

Mr Peter Watson; Acting Speaker; Mr David Templeman; Mr John Day; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Bill Johnston;
Mrs Glenys Godfrey; Mr Peter Abetz; Mr Roger Cook; Mr Peter Tinley; Mr Ian Blayney

SUPPLY BILL 2013

Second Reading

Resumed from 9 May.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [2.55 pm]: On behalf of the people of Albany, I rise to talk on the Supply Bill 2013. Firstly, I congratulate the state government on the Albany Health Campus. I also congratulate the Premier for not making a political speech, although I will not congratulate the Minister for Health for not making a political speech! On behalf of the people of Albany, I thank the government for providing a tremendous facility. That is the good news.

I am sure all members know that next year is the centenary of when the Anzacs left Albany for Gallipoli. Last week there was a briefing on the matter in Albany but unfortunately I could not attend. However, I asked the Minister for Veterans three times for a briefing but each time I turned up, there was no-one there. People who went to the meeting last Tuesday night have told me that they asked about funding for the other events around the centenary and were told that there was no funding. I have just found out from someone in Busselton that the state government has allocated \$7 million over five years for the Margaret River Gourmet Escape. Which event do members think is the most important? Where is the money going? It is going to Margaret River. Today I am asking the Premier and the Minister for Tourism why Albany is missing out on funding. When Christian Porter was the Treasurer, I told him that Albany needed money quickly for the centenary of the Anzacs leaving Albany and he told me on the day of the budget that the money was in there but that it was up to the Premier to decide when to announce it. I waited and kept asking questions in Parliament and the budget was brought down in May. When did we find out that there was money? It was announced just when the Liberal Party candidate for Albany was announced, so then it became political.

It has been 100 years since the Anzacs formed in Albany and left for Gallipoli—I would leave the chamber, too, Premier. The centenary event is now half-baked. A big interpretive centre was supposed to be built and I can understand some of the reasons for deciding not to build it where it was originally intended, but it was just before the election when the Premier said that we did not have enough time to build it and that a smaller one would have to be built. It is the centenary of the Anzacs and Albany is where the Anzac spirit was born, yet it is being ignored while Margaret River is getting \$7 million over five years for a gourmet food festival. Where are the government's priorities?

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am not worried about them.

As part of the centenary celebrations, there was supposed to be a re-enactment of the Anzac fleet off the coast of Albany and a lot of ships were going to be in the harbour. This is not the government's fault, but do members know how many ships we are getting for the centenary of the Anzacs? We are getting four ships—three on the wharf and one in King George Sound. As few as four Australian and New Zealand navy ships will be tied up at the port. People can walk on them, but what does that have to do with the Anzac fleet? Absolutely nothing. I am calling on not only the state government, but also the federal government to get more ships involved. I have approached the American consul, who told me that the Americans do not make decisions about their navy ships 18 months out from an event but that she will try. We need about a dozen ships anchored in King George Sound to make the most of the occasion, as the event will be broadcast nationally and Albany is expecting 50 000 visitors. I read in the newspaper today that only 4 000 Australians can go to the centenary celebrations in Gallipoli. Where else would Australians go to celebrate the centenary? I would go to Albany where people can attend the dawn service and see the last sight of Australia that some of the Anzacs saw as they headed to Gallipoli to die and never come back. We are being treated as second rate.

Where does the National Party stand on this? Originally, the National Party was a party for the regions. Recently I ran into Matt Stephens, who is a long-time National Party supporter. Apparently he ran into Brendon Grylls in Albany either last week or the week before and gave him a serve in the main street. Brendon said to him that the National Party has more seats now and Matt said, "Yes, but where are they? They're up in the Pilbara." I am sure that with the Leader of the National Party now in the seat of Pilbara, if there had been a centenary celebration for the first shipment of iron ore, all the money would be going up there. To me, the National Party is a party for the north of the state. It is not worried about the farmers. They should have dumped that wheat on the front lawn of the Leader of the National Party and not on the Premier's driveway! The National Party used to be there for the farmers and the people of the regions—not anymore! Its members are only worried about building up their party. At the last election, we had references to the kingmaker! He is not a kingmaker anymore. The Premier can ask the people! The Premier would understand that if he knew how many people in the National Party gave me their

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preferences. I do not believe it is that they think I am such a good guy; they were disappointed. That was a protest vote against the National Party.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Putting them first as a protest vote?

Mr P.B. WATSON: They gave me their preferences so that I would win the seat.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Who was their first choice?

Mr P.B. WATSON: What is the Treasurer talking about? A lot of voters put the government first, but put me next; they gave me their preferences because they knew I would get their vote. I will speak slower for the benefit of the member for Vasse, if he likes!

Mr T.R. Buswell: I've never heard of a protest vote where you voted for someone!

Mr P.B. WATSON: That is because the Treasurer is in a safe seat and I am in a marginal seat. I am up against that sort of thing all the time, so I look at those angles.

The state government contributed \$8 million to upgrade the Mt Clarence interpretative centre, whereas WA Labor promised \$17 million for capital works to upgrade the Mt Adelaide and Mt Clarence historical precincts, to contribute to the interpretative centre on the original site and to provide two staff to help coordinate the centenary of Anzac commemorations. I do not want to make this into a political issue, but we have a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Mr C.J. Barnett: You have done that in the local media!

Mr P.B. WATSON: I have to; it is the only way I can get the message across. The Premier sits and smiles. I can give the Premier a couple of other examples. The Premier came to Albany and said he would put bolts on the rocks. Did the Premier not say that these bolts would be in by Easter? We lost a man off those rocks in the last 10 days. Are those bolts in place yet? No, they are not. What happened? I wrote a letter to the Department of Environment and Conservation, which wrote back and said they were not safe. The Premier disregarded DEC and said he would put them in anyway. The Premier should put them in; he should put up or shut up!

Mr T.R. Buswell: That's what is happening now! Why don't you ask for a briefing? You know damn well it is not that easy to put a bolt in.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Why did the Premier come down and say he would put them in? I am not talking to the Treasurer; I am talking to the Premier. The Premier made that promise. He came to town and made that promise and he has not delivered.

Mr T.R. Buswell interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The Treasurer should not start, or I will start on his little liaisons in Albany. Do not worry about that! There is more to come out on that.

I also refer to those nine passing lanes that the Premier promised between Albany and Kojonup. We need to have those passing lanes completed before all visitors come down for —

Mr C.J. Barnett: The first one at Cranbrook is about to get underway.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The Premier promised nine!

Mr C.J. Barnett: How did you go on passing lanes when you were in government?

Mr P.B. WATSON: There were plenty of them! We need them in there by 2014–15. The Premier has referred to the salmon holes. I do not mind the Premier coming up with a suggestion, but when he comes into town during an election campaign and he sees an issue such as fishing off the rocks, he should not take the people of Albany for granted. It is funny, but the voters of Albany swung towards the Labor Party. They are a lot wiser down there. Now everyone else is starting to see that the Premier cannot deliver what he put up! Do not worry, Premier; by the next election Albany will be in the forefront of a change in government.

Mr C.J. Barnett: What is it in Albany that we did not deliver on?

Mr P.B. WATSON: That includes the gas pipeline.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Watch this space!

Mr P.B. WATSON: Do you mean the space between your ears?

Mr C.J. Barnett: What a brilliant orator you are! Clown!

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.C. Blayney): Member for Albany, will you address your comments to the Chair!

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Mr P.B. WATSON: Mr Acting Speaker, he is talking to me!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Will you stop baiting the Premier, please, member for Albany?

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am sorry. We have protection for the Premier!

One thing we could have out at the salmon holes, where we very sadly lost another person from Perth last week, is proper signage. We have a lot of trouble at the salmon holes because a lot of people who go there are from Asia and cannot properly read English and cannot understand that standing on those rocks is dangerous. I was talking to someone on the plane last night who had been out fishing on the rocks. A lot of people do not realise that the king waves that come up in the Albany region and right along the south coast do not come straight at the fishermen; they come up the rocks behind people and they wash them in.

Mr T.R. Buswell: It is the same on a lot of coasts.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes, but I am talking about the south coast. In other areas, people have a chance to get out. On the south coast there is a deep drop and people either hit their head on the rocks or they get sucked underneath. We need the proper signage.

After the election campaign I was approached by people from a mobile polling team that went around to the seniors, and the people with dementia, residing at the aged-care homes. The team was very concerned that a lot of the seniors became distressed and had to be prompted by officers from the polling booths when they were asked how they wanted to vote and which party they normally voted for, while other residents were distressed by the disruption to their routine and being taken out to vote. I do not know what the answer is, but we should not cause any stress to these seniors who have voted over their lifetime and who are now in their later years. They get very stressed. The team brought up a number of points. They stated that the average life span of most people is around 85, with more and more people achieving their centenary. After a lifetime of contributing to society and participating in voting, the elderly would benefit from having the option of not voting, if they so wished, without having the threat of a fine hanging over them. This would apply to those people in aged-care hostels or in the community. The right to vote would be retained as long as our elderly citizens are on the electoral roll, but they could exercise the right not to vote, if they so wished. The team suggested that the appropriate age at which people would no longer be required to vote is 81, partly because it provides a pleasing symmetry with the voting age of 18, and also because 80 or 81 is the cut-off age applied by organisations that provide such things as travel insurance. This is some food for thought. I have been told that some of our seniors became very distressed when they were asked who they would vote for and it put a lot of pressure on them.

I would also like to talk about the Minister for Disability Services, Hon Helen Morton, in the upper house. For two or three years now I have been following up an issue on behalf of John Dainton and his family relating to Ben Dainton, who is receiving disability services. The Dainton family had a meeting with the director general of the Disability Services Commission on 3 April 2012. Mr and Mrs Dainton set up a company for their son Ben, so that instead of the government providing all the services, they did this, and they saved the government a heck of a lot of money each year. However, all of a sudden, the government—it does matter which government, as it is a departmental issue—saw that if this took off, the department would have no work to do. I am chasing this up at the moment, and I seem to get the same old answer. Mr and Mrs Dainton put in invoice No 9 for \$45 000 to the department. They had a meeting with the director general in April 2012, and since then they have had four offers to recommence funding, but one of the stipulations is that when they fill in the forms and sign them, the department can change them, but they cannot see the forms afterwards. I am sure that if they took this issue to a court of law, something would happen. As I said, I have been following up this issue for two or three years now, for a family that has got off their backsides and created a company to provide services to their son and is providing a cheaper service than the government can provide, yet the government does not want them to do this for some reason. To me, this can only be from the government's self-interest.

I have a letter from the St Vincent de Paul Society about a recent meeting with counsellors from welfare groups in the City of Albany on the need for more specialist financial services. The society stated that it is recording an increasing number of welfare recipients who are failing to meet domestic budget requirements and who would benefit substantially from professional counselling intervention. The society is referring these people to Anglicare, which cannot handle this demand. All the welfare groups in Albany have got together and asked the state government to provide more counsellors in regional areas. It is all right when people live in the city and they cannot get to see a counsellor in one area, because they can go to one in another area. But for those people who live in Albany, there is a shortage of financial counsellors.

One of the prison officers in my electorate sent me an article, which states —

Federal Hunter MP Joel Fitzgibbon is championing the call for correctional services officers to be recognized for their work in the same way as police and firefighters.

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His comments came the day before the state government opened a big maximum-security wing in Cessnock. He said —

... the sometime dangerous work carried out by correctional officers played a crucial role in the maintenance of law and order.

“In this great country, we have a fine tradition of recognizing those who serve in uniform,” ...

“At the top of the tree, of course, are those who serve in the uniforms of the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force, but we also award medals to non-military personnel.

“We have, for example, the Australian Police Medal, the Australian Fire Service Medal and the Australian Ambulance Service Medal ...

“So ... why not have the Australian Correctional Officer Medal?”

I agree with Mr Fitzgibbon when he said —

“I believe them to be worthy of the same sort of recognition enjoyed by others serving in the uniforms of government forces and agencies.

In some cases, the work they do is more dangerous.

I spoke earlier about the lack of funding in regional areas, such as for Albany’s centenary. I have been working with the West Australian Football Commission’s director of football, Grant Dorrington. We have arranged to hold a football game in Albany next year between Claremont and South Fremantle, I think, to commemorate the anniversary of the first ships that left from Albany. John Drummond “Jackie” Newham played 26 games with North Fremantle from 1909 to 1911. He was part of the fleet that assembled in King George Sound, but later was killed in Gallipoli. We want to call next year’s game in Albany the Newham Cup game. I think it is a great idea. I congratulate Grant for all the work he has done. We had a chat about it and then he followed it up.

The member for Eyre and I are holding a meeting on Thursday, 23 May for all country members. The flyer is headed “Find Cancer Early: Come and find out how many cancer deaths in rural WA can be prevented, and how”. Our guest speakers will be Dr Andrew Kirke, a regional general practitioner; Professor D’Arcy Holman; and Professor Christobel Saunders. All country members are invited to this meeting to be held on Thursday, 23 May, and they will be sent an invitation. It will be held in conjunction with the Cancer Council on behalf of the member for Eyre and me.

One thing I have noticed—I have let most of my constituents know—is that thousands of bank account holders are now being advised to make transactions as little as \$1 so that their money will not be transferred to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission to help plug the federal government’s budget deficit. If someone does not take anything out of their bank account in three years, the federal government can put it into the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Someone such as the member for Hillarys, who has money in bank accounts all over the world —

Mr R.F. Johnson: No, I haven’t, but I did bring that up last week and I think it’s governmental theft, quite frankly.

Mr P.B. WATSON: It is. I agree.

Mr R.F. Johnson: They have no right to do it. I have a trust account for my daughter, and some of that money just stays in one particular account to gather some interest, hopefully, so it lasts longer. My bank manager phoned and said, “You’d better move some money from there to another one. You can move it back afterwards. If you don’t do it, the federal government will take it.” That is governmental theft.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr P.B. WATSON: I agree. In a few months the federal Labor Party might not be in government.

