be the only time that we are faced with something like this. Our call for a review was rejected outright. There would have been, and still is, great merit in having a review of the management over the last months to inform us—it would need to be open and transparent—how we should move forward in the next six, 12, 24 and 36 months because that is how long we will be living in these new normal circumstances.

I was very interested to read the Paul Murray article on 22 May. I am jumping around a little bit, but the article related to how the pandemic would be managed. At the beginning of the outbreak and when the pandemic took hold, there were discussions behind closed doors with various different government identities about whether it was best to use the powers under the Emergency Management Act 2005 or the powers under the Public Health Act 2016. There was quite a tussle. Paul Murray said that Darren Foster was on one side of the argument—at the time he was the director general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet—and someone else was on the other. As a result, we saw Darren Foster exit stage left. Ultimately, he lost the argument about whether the Emergency Management Act should be used over the Health Act. Questions like that could be dealt with as part of a review or at least as an internal part of what the government is doing going forward. Is it right for us? I asked the Attorney General the other day, during the debate on trying to fix the loophole with the SafeWA app, whether any thought had been given to that. I did not get one straight answer from the Attorney General that night, so I could not say whether it is something the government is contemplating or would contemplate, but I think it is worth a question. The decisions of the government on border closures, what will happen to businesses if we have future lockdowns and the availability of quarantine are relevant to the people of Western Australia; they want to know what will happen because those decisions impact on them every day. The Premier told them they would be kept safe and strong. I want to know how that will happen if we cannot get access to workers because the hotel quarantine system does not have the capacity to allow us to bring those workers in. I want to know how we will keep everyone safe and strong if childcare workers are living in cars or hotels while trying to deliver an essential service because we do not have enough houses. I want to know how we will keep kids safe if we do not have enough people working in child protection and family support to pair with children who have been identified as requiring assistance. I do not know how the community will stay safe and strong if we cannot have answers to questions like that. They are the questions we raise in relation to the first 100 days of this government.

I want to circle back to the SafeWA app, because it still concerns me and I have not got an answer out of this government yet about this. I tried to ask the Minister for Police last week about the G2G PASS that we had to use when there were internal regional borders. It was not a choice. Some of us had essential tasks to carry out. We had to go across borders. We had to provide information to the police. I asked whether the legislation that was debated in the Parliament—I do not know whether it has gone through the Legislative Council yet, but if it has, it will have just recently—covered the issue that we were trying to remedy with the SafeWA app of the data being used by WA police for those purposes and not others. I get asked quite regularly whether I think that is appropriate. I would never want to see the police prevented from solving a murder, but they had tools available to them prior to COVID-19 that allowed them to do that. I understand they did not act unlawfully, and the blame does not lie with them, but the Minister for Police could not even remember that we had an obligation to use the G2G PASS. It was not about whether someone wanted to come in from New South Wales or go on holiday; we were actually forced to use it. Every worker coming from Albany, Geraldton or my electorate who had to go to the airport to fly to the Pilbara to do fly-in fly-out work had to have a G2G PASS, and all of that data was collected. They were not able to do their jobs without it. I have not had any clarity from the Minister for Police about whether the G2G PASS will be captured under the legislation we passed and whether there is the same loophole.

The reason we make that point is that we think the Premier and the government need to be up-front about it. They were very, very clear about what that data would be used for when they introduced the app. The briefing note we have seen as a result of questions in the Legislative Council showed that the government was absolutely nervous about this when it first came to light. The top four talking points, the key messages in that briefing note, were that this would undermine public confidence. My question today to the Minister for Health was about whether the government will continue to try to peddle the line to the public that it will keep people safe and strong and that it has not misled them or done anything wrong. It was very pointed. I want to know when the government knew about that. If the Department of Health and the police knew about that prior to the election, why were they not having those regular conversations with the minister and the Premier, as we are told they do on a regular basis?

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [4.44 pm]: If anyone has gone to the movies, perhaps not lately, because of COVID-19, they will understand it when I say that the government reminds me of those cardboard cut-outs with the movie titles on them. The title of this government's movie is *Keep Us Safe and Strong*, but if a crowd of kids ran through the theatre and created a whoosh, that cut-out would fall down because there is nothing behind it! That is what we are experiencing here. This cardboard cut-out of a government is saying that it is keeping us safe and strong against COVID, but there is nothing behind it.

There are issues facing the state of Western Australia, and particularly our tourism destinations. There is a need to cater for the massive growth in tourism in regional areas. That growth has happened because no-one can leave the state. They can occasionally, but they fear leaving the state and not being able to come back. There are eastern staters who want to come to Western Australia but they fear not being able to get back to the east coast. Nonetheless, we have huge internal tourism. That is what the government keeps on telling us: the state of Western Australia is booming. Regional communities have needs, such as worker accommodation. The McGowan Labor government has its Wander Out Yonder campaign and says that, thanks to it, tourism has never been so good. Perhaps some members have not gone to these tourism hotspots, of which a few are in my electorate, such as Exmouth, Coral Bay, Shark Bay

and Kalbarri. I recently spoke to people in Broome to see what their issues were. Everyone talks about everything being full, but when I talk to the chambers of commerce and tourism industry bodies, they tell me that they are somewhere between 60 per cent and 80 per cent full because there are no hospitality workers, and if they can get workers, there is no accommodation for the workers.

Mr P.J. Rundle: They are not getting out past the Darling scarp.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The member for Roe is right. I think the Darling scarp separates a lot of members in this chamber who do not understand what is happening in regional WA.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Then, the Minister for Finance criticised the CEO of the Shire of Northampton, who is under a huge amount of stress, with towns that have been decimated by the cyclone. The minister commented, “You must be on the other team. You must be a booth worker for the member for North West Central.” I mean, come on, guys! That just shows the lack of understanding and poor form of the Minister for Finance. It just typifies what the McGowan Labor government —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Madam Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister, thank you!

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister!

Dr A.D. Buti: Did he support your campaign?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The minister would have to ask him; I do not know.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: All I can say is that I support him. It is his cause.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: All I can say is that I supported his cause.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, minister! Member for North West Central, you can continue.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Not only did the Minister for Finance criticise a hardworking CEO who is under a huge amount of stress because the towns in his shire were affected by the cyclone, but also when the Minister for Tourism went to Kalbarri—he did not inform the local member he was going there, but the people in Kalbarri told me he went there—and businesses told him in a meeting about the issues that were facing their town, he basically turned to them and said, “You must be all yellow and green. You must be all National Party supporters, because that is what the local member has been saying in Parliament.” I think a bit of a threat was made to those people that they had better watch out and be careful about what they say. That is what was reported back to me. When ministers go to electorates and basically bully people into supporting the McGowan Labor government, there is huge concern.

There is the need for worker accommodation to take the pressure off the small businesses. Tourism operators are desperate to have a break. They need people to come and work for them, and, more importantly, they need worker accommodation. Broome, Exmouth, Coral Bay, Shark Bay and Kalbarri are all in desperate need of worker accommodation. Look at the issues and what the government did. It offered cheap flights. The people of the Gascoyne are still waiting for those cheap flights. People in regional Western Australia are still waiting for those cheap flights. It still costs \$1 000 for a return flight to Carnarvon. It still costs \$750 for a return flight to Exmouth. The list goes on. Where are those cheap flights the McGowan Labor government promised? The McGowan government also promised that Kalbarri would have reliable power. Kalbarri is still waiting for reliable power. Even after cyclone Seroja and the power poles have been put up, there is no reliability of power in Kalbarri. The power keeps going on and off and on and off, and that is affecting appliances. The government said that it would fix that. It has not.

The matter of public interest also talks about a wage freeze—a wage freeze that the Premier and the McGowan Labor government applied across the public sector and to members of Parliament. But he failed to put a wage freeze on his parliamentary pension. Four members in this Parliament are on the old parliamentary superannuation scheme, and the Premier is one of them.

Mr S.A. Millman: Is that a big issue?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Yes, it is a big issue. Nurses, police officers and public servants have had their wages frozen. They are under pressure. There is a crisis in the health service because there are not enough nurses, yet the Premier's parliamentary super scheme is going up and their wages are going down. Shame on Labor! Shame on the McGowan Labor government for not putting a freeze on his generous parliamentary super scheme, which the Premier voted to get rid of in 2001.

Point of Order

Dr A.D. BUTI: The member for North West Central is saying that there is a wage freeze in the public service. That is incorrect. He knows that that is incorrect, so he should not keep misleading the Parliament.

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

Debate Resumed

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Public servant wage increases have been capped, but the Premier's super has not been not capped. The now Premier moved that policy in 2000, to get rid of the parliamentary superannuation scheme for all future members of Parliament except himself. Twenty years of benefit—that is what the Premier has. The member for Mount Lawley is right. He has 20 years of benefit. What have our public servants got? There is pressure on the health system. It cannot employ nurses because people do not want to work for wages that have been capped by this government. Look at the advertisements for police. The Western Australia Police Force cannot get police because of that wage cap. Government departments across Western Australia—McGowan Labor government departments—are in crisis. It is all smoke and mirrors. If the public saw what happens in Parliament and heard the spin—because this government is all about spin—they would find that there is no substance to the government. That is why the Premier called a press conference every day for 12 months—to suck oxygen and to sell fear to the people of Western Australia. Over the last four years we have been experiencing a trading halt—a trading halt in building houses, a trading halt in fixing the health system and a trading halt on anything that government needed to do to make sure that the Western Australian state functions. That is the problem that this government has. When it is swimming in a surplus of over \$5 billion, what is happening to the infrastructure and public servants who need support? The people of Western Australia are suffering because of the spin of this government.

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) [4.53 pm]: I rise to support this worthy motion moved by the opposition—a worthy motion that highlights and reflects on what this government has achieved in the last 100 days in office—that this house notes that the McGowan government has created a crisis of confidence and has let down the people of Western Australia. How true that is in the portfolio areas that I represent. How true that is particularly in the portfolio of health, in which we have seen a crisis not only over the last 100 days, but also reflected in the first three years of the McGowan Labor government.

There has been an underinvestment in health that has not kept pace with growth but has reflected a lack of management in this important portfolio area and that crisis has been reflected in the tragic death of seven-year-old Aishwarya Aswath. Aishwarya is the human face of this health crisis in Western Australia. I do not intend to go over the events of 3 April, but I will raise her tragic death at our most prominent hospital, a hospital that is meant to support our youth. Aishwarya was not seen and did not receive proper care within a two-hour time frame. This goes to the heart of, and certainty reflects, a health system that is in crisis. That event that evening reflects not only a health system in crisis, but also the McGowan government's failing to handle that event in the days, weeks and months after.

Shortly after, the Minister for Health responded by seeking a briefing and calling a press conference, at which time he stated that the health system was operating magnificently. In the week following that tragedy, the minister stated that it was an exciting time to be part of the health system. How out of touch is this government? The minister has not effectively managed the health system and is just spinning the details. That is all we have seen since that tragic death. It refused to implement an independent inquiry from the get-go and instead pushed forward with a root-cause analysis report, which has since been identified as having holes. That root-cause analysis points to a health system that has not had the attention of the McGowan Labor government. We saw in the root-cause analysis the fact that senior clinicians have repeatedly raised staffing shortage issues that directly and dramatically impact on patient care. There have also been efforts made by this government, the Premier and the Minister for Health to deflect blame and to send junior staff to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, effectively throwing our junior health workers under the bus.

The handling of this tragedy at Perth Children's Hospital, together with other tragedies and significant issues that have not been addressed across the board in our health system, culminated in a protest at Perth Children's Hospital.

For the first time, the Australian Nursing Federation and the Australian Medical Association came together with thousands of people to protest. It was the first time in eight years that there has been such a protest, due to not only the government's mishandling of the health system, but also its contempt and disrespect for our health workers. Under this government, they have an impossible task of working in a system that is under-resourced and not getting the support of the health minister. While the health minister is saying that the sector is facing a challenge, everyone else, including the AMA, the nursing federation and many patients and healthcare workers, is calling the situation a crisis. That will be this government's legacy in health.

That is also reflected in what people are calling the canary in the coalmine—that is, ambulance ramping. Our ambulance ramping statistics are damning. The statistics of the McGowan Labor government on ambulance ramping highlight the fact that this government has been unable to transition patient care from St John Ambulance, a not-for-profit organisation that has been doing an outstanding job and working under significant pressure. The government has not been able to effectively see patient care transferred from the ambulance at the emergency department to the hospital. That has amounted to a record number of code yellows, or internal emergencies, in our hospitals. This is something that the Australian Medical Association has said used to happen occasionally—it used to happen once or twice a year. Now it is commonplace.

We are seeing significant levels of bed block. We had a day in the last month when every one of our emergency departments did not have any beds available. That is just in the last month alone. That is at the metropolitan hospitals across our city. What an extraordinary situation we find ourselves in. This is at the beginning of winter, with no influx of flu, and no spread of COVID in the community. This is a government that, as many others on this side, or in this corner of the house, have stated, is drunk on power, is being arrogant and has dropped the ball on the important management of the health portfolio.

We have seen elective surgery suspended for category 2 and 3 patients. We have seen a state like Victoria, which has had COVID in the community, be able to resume elective surgery. The elective surgery list has grown under this government's watch by over 50 per cent. That is an extraordinary figure. These are not just statistics. These are patients who are suffering. I spoke to a patient recently who has been waiting for a hip replacement for over 12 months. The new delays and the new time lines for this important surgery mean that it looks as though she will now need to have surgery on her other hip, on which she had previously had an operation and which has now been impacted by the significant delay.

This is not an uncommon story. We are hearing these stories across the board and daily in *The West Australian*, and obviously also on radio, out in the community, and in our electorate offices. Today, we again had to urgently raise an issue relating to patients who have contacted my office in the seat of Vasse. This is not uncommon; this is becoming more and more commonplace under this government's watch.

I touched on ambulance ramping. Those figures reflect emergency departments that have a limited capacity to ensure the transfer of patients within a suitable time frame because of bed block, because of staffing shortages, and because the government has been unable to invest in and open up beds. This has led to a situation in which the government has been well above the benchmark that it had called a crisis when in opposition. Earlier this year, in the month of January, there were over 4 000 hours of ambulance ramping. That is over triple the number of hours that we saw under the previous government, when these hours were peaking. This is a fundamental failure of the McGowan Labor government, something that we have been seeing persistently, and last month as well, when there were over 3 800 hours. Labor's first response to these ambulance ramping statistics was to stop reporting them—that was its first response when it came into government. Thankfully, St John Ambulance is providing that data.

We have heard today in the news that the government is now considering an inquiry and report into the operations of St John Ambulance, with consideration for taking over the ambulance service. We would like to see the government invest in the services that St John Ambulance provides. It should be very clear to everyone that if this government cannot handle and cannot manage its hospitals effectively, and cannot support the staff appropriately, why on earth would the Western Australian public expect this government to be able to manage the ambulance service in this state? This is the epitome of shooting the messenger. This is an opportunity for this government to deflect blame, once again. It is another scapegoat for the failings that we have seen under this government's watch. Quite obviously, it is dangerous as well. We know that St John Ambulance is a not-for-profit or charitable organisation. I understand that last year, the Productivity Commission reported on the value for money that St John Ambulance provides in patient outcomes and cost to patients when compared with the ambulance services in other states. We know also that it has an enormous volunteer workforce.

Although we are seeing situations and we are receiving feedback from workers in the health system, we only need to point to South West Health Campus in Bunbury, where there have been significant issues that are now the focus of a WorkSafe investigation. The opposition has also received emails from staff at Fiona Stanley Hospital raising grave concerns about midwives at Fiona Stanley who do not feel supported and who feel the pressure of undertaking double shifts and the pressure to work when they are sick. They have written to the opposition about the panic attacks that they are feeling at work and the pressures of working in an environment in which they have real concerns about the impact of staffing shortages on patient care. All those issues have been well documented and well published

for everyone to see. Recently, at Perth Children's Hospital, over 1 000 workers protested to condemn the McGowan government for its failings. I highlight the fact that this is not exactly a government that would attract the same level of support that we see not only in metropolitan Perth, but also across the regions, with St John Ambulance.

I have stated that in the first 100 days of this government, we have seen a record level of code yellows. We have heard the Minister for Health characterise code yellows as "business as usual". They are not. Code yellows are hospitals that are in such a state of crisis that they cannot function properly and have to divert patients. We are in the extraordinary situation in which there is no influx of flu, and no COVID in the community, and the government has a \$5 billion surplus, but we cannot support patients who come into our emergency departments and hospitals. It is a damning statistic. The fact that the government's response to this is to bury the statistics and not make them available is damning as well.

I have asked a question of the Minister for Health in this place about the spin that we have heard from him in comparing emergency department attendances with those from last year during the COVID lockdown, when we had a 15 per cent increase. If we compare that with this time last year, and the year before, 2019, the growth was about 2.5 per cent, which is in line with population growth. The growth in attendances at our emergency departments is on trend and predictable and something that this government should have invested in and should have taken note of. In the portfolios of government, nothing is more important than ensuring a suitable level of care in emergency departments and hospitals to support the vulnerable.

I will touch also on staff leave. We know that this government is not supporting health workers. We have talked about them protesting at Perth Children's Hospital. Almost one-third of the workforce have the equivalent of two years' annual leave owing; that is eight weeks. This is illustrative of healthcare workers who are feeling overworked and burdened and pressured by the situation in which they find themselves under this government's watch in a workplace that should be supporting them.

In the family and domestic violence portfolio, one in six women and one in 16 men experience physical or sexual violence from a current or previous cohabitating partner. Family assault and threatening behaviour offences have increased since 2018–19 by 24 per cent.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms L. METTAM: Additionally, sexual offences increased by 22 per cent in the first term of the McGowan Labor government. As a result of the health crisis and the lack of transitional housing, those who would like to leave the refuges that are housing them are staying up to three times longer than would ordinarily be anticipated. That is certainly the feedback we have had from the South West Women's Refuge. It is creating a situation whereby women are turning down or avoiding violence restraining orders. This is a dangerous situation. Domestic violence survivors are also left homeless due to a lack of social housing. This has created a dangerous environment and it deserves the attention of government. The average number of days that women spend in a shelter is tripling. We have heard a number of concerns across the community about how this is reflected in the family and domestic violence space. In some regional areas—I understand Broome is one example—staff find it difficult to maintain their roles as managers of refuges because they are unable to obtain accommodation. This obviously speaks to a system that is under extraordinary pressure—a system that is unable to support our very vulnerable.

The other area that is reflective of where the government has failed is mental health. I presented a grievance recently in Parliament that was specifically on the issues around eating disorders. What we are dealing with has quite obviously been the pointy end resulting from a lack of early intervention in this space. We know that the government's investment in community mental health is proportionally below the national average. That has presented as not only a record number of eating disorder cases, but also a lack of investment in early intervention to ensure that our youth and children do not have to present themselves at emergency departments.

We had an extraordinary situation recently. A father came to me just last week whose daughter was police-escorted from Perth Children's Hospital to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital because she turned 16 on 31 May. What a poor standard of care this government is managing in this state when a child, just days after turning 16, is escorted to another hospital. What is worse is that a child in such a distressed state, who was effectively starving herself to death, had to spend a couple of nights in the busy emergency department at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital while the staff tried to manage and support her. That is a tragic situation. It points to a system that is under pressure. It also points to a system that is under-resourced. It is disappointing that it takes a ministerial approach for the government to act in this area. Unfortunately, time and again that is what members on this side of the house are resorting to when we try to support these individuals. Eating disorders is one condition that highlights this issue very well because it can be addressed with early intervention, but is also the deadliest of mental health cases. We have seen more than an 86 per cent increase in mental health presentations at Perth Children's Hospital for eating disorders. With just eight beds and little movement on a \$31 million investment in a hub at Perth Children's Hospital, it remains the case: what other support is offered there and what other support is there in the community?