I would also like to talk about Pitstop, the Men’s Resource Centre in Albany. When it last applied for funding, I managed to talk to my great friend the Minister for Health about what a great job it does in the region. This group talks to men about prostate cancer and other men’s health issues. All it is looking for is \$150 000 a year. This group is filling a gap in our community. We hear a lot about women’s health, which I agree with 100 per cent. We see the trucks that screen for breast cancer but men get forgotten, especially in regional areas. Guys in the bush say, “I’m not going to the doctor; I’m not going to get a prostate cancer test. No-one’s going to do that to me. I’m tough. I don’t want to be seen as weak going along.” The Men’s Resource Centre goes out to the regions quietly. They go out after hours and on weekends when the Department of Health does not have people on the ground. Grant Westthorp and his group at the Men’s Resource Centre have sent a very good submission to the Minister for Health. I know that funds are very tight at the moment. Its vision is to assist all

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males to live longer, happier and more fulfilling lives. Its mission is to secure the best physical, mental and social health and wellbeing outcome for males. It also focuses on boys. It talks to young people in schools. We have to get in early with prostate cancer. Men need to look after themselves. As I said, every man thinks he is the toughest and nothing can happen to him. As we have seen, if men do not get the proper checks, things can happen to them.

It is a shame the Premier has gone because I wanted to have another little crack at him. When he last went to Albany just recently, he said he was confident of a solution to the Esplanade site debacle by midyear. What is he going to do? Is he going to buy it? What is going to happen? This is another one of these promises that he made during the election campaign. I keep harping back to the election campaign. If someone is going to make promises, they should stick by them. He said that if we did not get a reply by 28 March, he was going to do something about it. It is now May and still nothing has happened. He came out with a press release that said that the owners were going to sell the land. We all knew that four years ago when it was put on the market. What do we have now? We have the most expensive sandpit in Australia. There is a beautiful pristine beach down there and the city has done up the restaurant, but what do we have? A big heap of sand. There is nothing there at all. It is an absolute disgrace. Anywhere else in the state, something would get done. Just because people in Albany do not like the Premier, it does not mean that he has to punish them by not giving them anything.

I must not forget to talk about volunteers. I will be cooking for about 200 of them on Friday night down at the boatshed. If we did not have volunteers in regional areas, we would be lost. We talk about things in the city. A lot of ambulance drivers, firefighters and State Emergency Service workers are volunteers. Everywhere we go, there are volunteers in our regional areas. In Wellstead, one of the little towns in my electorate, one guy volunteers for the Red Cross, he drives the ambulance, he is in the fire brigade and he is involved in sports. These people are volunteers throughout the whole region. I wrote a report with the member for Kingsley on regional sport. The issue of volunteers was huge. People would not think that many people in Albany are fly in, fly out workers, but a huge number are. This is affecting volunteers right throughout the state. Once the volunteers go and all these workers fly in and fly out, it has a real effect on people in our regions.

I congratulate Tracy Sleeman and her group at the Albany and Regional Volunteer Centre in Albany for doing a tremendous job. Tracy has been volunteering for a couple of years now. The centre has a good network for getting people out and about. Indeed, I get a letter every time something is on. As I said, I am cooking sausages on Friday night. It should be a really good night. All the Dockers supporters have told me to wear my Collingwood jumper, which will be interesting. Yes, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr I.C. Blayney), I can see your Dockers tie!

A constituent of mine came to my office on Monday and told me about an idea he had come up with. It sounds a bit farfetched, but he suggested that the government lease Multanovas to regional cities for two months each year and that any money made from those Multanovas during that time should go towards local roads. Local roads is not always an issue in regional areas. I can remember Denmark in the olden days when the shire had a local guy who did it. By crikey, he would get you day and night wherever you were! If you sped once all over town, he would get you—he seemed to be everywhere! Things have changed now. It is just a thought. Local governments have issues keeping up their roads. If a person is caught speeding in the City of Albany and incurs a fine, why should the money raised from the fine not go back into the roads in Albany? I do not know whether that is the way to do it. Maybe we could get 10 passing lanes between Kojonup and Albany instead of nine.

I congratulate Virgin for taking over the airline that operates flights to Albany. It is interesting that one of our local people, a young lady called Cathie Denehy, met with Sir Richard Branson about getting cheaper flights to regional areas. I think I read that Virgin has only 12 per cent of Skywest, but that it was using its brand. I do not know how much power it has, but it is very important that discount flights to Albany be made available. At the moment it is very, very hard to get a discount flight. My perfect scenario would be for people to fly from Perth to Albany, get the worse part of the road out of the way, spend two or three days in Albany and then drive back through the scenic part. Unfortunately, everybody goes the other way. They travel to Margaret River, do the Tree Top Walk, visit Denmark and, once they get to Albany, wish that they had got there sooner and that they had more money and more time. These are the issues in Albany that we must look at.

Our farmers look like they will have a better year this year. The rains have come at the right time, but that alone will not save Albany. We must increase tourism to Albany. I do not want us to miss out on the Anzac centenary celebrations. I know I was probably a bit political before, but it is very, very important for Albany. People will not go overseas anymore because it will become too expensive. Albany is the perfect location. With all the promises made by the Premier, there are 1 401 days until the next election. I will be watching the Premier every one of those days to make sure that he fulfils all of the commitments he made to the people of Albany.

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MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [3.25 pm]: As part of the debate on the Supply Bill, I will raise a very important issue regarding a local former policeman who served the Police Service of Western Australia for 21 years. He is actually a constituent of the member for Dawesville; however, unfortunately, he has not yet had a chance to meet with him, which is a regular occurrence, I might say. He sought to meet with the member for Dawesville in October last year. He was told that he would be contacted, but he has not yet been contacted. I understand that he does have a meeting with the member for Dawesville in June. This is a serious matter that should be raised by the member for Dawesville. I hope he will do something about it.

I refer to Mr Michael Thornbury. I will read from a letter that I asked him to provide to me after I met with him in my electorate office last Friday. It reads —

Dear Mr Templeman,

As per our discussion 10th May 2013, I submit this timeline for your perusal. I have also included emails and reports I sent to my Superiors indicating that the incidents I was attending and the amount of work I was asked to do was excessive for one person. I have highlighted areas that may be of interest.

I was first diagnosed with PTSD (POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER) in August 2001, the result of attending fatal traffic crashes and other traumatic events as a police officer at the time.

I attended two incidences within the space of a week, both major fatalities involving teenage children that involved human mutilation and destruction, similar to that of a bomb going off.

As I write this I relive it so excuse me if I don't go into too much detail, but it is quite vivid in my mind and at the time I was never offered counselling.

My employer has a terrible track record when it comes to helping its officers in distress.

The policy is to send an email out to officers that attend major incidences stating if you want to talk about it, contact Health and Welfare, but there is never any follow up and the emails are standard impersonal generic letters which are treated with contempt and ignored by all I know as it comes across as a 'BANDAID' response.

PTSD goes hand in hand with Major Depression, which I was also diagnosed with. To compound matters my PTSD lead to separation and divorce at the time as my (ex) spouse could not handle it.

I can recall going home and discussing the incidences with my ex wife, who promptly called the police and was told they couldn't help. We eventually separated for good around the time I was diagnosed with PTSD.

In 2002 I was sent to a plethora of psychiatrists by the police for assessment (between 8–10 doctors), but they did not send me to anyone for treatment. The police just wanted an opinion as to my mental state at the time.

All the reports stated I had PTSD and MDS.

My case officer from Health and Welfare was not very helpful and kept stating cost was an issue. Mental health was not something they had really concerned themselves with. Remembering this was 10 years ago, back then the department was not very concerned with their officers wellbeing.

After practically begging for assistance, I eventually was cleared to see a physiologist by the name of Paul Ryan. I saw him for about a year, maybe longer.

I also sort out Psychiatrist Dr Michael HAGAN, who provided a report in 2003 about my return to operational duties.

I am not seeing these Doctors any more (this was ten years ago). At around this time (2002–03) I was placed in the Crash Investigation Section by my then OIC Senior Sergeant CLEWS.

Considering my symptoms, I had not sort this position out nor did I request it, but having shown you the alternative that I was placed in prior to this placement —

I will pause there. This police officer was placed in a cell at Mandurah Police Station. It continues —

I felt I had very little options available to me.

I performed this job to the best of my abilities considering my non operational status—it was basically paperwork as I was not allowed to attend crashes.

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From 2003–2007 I was ordered again and again to attend other psychiatrists that worked for Health and Welfare as the police decided they wanted me to attend the crashes as well as investigate them. They no longer wanted a non operation officer in the position.

I do not know who these doctors were, but they worked for the police or were contracted by them.

Around 2007–2008 I was deemed operational and performed operational police duties, including attending crashes.

In 2009 the superintendent of my district decided to have one officer doing all fatal and serious crashes for the district of Peel.

His thought process was to make one officer accountable for the files to streamline the work and so only one person was the 'point of contact' if he needed to know something.

Despite my protests and my history, I was told to do it.

I pause again. This man, who was already traumatised, was sent back to the same job. It continues —

I attended over 21 fatalities in which I had to investigate and report to the coroner from 2009–2010, (approximately 2–3 a month). A lot were multiple victim incidents and some were murder/suicides involving young children. I also attended plane and train crashes.

In August 2010 I was not coping again and sent to see the Police psychiatrist Dr Helena PIIRTO.

She deemed me un-operational and put me on sick leave.

I attempted to return to work in March 2011 but was given mundane duties and told I was not allowed to do anything, so I was basically sitting in an office by myself reading a book. As such this did not work out so well, and I was on sick leave until my medical retirement.

I was medically retired on the 18th of October 2012 by the police for PTSD which in all honesty has disabled me quite severely.

I did not want to leave the police and tried very hard to stay in any form possible, but was told everything would remind me of my situation no matter where they put me.

Ironically I'm reminded of it outside of 'the job' but now don't have peer support or an income, so their point is rather mute.

I have included in this email a letter to my Local members of parliament —

He included that letter in this email, which Dr Hames himself would have received, and I hope, again, that he will do something about this as Mr Thornbury is a member of his constituency —

requesting assistance from them prior to my retirement.

I have also approached local media —

I will pause again. The local newspaper, the *Mandurah Coastal Times*, highlighted the plight of Mr Thornbury last Tuesday —

to shed light on my situation, and those of others like me treated by the police as second class and discriminated against due to a mental condition vs a physical one.

Hopefully it will shed some light on my situation, should you like to read it.

Kind regards

Mike THORNBURY

Mr Thornbury served the police service of Western Australia for 21 years. He told me that since the age of 10 he had always wanted to be a police officer. By all reports, he was able to serve the state with distinction. Indeed, he still has not even received his Australian Police Medal, which he is entitled to, having served at least 15 years with the police service. That is not a big issue for him, to be honest, but it is still part of recognising his contribution to the state. What I have read out is just a short synopsis of a complex case. I have seen the photos of the office in which he was placed, because they did not effectively know what else to do with him when he was still in the police service as an employee. It was in one of the unused cells—I have been in them—in the Peel police office or the Mandurah Police Station.

What does Mr Thornbury want? What he wants and what he would love is his job back, effectively. As I said, he has always wanted to be a police officer and, by all evidence, he demonstrated a very strong commitment to Western Australia as a police officer. He saw many things that many of us, of course, will never see, particularly

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given that he served as a major crash investigator and, therefore, had to be one of the first on the scene of some very, very horrific crashes. As he said in that letter, his relationship ended as a result of the trauma that he saw.

What else does he want? If he cannot get his job back, and it seems that is not possible, Mr Thornbury is asking effectively for consideration for an ex gratia payment. He highlighted, I think quite rightfully, that police officers may be injured physically and may attract attention—as we saw recently, absolutely justifiably and quite rightfully, a police officer, Mr Matt Butcher, received an ex gratia payment for some horrific physical injuries that he endured. Mr Thornbury highlights that although his trauma is not physical, it has very much affected him mentally and, therefore, affected his capacity to not only find other employment, but also, indeed, effectively live. Mr Thornbury had a couple of houses that he has had to sell since his retirement because of his financial situation. Again, he has a mortgage, but he is now on a disability pension and is basically finding it almost impossible to pay the mortgage on that property—his home. So, he is asking for an ex gratia payment. I think he should be considered seriously for that. He is also asking, as an officer affected in the line of duty, that the relevant acts that relate to police men and women and, indeed, health and safety be reviewed, and reviewed urgently, because his example is one in which he effectively now is unable to find any further employment, despite serving our community. This service was throughout Western Australia—in country and regional areas, as well as the metropolitan area. He served the police service for 21 years across the state.

Finally, as I said, even the dignity of receiving his police medal is something that should have been actioned immediately after his medically induced retirement.

I am appealing to the Minister for Police. I will be writing to the Minister for Police with all this information, and I will be writing to the member for Dawesville, who is his member of Parliament and who should have seen him in October last year when the request was first made, asking him to now take up his case and ensure that justice is given to this man who has served the state of Western Australia and the communities in which he has been a police officer, because he deserves to be heard and his grievances thoroughly investigated. His ex gratia payment request should be seriously considered by the commissioner and ultimately by the Barnett government. I am making that plea to the Minister for Police today. She will get a copy of all that I have, including photographs of the place in which he was requested to do work while he was suffering, and I will ask his member of Parliament—the person who should be representing him and who should have raised this issue first of all with the minister, a member of his own government—the member for Dawesville, who I hope is listening, to take this issue on, rather than me having to bring up this issue on his behalf because he did not make himself available to meet with Mr Thornbury back in October last year.

I now want to move onto a couple of other matters. During the election campaign the Liberal Party, as we all know now, made some promises—outlandish promises—that it will not be able to deliver. I want to highlight a couple of them, but I am going to warn the Liberal Party and I am also going to warn the member for Dawesville that they will be hammered by me, over the coming months and years as we lead up to the next election, about commitments that were made, because I will be watching very carefully to ensure they are delivered. The first one was that this Liberal Party, this member for Dawesville and the failed candidate for Mandurah promised in the height of the election campaign to eradicate mosquitoes. I will highlight a Liberal promise: Libs promise to eradicate mosquitoes. Mosquitoes have been around for millennia, I think; they may even date back to the early Jurassic period. Indeed, mosquitoes are a major problem for us in the Peel region. It is an absolutely massive problem. But I now have it on good authority that the Liberal Party will eradicate them.

Mr R.H. Cook: All of them?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: All of them, and I will hold it to that promise. I will tell members what I will also do, because this is a serious matter for my people in Mandurah, particularly in my part of Mandurah. We have a problem in that the mosquitoes are now affecting family life in our region. I have continual reports of mums saying that their kids cannot go outside to play after they come home from school when the mozzies are really bad. People cannot go outside and enjoy alfresco living; they cannot have a meal outside in the summer because the mozzies drive them inside. It is a major, major problem. We have seen members of the Liberal Party now on a number of occasions promise anything to anyone and when they are in desperation and they make promises like that, they need to be accountable for them. If they are going to promise to eradicate mosquitoes, which is what they said they would do, they are going to be held to account for that. Every time someone contacts me by ringing my office, which I will be encouraging them to do, or emailing me about mosquitoes and mosquito problems, I will be referring them to the member for Dawesville and to the Liberal Party promise. I will be telling them that I will be absolutely on their case because they have promised something they know they will not be able to deliver. Humankind has not been —

Mr M.J. Cowper interjected.

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Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The member for Murray–Wellington is out of his seat. If he got off his bum and started doing something as well, he might actually start to take up some issues, because I get plenty of calls from people from his electorate.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: That is his seat!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It is his seat; right.

I get plenty of calls from people from the member for Murray–Wellington’s electorate about things that no-one takes up. He is sitting there. He might have a wonderful margin. He might have promised all sorts of things.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The member for Murray–Wellington might have a wonderful margin. He might have a margin of 17 per cent or 10 per cent or whatever it is, but when he starts making promises he cannot deliver, then people start to say, “Hey, wait a second, we’ve been hoodwinked.” After the last election only a couple of months ago, the people of this state are starting to realise very quickly that they have been hoodwinked. They have been hoodwinked about debt. They have been hoodwinked about promises for particular projects that suddenly are evaporating before their eyes. That is what is happening. We have seen it today in that light rail promise. And we will see over the coming weeks and months and probably years that suddenly they will backtrack.

The interesting thing about the mozzie promise by government members is that they said they would commit \$1 million over four years to eradicate them. One million dollars over four years—what a pitiful contribution to supposedly eradicate mosquitoes! But then this is interesting, is it not? I thought the \$1 million was for the Peel region, but I was told by the member for Maylands that part of it had been allocated to Maylands. I have a media release here with me from Dr Hames, which states —

Liberals’ commit \$1million a year over four years to eradicate mosquitoes in Maylands.

I am assuming it is the same amount. The Liberals have made a very serious mistake here because they have made a promise they cannot commit to.

I want to also hold them to another promise. The people of Mandurah believe it is a promise. The Liberals’ candidate, Tony Solin, spent more than \$200 000 to try to get rid of me—and failed. His media release states —

Working together to solve your transport issues.

The transport minister is not in the chamber but I tell you what, members: he will get a grilling in estimates this year when we finally get to them. In Tony Solin’s release there is an impression of a multistorey car park at Mandurah station. What did the Labor Party promise? Because Mandurah has only one station, we promised a second station north of Mandurah at Paganoni Road. One of the problems in Mandurah is that we have only one station that services the whole of our population as well as that of the outer Peel, including people who come from Pinjarra and even Waroona.

Mr M.J. Cowper: How do you know it’s not in Peel?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It is on the north boundary. It is north of Mandurah, I just said that.

Mr M.J. Cowper: How do you know it’s not in Peel?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I said it is the north of Mandurah, you idiot!

Tony Solin’s release states —

Working together to solve your transport issues.

And it indicates that Mandurah station will have a multistorey car park. I will be asking —

Mr M.J. Cowper interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Don’t you start, member for Murray–Wellington! He does not get up. He does not even get up in this place. When was the last time he got up and made a speech? Last week was the first time in about five years. He is the same as the member for Dawesville. The member for Murray–Wellington does not get up and support the community. He does not stand up for policing. He is an ex-policeman and he is not even standing up for policing.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am not having a go at him. He is interjecting!

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The ACTING SPEAKER: Could you, member for Mandurah, address your comments to the Chair, please?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I will, if that loser—I think I am allowed to use that word because that was used during question time—if that fellow keeps going. Here we go: the promise!

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr J.H.D. DAY: The member for Mandurah is deliberately pushing the limits by using that sort of language. It is unparliamentary, so I ask for your ruling, Mr Acting Speaker.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: There is a ruling by the Speaker. It is appropriate language apparently.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr I.C. Blayney): Member for Mandurah, I would ask you to withdraw that comment, please.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: You want me to what?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Your description of the member for Murray–Wellington.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: What—loser?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Yes, could you withdraw it?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I withdraw.

Debate Resumed

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: There is the promise in the release: a multistorey car park in Mandurah. I reckon at estimates time the government is going to come in and say, “We didn’t make that promise.” I reckon we are going to find a lot of these things when we come to estimates: “We didn’t make that promise. Oh, no, no, no, that was the vibe, that was an idea.” But I tell members that the Libs were handing out pamphlets at the Mandurah train station telling people, “You’re going to get this. Vote for Tony and you’ll get this.” The people did not get Tony and they knew that they were not even going to get this car park either. The Libs told a lie. That is what they did. I tell members that over the next coming weeks and months we are going to continue to highlight how the Liberal Party’s members over there lied to the people of Western Australia. They told total fibs because they would do anything—anything—to get elected. Now the chickens are coming home to roost. All the backbenchers who might have been elected on that swing are going to find suddenly there ain’t the money there that they thought was going to be there and was promised during the election. Suddenly it has all gone; it is dissolving in front of their eyes. I tell members that Liberal Party members cannot keep blaming the federal government, because they will have been in government almost six years by this time next year, and people will not be hoodwinked. The Liberals might have hoodwinked them once a few months back but they will not be hoodwinked this time. The Libs have made too many promises. They promised too much to everyone and they are not going to deliver them. Now they will be found wanting and the chickens are going to come home to roost. I tell members one thing: this side of the Parliament will be holding them—every single one of them—absolutely accountable.

The member for Belmont has a margin of 300 votes. Every single person in her electorate is going to know that her side of politics lied to the people of Western Australia, made fake promises and will not deliver them. She is part of it and she will be held accountable for it—I can guarantee. I tell her that the people of Western Australia are not stupid. They know now that they were hoodwinked; they are starting to realise it. Suddenly, fewer than two months after the election, the cost of power goes up again—four per cent. What does the Premier say? He says, “Oh, no, wait a second, we said it’d be around about the inflation rate or the CPI.” What a lot of rubbish! Government members are a lying bunch—that is what they are. They are continuing to do it and then they make excuses for it. The people of Western Australia will absolutely not be hoodwinked. I tell members that the people of Western Australia will be holding the Liberals to account.

I tell members one other thing about what we will see in this place. We will start rolling out all the stories and all the promises that the Libs will have failed at and for which the people of Western Australia will be sheeting home responsibility. I want to finish on another important issue.

Mr C.D. Hatton interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Who said that? Was it the member for Balcatta? Member for Balcatta, be very careful, mate. He got in there only by a few votes. A few people have come into this place and gone out very quickly. He might just be one of them. So, he should be very, very careful when he makes interjections, because sometimes members get reminded about their interjections. In fact, apart from his inaugural speech, that’s probably only his second contribution to this place—a pitiful, feeble interjection! So, he should be very careful; be very, very careful, because he might be found wanting. It would be terrible after four years if the only two

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contributions he made were in fact his first inaugural speech and a feeble interjection. I think that is where he is skating to. So, he should be very careful.

I want to talk about housing. We have a major housing issue in Western Australia. Everyone knows this, as this is being felt in all electorates. But I want to tell the house that it is being felt absolutely in my electorate and in the Peel region. Again, I have never heard the member for Dawesville, the member for Murray–Wellington, who is supposed to be representing the Peel region as well as I am, or the member for Darling Range raise the issue of the housing crisis in the region. This is despite the fact that Peel—this was mentioned in *The West Australian* last week—has the highest number of people defaulting on their mortgage, and about a month before that the highest number of people declaring bankruptcy. Put that figure with the highest number of people who over the last term of government applied to the government through the hardship utility grant scheme for assistance. Last week the number of Synergy customers alone in Western Australia asking for help with their power bills was something like 120 000. The government has gone and put another four per cent on top of the 62 per cent by which it put up the price of power in the past four and a half years. Everyone in Mandurah knows that if they want a rental property, they have to compete with 20 or 30 people, sometimes more than that, at every viewing. If we ask the real estate agents, they say that when they have a viewing for a vacant rental property, 20, 30, sometimes more, people will turn up—some of them are families with kids—to scramble and fight for that rental. What happens? The market states the weekly rent can be increased, and it is; there are almost bidding wars sometimes. But that means that genuine families, some of them with little children, miss out. I see them every day in my office. As a member of Parliament it is the most frustrating thing that I cannot say to them, “There’s a house for you.” That is what I want to do, but I cannot. We put them back in touch with the agencies. Many of them have already been to the Department of Housing, or are on the public housing list, which we know is absolutely out of control, whether it is the priority waitlist or the general waitlist, as they call it. These people are in genuine need. Last Friday another mum came into my office. She has three children, all aged under five years. The rental that she was in was sold from under her feet. She had to move out and had nowhere to go. She had been everywhere. Because the rental market appraisers and the owners can pick and choose, she does not get a look-in because she has little kids. That is the reality. What happens then? She could start couch surfing if she has any friends or any family members in town. Then we have houses in which there is a family and another family, quite often staying in the lounge room.

Do members opposite reckon this is really good for Western Australia? This is the sort of stuff all the new members should be standing here and speaking about in this debate on the Supply Bill, because it is happening in their electorates as well as mine. It is not happening only in the Peel. That is what new members on the other side should be doing. They should stand up for their communities. They should start saying it is not good enough that the state of Western Australia is now in a position in which so many families will not have roofs over their heads tonight. Tonight we will all go back to our own homes. I will go home to Mandurah, down along the freeway. I will go home to a nice warm bed. But there are people in the electorates of members opposite who have nowhere to stay tonight, yet members opposite do not say anything in this place. Stand and say something on behalf of those people. Start saying something on behalf of the people who are homeless in Kalgoorlie, Joondalup, Belmont, Pinjarra, and Morley, and in your seat up there in Geraldton, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr I.C. Blayney). They are real people and they are suffering under this government. They have been taxed to the hilt and almost priced out of existence with the government’s increases in power, water and gas. These are real people. These are people whom we should be caring about. These are people whom members opposite should be caring about. These are the issues new members should be raising in Parliament here. It is their responsibility. Get up off your bums! Get over the fact that you won an election by whatever it was—eight per cent, nine per cent. Get off your bums and start doing some work now. Start saying it; start doing some work. Start writing to the Minister for Housing, the Minister for Planning and the Premier. Tell him in the party room that this is not good enough. The people of Western Australia deserve better.

Members opposite should listen to the member for Hillarys. His comments last week were absolutely true. New members should get their priorities right. They should understand that people are suffering and the government is making people suffer more by the things it is doing to them. They should do it now because that is their responsibility as elected members of this place. I have had a gutful of raising it on behalf of the people of Peel and not getting any support from the member for Murray–Wellington and the member for Dawesville. We do not hear a word from them. They should be representing the people in my region, as I do, and everyone should be standing and defending the people that they are supposed to be representing here. After all, for many members opposite, the people voted for them, but they will be dropped like a bucket of spuds when the people realise they are not doing anything for them. They will dump members opposite like a proverbial in the estuary. Members opposite will be kept to account for everything that they are not doing.

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MS A.R. MITCHELL (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.55 pm]: I rise to support the Supply Bill 2013. People in my electorate know that this government makes decisions that support people in their electorates. They also know that they are not necessarily big capital items. My electorate is not like that. My electorate does not have big capital items, but it has people who know what is going on, who follow what is occurring and who appreciate that sometimes it is the little things that count; they do not have to be big expenditures of money. At the same time, many of my people are well aware that it is not for only their area, as a number of areas have benefited from decisions that have been made by this government over the past four years. The track record of this government will see that the Supply Bill 2013 is used well, used appropriately and used for the benefit of many people.

I want to go back over a couple of important areas of expenditure from which my residents have benefited in the past four years. The first one I refer to is the change of policy on air cooling in schools, which we altered very early on. I think some members will remember that an imaginary line had been drawn and if a school was further east of that line, there was a chance that it would become air cooled. If a school was within that line, just forget it; it was not going to happen. P&Cs went about doing fundraising to get conditions right for the students in their schools so that the educational opportunities would be better managed. It was pleasing to see that this Liberal–National government made the decision to change that policy so that children across the metropolitan area would benefit from having conditions in their schools better attuned for them to learn, to gain better educations and to go home in much better frames of mind. I know a lot of parents also appreciated that fact. That was a decision that was not in any election campaign. A few schools had raised the issue because they were right on the cusp of that line. The decision was made to benefit all students in all government primary schools in the metropolitan area.

Within my electorate is a school that needs quite a considerable amount of attention—that is, Greenwood College. It has been there for a long time. For those who do not know, it is one of those dark brick schools with the flat roofs. There are still a few in the area and they have a fair issue with refurbishment. The good thing about this school is that the administration has done such a wonderful job looking after the school that it has not gone into a state of total disrepair. It has survived, so the Department of Education does not have it on its list for a refurbishment. Over the past few years things have happened and as a result the government has changed the priority list for refurbishments at that school and now Greenwood College is being repaired. I will mention the new home economics rooms. Members really should have seen them. They had bright orange benchtops that would probably have matched my bright orange Tupperware containers from many years ago. Right across those benchtops were chips and scratches. They failed the occupational safety and health check. The inspectors came through the school and said that it was not safe for people to use for food and technology. It was great that I could make a representation to the Minister for Education at the time and it was seen that this needed to be addressed. Four home economics rooms were refurbished. It has given the students of that school a new lease on life; they are working in a positive area that is supported by this government. It also gives them better opportunities, better facilities and better equipment so that they are now working in these new conditions rather than back in the early 1970s, which is when that school was built.