As a regional local member I am often frustrated by the level of support at our schools as well. Chaplains and school nurses often raise their concerns. I caught up with a group of chaplains last week who raised the concern that there

is nowhere else to go for help in the local community. They are overwhelmed by students who they see on a range of matters related to mental illness and they are frustrated and concerned for the youth in our community. Countless reports have been done into this need but we are not seeing a level of investment that illustrates that this is a priority of government. That underlines why this opposition notes that in the first 100 days of the McGowan Labor government, it has created a crisis of confidence and it has let down the people of Western Australia.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [5.18 pm]: I rise to support the motion of the member for Moore that this house condemns the Western Australian Labor government for its failure to deal with critical issues facing the state in its first 100 days of government, despite an absolute majority and a record \$5 billion government surplus. I agree with the member for Moore who said that if the government were in a classroom, it would be considered a fail. I would call it about three and a half to four out of 10, but perhaps the member for Moore would be slightly more generous.

We are now coming into the second four-year term of the McGowan Labor government, so we have already seen the initial four years. Now we have seen its first 100 days of its second term and scrutiny is increasing. This is where I think the government will be caught short. The Premier has his 52 other members in the chamber who all have their agenda. They also have their ambitions and aspirations. I have a concern that the undermining will start. We saw a display of the Premier's autocratic approach today. I think this autocratic approach will catch up with not only the Premier's own members, but also the public of Western Australia. The Premier has a great knack of deflecting and dismissing those views of members opposite, but his promise of gold-standard transparency before the election of 2017 has well and truly fallen short.

We have seen what has happened with the ministry and the caucus. For those who get onboard, those who do not oppose the Premier, everything is great. But we have seen some good-quality members and ministers moved to the sidelines. Hon Kate Doust in the other house was doing an excellent job as President of the Legislative Council, but no, she has been moved on. We have not seen some members here for a little while or we have seen very little of some members. I refer, as I have done previously, to the excellent former Minister for Housing.

Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski: He was here today.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: He is around, but I was very disappointed to see him moved on after doing an excellent job. I have spoken about the member for Kalamunda before. He was the subject of discussions today. Even though he sits up the back, somehow he was promoted to Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission. Member for Cottesloe, I am still scratching my head about that one. The sequence of events is demonstrating that if members do not play the Premier's game and just roll in and agree with him—see you later! You are out the door. Even the Auditor General acknowledged in the *Transparency report: Major projects in October 2020* —

Despite the significant investment in Western Australia of public money in major projects, Parliament and the public cannot easily access information on their progress.

We have a real problem with transparency. I cannot see what is going on with many of these large projects except that the budget is increasing. The Minister for Transport was very proudly talking about how Metronet is progressing and the like, but I would love to see some more numbers. I would love to know what the actual budget is. It seems to be climbing. As the Auditor General said —

... none of the 15 projects publicly report cost and time progress on a regular basis.

To me, that is a real issue. That is an issue of transparency.

I would like to move on to education. I think that is a real emphasis for me. As shadow minister, I am concerned about several issues in education. I think one was identified last weekend in an article by Bethany Hiatt in *The West Australian*. It stated that we have 60 per cent fewer teaching postgraduates since 2017, and a real issue with relief teachers. Part of the reason is that relief teachers are now being offered casual and even full-time employment because of our lack of numbers in the teaching department. When I asked the Premier a question about this matter the other day, he spoke about the economic boom and said we are a growth state. I do not recall a massive number of teachers coming in from overseas. Our issue is that we lack teachers in WA and in the production line, if you like, to bring enough teachers through the ranks. I am sure part of this is due to the wage freeze that the member for North West Central spoke about and the \$1 000 cap. There is no incentive for people to move into these areas. Teaching is a fantastic profession. We all recognise how important it is to our community and how important it is to our families and our students. I am very worried about the pattern that seems to be developing whereby we are getting teacher shortages. The Department of Education even admitted the other day that it is looking at putting training teachers who are still students into the workforce and paying them some sort of wage under supervision. That concerns me because although they are being supervised, that would take another teacher out of action to supervise them. I am curious to see how that plan progresses, but that is a concern to me.

I think the culture in some of our schools is becoming a worry. We saw the other day, Perth Modern School staff demanded the director general to release the results of a survey into workplace culture that was conducted eight months ago. That letter was signed by nine branch leaders on behalf of 72 union members at that school. So there are culture concerns in certain schools such as that. I would love to know what is going on there.

I want to recognise how important leadership is in all our schools. We have roughly 870 public schools in the state and, of course, many in the Catholic and independent system, and we cannot recognise enough the importance of leadership in those schools. I have certainly seen it in my electorate. There are 52 schools in my electorate and it is incredible how when there is good leadership, I do not hear a peep. I do not hear anything from the staff or the families. Everything just runs smoothly. But as soon as there is an issue, they are on the phone. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of recognising our good-quality leaders. I certainly think the director general has, in general, done a pretty good job of recognising our good-quality leaders, but the government needs to make sure that it keeps emphasising that as an important part of our education system. I look at somewhere such as Narrogin Senior High School, which has had five acting principals over the past five years. The community starts to get restless, because it would like solid leadership and continuity. The Department of Education needs to work on that. We find a merry-go-round in a lot of our schools, whereby a teacher is holding a substantive position from five years ago, which means someone next to that cannot have their substantive position and someone else gets moved on. There is a big merry-go-round of scenarios there. That is a concern to me in education.

I am glad the Minister for Transport is here; I do not know what is causing it, but I seem to have a multitude of orange school bus issues that have arisen over the last couple of months. I look forward to having a discussion with the transport minister on this because a couple of weeks ago I was at Munglinup, standing in front of a public meeting with 100 parents, community members, bus drivers and family members, trying to defend school bus services because we could not seem to get anyone there at the time. I was actually trying to defend their policies, which go back to 1989 and are outdated. I think we need a change. We need to move into the twenty-first century. I do not blame the people in school bus services because they have a policy and sometimes there has to be a line in the sand; they have to draw the line somewhere, but at different times, common sense also has to prevail.

We have a situation in Munglinup in which a family had their young child on a school bus. The mother is a nurse in Ravensthorpe, a nearby community. All of a sudden, the other student or two students on that bus left, so it was, "Sorry, you can't go to that school anymore. You've got to move on to another school that you're not even part of, because you're a couple of kilometres away on the wrong side of this imaginary line that we've drawn in the sand." We need some common sense on some of these decisions. The way it is going at the moment, the mother of that child will now have to take her son to another bus stop or drive him to school every day, but then she will not be able to work as a nurse in Ravensthorpe, where there are only two nurses. This is the flow-on effect for the community of Ravensthorpe. All I am asking for is common sense. School bus services should not be deciding where families send their children to school. That is an education decision for families, their kids and their communities.

That is certainly an issue for me. We have another one in Darkan at the moment. There are families there in the middle of an area where there are three district high schools, along with Collie Senior High School. They are being told that they cannot go from Darkan Primary School over to Collie Senior High School; they have to go to a district high school in between for three or four years and then go on to Collie. They just want continuity. If they live 500 metres further out, on the wrong side of Darkan, we cannot seem to solve that issue. Once again, school bus policy is dictating where those families send their kids to school. That is something I am really worried about and it seems to be cropping up more and more. As I said, I understand where the policy officers are coming from. They have to implement the policy that they have been left with, but I think we need to work towards a more commonsense solution in a lot of these cases.

Further to my education concerns, I turn to the issue of school attendance data. I refer to a question on notice asked by Hon Neil Thomson from the other place on 27 May. He asked about attendance rates for schools in Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Wyndham, Derby and Kununurra. Since 2016 there has been a reduction in attendance in nearly all year levels. The excuse that was given was that there had been a particularly severe flu season in 2019, and COVID-19 in 2020. Well, that does not cut it for me. This government needs to work harder to find out what the problem is and why these attendance rates are trending down.

While I am talking about schools, I am very concerned about the government's lopsided approach to some of our regional senior high schools that were built in the 1960s. I spoke briefly last week about the Esperance Senior High School. Those buildings were built back in the 1960s and are dark and dingy. The students and staff there are doing a fantastic job, and they have great ATAR results, but as I mentioned last week, there are schools in the member for Baldivis' electorate on which \$30 million is being spent on performing arts centres. I would love the member to come and have a look at the performing arts centre at Esperance Senior High School. It is a very small room where there is barely room to move; it is just like half a classroom. It is a disgrace. It is quite upsetting to me when I see the government's lopsided approach. It has committed \$1.5 million to the upgrading of science, technology, engineering and mathematics classrooms, but I do not believe that money should be spent on that; it should be spent on removing all the classrooms through the middle of the school and providing good quality infrastructure in classrooms for those students. We have more than 1 100 students at Esperance Senior High School, and we really need to look hard at what we can do there. We need a more targeted approach to schools that have 1960s infrastructure. I guess I am asking for a bit of equity, as much as anything.

Mr S.A. Millman: Not when it comes to votes! One vote, one value?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I am very pleased that the member actually brought up one vote, one value.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: When the member for Mount Lawley talks about equity, what is he going to say to the remote Indigenous communities out there who will no longer have any representation? Can he look me straight in the eye and tell me, when all the Labor Party members move their offices up here, close to Parliament House, who is going to go out and look after those remote Indigenous communities? There are 36 members in the upper house —

Several members interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I am sure the member for Kimberley will do her best, but there are many more remote communities than in her electorate. My electorate is 5 912 times the size of the member for Mount Lawley's. What is he going to say to the people of Western Australia when there is no-one out there from the upper house to get out there into those areas and service those communities? I can absolutely guarantee one thing: the member for Mount Lawley will not be straying further than the Darling Scarp! He will not be out there servicing those electorates. It is all very well and good for the Attorney General to talk about his independent committee. Malcolm McCusker is very independent and very well respected, but we have three other independent committee members who published their opinions on this before they even got onto the committee, as well as having worked for members of the Labor Party—if you don't mind!—going right back to 1983. It is scandalous; those are supposedly independent people. We talk about equity and equality; as far as I am concerned, it is about equity of representation and the fact that 70 per cent of the state's income comes from the regional areas of WA. It is about equity in representing the smaller Indigenous and regional communities that do not have equitable access. They cannot go down the road to the member for Mount Lawley's office after a three-minute drive and say, "Look, member for Mount Lawley: can you help me out?" Some of them are 1 500 kilometres away from their nearest electorate office. That is the real issue for me. I honestly cannot see how, in this day and age, there is any equity of representation in what the Attorney General and Premier have put on the agenda.

Mr D.R. Michael: What a lot of rubbish!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: If the member does not mind, it was not on the Premier's agenda. He was asked five times by Dan Mercer in Albany prior to the election. He said it was not on his agenda, and then, lo and behold, what happened? One day after Parliament began, they put out a press release about an independent ministerial expert committee—that is not bad! They did not even wait for two or three weeks, member for Moore. One day after the opening of Parliament, in they came. It was a very disappointing performance. The voters of the Western Australia will eventually wake up to it—do not worry about that. As the member for Vasse said, these things are all adding up. We had not seen much in the papers about the public health system; the silence was deafening. But funnily enough, after 13 March, all hell broke loose. I do not know what happened there. I do not know why it was not reported in *The West Australian*. I do not know what was going on, but it certainly is being reported on now.

The people of WA are getting voter regret. They can see what is happening. They can see the ambulance ramping numbers. Now St John Ambulance is being targeted by this committee. These are the sorts of things being done to intercept any issues. The Minister for Health must be thinking what is he going to do now to sidetrack the WA public from seeing what is going on with ambulance ramping and the like. They will wake up to it—do not worry about that—because, as the member for Vasse said, they are the people who need a hip or a knee operation. Category 2 and 3 surgeries were put off to the side last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As I said previously, many of the hospitals barely had anyone in them during 2020. I think there was a level of complacency, and now we are seeing the result: 10 000 elective surgeries were put on hold, and now the tally for the elective surgery waitlist has gone up from 29 000 to 39 000. The public of WA is waking up to it. I have real issues with the way that the Premier and the health minister are leading this issue. I have issues with the fact that the Premier had to pick up the treasury portfolio. Supposedly no-one else within the government was capable enough to pick up that portfolio. That is another issue that the public of WA are really worried about.

The other thing that I briefly want to talk about is the unions. The unions that helped this McGowan government to win the election are starting to lose their patience. I predict that after the winter break, the rallies will begin on the steps of Parliament House. The teachers, the nurses and the police are not satisfied. They have done the right thing. They have had the lid put on them at \$1 000 a year, but those nurses have been working harder than they have ever worked before and they deserve some reward for the work that they have done and the work that they continue to do. I could go on for much longer.

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [5.43 pm]: I rise to join this debate. What a failure the first 100 days of this government have been. Most of the ministers in this government are in their substantive roles from the last Parliament. They have their 12 or so electorate staff in their offices and they have their legislative programs, such as they were. I might say that the Attorney General is certainly batting above the average in terms of the bills presented. Nevertheless, all their ministerial offices have been ready to go, but what have we seen in the first 100 days? Talk about voter regret. To say it has been a disappointing performance by the government is a considerable understatement. The disheartening thing is that the real issues are not receiving the focus that they

should receive. We heard that people in Western Australia were going to be kept safe and strong. We were going to have safe and strong government in this state. Yet, no sooner had the government been elected, we heard about a mum with four kids living out of a tent in East Perth because she could not get any accommodation and she did not feel safe. She felt really unsafe. Pregnant mums about to have a baby were living in the same area. We now hear that Red Cross has been buying people cars, or at least paying for people's car registration so that they have a registered car to live in. That is a major charitable organisation and the only solution that it can sustain is to actually buy registrations for cars so that families—parents with children—have somewhere to sleep. I find that incomprehensible, and those people do not feel safe and I bet they do not feel strong. I bet they feel pretty beaten down and battered. We also hear of people with jobs in that position. It is just a disappointment. That is a considerable understatement in terms of the performance of this government or the meaningful action it has taken because we have not got to this position by chance. The COVID-19 pandemic has been around since about February last year when it became a significant issue in this state. We have had four years of this government, and we are heading into the fifth, so this government has had plenty of time to foresee the issues coming.

The member for Vasse asked a question of the Minister for Health yesterday and we heard him quote statistics around emergency department presentations saying that they are up 20 per cent or something like that from last year. Last year, we were in the middle of the COVID pandemic and the whole state was locked down. We did not have flu cases and elective surgery and the like was cancelled, but as the member for Vasse pointed out, if we go back past that period to 2019, the number of ED presentations now are up by only about two and a half per cent. All we have seen is normal organic growth in ED presentations over the last two years and this government simply has not maintained hospital resources to match that requirement. It is interesting to note that I heard the Premier today, in response to our matter of public interest, talking about a mandate. He had a mandate. We all know the truth of the election. I was out there campaigning and I can tell members, I took my seat seriously and that was reflected. I had a swing against me, but it was half the swing of the nearest swing of another member. The reason for that is that I take my seat seriously, and I take it seriously now. I spend my time out in the electorate and I speak to people.

Mr P. Papalia: You had the lowest margin Cottesloe has had since probably Federation.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I do not think that is actually true, but I am happy to debate that later, Minister for Police. We could perhaps have a red wine on Thursday and he can tell me all about it. I am always happy to learn. As I have said in this place, if there is one thing that members will find out about me, it is that I may express my views strongly but I am very happy to learn, and I appreciate it when I do. That is part of growing.

We heard about a mandate. There was only one mandate in this election: a mandate for handling COVID—that was it! I spent two and a half weeks at the pre-polling booths listening to what the people had to say. There was a mature gentleman at one booth whom, I take it, from the way that he spoke and was dressed, had had an opportunity for education. Nevertheless, he was a mature gentleman who must have voted in a number of elections. He literally stormed out of a polling booth with some harsh words to the electorate officers staffing that booth because he could not find Mark McGowan's name on the ballot paper to vote for him. I was not told that story. This was not an isolated example. This happened in my electorate. I had dozens and dozens of people saying that they could not find Mark McGowan's name on the ballot paper. I recognise that it would be called a historic triumph for any party. In fact, in this case, the Premier can duly take the credit; it was a historic triumph in recognition of and support for the way he handled the COVID-19 pandemic. I have been quite open in this place by saying that. It is quite stunning to conflate that as a mandate for every government policy. There is no mandate; the mandate is the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic—that is it. The government has a mandate to keep handling the COVID-19 pandemic and, as we on this side of the house have said, we have supported, and will continue to support, the government's strategy to follow the advice of the Chief Health Officer.

I turn to the issues that are really hurting people in Western Australia, which all have the same morphology of the government not doing anything sufficient or significant in these areas over the last four years. We have asked questions about social housing in the Legislative Assembly. Social housing stock decreased from 44 087 houses in June 2017 to 42 715 houses in May this year. Those numbers were provided in answer to a question asked in the Legislative Assembly of the Minister for Housing. That is a phenomenal decrease in the number of public houses over four years. It is no wonder we see people living in their cars. Imagine that; I cannot comprehend how it must have been for families, people with kids, living in their cars over the last couple of nights. I have occasionally slept in a car and I do not find it very comfortable, but they are sleeping in their car every night. They have nowhere to cook food, so they have to get takeaway. When it gets dark, they have to find a place that is safe, a place where their car will not be broken into and where they will not feel threatened. As they put their kids to bed, they quieten them by saying, "Don't worry, darling. It's okay. We'll be all right. Things will be better in the future", but they know that the next night, the night after that and the night after that are going to be the same because this government has not stayed on top of the housing issue. Members in this place know that I call it as I see it. The new Minister for Housing is a compassionate person who is working hard to fix this issue. I feel sorry for him because he has been given a suicide pass. The government has done nothing for four years and now this minister is desperately scrambling to fix the issues. Between 2 000 and 3 000 people are out on the streets because of the inaction of this Labor government. I do not think that is something to be proud of.

It was interesting last night; we had a spirited debate but there was arrogance and mocking. We hear all the comments from across the chamber, “You in the corner”, “You’re a joke” and “You’re this” and “You’re that.” Some of that energy and hubris should go into fixing the substantive problems facing the state of Western Australia. We can compare that with the record of the previous Liberal–National government. I have heard the Minister for Mines and Petroleum and others offer lots of comparisons between this government and the previous Liberal–National government. During the six-year period between 2010 and 2016, the Liberal–National government increased the number of social houses by 6 000 properties. If the government matched that, there would be 12 000 to 15 000 fewer people out on the streets or in tents in backyards because they have been unable to get housing. The government has simply failed in that area. It is a fundamental failure of this government.

As was pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition, it is not a metropolitan Perth problem. Since the new Parliament began, I have had two trips. I spent a night in Kununurra and then a night in Halls Creek, where I got my AstraZeneca jab. I went to Fitzroy Crossing and caught up with some people from one of the major Aboriginal corporations in town to have a discussion. I then went to Broome where I spoke to some community groups. I spent last Friday and Saturday in the south west. I visited Mt Barker and Albany and the next day I went to Manjimup and Donnybrook. I was told that there is no available housing in any of the towns that I visited, which is a major constraint. There is an intrinsic link between the availability of rental accommodation and the ability to get employees into communities. If we want workers to go somewhere, we have to have somewhere to house them. Kununurra cannot bring in workers because there is no rental accommodation. Of course, as the member for Kimberley knows, no-one goes to a town and buys a house on their first day; they want to rent. Once they get used to a town and like a community, they may decide to live there, and many often do. I have heard stories of people who went to a town to work for two or three months but ended up living there for 20 years. There is no housing in any of those communities and it is literally the same right across the state. Those are the stories we get back.

I turn to education. As I said, the morphology of all the issues that we have discussed today is the same. The canary is in the cage with education, as *The West Australian* reported on Saturday in an article headed “WA relief teacher shortage: State School Teachers Union warns shortage putting extra stress on teachers”. The article states —

A Statewide shortage of relief teachers is “the canary in the coal mine” for schools, the teachers’ union has warned.

Public schools across WA are battling to find enough relief teachers to cover staff who are sick or on leave, with one primary school principal lamenting in a social media post they were like “liquid gold”.

State School Teachers Union president Pat Byrne said the scarcity of relief teachers was the canary in the coal mine providing an early warning of looming teacher shortages, with fewer graduates available and no access to overseas recruits.

It comes as *The West Australian* can reveal the number of WA university graduates opting to study a postgraduate teaching degree has more than halved in the past four years.