Another situation for that school was that it has a flat roof and water collects on it very easily. That is wonderful for destroying roofs. It was very embarrassing when a large hole appeared in the administration office roof and water came through when I was due to have the Premier out to the school the following week.

As a credit to the people at the schools, we know the sort of people they are, they were so embarrassed and did not want the Premier to see the hole in the administration area. I said, “Leave it; I want the Premier to see this.” Sure enough, that roof is being fixed. In fact, major refurbishment is being done across the total roof area so that we can minimise the damage caused by leaks through the roofs into the ceilings and into the rooms of the school.

Another area for me that is very, very important—I thank the Minister for Transport for this—is the expansion of the Mitchell Freeway north from Hepburn Avenue to Hodges Drive. This work is on the border of my electorate; it is not in my electorate, but we all know that a large number of people live in the northern suburbs now. That area is expanding north continually. Of course, we now find that more and more people use the Mitchell Freeway to get into Perth and out every day—even on the weekends; it is not just during the week. Many of us know that we do not want to leave Perth to go back to the northern suburbs after 3.30 in the afternoon, because what might have been a half-hour trip for someone who left at a good time in the morning becomes an hour trip going home—that is the time taken just to get to my electorate office. It is very important that this area is also addressed. It is in the middle. It is not for the extension of the Mitchell Freeway and it is not for other things that need to occur; it is just an expansion program that gives people travelling north a chance to get home earlier. They can be home and do things with their families; they can be in their communities and do things in the community after work, all of which are very, very important. I am very pleased that that construction is well underway. I think drivers are handling the restricted areas very well at the moment. The only thing I would

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perhaps suggest to the minister is that when no work is going on on the freeway and no people are working on it and we are still required to drive 60 kilometres an hour on a three or four lane freeway, it would be lovely to be able to travel at 80 kilometres an hour, rather than at 60 kilometres an hour. I know that that is not the minister's choice, as it is determined by Main Roads. However, I thank the minister for the expansion because it is going ahead and it will be finished in mid-July as planned. People travelling north appreciate that expansion program. The members for Hillarys, Ocean Reef, Wanneroo and Joondalup all have constituents who appreciate that expansion program.

I also mention a couple of things because we have car parks at train stations that are obviously being well used and we have had a very good increase in the number of car parking bays at train stations. That is the case in my electorate as well, particularly because I now have Warwick, Greenwood and Whitfords train stations in the area I represent. Those car parks have been well received and, obviously, are well used. The day after they were opened, they were filled, but at least we know people use them and that they use the trains. What is more important for me has been demonstrated by this government's willingness to listen to and act on things that it did not perceive could be an issue when the initial construction phase started. I talk about a couple of situations at different train stations. Firstly, I refer to the Whitfords train station. When the extra stage on the northern side of the car park was put in, a lot of trees and bushes had to be cleared. Those trees and bushes were natural noise blockages for a lot of the noise that came off the freeway, and a lot did come off the freeway. As the shrubbery and those trees were removed, it meant that the people who lived closest to the freeway now had visible signs of the freeway and also a lot more noise. Once again, residents raised that with me and I raised it with the Minister for Transport, and, once again, we now have an amenity wall that has made such a difference to a number of residents—not those immediately there, but certainly those around the area. It has made such a difference. It was not a major thing, but it showed that this government listened and that it took on board things that had not been planned for in the process of building the extra car parks.

I mention another example with the number of car parking bays at Warwick train station being expanded. Warwick train station is probably one of the only train stations where residents' houses back right onto the car parks. Some of those residents found themselves in difficult situations. They had very poor fence lines with cars parked right up against them, and their safety and security had been put at risk—as well as the fact that it was a lot noisier for them. The Minister for Transport—I thank him for this—came out to visit the residents. We saw the poor state of the fences as they had been left by the Public Transport Authority. Once again, the government took on board the concerns of residents, and they have had the opportunity to have standard fences put up to a certain value so they were better protected, with less noise going around. They could decide how they wanted the fence, but we could provide a value to them. These other things that go on, which are not big capital infrastructure or big things, show that this government listens and does things; it means that people know that they have a voice in the government that can be heard and that the government takes on board the small things. My electorate is probably an electorate of small things, not big things, but that is why it is very important for me to know that I can, and do, go to ministers and they will come to spend time in my electorate and work through issues that probably are not their biggest concern, but they are certainly important in my area.

I am very pleased to support the Supply Bill for this government because I know that, yes, things will be tough, but we will make a difference and we will deliver the things we said we would. It is very, very important that we continue to progress through the next four years, and I am also very confident that the people guiding this expenditure, construction and infrastructure that will be put in place have the best interests of the residents in my electorate, and any other electorate, at heart, and those residents have confidence in them. We know they have confidence because of the way they voted in the 2013 election.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington) [4.07 pm]: I rise to speak in the debate on the Supply Bill 2013, which of course is a general debate allowing us to canvass many different issues. I make the point that last week when I contributed to the Address-in-Reply debate, I went in detail through a number of issues related to my electorate. Today I will go through some issues related to my shadow portfolio responsibilities.

I start with some comments about the government's budgetary position. I have in front of me pages out of the *Pre-election Financial Projection Statement* for 2008 and 2013. It is interesting that the revenue expected for the 2008–09 financial year at the time of the PFPS for the 2008 election was \$19 903 million—so \$19.9 billion. The PFPS for the current 2012–13 financial year tells us that in February this year, the Department of Treasury was expecting revenue of \$25 477 million, or nearly \$25.5 billion. Therefore, the Department of Treasury tells us that over that time revenue has gone up by \$5 574 million—over \$5.5 billion per annum. That is 28 per cent more revenue now than in 2008–09. For the last year of the projections in the PFPS, 2015–16, it is stated that revenue will be \$30 412 million, or \$30.4 billion. That is \$10 billion, \$10 509 million, more than at the time of the 2008 PFPS, so a 52.8 per cent increase in revenue. We would have to call that a river of gold. How anyone could work out how to spend all of that additional revenue is a real question. What is more interesting for me from these

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figures is that in the 2008 PFPS, it was projected that revenue for 2011–12 would be \$21 349 million, but the actual figure out of this year's PFPS for 2011–12 was \$25 220 million or \$3 871 million extra to be spent by this government in the 2011–12 year or 18 per cent extra income.

That is an extraordinary river of gold. Every time the Premier of Western Australia, the Treasurer or a minister talk about their tough budgetary position, these facts should be considered. There has never been a government in this state that has had more revenue, more opportunity to spend money, and more opportunity to do things for the community than this government. This is the richest government, the highest taxing government, and the government with the largest flow of revenue from the commonwealth and from all the different opportunities to raise money in this state, and it is disgraceful for this government to say it has a structural deficit. That means that this government cannot manage its finances, and if the government cannot manage its finances, it cannot manage the state.

When the Treasurer publicly says, as he did today, “We are making these structural saves”, let us make something clear: the commonwealth government has a severe revenue problem; the state government has an unbelievable and unprecedented revenue stream. When the Labor Party was in government before the 2008 election, the then Liberal opposition constantly criticised the then government's level of revenue. Now, at the end of the current forward estimates period, this government will have more than 50 per cent extra on top of that figure. The Premier's performance in question time today on this topic was extraordinary. It is an embarrassment to try to suggest that somehow between 9 March and 13 May the budgetary position of the government has collapsed. How can anyone take the Premier seriously when he makes those kinds of comments? Quite frankly, people are not taking the Premier seriously anymore. The people of this state did tend to let the Premier's slippery words slide by during the first term, but now people are getting a handle on the fact that he cannot be trusted when he speaks out loud.

There are a range of issues. In a radio interview on the *AM* program a few years ago the Premier said there would be LNG shipments from Western Australia to Melbourne. That will never happen. The Premier also said a special system of dual listing of companies on the Singapore Exchange would allow for an expansion of money-raising opportunities for Western Australian mining companies. There is no process that will ever lead to that. In fact, when I have asked the Premier questions about it, he said that he never had any meetings or discussions with anybody about that matter.

The Premier often comments in this house about how Western Australia should have a special relationship with China, which it does. Fortunately, it was the former Labor government that created that special relationship with China. When I was state secretary of the Labor Party, I met with a series of visiting delegations. Interestingly, when delegations of the Chinese Communist Party visit Australia, they always catch up with the secretary of the Labor Party.

Mr T.R. Buswell: They probably thought you were running the show.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The Vietnamese did; I do not know that the Chinese did. The Chinese are sophisticated and understand these distinctions; but sometimes when the Vietnamese delegations visited, they treated me with far greater respect than I deserved.

The point I make is that the Labor Party is the only party in Australia with a special strategic relationship with the Communist Party of China. This was entered into when Simon Crean was the federal leader of the Labor Party.

Mr M. McGowan: What does that mean?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: That is the real question. I was on the national executive at the time, and we were a little surprised it happened.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Do you have a five-year plan for your relationship?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I never went on any of the junkets, but perhaps that is what the relationship was focussed on.

Mr J.H.D. Day: You have the right coloured tie anyway.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: They look good with dark suits.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Maybe Simon Crean's implosion was part of some plan.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Ha, ha! That was 10 years ago, so I do not think he contemplated that at the time.

Ms M.M. Quirk: They still haven't cottoned on to where Harold Holt is, though.

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Mr M. McGowan: He's going to go on the submarine shortly.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It is great, is it not, that the Harold Holt memorial in Melbourne is a swimming pool? Anyway, we are getting away from what I should be talking about.

Of course, we need to have a good relationship with China, but we need to think about the fact that state-owned enterprises are exactly that—Chinese state-owned enterprises are owned by the Chinese state and are not separate organisations. When we deal with them, we are dealing with the same organisation; that is, the Communist Party of China. All those organisations must get central approval and budgetary sign-off. There is nothing wrong with that; that is just the way the Chinese Communist Party operates its economy.

I encourage members to have a look at the book held in the Parliamentary Library titled *No Ancient Wisdom, No Followers The Challenges of Chinese Authoritarian Capitalism* by James McGregor, a former journalist and now business consultant in Beijing. Interestingly, he writes about state-owned enterprises and subsidies. He makes the point in his book —

By not paying the government for industrial land they occupy, from 2001 to 2009 the SOEs —

That is, state-owned enterprises —

received a subsidy of RMB 3.9 trillion—which accounted for two-thirds of their total nominal profits.

SOEs paid an average real interest rate of 1.6 percent on their loans from the state banks from 2001 to 2008, as compared to a market interest rate average of 4.68 percent. This is equivalent to a subsidy of RMB 2.3 trillion in the form of forgone interest payments.

The SOEs from 2001 to 2009 underpaid taxes for oil, coal, natural gas, and other resources by RMB 497.7 billion.

He goes on —

If the total RMB 7.5 trillion in subsidies and forgone costs uncovered by Unirule is deducted from SOE profits from 2001 to 2009, the real average return on equity for the SOEs in those years is *negative* 6.29 percent.

SOEs did not return any of their profits to the government between 1994 and 2007.

After 2007, only a trickle of SOE profits went to the government. A mere 6 percent of SOE profits were turned over to the state in 2009. This figure fell to 2.2 percent in 2010.

The point of that is, firstly, that Australia has benefitted from China subsidising its state-owned enterprises, because when Chinese state-owned enterprises invest in Australia, they are using money that could have been used to expand the Chinese economy. But that is an aside. The other point is that these companies have been a drain on the Chinese economy. If China had headed down the path of reform and allowed the free market to operate, China would be a richer country, and a richer China means a richer Australia because there would be more opportunity for us to trade and invest in China and that would make us better off.

Therefore, when Australian businesspeople go to China, it is important to recognise that China's opening up to the outside world would be in the interest of both countries. Democracy is a good thing. The free market is a good thing. I do not understand why some businesspeople in Western Australia do not understand that democracy is a superior form of government to communism. It always surprises me when I read those sorts of comments on this issue by business leaders in this state and elsewhere. I am a proud supporter of democracy. I believe that China needs to follow its own path, but its path should end in democracy. Democracy is a superior form of government for China and Australia, and there will be many superior opportunities if they have an open economy that allows for foreign investment, a free market and the rule of law. In supporting our special and important relationship with China, it must be borne in mind that it is to our benefit.

Ms R. Saffioti: Mutually beneficial.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It would be more mutually beneficial if there were democracy in China. It is insulting to suggest that a country must have a certain level of wealth before it can cope with democracy. In my mind people yearn for democracy; they want the opportunity of self-expression and to choose their own governing system. I encourage Australian businesspeople to deal with Chinese state-owned enterprises and state instrumentalities not arrogantly or condescendingly, but to make the point that Australia's system of government is superior and should be supported, and that includes public and effective support by the Western Australian business community.

I now turn to the question of the electricity system in Western Australia in my capacity as the shadow Minister for Energy. I am pleased that the Premier sacked the former minister and removed the responsibility of the

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energy portfolio from Hon Peter Collier. It is not surprising, because he did such a shocking job in managing the Western Australian energy system. I will go through some of the problems he is responsible for.

Firstly, the solar feed-in tariff scheme. At the time of the 2001 election, the Liberal Party plan was to have a \$33 million feed-in tariff scheme. In the end, the cost will be \$450 million—that is, a \$417 million blowout. Now the minister has frequently said that all he did was copy the Labor Party's policy. The problem was that he thought he had copied the Labor Party's policy but he never actually read its policy. We actually had self-stabilisers, because our feed-in tariff at the time of the 2008 election was limited to the capital cost of a solar installation. That meant that people could not have an unending stream of income if they installed a solar system. It was only limited to the actual expense that people had gone to in installing a solar system. Now the government likes to say, "Oh, well, 70 000 people were able to install a solar system because of the feed-in tariff", but had it properly designed the tariff, 700 000 Western Australians would have been able to get solar systems for \$450 million. The world has moved on and feed-in tariffs are no longer the primary focus of encouraging people to use solar systems, but that was a complete disaster.