It might not be lost on members opposite that that corresponds precisely with the term of the McGowan Labor government. This is not due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is not an exotic thing. It is not due to a lack of people coming from overseas. This is about graduates at our universities choosing to do teaching. Clearly, the government has not done enough to make teaching attractive to those people. The article continues —

“We’re talking here from Albany to Kununurra, and we’re talking primary and secondary,” ...

Let us look at the numbers. The article states —

Education Department figures show just 479 teachers finished a postgraduate teaching qualification in WA last year—a 60 per cent drop from the 1209 who qualified in 2017, before the one-year graduate diploma was extended to a two-year masters degree.

That is a decline of 730 teachers finishing a postgraduate teaching qualification. The number of WA students who completed a four-year undergraduate teaching degree increased slightly by 15 per cent, from 935 in 2017 to 1 071 last year. That is an increase of 136. The net difference is 594.

Members on the other side take credit for things by happenstance. The iron ore price went from \$US40 a tonne under the previous Liberal–National government to more than \$US200 a tonne under this government, but that translates into outstanding fiscal management by the McGowan government. The government has had a fivefold increase in iron ore royalties due to its outstanding fiscal management, but the massive reduction in the number of schoolteachers—I am waiting to hear something from the member for Mount Lawley; I saw him writing some vigorous notes—is the fault of someone else. Despite having the Department of Education, the Minister for Education and Training and the potential to interact with all the tertiary institutions, and having seen the trend over years, it has done nothing effective about that issue.

There is the same morphology with teachers as there is with housing. The government has done nothing over the past four years to effectively deal with the housing issue; in fact, it compounded the issue with a substantial net

sale of public housing—more than 1 000 homes sold—without replacing that housing stock, and now we see the same in teaching with not enough teachers being trained. The government is either not looking at this issue or is ignoring it. If it is aware of the issue, it has done nothing effective about it.

It is funny how history repeats itself. Some members opposite like to go into the past, look at things and dig them out. I happened to be looking at an article from *The West Australian* in 2007. Who was the Minister for Education and Training in 2007? The now Premier of this state. Look at the headline: “State to be short of 600 teachers in 2008: Union”. The article states —

WA is facing a shortfall of 600 teachers ...

The State School Teachers Union president Mike Keely said teachers were becoming more despondent, with many considering early retirement to take advantage of superannuation changes ...

Union vice-president Anne Gisborne said the crisis had been made worse because teachers would not get a pay rise until 2009 under the current offer, which the union has rejected.

Isn't it interesting, members, how history repeats itself? A government fixing wages, with minimum pay rises for teachers, is not keeping its eye on the ball, and this state is facing a massive teacher shortage.

[Member's time extended.]

Dr D.J. HONEY: The article continues —

The 2007 school year started with a shortage of 264 teachers.

Deja vu! The then Minister for Education, now Premier, had exactly the same outcome that we face today, with the real prospect of kids turning up to their classrooms at the start of the school year without a teacher. That happened under Labor but never happened under the Barnett Liberal government. That is what we face under this government. We know that the canary in the coal mine is the stress on relief teachers. Relief teachers are worn out.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Can I ask you a question? Are you saying there are fewer teachers than there were before?

Dr D.J. HONEY: I would prefer if the minister asked questions at the end.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Minister, I am not seeking questions or interjections. I have too much to cover.

We know that there are not enough teachers in this state and relief teachers are filling the gap. We have heard a lot about people coming home because of COVID. Under the Barnett Liberal government, every single child in every single classroom had a teacher at the start of the year. Over the eight years of that government, the population of Western Australia increased by 500 000 people, as much as and more every year than has happened with people coming back under COVID. Members opposite should not talk to me about how COVID has made some big difference and COVID is the reason for expatriates returning home. Under the Barnett Liberal government that happened every single year, year on year. Every single child had a teacher in their classroom every single year. Why? It is because the Liberal–National government made massive investments in new schools that the Premier himself, both in his guise as Premier and the then Minister for Education and Training, is now responsible for. He is responsible for over 118 new schools in this state. What has the Labor government done? It has basked in the glory of opening schools that commenced under the Liberal government, but it simply has not done enough on the topic of teachers. It is exactly the same morphology as the crisis in health, as the shadow Minister for Health pointed out very eloquently.

The government boasts about education and the great job it has done with education and training fees. As I pointed out in this place a little while ago, under this government, apprenticeships have more than halved. This is the government of education that has not given a pay rise to the teachers. Under the Barnett Liberal government, teachers in Western Australia were the best paid in Australia. Nurses in Western Australia were the best paid in Australia under the Barnett Liberal government. As I pointed out before, it is a morphology of the Labor Party. Goodness knows why the teachers' union or the nurses' union seem to support the Labor Party, because every time Labor is in power it cuts their wages and puts them under enormous stress because it does not stay on top of employing and training enough people to get them to their positions.

Look at Metronet. What an absolute debacle. We hear about Metronet being a signature project for this government. I am relying on the excellent memory of the former shadow Minister for Transport: has a metre of rail track been laid for the Metronet project yet as far as she is aware?

Ms L. Mettam: Not under their projects.

Dr D.J. HONEY: No, there has not been under the government's projects. The Forrestfield–Airport Link, which was commenced before Labor came into government, has continued, but as far as I am aware, not a metre of track has been laid. I tell members what, though: gosh, there must have been some documents laid; there must be some plans out there somewhere. I thought the figure was \$1.954 billion, but here I read \$2.954 billion; I do not know

whether it is a typo or not, but it is pretty immaterial. We heard in the last budget that the figure would be \$7 billion for Metronet. Again, we on this side get lectured about fiscal responsibility, but this is the single largest cost blowout in any capital project that a Western Australian government has undertaken in the history of Western Australia. This is the fiscal management of this government—the single largest cost blowout in a capital project in the history of the state and the government has not even laid a metre of track yet.

I wait with bated breath to see what will happen in the future, because I have been talking to a few industry people about this, and they tell me that there is substantial inflation on all construction costs because of the pump priming by the federal government with construction around Australia, but also because of the state government pumping extra money into housing, which it likes to boast about. I am told that costs are escalating dramatically. Some time ago, the member for North West Central predicted a \$10 billion cost for this project, and, as I said, Treasury should hire him, because it looks like he is going to be correct.

The state government was going to be fiscally prudent. It was going to reduce the number of public servants, so it spent \$300 million, which is not an insubstantial sum. I tell members what, that \$300 million that was spent on those redundancies could go a jolly long way to helping those poor people, those little kids, who are freezing tonight in tents or cars all around Perth and, in fact, all over Western Australia, even if they were just given a donga to live in—something simple; nothing fancy. They do not want anything fancy; they just want to feel safe. They just want something they can lock at night to feel safe in without worrying that someone can see them through the windows of their cars. What happened with that \$300 million that was spent to get rid of 3 000 public servants? The government spent the \$300 million and public service numbers have gone up by 7 000. We get into the spin on the other side on this topic. Public servant numbers have gone up by 7 000, and what do we hear from the other side of the house—from the government? It says it is because of the extra police and nurses it has employed. Have members on this side heard of any number that even approaches 7 000? It is not even close. They add up to a small fraction of that 7 000. That number of 7 000 public servants shows a complete lack of financial discipline in various government departments. It is not because we have extra police and nurses, although the government has committed to some extra police and nurses. It will be interesting to see whether the government can actually get them. It has not got them yet, but the numbers have already gone up by 7 000.

Mr S.A. Millman interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Does the member know what? If that number had gone up to 7 000 because the government had employed that many teachers, police and nurses, I would not be talking about it now. That simply has not happened. Those plans for 2 000 new workers are all in the future, but we have seen the public service go up by 7 000 despite the fact that the government spent \$300 million.

I turn to the outer harbour. We had an interesting debate about the outer harbour last night in this chamber. It is absolute environmental vandalism and hypocrisy. The member for Fremantle was greatly concerned, and I am sure she was genuine, that two Norfolk Island pine trees had been removed in preparation for that project. What did the state government do? As a way of saying that it was doing something about traffic congestion on South Street and Leach Highway, it put a roundabout on the corner of High Street and Stirling Highway. It destroyed—for those members opposite who were passionate about this last night—70 mature tuart trees. I remember those trees vividly. I remember them as much as anything else because a number of people that the member for Willagee named in the committees last night had tied themselves to those trees and were saying that those trees would never be removed and that they would never move. It seems that all the government had to do was to offer them some improved accommodation somewhere else and, boy, did they move. They moved aside without a whimper. The member for Willagee named 80 environmental groups last night and I believe that not a single one of them—not one—said a single word about 70 beautiful mature tuart trees being removed. Members know those trees. They were old trees with numerous nesting sites for Carnaby's black-cockatoo and the like in them. They were sacrificed for a tiny sliver of land in the Beeliar wetland. We heard that in the discussion last night. I listened to the member for Willagee. I never knew that he was so passionate about these things. Apparently Roe Highway was going through the middle of 19 wetlands. That is fascinating because they were not the plans that I saw, member for North West Central. In fact, I went to the area and saw a highly degraded hill between two wetlands. I heard passionate discussion about wetlands, peat bogs and the like. I agree; I love that area, but the only thing is that the road was not proposed to go through any of those areas.

What have we seen? The government has committed to spend \$5 million. As I said, based on the arithmetic of the Minister for Planning so far, let us say it is \$20 million. What does the member for North West Central reckon? Let us say that it is \$20 million because that is what it is going to be. We know that the existing port is at less than one-third capacity.

Mr W.J. Johnston: You don't know what you are talking about.

Dr D.J. HONEY: After the Minister for Mines and Petroleum's exercise on costing, my faith in him has diminished. I still think he is a very decent person.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I still think he is a hardworking minister, but I am not confident about his opinions.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: It is environmental hypocrisy.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Acting Speaker?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife): Minister for Mines and Petroleum! I will say, though, Leader of the Liberal Party, you are inviting interjections, which is also disorderly.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I am not.

The ACTING SPEAKER: If you could bring yourself —

Dr D.J. HONEY: Thank you, Acting Speaker; I am grateful for your protection.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party, I will conclude! You have another couple of minutes on the clock. You should, I hope, finish those comments in silence, but I make the point that inviting interjections is disorderly. I also make the point to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum that making interjections is disorderly.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Thank you very much, Acting Speaker. That is very timely.

The member for Cockburn pointed out that Cockburn Sound is an enormously sensitive marine environment and is enormously important as a mussel fishery, and for pink snapper breeding, blue manna crabs and other fish species. What is going to happen? This project that the environmental warriors on the other side of the house are promoting—400 hectares of seagrass—is benthic primary producer habitat. It is not just general C4 disturbance but primary producer habitat. It is much more extensive than that in the harbour. That is what members opposite are promoting in that pyrrhic project.

In the last minute I will come to the important topic of economic diversification and Asian engagement. What a complete disappointment. I can tell members that the Asian consular community is utterly outraged, utterly disgusted and feels utterly betrayed by the changes made to the overseas trade offices. Imagine India, our most important future economy —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister for Police!

Dr D.J. HONEY: India is the most important economy for the long-term future market diversification of this state and what has this government done? This government has the Agent General flying in and out of Dubai.

MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka) [6.14 pm]: I rise to speak against this motion. I am not the lead speaker, but there are many comments that I wish to make on this motion before the house. We heard a lot of wideranging debate from those members in the corner. They canvassed a wide range of issues in their comments here this evening. In preparing my comments for this evening, I spent a long time thinking about the many achievements of the WA Labor government in its first 100 days and, indeed, in its first term in office because it is impossible to separate the achievements of the last 100 days from the good work that this government has done since it was elected in 2017.

I also reflected very much on the fact that the people of Western Australia have clearly also spent some time weighing up the work that the McGowan government has done in its first term. They overwhelmingly and historically endorsed that work by electing to this Parliament the largest majority of any state Parliament for a progressive Labor government. Therefore, I am somewhat surprised that those members in the corner have proposed a resolution that in fact invites a reflection on the many achievements of the McGowan Labor government because there are many things that members could talk about this evening. I will try to constrain myself to just a few things that are important to me.

As I said, there are many things that members could reflect on. I feel somewhat spoiled for choice, but I want to talk about things that are perhaps most important to me. I will see how we go from there. I want to speak about education. We have heard from members in the corner a couple of discussions about education. I have to say that I was somewhat surprised listening to the member for Cottesloe talk about the achievements of the Barnett government in education. It made me somewhat nostalgic. I spent some time reflecting on my memories of the Barnett government's track record on education. I recall one of the biggest union rallies this state has ever held to protest the severe and deep cuts that the Barnett government inflicted on the education system in this state. There were 20 000 people who walked up to Parliament House—not just teachers, but also education assistants, parents and many other people. They came out that day to protest those deep cuts. In fact, people protested right around the state. One of my favourite recollections from that event was the union rally that was held on Christmas Island. Members came out and held their own rally because they were so aggrieved by the cuts that the Barnett government had made to education.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: Do not interject, member for Cottesloe. I made not one comment while the member for Cottesloe was speaking, so I will not take interjections from him. I am just enjoying the memories of the great solidarity that those education cuts brought to the union movement. I was surprised to hear about the member for Cottesloe's reflections in that regard, to be honest.

I am very passionate about education. I told many people in my electorate that I intend to be an enthusiastic supporter of and advocate for the schools in my area because I think that schools are fundamental to transforming the lives of young people in all areas in Western Australia, but particularly in my electorate. One of the things I am very excited to be able to talk about this evening is the fact that the small election commitments that I secured for the schools in my electorate—I secured a number for the schools in my electorate—have already been delivered. When we are talking about the achievements of the McGowan government in its first 100 days, it is very gratifying to report to the house that in less than 100 days, those small commitments that I made to a range of schools in my electorate have already been delivered. I know that other members in this place, many of whom also made significant election commitments to schools in their electorates, can also say the same thing.

Members, this is a fantastic achievement. Those election commitments, although they may be small, in my view are significant for the support and assistance that they will provide to our school communities. In the last few weeks, when I have not been in this place, I have spent quite a bit of time visiting schools in my electorate and speaking with principals and teachers about the issues that are important to them.

One of the things that I have heard a lot about is the fact that there is an increasing need to recognise that students must be able to operate in a digital environment. One of my election commitments to primary schools was to provide a small commitment to enable each primary school to purchase tablets or similar devices for their classrooms so that they could support online and digital learning, which is becoming so commonplace. This is quite a small commitment in the scheme of things, but the events of the pandemic in 2020 really highlighted the importance of giving our schools access to the digital technology that they need. I am very happy to report to the house that that election commitment, which has already been delivered in less than 100 days, has been very well received by the schools in my area, as it makes a small contribution to overcoming the inequality that some of those students in the area experience. That is an excellent example of the McGowan government's commitment to delivering in education. There are many other examples of election commitments and education commitments that are being delivered right around this state, but I wanted to spend my time this evening reflecting on those quite small commitments that are very important to the schools in my electorate.

I also want to mention Gladys Newton School, which is again a school in my electorate. I have made a commitment to upgrade its junior play equipment. The school recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. It is an important school that provides educational opportunities for a full range of students, from four to 18 years of age, who have intellectual disabilities, autism or severe mental health issues. Again, I can report to the house that this commitment has been delivered in full in less than 100 days. This is a great example of a government that is committed to making children's lives better and making our education system stronger, and that is delivering on its election commitments in record time.

Whilst I am reflecting on education, I also want to turn my mind to another issue that I am very passionate about. That is our TAFE system. I have to say it was a great pleasure to attend Balga TAFE just last week and share the good news about TAFE enrolments in this state. Members, TAFE enrolments are up by 27 per cent on last year. That is an outstanding achievement. It is very pleasing that those increases have particularly come about in fields that are essential to the ongoing success of our economy—fields like aged care, electrical trades, hospitality, nursing and early childhood. These are essential areas for our economy. A 27 per cent increase, members, is a significant achievement in just 12 months. I also, in preparing my comments for tonight, spent some time reflecting on the Liberal Party's track record on TAFE in the eight years it was in government. I reflect that part of my former role required me to passionately advocate for an end to the disastrous policies of the Liberal government, which succeeded in undermining our TAFE system. It is extremely exciting and, indeed, noteworthy, that in the four years of the Labor government, that essential system for skilling our young people has been able to be resurrected. It is worth reflecting on the Liberal government's track record, because it is easy to forget how damaging that government was to our TAFE system. Under the Liberal government, TAFE fees grew by 510 per cent; enrolments, not surprisingly, dropped by about 13 000 students; and the jobs of about 200 people who worked in our TAFE system were cut.

One of the reasons that I am so passionate about TAFE is that it does a number of things that make lives better for individuals and make our economy stronger. TAFE is the critical way in which we deliver the skills and the training that we need in order to have a First World highly skilled and high-paid economy. My view is that we cannot succeed if we do not have a strong TAFE system. TAFE is a critical part of making sure that people gain the skills they need to get good-quality jobs that will help them build good lives. Having a strong TAFE sector also means that our local employers can get access to the skilled employees they need to be successful and productive. To be able to report that in the four years since the Labor government was elected in 2017, enrolments increased by 27 per cent in just 12 months is a significant achievement and one that is important for our economy, important for local businesses and important for the individuals who attend TAFE because they want a skilled job for the future.

I applaud the work that the government has done in freezing TAFE fees for all students, a commitment it gave before the 2017 election and, again, an election commitment that has been delivered and is now showing results. It also slashed fees for 180 key courses. The fees were reduced to ensure that courses were affordable for the people who needed to go to TAFE. The government has also invested in our TAFE system, making sure that our buildings are in a fit state for what we need.

Having a plan to make our TAFE system stronger, reducing course fees for critical courses and freezing all fees so that people can afford to go to TAFE has yielded dramatic results in people who are now attending TAFE and will achieve dramatic results for those people who are qualified for skilled work into the future and for our local employers.

In the time available to me tonight, I also want to talk about the McGowan government's investments in the physical assets of our TAFE campuses. In my electorate of Mirrabooka, the government has committed to a \$32 million upgrade of the Balga campus of the North Metropolitan TAFE—an excellent investment in an important institution. These works are well overdue. The campus was built in the 1970s and it has not really received any major upgrade since that time. The staff rely on 22 demountable buildings to help deliver the courses that they need to deliver. This upgrade will ensure that they are able to move into a more long-term and sustainable arrangement. As the member for Mirrabooka, I am extremely excited about this upgrade. It will include not only new classrooms and general-purpose rooms, but also a new library, a student learning hub and a multi-trade workshop that recognises that the future of skilled work will require the application of emerging technologies and new skills. It will also include meeting rooms and conference rooms and improvements in the hairdressing facilities and outdoor areas. I am very much looking forward to these works being completed. I understand that they are due for completion in June 2023. I cannot wait for this important project to be finished. It will provide not only significant upgrades for the facility in the suburb of Balga, but also modern, first-class facilities for the 3 700 people who use the Balga TAFE to gain skilled qualifications for the good-quality jobs that they want in the future. It will also help meet the needs of industry, particularly the construction industry people who train there, as we know there is a great demand for skilled workers.

In the time remaining to me, I want to make a few comments about jobs, because this is another area in which the McGowan government should be applauded for its delivery of important work and important policy initiatives that are critical to the success of our state. We heard the good news about jobs. We have the lowest unemployment rate in Australia. It is the lowest unemployment rate in WA since 2013. With unemployment at 4.7 per cent, it is lower than the national average of 5.1 per cent. This means that 22 000 fewer people are now unemployed compared with 2017. Since the McGowan government was elected, 22 000 more people are now in work. This is a significant and important achievement. Anyone who spends time talking to working people will understand that having a good-quality, permanent, well-paid job is incredibly important. It provides people with financial security for themselves and their family, it allows them to plan for the future and it brings them a degree of dignity and self-respect. An additional 22 000 people in work is a terrific achievement for us all.

I was reflecting on the track record of those in the corner on jobs. One of the things that is interesting is that the main approach to creating jobs that we have seen from the Liberals over time is to simply suggest that if we reduce wages, we will create more jobs. I do not think the success of that strategy has been borne out over time. The Liberal Party's answer to many things is simply to cut wages. I have spoken in this house before about its plans, prior to 2017, to cut penalty rates for hospitality and retail workers on the basis that it would put more people in employment. It is no surprise to find that cutting wages often does not lead to more jobs; it leads to more profits for employers. However, one of the things that leads to more jobs is having a plan for jobs, and the Western Australian Labor government indeed has a plan for jobs, and the Premier has been clear that jobs are his number one priority.