Next, we get the high-efficiency gas turbine in Kwinana. I will call it the HEGT, which is how people in the industry describe it to me when talking about it. There are a couple of things about this matter; firstly, the government says there are 700 megawatts of excess capacity in the system. Over the past four years, the government built the high-efficiency gas turbine that, funnily enough, has contributed to that overcapacity. If one of the government's challenges is to reduce the overcapacity of the system, why did it build this HEGT? We also find that the government had terrible management of the project when it went \$36.6 million over budget, and because it was late, it was also charged \$20.7 million in capacity payment refunds.

One of the most amusing things was seeing the minister standing outside the HEGT when it was commissioned saying that it was unique in Australia—that somehow or another it was a cutting-edge innovation or, as people in the industry say, it was completely unique, except for the Perth Energy plant right next door over the boundary fence of the HEGT and the ERM plant that is on the other side. In fact, if people were to google "combined cycle gas turbine Australia", they will find some 23 or 24 high-efficiency gas plants in Australia. The idea that somehow this is some unique beast that only former Energy Minister Collier was able to deliver is bizarre. It was a badly managed project that went way over budget. The government said that there is an overcapacity in the system and yet it is building power stations, which, I would suggest, is counter-intuitive. When the government says there is a risk that the value of the plant is going to fall because it will not be used at full capacity, people will wonder why the government invested in the plant. Surely a proper business case would have been done before it invested some \$150 million or \$160 million in the power station?

Then there is government's decision to refurbish the Muja A and B plants in Collie.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The government planned to spend \$150 million after having so far spent \$250 million, plus being penalised by \$25 million in capacity payments. It was interesting to watch both the minister and Premier say in the media during the election campaign that, firstly, it was not a blowout. Apparently when it goes over budget, it is not a blowout if the government decides afterwards that it should have done something that everybody told it that it needed to do at the start—which is exactly what happened here. It did not choose to refurbish the steam side of the boiler system, and of course, when it blew up, the government found that it had to and spent \$100 million fixing up the high-pressure side of the generating system. At the start of the project, the government was told the risk. Apparently that \$100 million is not going to be paid by anybody. It will be interesting to hear the Treasurer at some time tell the house exactly what will happen to that \$100 million. If it is not being paid by the taxpayers or by the consumers of electricity, who is paying that \$100 million blowout? I look forward to his telling us that because I am sure he will be the only person in the room who knows how that happened.

There is the \$54.9 million blowout in the Synergy billing system. In April 2009, the then minister told the Legislative Council that he had personally intervened to make sure that Western Australians received a world-class billing system. He said, "I have personally intervened; I have met the executive of Synergy; I have met the board of Synergy and I have negotiated a great outcome", but when the blowout became obvious two and a half years later, the minister then said, "Oh, actually, it didn't have anything to do with me; that was the former government"—even though the whole system had been implemented while he was the minister.

There is the disaster of the Pilbara underground power project. Not only is it \$100 million over budget, but no date has been provided for when the project will be complete. Then there is the Pilbara generation project. Because the minister could not get cabinet approval to spend capital on its generation requirements, the government put in a temporary system for two years stating that at the end of the two years, it would then replace

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it with identical equipment and call that the permanent solution. So for two years it would lease a temporary solution and would then install identical equipment to be the permanent solution—an extra \$100 million.

Then we have the Mumbida wind farm problems that are now becoming apparent. We do not know quite how much that is going to cost, but at the moment all those other things add up to \$854 million that Minister Collier was personally responsible for in cost overruns, blowouts and unnecessary expenses. Now that is not bad, but when the current government then says it is focused on reducing costs in the electricity system, I can see that its first decision was probably a good decision, which was to get rid of Minister Collier. Clearly, he was one of the biggest sources of costs in the electricity system in Western Australia.

I want to go on very quickly to talk about the re-merger of Verve and Synergy. Again, in August 2009 Minister Collier announced that the government would not be merging Verve and Synergy. People in the industry still wanted a lot of questions answered, which were never answered, but at least they had that security. Then as noted in *The West Australian* of 12 March 2012, Minister Collier said —

There is nothing formal at the moment but putting Verve and Synergy together by March next year is a very real possibility.

We saw the government's idea of sovereign risk being put into the electricity supply system at a time when the minister said that the whole electricity market structure might change. Was there a process? Was he saying in March 2012 that this is a real possibility? Did he set up a process? Did he have a consultation system? Did he do anything? No. He left the industry completely ignorant of his intentions. Then in August 2012, when the government released the strategic energy initiative and it was clear there would not be a re-merger of Verve and Synergy, Hon Peter Collier came out and said—I quote from *The West Australian* of 29 August —

What I've said is it's certainly not a priority as far as the Government is concerned.

Having rejected it in 2009 and having let the horses run in March 2012, in August 2012 the minister says it is not going to happen. Then what happens? After the election we get a new minister, and suddenly not only is there discussion of the possibility of re-merging Verve and Synergy, but rather we get an announcement that it is going to occur. I have a whole series of technical questions to ask the minister about what is happening with Verve Energy and Synergy. It will be interesting to find out the answers to those questions, because it is as though the Minister for Energy is a commentator: he walks around the state saying that somebody should know something about something. I will give members an example of that by quoting from *The West Australian* of 11 April 2013 in which the minister states —

“Do I think the State will slowly exit generation? Yes,” he said. “Wasn't that the whole purpose of the disaggregation?”

It was part of the purpose of disaggregation, but given that the current government has decided to end the process of disaggregation, the real question is: what is this government's decision. In that same article, the minister states —

“The real question is what kind of market structure and incentives, three, four or five years down the track will there be to encourage them not only to build it and sell it (power) to Synergy but take more of the market risks.”

The minister has asked a good question, but why does he not answer it? The opposition has asked the minister on a number of occasions in this chamber, and I also have a formal question on notice to the minister, to explain that system. It is unbelievable that a minister who takes an oath to try to do his best endeavours on behalf of the people of this state cannot answer basic questions about his own decision that, according to the Oates review, is placing at risk \$10 billion of future investment. We all look forward to the minister answering his own questions. If he cannot answer his own questions, who is going to answer those questions? There is no process or system to negotiate with the industry players and no opportunity for discussion or for things to be resolved in terms of what the future of the state should look like.

I also want to point out that when Hon Peter Collier was in the energy portfolio, he was always very proud and made special mention of his efforts to increase renewable energy participation in the generation system here in Western Australia. Where does the new minister sit? Firstly, we can go back to 2009 when he rejected wind power as being a modern option for generating power in this state or anywhere else; and, again, when he made that comment the other day. In *The West Australian* of 26 April the minister stated —

“I am going to look at every aspect of the industry that affects the cost,” he said.

That is in regard to the renewable energy target scheme, which the federal government introduced to ensure a high level penetration of renewable energy. In the same article, the minister stated —

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“It is clearly an issue. I am going to look at the cost of the RET scheme to the system and quantify it and let people know what it is.

“It isn’t just buying wind power, and (building) the transmission lines that go to them, but its impact on the whole system. The RET scheme, in my view, is not sustainable, especially when you get up to over 20 per cent.”

I make the point for the minister’s benefit that the RET scheme is not over 20 per cent; it is 20 per cent, so I am not quite sure why he thinks it would go beyond that.

The next point I will make, which is something the minister would know if he had read *The West Australian* of 8 April, is that solar power installations in Western Australia are continuing to grow at a massive pace, because the cost structure of installing solar panels has crossed over now and, without any subsidy or selling electricity back to the grid, ordinary home owners can save money by installing solar panels. It is no longer the case that people need a subsidy to get a benefit out of solar power. Not everybody in Western Australia has the opportunity to install solar panels. The Labor Party made a proposal at the last election to expand that opportunity, which obviously will not go forward now because we did not win the election. The real question for the minister, when he examines the RET, is: what is he going to do about ordinary families in this state who are using solar panels as a way to save on the cost of electricity? The Premier likes to say that the Labor Party had a plan to increase electricity prices by 10 per cent each year for seven years. Of course, if that policy had been implemented, electricity prices would be 15 per cent lower in round terms than they are now. That is because of the very, very steep rises in the first 12 months of the first term of this government of 15 per cent and 10 per cent, I think. Therefore, no matter how many times the Premier says that he will increase electricity prices by only four per cent a year, the fact is that electricity prices went up very, very steeply. The Premier acknowledges that the rises were too steep. What is the Minister for Energy going to do to help families deal with that high cost? Is the minister going to restrict or ban people from putting solar panels on their houses in certain suburbs? What system is he going to use to ensure that people have the option of benefiting from a solar panel on their roof? That will be a real challenge for the minister.

The future of electricity generation has to be in allowing people to make their own decision; it has to be about innovation. We have seen the benefits that innovation brought to other industries. It is time that this government got out of the nineteenth century and the command-and-control approach—we just talked about China and the Communist Party. It is not only the Communist Party of China that needs to embrace reform; perhaps it is the Liberal Party of Western Australia as well. It is time that people are given more rights in this system. It is time that the minister recognises that the biggest risk to the electricity system in Western Australia is not a market risk; it is the Premier making silly decisions like the refurbishment of Muja AB. I am not against coal; it is about a stupid proposal to spend a quarter of a billion dollars to refurbish a 40-year-old plant that will only last another seven years! That is a silly decision. It is a silly decision to build a high-efficiency gas turbine plant when we are over capacity.

MRS G.J. GODFREY (Belmont) [4.37 pm]: I rise to support the Supply Bill 2013. Back in March when I first became the member for Belmont, one of my first functions was to host the Prime Minister in opening the upgrade to the Great Eastern Highway. The Great Eastern Highway has been a great asset to the people of Belmont. The six-lane highway upgrade includes bike paths, dedicated bus lanes and a right-turn access into the horse area. This project, although not completed at the time of opening, is now being finalised with new bus stops, artwork and landscaping. It is an incredible project. As I said before in this place, it has been delivered on time and on budget. This project is an example of the way that Main Roads and the City East Alliance are completing new transport projects and it is a credit to the government. Years ago the engineering would be done, but nothing would have been done about the landscaping, artworks et cetera; so we in Belmont are pleased with the completion of this project.

The Gateway WA project is very important for the people of Belmont because Belmont is surrounded on all sides by highways—Great Eastern Highway, Orrong Road, Leach Highway, Roe Highway and Tonkin Highway. As the Mayor of Belmont, I was a member of the Gateway project committee, and I am very pleased that we were always consulted as representatives of the local government in the seat of Belmont on how the different aspects of the project would affect the community. The Little Athletics running track will be moved from Gerry Archer Reserve, and consultation with this group alone has been exceptional, as it has been with businesspeople along Leach Highway where the flyover will be located. That consultation has worked well and the project is almost completed. About 12 houses along Leach Highway have been purchased so they can be demolished, because they will be right on the flyover at Abernethy Road and Leach Highway. All the freight that comes out of the Kewdale freight marshalling yards needs access to and from the airport so it can be distributed around the

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metropolitan area. We are looking forward to the Gateway WA project being as successful as the widening of the Great Eastern Highway project.

Another area of importance to the people of Belmont is the Swan River. Different members in this place have voiced their concerns about the river walls falling into the river. The City of Belmont, together with the state government, has been working on the river walls at the back of the Ascot Racecourse. The tree planting along Garvey Park and the floodplains along the foreshore of Belmont is another project that has been quite successful. It was done in conjunction with the Belmont council and Men of the Trees, with funding from the Swan River Trust. Water testing along the drains that run into the river is a very important project because a lot of businesses contribute to the pollution that enters the drains that contaminate the Swan River.

I am looking forward to the completion of the dual use bike path, which will be on West Parade, South Guildford. That road that has no drainage, no curbs and no footpath; it is very dangerous and winding. It is in the north of my electorate. The dual use path will enable students to get to school and will also be used by cyclists from South Guildford who ride into the city.

Another project highlighted throughout the campaign was the 40-kilometre-an-hour flashing lights at schools. The only area that I am interested in is on Stanton Road, which is a major access road to the airport. Two schools are affected—Redcliffe Primary School and Saint Maria Goretti's Catholic School.

I would like to talk about the KidSport program. More children are now learning to swim. Children who could not afford to play football or cricket are now joining in in the community. That program has been very successful in Belmont.

I turn to the Harman Park Community Centre, something that I have been working on for a very long time. It is now starting to come to fruition. There used to be a childcare centre on this site. It has been demolished. Funding has been approved for the community centre, which will be used for the home and community care program. There will be a dedicated building for this project. Originally HACC was in an old building on Parkview Parade that was used as change rooms. It was not suitable. A lot of the people who use this service are aged and affected by dementia. HACC was moved from that building as it was deemed unsuitable, and housed in the Redcliffe community centre. Although that building was brand new—it has a lovely dance floor and facilities—the clients, who are aged and suffering from dementia, had to move their equipment in and out of storage every day. This new building in Harman Street will be purpose built for this group of clients. Most importantly, it will now become an area that will be dedicated to senior Aboriginal women for a yarnning group. These people have been shunted from pillar to post. They will now have their own area to get together, even with grandchildren, and be able to call the place their own.

A facility in Belmont that is very exciting is the viewing platform at the airport. If anyone has not been there, I suggest they have a look. I take my grandchildren there regularly. Spectators are so close to the large planes taking off, they can wave to the passengers and they wave back. The viewing platform is on Tonkin Highway. It is a great facility. I saw something similar at Manchester Airport many years ago. It is very popular. Perth Airport has an environmental committee. I served on that environmental committee for a few years. One of the major things that it does is organise a walk through Munday Swamp with the Aboriginal elders of that area. That is a beautiful part of the metropolitan area.