We could reflect upon a number of achievements, but this evening I want to comment on things that I think are absolutely critical for the people in this state and to our economic success as a state. It is about providing good-quality jobs for the people of Western Australia, providing opportunities for people to get the skills they need to get into those good jobs, ensuring that our local industry has access to the skilled workers it needs to be productive into the future, and ensuring that our schools and education systems have the resources they need to provide people with a fair go and fair opportunity to succeed.

I want to reflect on many other matters relating to jobs. The railcar manufacturing facility at Bellevue is a real example of how we create jobs. We are investing in manufacturing facilities and creating skilled jobs that go around that. Time really is against me; I am conscious of the late hour and the number of people who want to speak. I will say this in finishing.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: When I was doorknocking in the electorate prior to the election, I came across a small number of people who talked to me about the fact that they had worked at the Midland railway workshops their whole lives. They wanted to still talk about it because it was such an important part of their working life and story. They told me how proud they were to work there and the excellent things that were manufactured there. They talked to me about

the strong bonds of community they formed there and the skilled work they did. They were devastated, of course, when the workshops closed. They also reflected on their recollection that prior to the election, the Liberal Party said that it would not close the Midland railway workshops, but then one of the first things it did when it was elected was to close the railway workshops. That had devastating consequences on those individuals who lost their jobs as a result. My constituents recalled very clearly that they could not trust the Liberals. They could not trust what they said because, in the end, they did not deliver on that commitment. All these years later, they have not forgotten that. I am very proud to be part of a government that is bringing railcar manufacturing back to this state. Hundreds of people will be employed in the production of railcars in Bellevue, in this case.

As I said, it is an interesting motion that causes us to reflect on the achievements of the McGowan government in the last 100 days and, indeed, in its first term. In doing so, I could say many things, but I want to concentrate on the things I know are important to the people I represent—that is, jobs and access to skilled work, training, TAFE and education. On that score, I find the McGowan government has done an outstanding job.

MR G. BAKER (South Perth) [6.33 pm]: Like the member for Mirrabooka, I want to be clear that I am not the lead speaker for the government. I would like to take the chamber on a bit of an imaginary journey for a moment. I have been listening to opposition members speak about the past 100 days. I want members to imagine that we are going back in time to April last year, as the pandemic took hold. What problems faced our government last April? There was a pandemic spreading throughout the community. There was the danger of our economy shutting down. There was the danger of the health system being pushed well beyond its limits and health workers risking their lives every day to protect us. There was a real risk of thousands of Western Australians dying. There was a real risk that our economy might fall into a deep recession. It took the action of the government to keep us safe and strong—to protect us at the border, to keep the disease out, to create jobs in WA and to keep our economy strong. We do not need to imagine what could have happened if we had failed; we just need to look at what happened in the USA and the UK, where coronavirus caused hundreds of thousands of deaths, or we can look at Brazil, where the deaths from coronavirus caused massive disruption to its mining industry. Huge international events were shut down, such as the Olympics and other sporting and cultural events all across the world. We know what happened.

If we went back to those early days of the pandemic and imagined what we would be talking about now, in June 2021, we would not have predicted that the disease would be stopped at the border in Western Australia and that there would be no community transmission. We would not have predicted that we would have the strongest economy in Australia or the world. We would not have predicted that life would be much closer to normal in Western Australia than anywhere else.

I want to tell members a little about what happened to my family; I am sure members will have similar stories. My wife is American and her family is in California. My dad's sister lives in the UK. What has happened to them over the last year was a complete disruption to their lives. They had to think carefully about going to work, school and the shops—even simple things like going to church or hugging their grandchildren. These were all complicated matters in life under coronavirus, and we did not have it here. I ask members to go back in time to last year and imagine the kinds of things we thought we would be dealing with now. Was it school bus services, as the member for Roe discussed at great length? No, it was not. That is not the kind of thing we were worried would be happening. I find that the opposition's criticisms of the government are actually an enormous vote of confidence in the path we have taken over the past 12 months.

We can compare that with the following list of government achievements in the first 100 days of this government. We brought train manufacturing back to WA; we are delivering new railcar manufacturing facilities at Bellevue. For the first time in 30 years, we will be manufacturing railcars in WA, just a few kilometres from the old Midland Workshops. We are keeping Western Australians safe from coronavirus. We have expanded the vaccination program, announced the Getting the Show back on the Road program, moved to phase 5 by relaxing restrictions, and supported the Indian community through the devastating outbreak in their country. We have announced 500 additional beds in the health system right across our state, including 20 beds at South Perth Hospital and 95 beds being brought online at metropolitan emergency departments. It will be one of the biggest expansions in emergency department capacity in the state's history. We have also announced that we will be making the necessary investments in a new children's hospice so that terminally ill children and their families will have the support they need during some of the hardest times of their lives.

I now turn to education. As the member for Mirrabooka said at great length, we revealed that our lower fees, local skills TAFE courses have resulted in a 27 per cent increase in enrolments in cheaper courses, meaning that more Western Australians are getting the skills they need for a quality career, especially in fields such as aged care, electrical trades, hospitality, nursing and early childhood. We are filling the skills that we need. We have started work on stage 2 of Bob Hawke College.

We also announced that WA will be leading the nation in phasing out single-use plastics, bringing forward our timetable by years. We have supported communities devastated by the Waroona bushfires and cyclone Seroja. We have passed the subbies laws and, just today, I heard the Minister for Innovation and ICT announce the whole-of-government digital strategy.

What has been achieved in South Perth? I am very proud that we have committed funds to the new master plan for Perth Zoo, including a new cafeteria and new orangutan enclosure. Work on upgrading the facilities at Como and Manning bowls clubs has started. We have delivered funds for Kensington, Collier and Curtin Primary Schools to improve their play facilities; delivered over \$1 million to Como Secondary College for improved traffic management, new STEM classroom resources and a cafeteria upgrade; opened the new Kensington Fire Station; funded new lights for Hensman Park Tennis Club, which I know is a topic that is dear to the member for Roe; and delivered funding for the South Perth Bridge Club to build an all-access toilet. We are delivering.

Ms M.M. Quirk: You've come up trumps, member!

Mr G. BAKER: Yes!

All of this, while we have the strongest domestic economic growth in the nation —

Dr D.J. Honey: Any progress on the John McGrath railway station?

Mr G. BAKER: Give him a call! You would be surprised!

We have the lowest unemployment rate of all the states—the lowest in Western Australia since 2013, during the last mining boom—and we have the best government policy settings in the world. Best of all, we have kept WA safe. The achievements of this government over the last 100 days have been extraordinary, and even more extraordinary when we go back a year and try to think about where we thought we would be when we got to this point. It is beyond anything we could have expected. Thank you very much.

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston) [6.40 pm]: Although I am not the lead speaker today, I rise to speak against the member for Moore's motion that the first 100 days of the WA Labor government has been an abject failure. In fact, I would like to address some of the things that the opposition has spoken about in this house today. There was criticism of the fact that we kept Western Australia safe and strong. I object to that. I can tell members that I doorknocked thousands of houses in the lead-up to the election. I took nine months' leave without pay and knocked on doors for nine months solid. The people I spoke to gave me two clear reasons, even nine months out from the election, why they would be voting Labor.

A Treendale resident said to me that we had kept WA strong—not me; I cannot take credit for that, because I was just a candidate at that point. He said to me that the government had kept WA strong. He said that he had always voted Liberal, but not that year. He said the Liberal–National government had left us with record debt and that we had turned that around in four years, giving Western Australia one of the strongest economies in the world. He said he could not wait to vote for me!

On the matter of keeping us safe, another elector referred to the borders and controlling COVID-19. He said that he had also always voted Liberal, but had health conditions. He said the Liberal Party wanted to open the borders, but that he wanted to stay alive. He then said he would be happy to keep the border closed permanently—he was joking, I hope!—but that was why he was voting for us this time.

I stand in the chamber today to say I am incredibly proud of being a member of this government. I commend all the members of the very hardworking WA Labor government on their first 100 days. I would like to reflect on the first 100 days in the context of Collie–Preston and as a regional member. I would like to also remind the opposition that it does not have a monopoly on representing regional Western Australia. In fact, the WA Labor government has more regional members than ever. I would like to use the last 20 days out of the 100 to talk about the critical issues I have been involved with in my electorate.

I would like to talk about royalties for regions, to start with. On Saturday, I attended the opening of the Donnybrook town centre revitalisation project with Hon Alannah MacTiernan, the Minister for Regional Development, and the former member for Collie–Preston, Hon Mick Murray. It was incredibly pleasing to see what \$2 million of royalties for regions funding has delivered for the Donnybrook town centre. The Donnybrook goods shed has been restored. It was derelict and had been subjected to vandalism and attempted arson. The Shire of Donnybrook–Balingup undertook a revitalisation project with state government and other funding, and Perkins Builders secured the contract to deliver that project.

I was amazed when I turned up on Saturday. I had been in Donnybrook previously in November, with Hon Mick Murray, when he turned the first sod on that project. What had been delivered within six months is certainly something that the government should be very proud of. We worked with the Shire of Donnybrook–Balingup, the local community and Perkins Builders to deliver the Donnybrook Heritage Goods Shed Interpretive Centre and Station Square. It was a mix of heritage and contemporary build to enhance the facilities for local residents and the significant number of local tourists visiting Donnybrook potentially for the first time. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Shire of Donnybrook–Balingup staff and councillors and the builders on this incredible project and I would like to suggest that when members get the time, they visit the project and have a look for themselves. I will not spoil the surprise.

I also went to Donnybrook's Bridge Street housing project and again turned the sod on that project with the Minister for Regional Development. That project is aiming to deliver a \$3.25 million development for ageing residents in

Donnybrook, with \$2 million in funding from the McGowan Labor government. That will produce 10 independent living units built by Alliance Housing (WA) in partnership with the government, providing affordable rental options for over 65-year-olds in the regional area of Donnybrook. In line with the McGowan government's commitment to maximising local business participation, south west business JAK Civil was awarded the contract to undertake site works for this project and Smith Constructions will be undertaking the construction of the housing, again generating jobs in the regions. The McGowan government is funding the project through the regional aged accommodation program, which helps to address aged accommodation in regional Western Australia. Another benefit is that potentially those people who move into that housing will free up the houses that they currently occupy, which will also alleviate some of the issues around regional housing. I look forward to that project.

I was absent from the chamber yesterday because I was in Collie representing my electorate. I start by saying that I congratulate the WA government and, in fact, the Premier, Hon Bill Johnston and the former member for Collie–Preston, Mick Murray. I am talking here about Collie's Just Transition Plan. I would like to say at the outset that, as the wife of a worker who will be affected by Collie's Just Transition Plan, I absolutely want to put on record the respect that this government has for the workers of the Collie community. It is not just the Collie community; in fact, it is the south west, because a number of people travel from places like Bunbury, Eaton and Australind to work in Collie or rely on work in Collie. When the closure of stage C of Muja power station was announced, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Bill Johnston; the Premier, Mark McGowan; and the then member for Collie–Preston and minister as well, Mick Murray, travelled to Collie because they wanted the workers to be the first people to know about the planned closure of Collie's Muja power station. This was the first step in a sensible approach to the transition from coal to renewables, and it is not a plan that was going to mean that people in Collie and the surrounding regions were unemployed in 2025, as was the plan of the Liberals at the election. The Premier, Mark McGowan, released the Just Transition Plan in December last year because it is a priority of the Labor government to ensure that no-one is left behind during the transition from emissions-intensive industries.

Yesterday, a memorandum of understanding was signed by a number of very significant contributors to this process. The WA government was represented by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation; and the Department of Training and Workforce Development. Also represented were South Regional TAFE; Energy Policy WA; the South West Development Commission; the CFMEU Western Australia; the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union; the Electrical Trade Union WA; the Australian Services Union; the Shire of Collie; the Collie Futures Economic Advisory Group; the Collie Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Bluewaters Power; Premier Coal; Griffin Coal Mining Company; Synergy; South32; Worsley Alumina; and Worley. They were all present in that room to commit to a just transition for the workers of Collie. I have a copy of the transition plan here if any opposition members would like to take advantage of the very fine work that has gone into this project. The memorandum of understanding signed yesterday symbolises that the companies are the lifeblood for generating the state's power, but also the lifeblood of our town, its economy and that of the south west, and that we are committed to a just transition to maximise opportunities for affected workers and to diversify our economy. I thank everybody who attended yesterday for their ongoing commitment. This is a significant step and a significant milestone and I look forward to the challenge in the next four years of working with these people to ensure again that none of these workers is left behind.

I would like to conclude my comments by saying that I absolutely object and, in fact, am offended that the member for Moore would suggest that the WA Labor government has failed in its first 100 days. I think those examples I have given from regional Western Australia demonstrate the commitment to not just the metropolitan people of Western Australia, but also the regions, and I thank the government for the work it has done. I absolutely look forward to working with the government to continue the great work so far. Thank you.

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary) [6.55 pm]: I rise also to make a contribution to this motion. I am the lead speaker on behalf of the government. There is a breathtaking audacity in the opposition bringing a motion such as this. But by the same token, we have to give the opposition credit for the courage it has taken to bring this motion forward, because it gives us on the government benches an incredible opportunity to not just run chapter and verse through the achievements of the last 100 days that are covered by this motion, but also, thanks to the member for North West Central who took us on a journey back in time over 20 years, go back over some of the achievements of the first term of the McGowan Labor government.

We need to consider the contributions within the context they have been made. I would like to thank my fellow members of the government, the members for Mirrabooka, South Perth and, just now, Collie–Preston, for their contributions. These are three new members of this chamber elected at the March 2021 election who stood up and spoke passionately about just how effective the McGowan Labor government has been since being elected to this place only 100 days ago. In fact, the only thing about this motion that speaks to the capacity of the opposition is that it can count to 100, because when it comes to numbers, it is hopeless. One of the things I do not understand—I struggle with this after all the weeks we have been sitting in Parliament since we resumed—is the opposition's inability to arrive at a unified position. One of the issues every speaker raised on behalf of the opposition—I think it must be like a Pavlovian response for them—was the March 2021 state election. I think it is still trying to come to terms with the magnitude of the events of that fateful day, Saturday, 13 March.

When we look around the chamber, we can measure the extent of the achievement of the former McGowan Labor government. The inconsistency in the approach of the opposition to what happened on that day must be resolved. It has to figure out what happened at the 2021 election. The member for Cottesloe was generous in his praise of the Premier when he was discussing the prospect of this being a mandate. He said, “No; this is not a mandate; this is people saying that the Premier has handled the COVID pandemic well.” He went further and said in fact that the government has handled the COVID pandemic well. He gave the example of the gentleman in his electorate who tried to vote for Mark McGowan because he was so impressed with the way the Premier had handled the COVID pandemic. The problem is if it were true that the opposition members believed that the people of Western Australia voted for the way in which we handled the COVID pandemic, riddle me this: why on earth are they criticising the Minister for Health for the job he is doing in handling the challenges in the health sector? They are trying to undermine the government of Western Australia that they say invested in the McGowan government because of —

An opposition member: Sorry!

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: No. We are still in the midst of a global pandemic, member.

What those members need to do—they will never get the trust and confidence of the community back until they wake up and appreciate this—is apologise. They have undermined us with their support for Clive Palmer throughout the whole of the COVID pandemic last year and they continue to do it, member for Cottesloe. I know which side the member for Mirrabooka is on. I know which side the member for South Perth is on. I know which side the member for Collie–Preston is on. They are on the side of the people of WA—the people who voted overwhelmingly to send them to this place. I know whose side the member for Cottesloe is not on because he keeps talking it down; he is not on the side of Western Australia. The member for Cottesloe keeps undermining our teachers, health workers and hardworking nurses and doctors, who are on the front line trying to deliver a world-class health system. The Liberal Party and Nationals WA are undermining the incredible work that the hardworking health workers and teachers have done to keep our communities safe and strong.

The voters in Western Australia will not forget and they knew exactly what they were voting for when they went to the polls on 13 March this year. They were voting for the continuity of the McGowan Labor government. That stands in stark contrast to—I will go a little bit back in time—the ineptitude of the previous Barnett government. I took the time to go back and have a look at the last Barnett cabinet because I wondered where the members of the Barnett cabinet were now. Colin Barnett is gone, Kim Hames is gone and Brendon Grylls is gone. Troy Buswell—we know what happened to poor old Mr Buswell. John Day—there was a massive swing against John Day and he was knocked out of his seat. Liza Harvey is gone, Terry Redman is gone—more’s the shame!—Helen Morton is gone, and Michael Mischin was gone before the election even took place!

Mr W.J. Johnston: He got beaten by an empty chair!

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: The member for Cannington and I agree that the Liberal Party preselectors in the North Metropolitan Region exercised the right judgement when it came to Hon Michael Mischin.

Bill Marmion is gone, Terry Waldron is gone, Ken Baston is gone and Dr Mike Nahan is gone. The current member for Riverton does a fantastic job. The giant killers are gone.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: I wish he had, because then he would have brought some talent to the National Party—poor old “Tuck”.

Albert Jacob is gone and Joe Francis was slayed by Yaz Mubarakai, the new member for Jandakot. Poor old Mr Dean Nalder. I said this in my Address-in-Reply: Dean Nalder did a terrific job on the Public Accounts Committee—I am looking at the Minister for Finance—but I just wonder whether that train wreck of a press conference, with the Three Stooges and their costings, would have gone differently if Mr Nalder had survived. I look at the member for Bateman and I am glad that she is here and more’s the pity that Mr Nalder is not. But there we go, another member of the Barnett government gone.

The worst thing about this recital of the former Barnett government is: do members know how the former Premier, Colin Barnett, described his second cabinet?

Mr W.J. Johnston: Lacking horsepower.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: He described it as lacking horsepower! Member, you are absolutely right! He said that the cabinet was lacking horsepower. They were slain by the giant killers who now populate the government benches—slain one and all. We are left with this poor shadow of a conservative wing in Western Australian politics. The opposition members owe the people of Western Australia an apology.

When I won the seat of Mount Lawley in 2017, it was the first time ever that the seat had been won by the Labor Party. I had lifelong Liberal voters coming up to me saying, “We’ll be voting for you. We can’t believe just how bad the WA Liberal Party has become.” Hopefully, it will run a credible candidate.

Straight out of the gate, when we woke up on the morning of Sunday, 14 March, we saw the election results. Some of the results did not come in immediately; we had to wait a little bit of time for them to trickle in. I remember the member for Churchlands' predecessor sitting over there saying to our backbenchers, "You'll be gone, you'll be gone and you'll be gone!"

Mr W.J. Johnston: Where is he?

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: Where is the former member for Churchlands? I do not know, does the minister know? I do not know where the former member for Churchlands is. I know that he is not coming back any time soon.

The results on 13 March provided an opportunity for the McGowan government to continue the incredible work that it had done since it was elected on 11 March 2017. I always thought that 11 March 2017 would represent a high-water mark for the WA Labor Party. I was astounded by that result. The member for Cannington, who is a former state secretary of the Labor Party, has seen the history of this. Some of the seats that we won on that night were incredible. It gave us the platform to go to the community and say, "These are the things we want to do. We want to save Western Power from privatisation by the Liberal Party, we want to build Metronet and we want to fix the state's finances because debt is on a trajectory to \$40 billion." The trouble with these conservative parties, the Liberal and National Parties of WA, is their members look at the \$5 billion surplus that has been built up by the prudent, responsible fiscal management of this WA government, and they cannot wait to spend it. They cannot wait to spend it! They have ideas all over the place. It is profligate! They want to take us back to the situation that we were in when they were running up debt and deficit, had no control over the state's finances and were looking at privatising assets. As the Premier said today, the example has been set by the government in New South Wales. The people of Western Australia looked at that and said, "No. No deal; we don't want it. We are so confident in the WA Labor Party and we are so confident in the leadership of Mark McGowan that we're going to vote in overwhelming numbers to return this party to the government and Treasury benches." They are very pleased that they made that decision.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

House adjourned at 7.00 pm