I would now like to talk about a couple of schools in my area, of which there are 13. Two in particular—Belmay Primary School and Tranby Primary School—have a large number of Indigenous and multicultural children. Years ago I was disappointed when I went to one of the schools as there were a lot of angry children and hardly any parents at the assembly. Tranby Primary School initiated a program called the passport program, which is very successful. I would like that to be rolled out to a few other schools. Under the program, the children get a book and it is stamped when an adult or a grandparent attends the school to help the child. This passport can accumulate and be used for purchasing books or external excursions et cetera. That has had another effect. A lot of people who do not like to go to school to listen to children read, attend sporting events or come to an assembly are welcome at the school and they find that it is not as overbearing as they thought.

Housing is a big issue. As the member for Mandurah said, a lot of people are coming into our offices now with housing concerns. The other day I became aware of a young mum with four children under the age of eight. The house she was renting was being sold and she was told that her lease would be terminated. Our office worked closely with her so she knew she was not alone. There was a very good outcome. We went through the system to see how people can get housing. I acknowledge that housing is a concern. In the end, the new owner wanted this lady to remain as a tenant, which she was able to, so it was a good outcome from that perspective. Four new houses are being built by the Department of Housing in Epsom Avenue. Disruptive behaviour in homes in Rivervale, in particular, although we see it in other areas of Belmont, is a concern. However, I find that these

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people who come to us for help do not understand how the three strikes legislation works. We are working with them and we are getting some very good outcomes.

Finally, I wish to talk about the police. Throughout the election campaign the Minister for Police came to Belmont three times. We spoke to a lot of people. A lot of issues were presented to her. Since then the police have been coming back to Belmont. I look forward to working closely with the Minister for Police on the issues that are being raised in Belmont.

In conclusion, I support the Supply Bill 2013. It is a very good bill.

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [4.48 pm]: I would like to make a small contribution to the debate on the Supply Bill 2013. Given the difficulties with finances for the state with the decline in GST revenue, the volatility of royalties and stamp duty receipts, obviously finances are a serious issue. Certainly in my electorate people are very aware of that. Even though everyone in my electorate would very much love to see the Thornlie line extended through Canning Vale to the Mandurah line to provide a train service in that area, because the project will cost some \$250 million, everybody is realistic enough to realise that it will not happen in this term of Parliament. It is good to see that it is a long-term plan.

One of the things that we have been able to do is upgrade the Nicholson Road roundabout at Garden Street and Yale Road near the railway crossing. The fact that \$3 million was able to bring about such an excellent outcome indicates that sometimes for fairly small investments of money government can bring about a massive improvement in the quality of life for local residents. Since the upgrade was completed recently, I have received a number of emails from people thanking me very much for my efforts in getting it to happen, because their travel time to work has been cut by 20 minutes.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Why don't you bring them in here so they can tell the truth?

Mr P. ABETZ: What is wrong?

Mr D.A. Templeman: How many have you got?

Mr P. ABETZ: I have received three emails and a number of phone calls. I have also been thanked when I have gone to shopping centres. Before the election, people at meet and greets were very appreciative of the roadworks that were already underway. It has been a great outcome. In fact, the local paper ran a story on its front page about the tremendous difference it has made to the flow of traffic. It used to take people 20 minutes or more to get through; now, even during peak hour, they can get through without having to wait for a second traffic light change. For a very small amount of money—in the big scheme of things—we can make very significant improvements. It is my hope that in this term of Parliament we will be able to do something similar on Ranford Road between the Canning Vale markets and the Livingston Marketplace shopping centre by constructing a third lane on Ranford Road, which will serve —

Dr A.D. Buti: All the way to Tonkin Highway!

Mr P. ABETZ: That would need to come later! A good start would be a bus lane that would allow buses to get from Canning Vale and surrounding areas to Murdoch station on time during peak hour. If buses run on time, more people will be encouraged to use them, which would hopefully reduce the number of people using Ranford Road.

I refer to the lack of land available for churches in new suburbs, which is increasingly becoming an issue. In times past, when a new suburb was built in an estate—I am not sure which government department used to do land development—church sites were set aside. Church groups could register for those sites with the church group on top of the list having first choice. Part of the condition was that the church group had to pay market price for the land and had to start building within 18 months of being allocated the site. If the church group did not start building within that time, the site had to be handed back, a refund was given and the site was offered to the next church group. In that way, we got churches in the suburbs. The private development of land has resulted in no church sites. It is very, very difficult to find sites for places of worship in the newer suburbs. That issue needs to be addressed. Somehow in our planning structure we need not only an allocation of 10 per cent public open space, but also land set aside for religious groups to purchase to build places of worship. Under current planning laws the requirement is that for every four seats in a place of worship, there must be one car parking bay, which means that a church group would need to find quite a substantial sized piece of land to build a church that would seat between 400 and 500 people. A couple of church groups in my electorate are looking to build an auditorium that would seat 1 000 people. There is simply not the land available for that. Unless those groups look right out into rural areas, it seems almost impossible to procure the required area of land. I will continue to pursue that issue.

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Another interesting and difficult situation is that for the first time people in my electorate are coming to me with housing issues. Families want to stay in the area after their lease expires because their kids are settled at school. But there is simply not enough housing in the area available to rent at \$500 a week. Higher rents are forcing a lot of families to move out of the area in which they and their kids are settled, which is a pity. Sometimes families are forced to pay \$600 a week to stay in the area. Obviously the higher the rent for houses, the fewer people who compete. It is good that we have targeted 20 000 affordable homes by 2020. I hope that continues to progress well and that we exceed that figure by 2020.

Recognising the pressure on the state budget, I hope that the regional sports facility at Clifton Road will progress. I am pleased to report to the house that its planning is well underway. The draft master plan and the feasibility studies are in progress. Within a month or two, the City of the Canning, together with the Departments of Sport and Recreation and Planning, will release a report. It will be good to see how we can progress that facility. Again, there is a need for active recreational areas in the newer suburbs. Although there is lovely public open space in my electorate, it does not lend itself to playing games of football, cricket or hockey. A major regional sporting facility on that 130-odd hectare site that is half owned by the government and the City of Canning will make an excellent contribution to the facilities and amenity of the area. The access road needed for that facility will possibly be provided by the access road that, hopefully, will be built as the back entrance to Jandakot Airport. Planning for that is currently in progress as is an amendment to the metropolitan region scheme. Hopefully that will proceed in good time. I will conclude my remarks with those comments. I support the Supply Bill 2013.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.57 pm]: I start my contribution to the debate on the Supply Bill 2013 by paying tribute to the organisers of the SunSmart Busselton Festival of Triathlon, which took place over the weekend. It has become a tradition in our household to spend one of the early weekends in May in Busselton for the half ironman. I become more and more impressed with the organisation of that event every year. Indeed, the event has gained international renown. The support provided by government, both directly and through organisations such as Healthway, is extraordinary in creating a great festival, and one that embraces the community. For instance, the executive director of Healthway, David Malone, was at the festival on the weekend. Obviously with Healthway being a sponsor of the event he had a professional obligation to be there. But he also undertook the 21.1 kilometre run leg as part of a team. It is a great event. What really impressed me was that long after the timekeeping was concluded and long after the crowds had started to diminish, the organisers of the event, particularly the announcers—Simon Beaumont and Mat and Simone—stayed around. So, as the light faded and everyone had started to pack up and go home, and with only half a dozen competitors still to finish the event, they remained on the course spotting competitors, cheering them on and announcing their names as they finished. It was such a great tribute to the sport, to the organisers of the event and to the Busselton community. I place on record my appreciation to Triathlon Western Australia for the extraordinary event that the Busselton half ironman has become. I look forward to the full ironman at the end of this year at which I will be a spectator. I look forward to cheering on the member for Armadale as he completes his first full ironman. I am sure the member for Armadale will be successful, and it will be a very impressive feat indeed.

This week is National Volunteer Week, and I want to take the opportunity to place on record my appreciation of the volunteers in the Kwinana electorate and the communities of Baldvis and Kwinana. The volunteers in our community are the mortar that holds the foundation of the community together. They play an incredibly important role. Although we can provide services either through government or through private institutions and directly through non-government organisations, the capacity of these services to really make a difference in the community relies very much upon the work that the volunteers do in those communities. For instance, there is the Rockingham–Kwinana State Emergency Service and the work that Dave Beard does down there. There are the volunteer brigades such as the St John Ambulance brigades, and the volunteer fire brigade at Mandogalup and the townies in Kwinana, South Kwinana and, of course, Baldvis, and the work that they do year after year protecting the community from fires in the area. Service groups such as Kwinana Home Support Service and Kwinana Early Learning Centre play an incredibly important role, as do the heritage groups that value the heritage sites in our community. The parents and citizens associations play an important role in the schools. There are the civil service groups such as Rotary, which I do a lot of work with, and the Lions Club of Kwinana, which I am a very proud member of. There are arts groups such as the Koorliny Arts Centre, which has a level of funding but which relies very heavily upon volunteers and the work they do in that group. Of course, Dance for Africa and other youth groups work in the area. There are seniors groups such as United Pensioners Kwinana, and Kwinana Men's Shed, which provides a place for seniors and older people to go to socialise and feel part of the community. Kwinana Senior Citizens is an organisation that has a great and very proud history in Kwinana. So established is Kwinana Senior Citizens that the old wet mess for the Kwinana construction site makes up part of its buildings. There are sporting groups such as the Kwinana Knights senior and junior football clubs, the

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Kwinana Tigers Hockey Club, the Kwinana Crusaders Softball Club, the karate groups, the soccer clubs and so on. They all play a very important role in our community.

We should also place on record that the changing nature of the workforce in our community, particularly with fly in, fly out workforces, places a great deal of pressure on these groups. Mums and dads who are working away from home find it difficult to make a season-long commitment to their local sports clubs, and when they are back from the mine site, they also have difficulty finding the time and energy to be involved, and that is having a very real impact upon the sports groups in the area.

Wild Ambo, an organisation run by my good friend Marilee Burt that picks up injured animals from right across the community, functions only because of the work that Marilee does as a volunteer. Of course, I also want to pay tribute to the church volunteer groups in my area that provide food hampers for the community and support for organisations such as the St Vincent de Paul Society and other groups that make sure we can continue to hold the community of Kwinana together. In Kwinana and in Baldvis, many people do it tough, and they rely upon the work that these groups do to increase the capacity of our community to respond to their concerns.

I also want to place on record my appreciation of the environmental groups in the area, in particular those involved with the Baldvis Children's Forest—that award-winning community group that does such good work in promoting the environmental values within the Baldvis community and making sure that people are socialised around those environmental values and are aware of the role that the environment plays in their community.

The work that these groups do sits in contrast with other issues that undermine the confidence of the community. There can be no greater undermining of community confidence than a lack of community safety. A recurring theme for my electorate office staff is that people are increasingly concerned about the level of policing in their community. This has received a certain amount of media play recently as the commissioner has made observations about issues to do with policing numbers and so forth and the fact that that does not necessarily translate into better policing. However, the fact remains that policing is about not only the effectiveness of the police force to resolve crimes, to apprehend and to bring people to justice; but also a sense of community confidence, such that people feel safe in their neighbourhoods. The fact is we are losing that fight, and it is the community's perception of its safety that is very much undermined. We are constantly confronted by people who ask, "Why isn't the Kwinana Police Station a 24-hour police station?" I commend the work that the member for Armadale has done in raising that issue in his area. I do not know whether making Kwinana Police Station a 24-hour station would be a solution to the issues around people's perceptions of the effectiveness of policing in the area, but I do know that anecdotally people believe that police response times are increasing. People feel that when they ring the 131 444 number, they are not dealt with in a way that gives them confidence that their complaint or their issue has been taken seriously, and they lack the confidence that the police will have the sort of presence in their community that makes them feel safe and makes people who are looking to commit crimes feel vulnerable. That is one of the fundamental problems that we have.

In May last year, I asked the police minister about the policing resources that were available in Kwinana. The reduction of police resources in my area is very dramatic, and that is one of the concerns I have around policing. For instance, in 2007–08, about 52 police staff were available in the south metropolitan–Peel district. By 2011–12, that number had decreased to 32. I accept that some of these numbers do not necessarily reflect immediate front-line cops because of the switch from the south metropolitan district to the Peel district, but it gives us the understanding and sense of how widely spread police resources are. In 2007–08, Kwinana, as part of the south metropolitan police district, was covered by a fleet of 102 police vehicles. Now it is covered by a fleet of just 53 vehicles. We are seeing a reduction of the police resources available to be deployed in the area of Kwinana. This is a specific problem that I can see is being repeated from suburb to suburb right around the Perth metropolitan area. That is the problem that the member for Armadale is experiencing in his area, it is the problem that the member for Warnbro experiences in his area, and it is the problem that the member for Mandurah experiences in his area. The sense in the community is that the police simply do not have that visual presence to make an impact on people's sense of security and the presence of the police on the street.

However, it goes beyond that, because there are also issues around, for instance, police presence in schools, which was part of the Liberal Party's promise before the 2008 election. It is an issue for which the Liberal Party has not provided any resources. This is one of those broken promises that is having a very real impact in the community. The reason why I think it is important that we have police in the schools is that in schools such as the old Kwinana Senior High school, which is now Gilmore College, having young people exposed to the police force and to police officers early in their lives socialises them around those issues to do with policing, being a responsible citizen and their obligations as a citizen. It is very important that they have that interaction, that socialisation, so that they understand at an early age the role that police play in their community to keep them safe and to prevent them from undertaking crimes that they may be tempted to undertake from time to time.

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The issue of policing will not go away. It will not be wished away by claims from either the police minister or the police force that we have enough cops because, quite frankly, the perception out there in the community is that there are not enough and people are not feeling safe. One of the challenges to the Treasurer in this bill and in future budgets is to provide resources so that we can continue to resource police so that they have the capacity to respond to people in the community. Every delayed response, every time they do not provide a meaningful response at the end of the phone and every time people call for the police and do not feel they come quickly enough is another opportunity for people's confidence in our policing to be undermined. It is another opportunity for people to feel less safe in their community, and that is just not good enough.

I wish to turn briefly to some issues to do with the health portfolio. In particular I want to speak briefly about the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill 2008. This is a very important bill, not in terms of its length or intent, because on intent, as they say in the classics, we are all sitting around in furious agreement—that is, we all wish for the retention of Royal Perth Hospital as our inner-city campus—but because this comes down to the issue of election promises by a government and promises that were made over more than one term of that government. Prior to the 2008 election, the Liberal Party made a very solemn promise to the people of Western Australia that it would introduce a bill called the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill within its first 100 days of winning government. Admittedly it said that it would introduce it; it did not say that it would pass it. I do not think it is up to the electorate to say, "You say you'll introduce it but will you just introduce the bill or will you make it into law?" What the people heard when the Liberal Party said, "We will introduce this bill" is that it was introducing a bill to turn it into law. It was not introducing the bill to leave it languishing on the notice paper or to fall off the notice paper for lack of attention on three separate occasions in those four years.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Have you counted up how many hours of debate you wasted on that? It was seven hours on the second reading alone.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: You didn't even bring it on for debate in the upper house.

Mr R.H. COOK: Premier, try to explain —

Mr C.J. Barnett: You just wasted time.

Mr R.H. COOK: I surely do not have to explain to the Premier what it means for a bill to fall off the notice paper three times.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Three times it was brought on and three times the Labor Party opposed it.

Mr R.H. COOK: That bill fell off the notice paper, not because we opposed it, not because we debated it, but because of the Premier's complete lack of interest in it. It was a con. This is a con on the people of Western Australia. Another aspect of that bill, which the Liberal Party trumpeted, was that it would redevelop Royal Perth Hospital to be part of a new 400-bed facility. Once again, the seed was planted in the minds of people in those electorates in which the Liberal Party campaigned strongly on Royal Perth Hospital that this would be one of the commitments it would make. But no, the Minister for Health, upon achieving government, said, "Well, we said we'd do it. We just didn't say when we would do it."

Mr P. Abetz: After Fiona Stanley opened.

Mr R.H. COOK: The Liberal Party never said that. That is the Minister for Health's latest representation. He said, "We never said when we would do it. We said we'd do it at some point and it's a second-term promise." But of course, as the Premier has reminded us time and again, he cannot be held accountable for the promises he made prior to the 2008 election because that was a different government. So, what he is actually saying, by the extension of his own logic, is that nothing he said about a second-term promise can be taken at his word. Nothing this Premier says can be taken at his word on what this government will do in its second term, because according to the Premier there is no such thing as a second-term government. That was a different group of people; he does not have to be held accountable. What the Premier is actually saying, by the extension of his own logic, is that he cannot be taken at his word. He is saying that, because he said prior to 2008 the government would redevelop Royal Perth Hospital and it was a second-term promise, it does not matter.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr R.H. COOK: It is not surprising that the same health stakeholders the Liberal Party courted so effectively prior to the 2008 election are now starting to question this government about whether it is really dinkum on the issue of Royal Perth Hospital. Of course the problem the government has around Royal Perth Hospital is that it has to find the staff and the resources to stick into Fiona Stanley Hospital when it comes on board. A lot of these people are now saying, "Well, what were they really meaning when they said they'd reintroduce the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill?" We now know—nothing! We now know that it was simply an exercise in trickery and in deception and that all the government will do is introduce the bill and then let it die. What did the government

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mean when it said it would redevelop Royal Perth Hospital? We now know—nothing! That is because this government has already said it will not be held accountable for the promises of the previous government. Those health stakeholders are now saying, “Well, what is going on here? Can we take this government at its word?” By the extension of the Premier’s own logic, no, they cannot, because he is saying he will not be held accountable for any promise he made prior to 2008. That means, therefore, in terms of Royal Perth Hospital that everything is up for grabs. People working at Royal Perth Hospital are now wondering about the future of their jobs. Will they continue at Royal Perth Hospital or is their job one of those that will disappear? It is not surprising, therefore, that they take the opportunity to question this government by saying, “Surely, if you are the same people who promised us prior to 2008 that you’d introduce the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill, now is the opportunity to reintroduce that bill and pass it.”

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: The opportunity is there for the government, as an act of integrity and as an act of good faith with the people of Western Australia, to reintroduce the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill. It is as simple as that. I would have thought that the first thing it would do on coming back to this place is get on with the business of the past Parliament. But, as we have heard from the Premier so very many times, government members disown anything they said prior to the 2008 election, and that includes the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill. We will therefore bring it on and we look forward to assisting the government to keep to its promises, because clearly it cannot do that by itself.

I want to spend some time briefly discussing the issue of peritonectomy surgery waiting times and the holding of peritonectomy surgery in Western Australia, as was raised in question time today. Pamela Barry is one of a range of patients who had to undergo an operation known as a peritonectomy in order to be given a good chance of survival. It is a very complex, expensive, lengthy and difficult operation. It is so difficult that the number of specialists in Australia who can do it can be counted on one hand. We are blessed in Western Australia in that we have one of those specialists here who can undertake this very difficult surgery. I understand that this is not surgery that people undertake as an option; they undergo this surgery, which takes about 10 hours, because they want a chance of survival. The stakes are very high on this one. A surgeon in Western Australia can undertake this operation. Two hospitals can host this operation. One is Fremantle; the other is Joondalup—yet patients have to fly to Sydney to have this operation. As I said, this is a lifesaving operation. Pamela Barry is one such person who needs the operation. When she was originally diagnosed with cancer, she was told that she had to have this operation within two months. She says she has waited about two years. She is scared stiff because she knows that she needs this operation to give herself a good chance of survival.

The discussions between the doctor who can do the surgery and the Department of Health are ongoing. From the minister’s answer today it seems that the discussions have been going on for a long time. It is time for this Parliament to say enough is enough. The minister has to resolve this issue. It is not fair on this patient that she has to fly to New South Wales to have this operation done. In some respects it is probably not fair on the patients of New South Wales that they have to share the specialists in their state with patients from Western Australia. We are very lucky that we have that option. It is time for the minister to personally intervene and resolve this issue. If, for some reason, the operation cannot be undertaken at Fremantle Hospital, surely Joondalup Health Campus is an option. To allow patients to continue to be put on the never-never is not an option when they have been given a life expectancy that is nowhere near the never-never. Their end points are fast approaching. That is why people such as Pamela Barry and Patricia Svensden, who has also come forward, are talking about this operation, the difficulties and what is potentially the end stage of their lives. They are asking the minister to please sort this out because they want a chance of survival. They want a chance to receive this operation that they know can be done and hosted in Western Australia. For the life of me I cannot understand why, when we are so close to being able to do this operation in Western Australia, the minister has not taken the opportunity to knock the bureaucrats’ heads together and sit down and say, “Right, no-one leaves this room until we have resolved this issue and got this operation to take place in WA.”

I want to briefly conclude by appealing, on behalf of those members of the Kwinana and Baldivis communities, and other suburbs in the Kwinana electorate, who rely on the service of disability organisations and the resources of the Disability Services Commission. I implore the Premier to join his colleagues in other states in signing the National Disability Insurance Scheme agreement. I think an NDIS is necessary for this country in moving forward. As the Premier has said, he understands what an important initiative it is for people with a disability in Australia. It is very important in making sure that people in our community have the sort of support they need to continue to lead happy and fruitful lives. On a regular basis I speak with people who are struggling to deal with their lives, to deal with housing and to deal with the support services they need. Through the work that I am fortunate enough to do with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, I really appreciate the struggles that people have to get the support services they need. If we can get ourselves to a position whereby we can have a disability

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system of entitlement that means people do not have to go begging to a government agency to receive the services they need, we would progress significantly as a nation and as a community. We could all hold our heads up high that despite the range of differences that people have and despite the time it will take to align disability services across the country, we, as a nation, have come together to decide that now is that point in history when we will set aside those political differences and work together to have a proper, well-funded, well-resourced and appropriately entitled disability services scheme.

MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee) [5.25 pm]: It is great that I have the opportunity to get up again in a general debate and to make a contribution on the Supply Bill 2013. I want to put on the record a series of issues relating to my seat as opposed to anything in areas of portfolio interest. I attempted to do so last time I got to my feet, but I ended up wandering off into territory related to the ideology of the chamber on this side and that and the discombobulation of some of the members opposite in their attitudes towards what is a Liberal attitude, what is a conservative attitude and what is good social policy. But I will not start down that line because I will get my blood up.

Mr R.H. Cook: You've got to keep to the script this time.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I will keep to the script because my electorate office staff are concerned that they do a bit of work, find out the details and put it all down for me, yet I do not stick to the script. I will not get my blood up; I will keep a nice even tone. I will not speak too loudly so the Treasurer can get some sleep and I will just talk about things that are —

Mrs L.M. Harvey: Why would you say that? I am sitting beside him; he is working.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I am sure he is. It will not take him long.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Do not speak so loudly. Just relax. It is okay. This will not be painful.

I will speak to things that are particularly dear to my heart. It is very good that the Minister for Police is here because I really want to start by talking about something with which I have had a long involvement informally and now formally, which is my police and community youth centre. The PCYC in the seat of Willagee, which is called the Fremantle PCYC, has a long and proud association with not only the district generally, but also my seat. It covers a couple of seats, obviously—Fremantle and Willagee. The particular concern that got me so active in it more recently is the Barnett government's approach to community policing. No more evidence is required about the lack of commitment to visible and positive policing than what we find at our PCYC. The fact that the government has formally removed police from police and community youth centres recently motivated me to say at a meeting that the association should drop the "P" from PCYC, which would be a big move for something that has been going since the early 1940s. The reason I say that is simply that in actual fact there are no police at police and community youth centres. No police are involved in positive interactions with the programs that are conducted by police and community youth centres.

I say that because in the Fremantle PCYC were two senior constables, Ian Hill and Ian Abercromby, who have now been moved and who had some of the most outstanding connections with the youth of that district that I have ever seen. They had been there some years. It takes time to build up the trust and rapport of the youth, particularly the troubled ones who need more work, not less; more interaction, not less; and more positive diversions away from some of the poor choices they make, not less. These two police officers certainly deserve, in my estimation and from my observations, not only all my support and any accolade I can give them from this chamber, but also, more importantly, formal recognition from their own police service of the service they provided. One afternoon I went down there at the request of the local newspaper to see whether we could do a positive story on Indigenous youth in the seat of Willagee. I asked Senior Constable Ian Abercromby whether he knew anyone and whether we could get any kids for the story. It was about 3.30 in the afternoon. He said, "Standby", and within 20 minutes he had produced not only 30 young kids from up the road and around the district, but also their parents or guardians. They all came down because they wanted to be involved in promoting the PCYC. He did not have to ask them twice, because despite their own activities and what they had planned for the day, they got that the PCYC is an integral part of the centre of the community, so it was no ask whatsoever. What was even more interesting was that, as Senior Constable Abercromby produced this great herd of people for a great photo shoot, he knew all their names. He knew each and every one of those children's names; he knew their parents' names, their guardians' names and he knew their circumstances. He and his offsider Ian Hill could interact with those kids and had a basis of rapport that only comes from a long investment of time—a long investment in hours that do not fit shifts and the normal nine to five. Such a rapport could come only from a deep sense of commitment to the community and a deep sense of possibility that they could actually

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shape young lives and move them away from choices that are less desirable towards choices that are more desirable.

When we consider Indigenous youth, who we all know, let us face it, are over-represented in our judicial system, we realise that for them to have a positive interaction with a police officer is rare. It is gold for them because in their circumstances more often than not they and their siblings have negative interactions with police officers in some form, whether it is out on the street or because they have done or been involved in some crime. Probably their first interaction with police officers in the seat of Fremantle and my seat, Willagee—in the Fremantle district—has been a negative one. Therefore, it is essential that they have the opportunity to see the human side of policing, the human side of police officers themselves, and for them to see behind all the equipment, the cars, the radios and the technology that now seems to burden our police officers on a daily basis and see a human who actually cares—Western Australians committed to opportunities for youth. We know this from the range of studies and from our intuitive understanding that if we can create a positive impression on youth, we will have the most sustained outcome. We can create a circumstance in which young people make healthy active choices in their lives about what they might want to do with themselves, not least of which is raising their self-esteem, which is the objective of every program run in the PCYC and, I should imagine, in any other committee facility. The only ambition really, regardless of the delivery method or the conduit for it, is raising the level of self-esteem and self-respect, which translates into respect for property, respect for others and respect for an ambition they should set themselves and that they might want to achieve in their lives. That is absolutely, completely delivered in a PCYC. Unfortunately, we seem to have got a good bit of bureaucratic back shuffling.

The Premier said police would not be removed from PCYCs, and for all intents and purposes he gave the ultimatum to the commissioner to at least give himself the veneer of truth or some sort of authenticity when he said out there on the step that police would in fact not be removed. So what do we see? We have youth liaison officers. After Ian Abercromby and Ian Hill were moved to their various locations—I am not quite sure where they went to—the youth liaison officer was posted in, I think some months ago now, and has not been seen in the Fremantle PCYC, despite the Premier saying that police would not be removed from the PCYC. We know for a fact that in the Fremantle PCYC there is an office marked for the police officer, but we have not actually seen him. I am not sure whether that is due to his individual set of circumstances; I am not sure whether it is a functional, systemic problem; I am not sure whether he cannot get out of the Fremantle hub for want of having to fill in the bureaucratic, administrative forms, and the processes he probably has to go through. One thing we know —

Mrs M.H. Roberts: The minister's here; she might know. She might be able to tell you, she knows what's going on.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: It would be very interesting.

One thing we do know, though, is that this police officer must report at the first instance to the Fremantle Police—no problems; he can handle that—and that if there is a car available, the police officer will have use of the car and will be able to go to the PCYC. We also know that that police officer has been explicitly told that he is not to participate in the programs conducted at the PCYC. Why? Because he is a youth liaison officer and there is a different program for him to execute. Out of interest I asked in what area this police officer would produce a result for youth as a youth liaison officer working with at-risk youth, at which institutions he would work and how. No-one can really answer that for me or deliver to me a comprehensive understanding of duties for this youth liaison officer. However, we do know that the territory that this single youth liaison officer must cover is from Fremantle to Rockingham.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: That's why we are recruiting another 30.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: Recruiting another 30 youth liaison officers is a very good idea, minister, but would we not think that the 30 would be found, recruited and trained before the positions were vacated and the youth of the district of Fremantle cut adrift? Would we not think that there would actually be a plan in place that would be tested and that it would involve a handover of corporate knowledge from two officers—in my case; I am sure other PCYCs would have them—who have a huge depth of knowledge and who have a complete and utter commitment to the youth of the Fremantle district? We would think the minister would have had a plan that somehow covered officers' knowledge and would pick up where they left off. It sounds to me, minister, that this is just another example of bad management and bad leadership from a bad government.

The Fremantle PCYC has a huge heritage. I would say the Fremantle PCYC is probably the best facility in the state; it is a very good example. For any member who wants to go there to have a look, I am more than happy to make a time, show them through and show them what the club does. The Fremantle PCYC was formed in the early 1940s and it was originally called the Fremantle Police Boys' Club. It has changed its premises three times since then. It used to be right in the heart of Fremantle and is now in the suburb of Hilton, where it was officially

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opened in September 1975 by the then federal member for Fremantle, Hon Kim Beazley Sr. It produces a huge array of recreational and support programs. It offers each and every one of those programs on the basis of discovery and personal growth for the individual youth who use it. It has recently undergone some major renovations that were jointly funded by the federal government and the City of Fremantle. It delivers 25 different programs in those premises, things such as Aikido, air rifles—believe it or not—basketball, boxing and Chinese health, as they call it. It has computer rooms, a great weights and fitness training centre, floorball and a games room. It has girls gymnastics, of course, from beginners through to level 10, which is one of its biggest programs. It has boys gymnastics through to juniors. It has judo and karate. It has an education and training room that is often used by members of the community. It has wrestling under an outstanding Olympic-grade coach and a range of other recreational activities. It caters to people from three years of age—my little three-year-old does toddler gym—right through to the seniors who do badminton, Rainbow Gym, as it is called, and Lifeball. It is great to see men and women of about 80 or 90 using the facility during the day, which is a fantastic sustained use of it. It has undergone very substantial renovations and building works. The former Mayor of Fremantle Pete Tagliaferri, and the City of Fremantle's Phil Gale, and its current CEO, Graeme Mackenzie, in 2009 collaborated with the federal government and the then federal member for Fremantle, Melissa Parke, to acquire \$3.2 million to put to its renovation and to connect the existing PCYC building with the existing town hall, which is adjacent to it. We now have a fantastic design that links the old town hall, a classic small town hall design, with the old 1970s' brick facility to produce what I believe is the best community infrastructure, certainly in the district of Fremantle. I should also note that along with the \$3.2 million from the federal government, an amount of \$1.6 million came from the City of Fremantle and half a million dollars from a Lotterywest grant.

I am advised by the Hilton PCYC that in 2012 the club had over 35 000 attendances; that is, there were 35 000 visits from people who signed up for and attended a particular program or session. That is just for the formal programs and does not include numbers attending the drop-in centre or after-school centre, if you like another name, where the likes of Senior Constables Ian Abercromby and Ian Hill would interact with the kids on an informal basis, which is just as important as the formal interaction. This shows that a general and informal presence, not in a structured sense, of a police officer and other male and female role models as an alternative to the family structure that the child comes from is absolutely essential to round out or assist the personal growth of these kids. I am so motivated about this particular PCYC, and PCYCs generally, because as a young kid I went to this very same PCYC, where I did boxing and basketball training. I am a beneficiary of that positive interaction with police officers, not least of whom was Sergeant Ray Steadman, who gave me lots of good advice and guidance when I was making some incorrect choices. He set the seed that assisted me on the path that sees me in this chamber today, I suppose. I am so motivated about this PCYC that I actively sought out a position and was voted onto the council for this PCYC. I am extremely proud of the opportunity to start to bring to bear some of my experiences to assist the PCYC in not only sustaining itself but growing.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr P.C. TINLEY: I should also make mention of my fellow committee members: Rebecca Slavin, the centre manager, who is fantastic and who is employed by the City of Fremantle, so she is particularly good at running the whole show and keeping it together; Craig Green, who is a PCYC youth worker; Adrian Pardini, who consented, after a small amount of discussion at the annual general meeting, to stand as president, and his wife, Michelle Pardini—they are two people who are very committed to the whole PCYC movement; and to Gary Sherriff and Wendy Everett.

I will also take this opportunity to pay particular and special mention of the outgoing president, Bob Meredith. Bob is an icon, and I do not want to overuse a cliché, but members will not read about him in *The West Australian* or hear about him on the news. Bob is one of those people who has been going around and around in not just PCYCs but a range of other community programs, particularly involving youth. He has been doing that for years—in fact, for 43 years. He started with the PCYC in 1970 as a boxing coach. He was my boxing coach for a short time and it was a great joy to see him there after so many years. But after many years, he and his wife, Mo Meredith, who is herself a fantastic contributor to the community in my electorate and the wider district of Fremantle, have said that that is enough. Of course, Bob is a life member of the PCYC, and no more fitting an accolade than that could be bestowed on Bob. I wish Bob well and thank him for his support. I do not think it will be the last we see of Bob, because he will still be active around the club where he is always welcome. I should say that Bob, like the two police officers I mentioned, Ian Abercrombie and Ian Hill, has an intimate connection to the community, particularly with youth. He has seen many people like me go through and on to adulthood and become productive members of the community.

It is interesting that we talk about those people as well as the bricks and mortar of what is hopefully a sustainable model in the way it will deliver youth services, because it actually inspires many other groups and people in the community to see what else can be done. Again, there are many groups in the community that we never read

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about, and it is up to us as their parliamentary representatives to ensure that we support, promote and present whatever we can to give them more energy to do what they need to do and which they do so well.

One of the harder suburbs in my seat to represent is Coolbellup. Coolbellup is a very old suburb. Over time it has contained a large volume of public housing, which has been slowly reducing over the years. In its early days, nearly 100 per cent of the homes were public housing, and in the 1950s the majority was composed of English migrants. It is great to talk to some of the older people in the suburbs who can remember the area being bush and how the suburb evolved from that. There is a new breed of residents in Coolbellup, as the demographics have changed, with an older cohort moving into smaller accommodation choices and young families coming in. One of the great things about Coolbellup is the little Coolbellup Community School, which is the result of an amalgamation of three primary schools that occurred under the government of Alan Carpenter, who was the member who preceded me. It was through his energy that a really good educational outcome was delivered for the suburb of Coolbellup by designing and pushing for those schools to become the fantastic new facility that is the Coolbellup Community School. However, it could always use more students, and, as the demographics changed, with young families coming in, some parents were hesitant to allow their children to go to a new school, as it were, because they were unsure what the educational outcomes would be for their children. What they have got is a great connection to some very motivated teachers and a great support network. One of those is a little residents' group called Cooby Now! This was the invention of some well-motivated young mums who were looking for a way to ensure that the school had the best resources and support from the community. These young women started Cooby Now! to ensure they promoted the school to its own residents. We had a large contingent of primary school age children leaving Coolbellup to go to an adjacent suburb with a school that is well established with a good track record. Samson Primary School is a fantastic school, but unfortunately that detracted from some of the potential resourcing for Coolbellup; therefore, these women formed Cooby Now! to promote the Coolbellup Community school. I really appreciate the opportunity to be involved with them and support them in what they do. Dr Katie Attwell was the original engine room behind the idea, along with Jemma Wuthenow, Sonia Lamond, Selvi Parameswaran and Sandie Stewart.

So good was that group at promoting the school, it branched off to see what else it could do for the community. In the fading days of summer, it held the Cooby Fest—that is, the Coolbellup festival. It was a great little festival. I assisted in its planning. We put some resources in it to ensure that it went really well. When I attended this little festival, it was great to see some of the older residents in their 60s and 70s that I was speaking of earlier lying around on the beanbags that the group had hired to place under the trees. These residents were lolling about under the trees drinking the fresh juice that had been made and listening to the entertainment performing on the stage. When I spoke to them, they said it was one of the best things they had ever seen in their time in Coolbellup. It was a great endorsement of what these women had done. I say that in a very gender-specific way. So much of my work in the community—I am sure other members in this place would agree with me—exposes me to the idea that women are the engine room of community building. That is not to discredit men and create some sort of gender bias, but the fact is that women built the community. The women in the various residents groups are really seeking to create a connection between people.

The Coolbellup festival committee consisted of Sonia, Selvi, Jane House, Pip Brennan, Jane Burnett and Jo Manning. Members might notice all those gender-specific names. They did a fantastic job to deliver an outstanding result. I would like to thank the City of Cockburn and the other sponsors for the work that they did to ensure that the festival went off well and that it was a resounding success. The effort that goes into these sorts of things is not small. It was recognised that there is a cost in holding such an event and that thousands of dollars needed to be raised, but it came down to the minutiae of coordination between one stall and the next and between one group and the next to ensure that everybody who wanted to be involved was catered for. There was a great array of local crafts and little cottage industries with everything from baby clothes—these things were made in the homes of the people of Coolbellup—to birdcages and dog kennels. It was a tremendous experience for everyone in the community. It was a lovely day and there was some great entertainment. Those women should be completely and absolutely endorsed so they go on and produce even better results. I look forward to being able to support them over the coming years to ensure that they not only grow their own families and community but also create a good model for what could be applied in any other community in this state.

Finally, I would like to finish off quickly by mentioning another group in my electorate called Willagee Alive, which is a great group that has been sustained over a long period by some highly motivated women to ensure that they produce a result that is a little bit shifted. Even though Willagee is going through a demographic change with new families moving in, it still has a very large older population. That group is well supported by Willagee Alive. I would also like to thank the City of Melville for its work in the master plan for Willagee. It has involved community groups such as Willagee Alive. I would like to make special mention of William Schaefer, a strategic urban planner, who has led the community consultation through the master planning process. He has been

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outstanding in the way he communicates with people and the way he ran some of the very well attended sessions that were conducted by the City of Melville. The first session for community engagement on the master plan for Willagee was to be held in the community centre. When everybody arrived, despite the RSVPs, the organisers realised that they had twice as many people as they could fit in that facility. They had to move across to the library. It was a fantastic outcome. The level of engagement that came from the community, young and old, was outstanding and it continues beyond that.

I conclude by saying that the groups in our community that matter are the ones we will not read about but they are the ones in our particular seats, and I endorse each and every one of those people who want to participate and build community.

MR I.C. BLAYNEY (Geraldton) [5.55 pm]: I will speak briefly on the Supply Bill 2013. I spent the second week of the school holidays in Adelaide. I took my children to Adelaide for a week. We should all consider holidaying at home. Tourism is an important industry in Australia, and it is really suffering from the rise in the Australian dollar. As members who have been there would know, Adelaide is a planned city with beautiful wide roads on a grid layout and it is very easy to get around. After driving around Perth, I could not believe how quick and easy it is to drive around Adelaide.

The two reasons I went to Adelaide were to look at the O-Bahn and the renewal and extension of the Glenelg tram. The O-Bahn was developed by Daimler-Benz in Germany for the city of Essen. It had a tunnel system that it wanted to change so that both trams and buses could use it. The concrete line that was built for the O-Bahn in Adelaide was dedicated entirely to the O-Bahn; nothing else uses it. Interestingly, it is built on alluvial soil so the whole track has to be built above the ground on pylons. The O-Bahn was introduced in 1986 to serve Adelaide's north eastern suburbs. The land that it was built on was intended for a tramway. However, the decision was made to go along the O-Bahn line. Compared with the tramway, the O-Bahn needed less land, was quieter, faster and at the time cost less. The line is 12 kilometres long; it has one station and two interchanges. The interesting thing about the O-Bahn is that buses can enter and exit the concrete busway and then drive as normal buses into the streets. It is a unique feature of the system. While on the O-Bahn, buses do not need to be steered. They can travel at up to 100 kilometres an hour, and the system can carry 18 000 passengers an hour. At the end of the line is the Tea Tree Plaza interchange, which is the largest station. It has become a substantial commercial centre. It is one of Adelaide's designated regional centres. We can see a connection there with our proposed changes to local government in that it envisages 12 or 16 commercial centres developing out of the merged councils. It has a large Westfield shopping centre, the Modbury hospital, which is a large hospital, and the Torrens Valley TAFE campus. Within a kilometre of the interchange, there are three primary schools, one government high school, one Christian school and three retirement villages. I was very impressed by the O-Bahn. I think it should be considered for the Perth Airport link. Where possible, a dedicated track can be built for it but the buses can also operate on priority lanes in the road system or operate as normal buses. The buses are now Scania's; they were Mercedes-Benz. Any type of bus can be used.

The other interesting transport development in Adelaide is the extension and renovation of the tramline, which previously ran only from Glenelg to the centre of the city. It has now been extended. It runs another 1.2 kilometres and it has been renovated. It is the first new tramline built in South Australia since the 1920s. I think the original tramcars were built in the 1920s. They have been replaced by new Bombardier trams, which seat about 80 people. Interestingly, the Glenelg tram runs for much of its length on a dedicated line, so it is not mixing with cars, which makes it a lot more reliable and a lot quicker. After trying both systems, I would have to say that I found the O-Bahn far more impressive. I am surprised that more of these systems have not been built. An O-Bahn system may be a more worthwhile system than both the Metro Area Express light railway and the airport railway link. I urge the government to consider it.

I echo the comments made in this place during the previous Parliament by the member for South Perth when he talked about an extension of the Perth ferry network. Once again, there is a place for that in our transport future. The ferry terminal for the city really has to be within Elizabeth Quay. When we are talking about transport in Western Australia, I would like to reiterate that we desperately need that extra runway at Perth Airport. That should be made a priority and done as soon as possible.

Another place I hoped to visit while in Adelaide was the Holden factory at Elizabeth. Unfortunately, this was not possible as it has not run tours for some 10 years. I am a strong supporter of the Australian car industry.

Debate interrupted.

[Continued below.]

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm