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Thursday, 9 May 2024

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) took the chair at 9.00 am, acknowledged country and read prayers.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [9.01 am]: Members, I remind you that the budget will be presented at two o'clock this afternoon. Members' statements will occur at 12.15 pm and questions without notice at 12.30 pm, after which I will leave the chair at one o'clock for a lunchbreak.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

Inquiry into the options available to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse in Western Australia who are seeking justice — Extension of Reporting Date — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [9.02 am]: Members, I advise that the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee has resolved to extend its inquiry into the options available to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse in Western Australia who are seeking justice to 15 August 2024.

WINTER SPORTS

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [9.02 am]: As our long summer comes to a close, our winter sports will provide a renewed sense of excitement and engage our community to take to the sporting fields and courts again across Western Australia. To support driving this engagement, the Cook government's KidSport program is making sport accessible to more Western Australian children and further relieving cost-of-living pressures on families by doubling the amount of financial assistance available per child through the popular KidSport voucher program. Families struggling to cover the cost of registering their children in community sport can now apply for up to \$300 in KidSport vouchers per child each financial year over the next two years. Since December last year, when winter sports junior registrations began to open, more than 13 000 vouchers have been provided with a total value nearing \$3 million.

The winter season also sees our many female state teams compete in their respective women's national league competitions. The magnificent and mighty West Coast Fever will again carry the hopes and dreams of the netball community as they seek to reclaim the National Netball Championships title—let us hope they bring it home on Friday night for the fifth time in a row! The Perth Steel will also be defending their national volleyball title. Our Perth Inferno ice hockey team and our water polo teams—the Fremantle Mariners and UWA Torpedoes—and the Western Force Women, Perth Lynx and Perth Glory teams have all played out their seasons. All of these women's teams receive support through the state government that ensures their sustainability to strengthen pathways and programs for women to compete at the high-performance level and reduce the financial burden for participating athletes.

Our volunteers in sport and recreation are the engine room behind our active and passionate community sporting sector. These amazing people dedicate their time to cover all aspects of making sport happen. Whether it be coaching, officiating, scoring, managing a team, working in the canteen or treating injuries, we can count on volunteers to be there providing their invaluable support. The benefits of volunteering in our broader community are immense and include providing skill development, participation, inclusion and employment. This drives economic growth and, importantly, creates a personal sense of achievement and wellbeing. Recognising these benefits, the Cook government provided financial assistance to 34 state sporting organisations to develop strategies to recruit and retain new and existing coaches and officials. This will ensure the future direction and sustainability of volunteer coaches and officials across the state. I recognise and thank all those who have volunteered in our summer sports and those already involved in our winter sports. From frosty mornings to cool evenings, their support is valued. To those considering volunteering in winter sports this season, please take the opportunity. Whether it is to wave the flags, crunch the numbers, wash the uniforms, serve in the canteen, set up or pack down equipment, mark the lines, keep the score or blow the siren, your support makes the winter sport season the place to be.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF HOCKEY

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [9.05 am]: Western Australia has a long and proud record as the host of the Hockey Australia high performance program. Since the early 1980s, the state has developed and produced two of the most successful Australian sporting teams of recent decades—the Hockeyroos and the Kookaburras. In April, we were privileged to have these two outstanding national teams finalise their preparations for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games by playing in the Perth International Festival of Hockey.

The International Festival of Hockey is a new global event that has been proudly supported by the Cook government and Hockey Australia. The men's Kookaburras team completed a clean sweep of their Indian opponents, winning the series five games to nil. This means the Kookaburras have now won 12 of their last 13 international matches this year. The Kookaburras' Olympic campaign will continue in Europe next month when they take on Belgium, Great Britain, Argentina and Germany in the next round of the FIH Pro League. During the festival, the women's Hockeyroos, who are ranked fourth in the FIH standings, competed in a series against China, Japan and an Australian development squad. China won the tournament, finishing top of the pool at the conclusion of the round robin. Australia finished in second place, followed by the Australian development squad and Japan. Both China and the Hockeyroos had been undefeated in the series to that point, which made for a riveting game. It was another twist in the tale of a burgeoning rivalry between the Hockeyroos and China as China's never-say-die attitude saw them claim victory in the second half of the sides' final meeting. I am sounding like Roy and H.G. Nelson! The Hockeyroos ended their tournament with a triumphant 3-0 win over Japan—a marvellous game—to close out the Perth International Festival of Hockey. The Australian national team featured a number of Western Australians, some of whom commenced their hockey journey in regional Western Australia—a wonderful achievement. Congratulations to all teams on taking part in what was a hockey extravaganza!

SOCIAL HOUSING — MURRAY–WELLINGTON

Statement by Minister for Housing

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [9.07 am]: I rise to update the house on the Cook government's work to deliver housing for our south west. I recently had the opportunity to be in Collie alongside the hardworking local member, Jodie Hanns, to break ground on a crucial project in Collie—a \$1.4 million transitional accommodation initiative led by Accordwest. This project will provide safe and supportive spaces for women and children at risk of homelessness. Our government understands this challenge in the regions and we are committed to providing bespoke support in specific regional towns. Scheduled for completion in early 2025, these dwellings will offer the required assistance to those in need.

I was also pleased to travel to Murray–Wellington with local member, Robyn Clarke, for two announcements. In Brunswick, construction is well underway on 12 new social homes designed specifically for seniors. Made possible by a nearly \$5 million grant from our government, these homes in Brunswick River Cottages will provide seniors with the opportunity to age in place comfortably within their community. I thank the member for her advocacy on this project and I know she understands how important it is that we continue to encourage inclusive and supportive living environments for our ageing population, ensuring they remain connected to their communities and receive the care they deserve. On the same trip, I was able to visit Dwellingup to attend the completion of new community housing at the Dwellingup Community Village. Funded through our \$153 million community housing grants program, six of the 11 dwellings are already occupied, and the remainder are set to be occupied and completed by this year.

We know that COVID has radically reshaped housing markets across Australia. These initiatives represent our commitment to continue accelerating housing delivery across Western Australia. Our record investment in housing and homelessness measures is critical to boosting housing supply. By working with local governments and community organisations, we are ensuring we explore every measure possible to see Western Australians have access to safe and secure housing.

ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST — NYANGUMARTA WARRARN COMMUNITY

Statement by Minister for Lands

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Lands) [9.10 am]: I rise to update the house on our work around land transfers in the north west. Our government has just approved the divestment and transfer of eight hectares of Aboriginal Lands Trust reserve land situated between Broome and Port Hedland for the benefit of the Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal people. This significant decision represents our commitment to supporting Indigenous communities and empowering them to pursue social and cultural opportunities. The land will be transferred in conditional freehold, ensuring the protection of native title rights and interests. Subject to the successful negotiation of an Indigenous land use agreement, this transfer will pave the way for meaningful social and cultural outcomes. By providing the First Nations community with secure tenure over the land, we are opening doors to opportunities that will improve the lives of these people. This decision aligns with our government's commitment to removing land tenure barriers and supporting Aboriginal-led initiatives while safeguarding native title rights. I am grateful for the collaborative efforts of those involved and am genuinely confident that this land transfer will contribute to stronger and fairer opportunities for Aboriginal communities across Western Australia.

TOURISM — NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION AREAS

Statement by Minister for Environment

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldy — Minister for Environment) [9.12 am]: I update the house today on fee waiver support for Western Australia's tourism operators. The state government has listened and will reduce the cost of

doing business in WA's national parks and conservation areas. We have waived the annual licence fee for unrestricted T class licences as part of a four-year trial for tourism operators licensed under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984. This will reduce annual costs for operators by \$406. This will come into effect on 1 July. At the same time, the state government is supporting the Tourism Council Western Australia to promote higher sustainability standards across the nature-based tourism industry in its endeavours to reduce emissions and create more universally accessible tourism products. The creation of more accessible tourism products opens up experiences for more people to enjoy and foster further support for our parks and their conservation values.

Working towards emissions reductions shows the commitment of the tourism industry to genuine sustainability outcomes and to conserving our natural environment while also catering to growing visitor expectations for sustainable and regenerative tour products. We continue to listen and work with industry to ensure that WA is a sustainable and accessible tourism destination. I have no doubt that this initiative will appeal to the growing visitor expectations for sustainable and regenerative tourism products and position us well for the future. Nature-based tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in the global tourism industry. There is also growing interest in Aboriginal cultural tourism. Visitor research shows that 81 per cent of visitors to Western Australia are interested in participating in an Aboriginal cultural experience.

The ability to offer genuinely sustainable tourism experiences that consumers are seeking will be a factor in our success. The state government is supporting WA's iconic tourism landmarks for a sustainable future. Since 2017, there has been unprecedented investment in tourism facilities, assets and attractions in WA's national parks and conservation areas. This investment has translated to tourism business opportunities and the development of new destinations and visitor experiences, driving the highest levels of visitation yet while maintaining consistently high visitor satisfaction, which is currently at 94.4 per cent. This investment benefits over 400 commercial tour operators and 53 leased tourism businesses that operate in WA's national parks and conservation areas.

COMMUNITIES — FOOD RELIEF PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Community Services

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Community Services) [9.14 am]: I am pleased to advise the house on the Cook Labor government's recent announcement to provide \$1.5 million to support food relief for struggling families through this year's state budget. The donations will help boost the supply of nutritious food for families seeking food relief and are part of the Cook Labor government's commitment to relieving cost-of-living pressures for Western Australian families. Foodbank, OzHarvest and SecondBite will each receive a \$500 000 donation to support their operations and provide greater assistance to Western Australian families impacted by the rise in the cost of living. Through their extensive partnerships, these organisations play a critical role in distributing food relief through their networks and into the hands of those who need it most. This support will go directly towards key projects aimed at putting more food on more tables with access to higher quality produce.

It was great to go out to SecondBite with the member for Belmont for the announcement last week and hear from its WA state manager, Lyndon, and volunteers about how the organisation will use the donation to purchase a new truck that will significantly expand on its delivery network. OzHarvest will build on its food rescue operations and continue to work closely across its network of more than 200 partner agencies and charities. This will ensure that more fruit and vegetables are included in care hampers to supplement existing rescued and non-perishable produce. Foodbank will use its donation to enhance baseline protein supplies and close service supply gaps by dealing directly with distributors. This will see more meat products added to stock while improving the nutritional quality of services offered.

This \$1.5 million announcement builds on the state's investment into existing cost-of-living relief measures, which have included initiatives such as energy bill credits, free public transport, free or reduced-fee TAFE training courses and the WA student assistance payment that have already helped vulnerable families. In addition to this announcement, the WA government continues to provide emergency support for vulnerable individuals and families via Lotterywest. I recently presented a Lotterywest grant for \$1 million to Vinnies WA and over \$800 00 to Ruah Community Services so it can provide supports, including food relief, to its clients experiencing financial hardship or crisis. The Cook Labor government is doing everything it can to assist Western Australian families doing it tough. We will always do what is right for Western Australians.

RESOURCES SECTOR — DRAFT ELIGIBLE MINING ACTIVITY REGULATIONS

Statement by Minister for Mines and Petroleum

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [9.17 am]: Today I will update the house on an election commitment: the fast-tracking mining approvals reform initiative. The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety has progressed the transformation of the regulation of resource projects under the Mining Act 1978 through multiple work streams, including legislative reform and digital transformation. I am pleased to announce that the department has released a draft of the eligible mining activity—EMA—regulations for stakeholder consultation. The draft regulations are now open for feedback for the next eight weeks, and I encourage all stakeholders to provide their feedback during this time.

The EMA framework, established under the Mining Amendment Act 2022, will increase the efficiency of applications by introducing a new form of authorisation for certain minimal disturbance activities. Under the EMA framework, tenement holders will be able to lodge a notification with the department that they will be undertaking certain eligible activities. Eligible activities can be undertaken following successful lodgement of an EMA notice, resulting in significantly shorter approval time frames for these activities. The intent is that eligible activities will be those that pose a low risk to the environment and do not occur in sensitive environments.

In parallel, the department has been progressing its new digital solution, Resources Online, which will replace the legacy system for environmental applications under the Mining Act. The department is working with stakeholders to inform the development of Resources Online, and I understand that the first Resources Online industry working group meeting was held on 7 May. The initial release of Resources Online will occur in September 2024, and this will include a trial of the EMA framework.

NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Statement by Minister for Road Safety

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Road Safety) [9.19 am]: It has been good to see most members wearing their yellow pins this week. I rise today to talk about what these pins mean and highlight that this week is National Road Safety Week. Although the Tasmanian government is hosting National Road Safety Week this year—Perth was the host last year—people will still see yellow flags and lights around Western Australia. Forty-one landmarks across the state will be lit in yellow to shine a light on road safety. The key theme of the week this year, is: “All road safety is local—drive so others survive”. The Road Safety Commission has amplified its collaborations with local frontline emergency services providers, including the Western Australia Police Force, Department of Fire and Emergency Services and St John Ambulance throughout National Road Safety Week. This has included the launch of the Road Safety Commission’s new “Lights, Sirens, Action” and “Seatbelts Save Lives” campaigns featuring frontline emergency services officers. “Slow Down, Move Over” or SLOMO messaging will be promoted on Wednesday, 8 May and will be ongoing to align with the daily theme of “Protect those who protect and assist us”. These messages are very important to ensure that drivers slow down and move away from road workers on the side of the road to protect them from death or injury.

National Road Safety Week began after a 23-year-old woman named Sarah Frazer and a tow truck driver were both killed on the side of Hume Highway in New South Wales after her car broke down in February 2012. Her father, Peter Frazer, OAM, has lobbied hard ever since to keep the road safety message prominent each May, through a variety of activities and displays of yellow ribbons. This annual event honours all those who have lost their lives on Australian roads and encourages all of us to make individual pledges to make the roads safer for everyone.

DEFENCE INDUSTRY WORKFORCE

Statement by Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park — Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development) [9.21 am]: I rise to update the house on the significant initiatives funded by the Cook Labor government to develop Western Australia’s defence industry workforce to successfully undertake crucial defence work—work that is set to create more than 4 000 Western Australians jobs over the next decade. Western Australia’s defence industry is continuing to expand at a fast pace. Key projects are planned or underway, such as those resulting from the AUKUS Optimal Pathway, which will see submarines maintained at HMAS *Stirling* as part of the Submarine Rotational Force–West. Guided by the *Western Australian defence industry workforce development plan 2022–27*, our government has invested \$35 million to build a strong and sustainable defence industry workforce in our great state. This includes an \$18 million investment to grow the blue collar trades defence industry workforce and a further \$11 million to ensure a pipeline of skilled professional and paraprofessional workers in this priority industry.

Some key initiatives include: scholarships to encourage students, graduates, women and veterans to take up a career in the defence industry; financial incentives for defence industry employers to take on apprentices and support the skilling of existing workers; support for defence industry career pathways ranging from fee-free training for entry level short courses through to enhancing curriculum and articulation of courses between Western Australian universities and TAFE; significant upgrades to facilities and equipment at South Metropolitan TAFE, providing students with access to leading-edge equipment used by industry; and a specialist defence industry team at our Rockingham Jobs and Skills Centre providing free career advice to Western Australians interested in a long-term and rewarding career in our defence industry.

With Minister Papalia, I recently launched a brand new website, www.theotherforce.wa.gov.au, to enable Western Australians to explore and access training and employment pathways in our rapidly expanding defence industry. The website also spotlights 21 of the in-demand jobs required to sustain current and upcoming defence projects in Western Australia, such as mechatronics engineer, cybersecurity expert and procurement manager, as well as the associated vocational and tertiary pathways to realise that career. I strongly encourage prospective workers, including those who are transitioning from other industries, to visit the website to learn more about the

support programs and financial incentives on offer. Defence industry employers will also find useful information on state government programs and financial incentives available to help them grow their workforce. The Cook Labor government understands the importance of investing in skilling Western Australians to take up employment opportunities in more industries such as our growing defence industry and we are delivering a range of training and workforce initiatives to make this possible.

LEEUWIN OFFSHORE WIND FARM PROPOSAL

Grievance

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party) [9.24 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Environment regarding the proposed Leeuwin offshore wind farm in the Indian Ocean —

Mr R.R. Whitby: Sorry, what wind farm? Wind farm, did you say? Are you talking about a wind farm?

Ms L. METTAM: It is proposed. It would stretch from Mandurah to Geographe Bay, including the pristine waters of Cape Naturaliste and Busselton. I thank the minister for taking this grievance, which addresses community concerns regarding the potential environmental impact, energy supply reliability, hidden costs to taxpayers and absence of transparency and detailed planning for the proposed renewable energy project that will affect this region. From the outset, I emphasise that I am a strong advocate for transitioning to renewable energy sources. It is imperative; however, it is important that this shift takes into full account the preservation of our pristine environment and the natural tourism assets that are vital to our region's identity and economy. We must consider the broader ecological, economic and social impacts of such developments to ensure they align with community values and environmental sustainability.

Although I understand the role that onshore wind energy plays in the generation mix of the south west interconnected system as a renewable resource, it is essential to note that numerous other onshore locations could accommodate wind turbines without disrupting our landscape or harming local wildlife. Leeuwin Offshore Wind is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Copenhagen Energy, a Danish renewable energy developer. In 2022, the state government granted the Leeuwin Offshore Wind proposal lead agency status via the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. This status streamlined the developers' access to government assistance for approval processes, involving both state and federal government. Typically, such status is given to projects deemed highly significant or strategically important to the state, indicating a rush to advance this project despite its need for thorough research and community engagement. Unfortunately, the community has been largely kept in the dark, with very little detail shared. The further delay of the proposed nature positive plan by the government raises queries as to the time line viability for offshore wind without compression of approval time lines.

The project was first broadly introduced to local communities on 20 February 2024. Residents of the south west, concerned about the project's extensive scale, were made aware only through community drop-in sessions organised by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. The turnout was significant, with venues in Busselton quickly reaching capacity, forcing hundreds to wait outside. Representatives from local businesses were limited to one attendee only. Feedback from the community included immense frustration and disbelief. Essentially, after two years of supposed detailed studies by the developers, residents found themselves receiving the same old information with no new insights, leaving many pressing concerns and questions across various topics unaddressed. This includes the visual impact with turbines standing 268 metres to 385 metres high, surpassing Perth's tallest building, with a rotor diameter of 240 metres to 320 metres. Environmental concerns are around the impact on local marine life and ecosystems, including the impact to Ramsar Convention protected migratory birds. The precautionary approach mandated in the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 when there is scientific uncertainty regarding potential threats to nationally significant environmental matters also appears to have been overlooked. The proposed nature positive plan leaves an unknown, as the level of protections with the notion of national environmental standards will drive nature positive outcomes.

Our coastline serves as a crucial migration path for humpback whales, encompassing their nursing, resting and breeding activities. It is also a migration route for the endangered southern right whale and the threatened pygmy blue whale. Darryl Hockey, CEO of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council, has highlighted concerns that the wind farm's location could also destroy reefs and fish habitats, and restrict access to shipping lanes. From a tourism perspective, we live in a region that is renowned for its unique and unparalleled beauty. The south west is richly endowed with natural assets and we are responsible for their stewardship. The project has the potential to undermine our coastline, ocean reefs, wildlife and natural attractions, which is the foundation of our tourism industry.

I turn now to reliability and costs. There are also concerns about the ability to provide a reliable and consistent energy source, which is significant, particularly given the intermittent nature of wind and the state government's rapid closure of other supporting generators. These issues highlight a broader concern regarding the lack of transparency from the federal government and developers in their aggressive push towards renewable energy. The costs of the transition and the impacts on everyday Western Australians are unknown. The community consultation period was uninformative and restricted, with the deadline for submissions abruptly closing on Friday, 3 May.

I appeal to the Minister for Environment at the state level on behalf of the residents of the south west to stand up to his Labor colleagues in Canberra and request that the consultation period be extended to ensure that this project does not proceed before a thorough environmental investigation and a comprehensive independent review are undertaken to objectively assess all the costs to ensure transparency and verify energy security that can be maintained cost effectively. I assure the minister that if that due diligence is carried out, the minister will no doubt discover that this proposal is doomed from the start and should not be allowed to go ahead. I again thank the minister for taking my grievance.

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Environment) [9.31 am]: I thank the member for raising this grievance. I am glad to know that she supports renewable energy; she just does not want to build it anywhere! That is a wonderful insight. The title of the grievance “Leeuwin offshore wind farm” is quite perplexing because this is not about a public comment on a proposed development to build a wind farm. There is no Leeuwin offshore wind farm that I am aware of. Again, we have an obligation in this place to be honest about what is happening in the community, but I will continue because this is not about a specific wind farm proposal. That is not accurate; it is misleading. This is about consultation on the potential for the creation of an offshore wind zone. I might also add that this project is in commonwealth waters. This is a commonwealth matter, and the commonwealth is consulting the community for feedback. There has been commonwealth government consultation in the south west about the potential for an offshore wind energy zone in waters off the south west. This is part of a nationwide process that the commonwealth government is undertaking in a number of potential locations around the country. It is a process that the commonwealth government is undertaking. That followed the creation of a new act on which the public was consulted. The commonwealth minister then identified areas as having the necessary attributes to support the generation of offshore wind energy. That was announced back in August 2022. Six areas around Australia are being looked at in more detail and at the time it was signalled that formal public consultation would be undertaken to determine their potential suitability. On 20 February, the commonwealth minister announced the proposed area in the Indian Ocean off the Bunbury region. The commonwealth undertook consultation and the people of the south west have been able to have their say. Was that consultation perfect? The member is suggesting that it was not, but the consultation was held and the people of Western Australia were able to have their say. I urge the commonwealth to consider very carefully the feedback and the comments from Western Australians. That is something I always do when proposals are put to the community. I urge everyone to have their say, and I would expect the federal government to carefully consider the views of Western Australians. I make the point again that I want the federal government to carefully consider the important feedback that it has gathered from community consultation in Western Australia.

It is a bit different, is it not, compared with what the federal Liberal Party is proposing generally for Western Australia? You guys have released a very specific and very impactful energy plan in the course of one news cycle, I think, and there was absolutely no public consultation. The Liberal Party has decided to drop a nuclear power station in the backyard of the people of Collie.

Ms L. Mettam: Absolute rubbish.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: You absolutely have. Peter Dutton has proposed —

Ms L. Mettam: Answer the grievance.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: I am actually addressing the grievance.

Peter Dutton has proposed to drop a nuclear power plant in the backyard of the people of Collie. Was there any consultation? Was there one moment of consultation? Was there any regard for the views of the people of Western Australia about a nuclear power plant going into the heart of the south west?

Ms L. Mettam: Disappointing. You can't respond.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: I know it is not in the member's electorate—it is in another electorate—but you are on the record —

Ms L. Mettam: No, I'm not.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: — as saying, “We might have to delay it, but we'll look at it.”

Ms L. Mettam: No. Rubbish.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Vasse!

Mr R.R. WHITBY: Member —

Ms L. Mettam: I know what I said.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: Yes, I know what the member said, too. I know very clearly what the member said about this issue.

We already know that as well as building a nuclear power plant in Collie without any consultation whatsoever—the federal Liberal Party has just indicated this will happen and Collie is the place and that is it—the Liberals would have shut down the Collie coal-fired power stations run by the state government in seven short months.

Now the Liberal Party is spruiking nuclear power plants, pushing back on renewables and possibly extending coal for decades, because if the Liberal Party is serious about building a nuclear power plant, it would take at least decades to build. Is it sustainable to continue Collie coalmining and coal-fired power production in Collie? I do not think so.

Only the Cook government can be trusted to deliver the energy transition that Western Australia needs. We are serious about futureproofing our economy and consulting the people of Western Australia. We have even created PoweringWA, which is dedicated to supporting just that. I am pleased that finally the Leader of the Liberal Party has found enough interest in the environment to speak to me on an environmental issue. It is interesting that when she brings up the matter of the environment, it is to raise doubts about renewable energy. That is an interesting point.

This matter is under the commonwealth's jurisdiction. I want to make the point that before any wind farm proceeds, this will be a long process. It would need to be licensed and pass an environmental impact assessment.

Ms L. Mettam: No information. No public consultation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member!

Mr R.R. WHITBY: The member raised a grievance and I am trying to respond, but she is not even listening. Realistically, our government is focused on onshore wind power because it is much more viable. If the member is going to leave the chamber, I might as well too.

That went well, did it not? Thank you very much.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Grievance

MS E.L. HAMILTON (Joondalup) [9.38 am]: My grievance today is to the Minister for Mental Health and concerns the need for investment into community-based mental health services for young people in the northern suburbs. I am passionate about the mental health of our community and I am proud of the work this government has undertaken and is delivering for Western Australians who face mental health challenges. WA has seen record investment in health and mental health, with an unprecedented \$10 billion in new funding over the last three years. In 2023–24, there was a record \$2.7 billion of additional investment in health, including a \$420 million boost to mental health services. Since 2017, our investment in the Mental Health Commission's budget has grown by 57 per cent. We know that one in five Western Australians will be impacted by a mental health issue at some point in their lives. It affects people across all demographics and at all stages of life. We know that in a crisis, quick support makes all the difference. We need to keep investing in health services to ensure that people can receive the care they need close to home. For some people, this may not include presenting to an emergency department; rather, what we need to see is community-based mental health support, particularly for our young people.

Upon taking office in 2017, mental health was an area of concern for my Joondalup community. It was raised with me at doors, on the phone and at community meetings. At that time over seven years ago, I began advocating for additional mental health infrastructure and support in the region. This is a matter that I have raised with the minister on a number of occasions.

Joondalup, as Perth's second CBD, is home to the Joondalup Health Campus, which is set to become WA's largest hospital. We have seen continued investment at our hospital and we are currently midway through its \$269.4 million upgrade and expansion. The hospital services one of the fastest growing regions in Australia.

At the beginning of 2018, as part of those upgrades, we saw the opening of the mental health observation area. It is a dedicated 10-bed ward. As an extension to the emergency department, the MHOA is a more appropriate setting for mental health patients. It is a quieter, safer environment, away from general accident and emergency patients who present 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which could be confronting for someone experiencing a mental health episode.

In November 2021, we saw the opening of the behavioural assessment urgent care clinic, which was designed and appropriately staffed to safely care for patients who are affected behaviourally, including those who are affected by drugs and alcohol, away from other patients who are within the main emergency department. Last August, we saw the opening of the new state-of-the-art mental health unit. It is one of WA's most advanced mental health facilities and doubles the capacity previously available. The new 102-bed dedicated unit improves access to mental health services for northern suburbs residents and includes a specialised area for young people aged 16 to 25, as well as older adults.

The unit was designed to be recovery-focused, with natural light, enclosed landscaped courtyards, terraces and activity areas. Over the years, I have advocated strongly to ensure that this new facility was able to support our young people. Mental health challenges for young people are all too prevalent, with numbers growing year on year. Primary school principals tell me about children as young as nine who are concerningly presenting as suicidal. I hear of families who are unable to receive the support that they and their children need locally and they have to travel to Perth Children's Hospital for specialist care. I hear of individuals who have received inpatient hospital

support and are discharged and readmitted numerous times in a short period. Their family explained to me that their family member has to continually present to the ED because they cannot access any other support outside of a hospital setting, but would do so if they could.

I commend the Minister for Health; Mental Health for the delivery of the mental health unit. It was much needed. I am thankful that we are now able to provide inpatient care for youth in Joondalup, the first time that this has been available. However, inpatient care should be a last resort. We need community-based mental health support for our young people. It is desirable to have a service that is targeted to young people, addresses the issue of repeat hospital admissions and provides wraparound support.

In any health system we need hospital beds, for sure, but there needs to be a focus on ensuring that community services and support are in place to keep people well and out of our emergency departments and hospitals. For anyone who needs an acute hospital setting, we have invested and are delivering this care locally. We now need to see longer term reform and growth of non-acute support. I know my community and the broader region want to see that.

The Final report: Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0–18 years in WA, which I will refer to as the ICA, states —

Mental health is arguably the biggest challenge facing children, families, and carers in WA ... More children are being referred to community services; more children are being admitted to hospital for mental ill-health conditions; and more children are presenting to emergency departments when facing a crisis, including many that self-harm or seek to take their own lives.

It goes on to state —

The vision of the future ICA mental health system is that **all children, families and carers are empowered to achieve and maintain their best possible mental health and wellbeing**. To achieve this, the purpose of the ICA mental health system is to ensure that **all children, families and carers in WA have timely, enduring and equal access to holistic, integrated and high-quality public mental health care** ...

The report notes the need for access to timely, quality care that is tailored to their needs and available close to where they live.

I acknowledge, as the ICA did, that a generational change is needed. When a young person presents with mental health challenges, it is often too late. We need to ensure investment much earlier in a child's life, providing early intervention and investment in prevention to ensure that we positively change outcomes for young people in coming generations.

The strategy has eight key actions with 32 associated recommendations to guide the implementation of the vision. I am pleased that the Cook Labor government has supported all the ICA recommendations. Is the minister able to provide an update on any work being done to address the mental health needs of our young people in the northern suburbs? Thank you.

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Mental Health) [9.45 am]: I thank the member for Joondalup for her grievance on this issue. I thank both lower and upper house members, particularly in the northern corridor, for their ongoing advocacy around mental health. We have seen the most significant increase in investment and reform in mental health services under the Labor government since 2017.

The member asked specifically about the infant, child and adolescent mental health services taskforce and I am happy to update the house on progress on the implementation of those recommendations. Around the world, services are dealing with a huge increase in children and young people experiencing mental illness. Referrals to specialist public mental health services for children in particular are up by 70 per cent since 2014—that is seven-zero per cent.

The ICA taskforce final report made 32 recommendations. The government accepted those recommendations and is in a phased implementation process. This is a 10-year reform process. The recommendations will fundamentally reshape the system. They focus not only on infrastructure and funding, but also different models of care to do things differently for children and young people and, importantly, their families. They focus on more intensive community-based services and treatments for kids in crisis, keeping children out of hospital environments; better support for families; a more inclusive approach between families and clinicians in treatment decisions; better coordination and information sharing between government agencies and services, such as health, child protection and justice; and increasing the number of peer workers and Aboriginal mental health workers. We know that young people and children do not always want or need to see a psychiatrist or a school psychologist. Sometimes peer workers can provide the kind of support and guidance that they require. The recommendations focus on improved access for regional children and their families and outline a comprehensive workforce development strategy.

Since 2022, the Cook Labor government has invested over \$80 million to implement reform, with a further \$47 million in this year's budget. In the 2022–23 budget, it funded \$47 million of measures to address immediate gaps, including developing new models of care to meet children and families where they are and developing new workforce pipelines to deliver professions we will need in the future. We are expanding the lived-experience

workforce. Children and kids do not want to talk to clinicians who look like their parents, quite frankly. The government invested \$35 million in the 2023–24 budget to continue that work. In this budget, we have already announced a significant investment in the acute care response teams. The centrepiece of our investment in the infant, child and adolescent implementation is the expansion of the acute care and response teams. They will be rolled out in the north and south metropolitan and great southern health catchments in the first tranche of the rollout.

We have seen the expansion of the east metropolitan rollout. That has already commenced. Essentially, they are specialised teams that provide mobile outreach and crisis support to children and teenagers experiencing mental health crises. This will work alongside CAMHS Crisis Connect, which has diverted many kids from emergency departments already. It will complement and augment that service. We know that crises do not happen in business hours. Community-based mental health services need to be available out of business hours. Units need to be mobile and they need to meet people where they are. The units will provide an invaluable connection between inpatient units, community services and emergency departments. That has formed part of our significant commitment in this budget.

We also see in this budget the mental health co-response. This is a reform of that co-response, which was primarily a healthcare and police-led response. This will become primarily a health-led response, and it is targeted at a range of people of all ages. When a patient or family member is concerned that they or their loved one are at high risk of self-harm or harming others due to a mental health crisis, they can call 000, they will be dispatched through to the WA virtual emergency department and they will be offered a health-led response. There will be an authorised mental health clinician available on the phone, and the clinician can also be dispatched with a mental health emergency response-trained paramedic alongside them. The patient may be transported to an inpatient environment or referred to an early appointment with a community-based service.

This is all part of our very strong commitment to doing things differently in mental health. We know that emergency departments are not the right place for someone who is experiencing extended and repeated mental health crises. We know that those patients tend to spend longer in emergency departments and often come back repeatedly. We also know that there are better models of care, and that is what we are investing in in this state. It is about not just expanding the workforce—we are doing that—but also doing things differently with the workforce we have.

I want to touch on the Joondalup Health Campus redevelopment. There has been an incredible transformation of that health campus under this government. Since 2017, we have opened a 102-bed mental health unit. That is a doubling of capacity of inpatient mental health services in Joondalup for that northern corridor. As the member for Joondalup has rightly pointed out, for the first time, we will be able to support youth mental health inpatient beds. When we speak about youth in this context, we mean 16 to 25-year-olds. We are very committed to providing that service and support close to home. We know that families need to be involved in the recovery of young people, and it is very hard for them to engage and be involved when they have to truck down the freeway to the Bentley service in the east or to Perth Children's Hospital. We know there are always more things to do in this space, but we are absolutely committed to providing more supports closer to home in a more appropriate environment with better, modern models of care for our young people so that we have a strong and healthy generation who have a strong sense of connection and wellbeing in our community and can live really positive lives.

SOUTH COAST MARINE PARK

Grievance

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [9.52 am]: I rise today to raise a grievance with the Minister for Environment regarding the south coast marine park. I thank the minister for taking the grievance. It is a grievance resulting from this government's ongoing disregard for the interests of people who live in regional areas of Western Australia.

The proposed south coast marine park is the latest in a series of ill-conceived and poorly presented policy ideas that will adversely affect the lives of those who live outside the metropolitan area. Although the opposition is supportive of measures intended to protect our environment if they are deemed to be necessary, this government has made such a mess of the process of introducing the south coast marine park that it is impossible for us to support it. As my colleague Hon Colin de Grussa has stated in the other house, the quick and dirty consultation process undertaken by the Cook government has come apart under scrutiny from within Parliament and on the streets of Esperance. Community members have questioned the logic behind the proposal and 1 000 people recently turned out in the rain to voice their opposition to it. Use of a 30-year-old report—the Wilson report—as logic behind the south coast marine park's establishment has backfired. The reality is that the Wilson report does not recommend the establishment of marine parks of the scale and scope that have been proposed. However, it did recognise that there was a lack of scientific data relevant to the south coast and acknowledged that further research was required to identify specific areas of conservation.

The government-commissioned Carijoa report, released in 2021, also concluded that the WA south coast is relatively understudied compared with other areas. This report looked at the south coast marine environment between Albany and Eucla and proposed areas for state marine reservations. Both reports prompt questioning of the state government's

sincerity when it proposes locking off areas of the south coast marine environment in a park. If the government was that concerned about the health and wellbeing of the environment, why has it not invested in the research and the science needed to support the argument for the establishment of a marine park?

The disdain for our regional communities and genuine consultation has been evident during the whole process. Even the involvement of the Pew Charitable Trusts smacks of arrogance. Input from the overseas-based, foreign-funded lobby group has been part of a highly politicised process that will have an impact on families and communities on the south coast of Western Australia, far from its offices in Philadelphia and Washington, DC. Without scientific evidence to support the proposal, we are left in a situation in which we are being asked to take a risk on the impact it will have by virtue of restrictions on access. Those who will be impacted include the commercial fishing industry, recreational fishers, local government, industry, tourism and traditional owners.

There are processes that would have made the implementation of the south coast marine park possible. They are logical steps that this government should have taken. Firstly, the government should have provided scientific evidence to show which areas need protection. This would have prompted community engagement. People do care about their environment and want to protect it if it is threatened. Secondly, the government should have undertaken a more genuine and inclusive consultation process alongside the provision of a socio-economic impact assessment and genuine dialogue between all impacted parties right from the beginning of the process. The Cook government and departments promised to deliver a socio-economic assessment—an independently produced document sourcing and analysing current information from the businesses and communities affected to determine the impact of the proposed park. Instead, they delivered a desktop document best described as vague, providing ambiguous key findings that declared blithely, almost as an aside, that the south coast marine park is likely to have some impact on industry and businesses in the regions. The word “likely” is used several times in the document, with the proposed marine park likely to have an impact on commercial fishers and local businesses. This is hardly the kind of information a body like the Esperance shire council can use to plan. I agree with the Esperance shire president, Ron Chambers, who said that such glib predictions of impact are an insult and a disgrace, and that the provided document is an affront to local fishing families who have said that the sanctuary zones presented by the state government will mean the end of their livelihoods.

For four years, the residents of Esperance have known that the proposed marine park is likely to have an impact on their lives. What they want to know is what they will lose socially and economically. Without a rigorous assessment of these factors and without a decent socio-economic study to work with, how will they know? The people of Esperance and the shire council have been treated shoddily throughout this process. They need to know what they stand to lose and what they stand to gain if this proposed park becomes a reality. Again, I quote the Esperance shire president, Ron Chambers. These are his words, not mine. He said —

“The proposed sanctuary zones are unnecessarily closing down business and industry. It’s entirely possible to implement this marine park to conserve and manage our precious environment, while retaining the region’s industries and economic resilience.”

I agree with him entirely when he says that the desktop study provided is an indication of the low value the state government places on regional businesses. It is a pathetic effort to show that the government has fulfilled its promise, but it has not.

Will the minister take note of the submissions that our south coast community members provide? Will he provide transparency over the number of submissions for and against the south coast marine park? Will he take any notice of our community? If the minister does not take any notice of the communities of Esperance, Bremer Bay, Hopetoun and Ravensthorpe, we will, when we are next re-elected.

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Environment) [9.58 am]: I thank the member for the grievance and appreciate the heads-up that this was coming today. I am always happy to engage with the member. The member is again talking about the proposed south coast marine park. As an aside, before I begin, I am always disappointed by the member’s approach to this matter, because I think I have reached out to him a couple of times and said that really, it would be a good thing if he were to be engaged in and part of the process and played a constructive role as a local leader. I think the member will be a little bit embarrassed about his contribution looking back in 20 years’ time when this is established and successful and no commercial fishers are operating in it and people value the marine park. Anyway, I will get on with it.

The creation of this marine park is absolutely based in science, member. In addition to the scientific expertise held by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, the creation of the park has been informed in part by the expertise of the Scientific Sector Advisory Group. There are 17 published scientists external to government from world-class institutions and universities here in WA and across the country who all strongly support a marine park on the south coast. This is all based on studies underpinning the value of this coastline. Scientific studies have found that there are marine species of the south coast that are not found anywhere else in the world. The south coast is home to thousands of species, including the iconic leafy sea dragon, the Australian sea lions and a giant kelp forest. We are trying to put measures in place to protect this precious part of our coastline from any future pressures that could result in irreversible damage.

The member has been active on the ground and put out a little flyer with his co-conspirator, Hon Colin de Grussa, MLC, to have their say, which is always a good thing. Although it is always a good thing to have a say, it is always a good thing to be informed by facts. On the back of the flyer is a series of facts. I have to say, this is classic Nationals WA propaganda at work.

Fact 3 states that sanctuary zones and special-purpose zones comprise 45 per cent of the total area of the proposed marine park, raising significant concerns about the impact on recreational and commercial fishing sectors and the tourism industry. It is true that these zones, in their draft format, were about 45 per cent. What the member for Roe, as a local member, importantly failed to mention was that the special-purpose zones still allow for fishing to continue in its current form. No-fishing zones accumulate to about 25 per cent, not 45 per cent. This inference that 45 per cent—almost half of the marine park—will be closed to fishing is just not true. The Nationals have lied to their community by inferring that we intend to stop fishing in nearly half of the entire marine park. This piece of paper is an untruth and dishonest. It is a lie. It is shameful that the Nationals have misinformed the people they purport to represent.

That is my view, but what do the member's own constituents think of this little pamphlet they received from him in their letterbox? Here is an interesting letter that I believe was sent to the member from a constituent—I will not reveal the author's name—and a copy was sent to me. According to my notes, this constituent states that she is concerned about the party's aggressive Trump-like anti-campaign associated with the proposed south coast marine park. She references the pamphlet in her letterbox from Peter Rundle, MLA, and Colin de Grussa, MLC. She states this pamphlet contains misinformation, dissembles and appears politically motivated. It does not reflect recent research nor the local knowledge that was provided to the planning process for the marine park. She believes the brochure is offensive to the many locals who put hours of work into the consideration and presentation of research, data and information in a timely manner. She states that, at best, the brochure is based on misinformation and, at worst, is political propaganda. There you go! There is one of the member's happy constituents responding. "Trump-like", she said.

The member talked about public consultation. No marine park has ever undergone this much public consultation. We have gone above and beyond statutory requirements. The public comment period was extended from the required three months to four months. Preliminary meetings were held with key stakeholder groups in Esperance to support the release of the indicative management plans. Thousands of more accurate "have your say" brochures were distributed to the community. There is an easy-to-use interactive visual mapping tool online. We have had radio, digital and newspaper advertisements. Around 5 000 brochures were handed out at community events. DBCA staff provided information events at the Condingup Community Fair, the Hopetoun Markets and the Esperance Markets on multiple occasions. Fact sheets were distributed to caravan parks and libraries. We have done so much to engage the local community. In fact, the Minister for Fisheries and I have asked for an information station at Esperance Lotteries House. Again, we are going above and beyond. A shop is open from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, Thursday to Saturday, for people to come in off the street unannounced to engage, ask how they can help submit their public comments and to find out more. It is staffed by marine planners and marine scientists. People are receiving expert advice. I do not know how much more we can do to help inform the community.

I can say more on this matter. The member cherrypicked the report, and I could cherrypick the report. I will cherrypick the same report that states experience elsewhere suggests that some fisheries will benefit from the establishment of sanctuary zones while others will experience no change to the volume. Experience elsewhere suggests that recreational and potential commercial fishers can benefit from the establishment of sanctuary zones.

MENTAL HEALTH — EATING DISORDERS

Grievance

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [10.06 am]: My grievance today is to the Minister for Health; Mental Health on eating disorders. I begin by first acknowledging the crucial work the minister has done to date to address this deadly condition by continuing to invest in treatment services for people with eating disorders. Eating disorders have one of the highest mortality rates of any mental illness. Approximately 450 people across Australia are estimated to die from anorexia nervosa every year. Tragically, a further 90 people with anorexia nervosa are expected to die from suicide each year. A further 200 people across Australia are expected to die from bulimia nervosa each year. There are also those who are dying due to health complications arising from bulimia, which commonly includes cardiovascular complications, even affecting and killing young teenagers.

Around four to five per cent of the population, or 1.1 million Australians, currently live with an eating disorder, with many more experiencing disordered eating behaviours that do not meet the criteria of an actual eating disorder. Many advocates, however, warn that only a fraction of sufferers are being treated. Young women and girls, sadly, are over-represented in these figures. According to the Butterfly Foundation, since 2012, there has been a shocking 21 per cent increase in the number of people with eating disorders. The Child Adolescent Health Service's inpatient unit has recorded significant increases in eating disorder admissions. Between 2017 and 2020, there was a 168 per cent increase in eating disorder admissions.

Eating disorders are serious mental illnesses that are killing our kids. Eating disorder expert and senior clinical psychologist Dr Ertimiss Eshkevari highlighted that a lack of education across the board can lead well-intentioned carers and parents to inadvertently and tragically exacerbate the issue. She points to a common misconception that eating disorders are a “lifestyle choice”. In an article on ABC online she states —

We certainly know that they are not ...

They're actually a very complex and biologically based mental illness. They're not ... a diet that's gone too far.

The average onset age for eating disorders falls between ages 12 and 25 years, and around one-third of Australian adolescents engage in disordered behaviours within any given year.

A story I read on ABC online that impacted me greatly was about the tragic death of a young teenage girl Liv whose father, Robb Evans, shared his experience as a desperate parent trying to keep his young daughter alive as she battled with anorexia. In the article, he shares how confronting it was to hear the doctors in hospital say that his daughter had a terminal illness. He says he knew the situation was incredibly serious given her hospitalisations, and doctors went on to explain —

... that if this doesn't change in this [hospital admission] then she's not going to be here for the next one.

The article shines a light on how hospitalisation can often be traumatising for people with an eating disorder. Robb Evans is reported as saying —

[Liv] probably spent about 80 to 90 per cent of her time in the last two years in the hospital and a lot of that time was strapped to a bed with six-point restraints.

So, chemically and physically restrained and force-fed with the tube, then there are hours of screaming afterwards.

Tragically, Liv died at age 15 from one of the deadliest mental illnesses.

Eating disorders can inflict profound and sometimes irreversible damage on a person's body. Depending on the disorder, sufferers can experience damage to their heart, liver, kidneys, pancreas, bone density, stomach, intestines, colon, oesophagus and tooth enamel. Eating disorders also affect relationships, as sufferers experience social stigma and often isolate themselves from their loved ones. Unfortunately, there is still so much stigma surrounding a mental health diagnosis that eating disorders are frequently shrouded in secrecy and shame. This often inhibits the ability of the person with the eating disorder to seek help and can lead them to distance themselves from family and friends. Eating disorders are notoriously difficult conditions to overcome. Recovery may take many years and relapses are very common.

Caring for someone with an eating disorder is deeply challenging. Research has found that carers helping someone with an eating disorder have a higher caregiver burden than those caring for people with serious psychological conditions such as schizophrenia. In many cases, mealtimes become a battleground that distresses the entire family. On top of the typical things that carers experience when caring for someone with a mental illness, including managing medical appointments and hospitalisations, they have to withstand the extreme mood swings often associated with eating disorders, managing the home environment and absolute despair for their loved one's future.

Eating disorders are incredibly complex mental health illnesses. Sometimes there is no single cause of an eating disorder. Sometimes a single comment or incident triggers the onset of this deadly mental illness. There are extensive social and psychological triggers, as well as biological contributors. Of course, the sociocultural messages on body size and shape that bombard our adolescents have a catastrophic impact on their body image. Obviously, finding the right treatment and early intervention maximises the likelihood of recovery from eating disorders, but it concerns me deeply that it is estimated that fewer than one in three people living with an eating disorder will actually seek help.

As stated, minister, the government has made an outstanding investment into addressing eating disorders and providing treatment for those aged 16 years and older. I ask how we can deliver better treatment and greater support for children and adolescents battling this deadly mental illness.

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [10.12 am]: I thank the member for Belmont for her grievance and for her ongoing advocacy in this incredibly challenging area, which crosses both medical and mental health areas of practice. It is fair to say that this government understands the impact of eating disorders on not only a young person, but also the entire family unit. As the member rightly said, every day becomes a battleground. Every hour becomes full of hope, disappointment, frustration, anger, hurt, worry and concern. It is a very complex area.

In this financial year, the Cook Labor government is providing \$21 million through the Mental Health Commission to health service providers for support for children and adults with eating disorders across Western Australia. In addition, \$1 million was allocated for peer-based support services provided by Luma, which was formerly known as Women's Health and Family Services. We have introduced a range of programs and reforms that aim to support those living with eating disorders and their families. We are seeking at every opportunity to boost these services.

As members know, Bethesda Health Care closed its services in Cockburn a number of months ago. Within a month, we took the opportunity to take over the lease of that clinic, and we intend to take on that facility to provide critical services, including two floors dedicated to women's mental health facilities that will have a particular focus on eating disorder services, including inpatient and outpatient services. These services will be available across Western Australia, not just in the south metropolitan catchment area.

In 2021, we also committed \$31.7 million over four years to establish the Western Australian eating disorders specialist service for those aged 16 years and over. It had been identified as a gap. This service includes treatment hubs in every metropolitan health service provider, all of which have now commenced delivery. Referrals are accepted from community mental health services and hospitals and, in some cases, general practitioners. These WA eating disorders specialist service treatment hubs provide intensive outpatient programs, including day programs, intensive clinical monitoring, multidisciplinary clinics and patient care transition and coordination. This is a critical service. We want people to recover in their community and in their home environment. The WA Eating Disorders Outreach and Consultation Service is also key in providing advice, training and research and resources. All these services provide support for clinicians working with people experiencing eating disorders to ensure that they get the best possible care from clinicians. We know that eating disorders often co-occur with other medical and mental health challenges. An eating disorder may not be the primary presentation; it may be a co-occurring disorder or issue that they are challenged with. We provide expert advice and support to clinicians for treating their patients.

We also committed in 2021 to an increase in funding for the Centre for Clinical Interventions, which is a very highly specialised psychology service in Perth. It develops evidence-based treatments for adults experiencing complex eating disorders and other mental health concerns, conducts clinically applied research to improve existing support services and treatments, and provides training and supervision for health practitioners in evidence-based supports.

Luma receives \$1 million a year to run the Body Esteem program. It supports a range of individuals experiencing issues such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder and other specified feeding or eating disorders. The BEP provides specific supports for youth aged over 16 years and adult services to support men and women. As part of the state election commitment, Luma expanded the BEP to include youth and adult support programs that provide in-person group sessions; and parent, family and partner education and support programs that provide information workshops for parents, families and carers. This service has seen incredible outcomes for those with eating disorders by supporting people to recover at home in their community. Perth Children's Hospital also offers an eating disorder service. It has a multidisciplinary team that provides inpatient and outpatient care and day treatment for children and young people up to 18 years of age.

We know we have much more work to do in this space, as we are seeing an exponential increase in the number of presentations of people suffering from eating disorders in every state and territory and globally. COVID seemed to be a catalyst for the huge spike in the increase in the number of presentations. That is why cabinet has endorsed the Mental Health Commission to lead the development of an eating disorder strategy for 2025 to 2030. This will align with the national eating disorders strategy and will support the Western Australian mental health, alcohol and other drug strategy. We will develop the framework and collaborate with a range of government and non-government agencies, clinicians, GPs and other stakeholders, including people with lived experience and their families and carers, to understand the spectrum of services that are required in Western Australia for people living with eating disorders.

I can clearly provide comfort to the community that the government understands the impact that eating disorders have on young people and, in particular, their families and siblings. That is why we have made such a significant investment and introduced a range of programs. We want to ensure that our clinicians have the best resources available when supporting patients and their families to live happy and well lives. We are also investing in a strategy that will inform further and future treatment options that need to be provided for the community.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

Seventh Report — New bite: How alternative proteins could improve dietary and planetary health — Tabling

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie) [10.19 am]: I present for tabling the seventh report of the Education and Health Standing Committee entitled *New bite: How alternative proteins could improve dietary and planetary health*.

[See paper [2817](#).]

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: Our seventh report, of which we gave notice to the Legislative Assembly back in May 2023, has really opened the eyes of committee members to the enormity of this whole subject area, which touches on the all-important issue of human health and how it can be impacted by what we eat. It is also an area that opens up the massive subject of what our farming systems should look like in the face of a changing climate, of meeting the challenge of feeding 10 billion people and of global economic circumstances and security issues, and how we ensure that our food production system meets all those complexities and challenges. We are feeling that right now in Western Australia, with many of our broadacre farmers having to dry seed their crops. They are making huge investments based on the assumption that there will be follow-up rains and they will be able to make a return on that seeding investment.

I am not sure that we have done this before in the history of humanity, but we also have the challenge of developing our farming systems to ensure that they actually meet the best dietary guidelines and fulfil our needs as human beings. The report refers to the Australian dietary guidelines and how the typical western diet has evolved and continues to evolve. The amount of animal protein that is consumed is one thing that we addressed in the report. The Australian dietary guidelines recommend a maximum of 65 grams of red meat a day. However, many Australians, especially males, would probably eat at least 100 grams of red meat a day. Another way of looking at this, and perhaps a more accurate and scientific way—this is within the recommended guidelines—is that we should consume somewhere between one and 2.5 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight a day.

How should we source our protein? Should we stick with livestock, with all the attendant issues around sourcing our protein from animals—namely, land degradation and the amount of greenhouse gases that is emitted in that production? It is worth noting that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that the livestock supply chain accounts for 14.5 per cent of the world's human-induced carbon dioxide emissions. Any inroads we can make that not only help humans have a healthier diet but also create food production systems that can reduce that 14.5 per cent of global human-induced emissions are going to be very valuable. An opportunity is open to us to modify our farming systems and perhaps move away from so much dependence on cloven-hoofed animals that damage the landscape. There have been many reports to this place on the degradation of the rangelands, principally caused by ruminants—cattle and sheep. The land gets hacked to bits, really, which leads to dust storms and what have you, and the devaluation of those pastoral leases as going concerns.

The idea of reducing our reliance on animal proteins in our diets has great merit and is something that we addressed in this report. The challenge is to ensure that the components of our diet going forward are healthy and produced with a net zero goal in mind, and that they do not lead to further degradation or biodiversity loss. We are greatly indebted to Professor Dora Marinova, based at Curtin University, who pointed out that there are issues around plant-based alternative proteins. She is a great advocate for plant-based proteins, but people can, of course, eat plant-based proteins and not eat a healthy diet. That is entirely possible. We have to ensure that we educate ourselves on the best cooking methods and the best way to prepare food to ensure that it is tasty, healthy and environmentally friendly. That is something that needs to be done.

Something that the livestock industry, at its best, does really well is traceability and accountability.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Attorney General!

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: Something that the livestock industry does really well when it is functioning well is the whole paddock-to-plate concept. That is something that we want to see in the alternative protein sector as well—that is, good accountability of where the protein is coming from—so that consumers can be confident about the ethics of its production and that farmers and producers have received the recompense they deserve for their food production. It is very important that we build on that whole paddock-to-plate concept in the development of alternative proteins.

I think this is the thing; we have a farming sector in Western Australia and Australia that is very good at embracing new technologies. I think the opportunities can be really outstanding. I note that India recently suspended a 65 per cent tariff on desi chickpeas imported into the country. According to graincentral.com, that means that producers could get \$1 000 a tonne for those chickpeas, which can be produced in our higher rainfall areas—I have seen them produced in the Avon Valley around York and Northam. There are alternatives to the more traditional crops of oats, wheat and barley that we produce that could move us away from the livestock proteins that we have focused on. I also recognise that, for other dietary reasons, pulse crops can be a very healthy complement to our diets.

The alternative proteins industry has a whole range of products, opportunities and tastes that can be delivered. Many members would be familiar with the taste sensations of tofu, nuts, peas, various beans and other pulse crops. There are also emerging areas that people, especially in our western culture, are perhaps a little hesitant about, such as the consumption of insects as a source of protein. The committee was advised that about two billion people on the planet currently use insects as a source of protein. There is the whole area of fungi as well. Diversifying our diets can be not only very positive in human health terms, but also absolutely beneficial to the planet in terms of reducing climate change—causing greenhouse gas emissions and solving problems with or reducing the extent of land degradation caused by livestock, and especially the intensification of livestock. There are also animal welfare concerns when people see intensive feedlot systems, as well as the general unpleasantness that can go with a feedlot. That problem could be resolved by a switch to a system based on alternative proteins.

The opportunities are there for our farming sector. They are there for humans to be able to enjoy very good-quality diets that will in fact lead to us living longer, living better and having fulfilling lives—things that can be shared with the growing population. Projections are that global population will perhaps stabilise at around the 10 billion mark. It will be a huge task to feed such numbers of people. Through the use of alternative proteins we can do that and deliver on that obligation far more effectively.

This report is very much a discussion piece. It is important that our food producers look towards the future, that we see what the opportunities are and that we also see in ourselves the need to be adventurous. We should not just

order the same dishes off the menu every day but try new things. That can be the way of showing the producers where the marketability and interest is and how we can improve our diets. I commend this report to the house and look forward to hearing comments and feedback from members.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Before I call the member for Maylands, can I just say that I hope “steakholders” were consulted in your deliberations!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Sorry, the house has now descended into chaos.

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands) [10.31 am]: Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker. After the ruffraff have finished their interjections, I would like to start by thanking Franchesca Walker, Sylvia Wolf and Catie Parsons for all the work they have done over the last 12 months to compile this discussion paper, and then Dr Sarah Palmer and Maddison Evans, who came in, picked up the threads and pulled it together. Thank you all very much, indeed. I also acknowledge Professor Dora Marinova of Curtin University. She is our globally acknowledged expert in the field of health, protein and the direction we should be transforming our food system globally and, in particular, in Australia. I thank her for her input. She is quoted a couple of times in the body of this discussion paper.

The challenge in writing this paper was in part due to the fact that nearly every week another global scientific expert body releases a piece of research saying that if we do not transform our food systems along the lines of the topics covered in this paper, the world will not be able to feed the population. We know that in order to feed 10 billion people by 2050, meat consumption will have to increase by 60 to 70 per cent. If we are going to base our diet on animal protein, we will need three and a half planets the size of Earth to keep and breed enough animals to supply that 60 to 70 per cent increase in meat consumption. It is absolutely clear to any sensible human being that that is unachievable. We have no option except to look for complementary ways of feeding the world.

Along with that, this is the Education and Health Standing Committee’s report, and this is not just about the health of individual human beings, but also about the health of animals and this planet. As I have outlined, we cannot sustain the production processes involved in animal-based agriculture in order to feed the world in a very short horizon—2050. I pointed to the fact that this issue is evolving quickly, and yesterday the World Bank released a report basically saying that of the top climate change mitigation strategies globally, food-based ones are in the top three. One of the top three ways of tackling climate change—climate action—according to the World Bank is in transforming the food system. We need to understand that that is at the heart of that report. It is not just about the health of you and me and the children of this community, the alpha and beta generations to come, but of the planet we live on. It cannot grow any more animals in order to feed the world in 2050.

Plant-based wholefoods appear to be the healthiest type of complementary proteins at the moment and could be a valuable stepping stone, but this is a nascent industry. As with any new product, this industry is developing all the time and there is a lot of effort being spent on making sure that alternative formulations—indeed, meat alternatives—are tasty and healthy and have minimum impact on the climate. I have said that the experts have already warned that persisting with our current dietary habits and global food production processes will have dire consequences for human, animal and planetary health. In 2019, the EAT-Lancet Commission recommended that a reduction in meat consumption is a key plank of a planetary diet.

Australia ranked third in meat consumption among Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development countries last year, and our red meat consumption is double the limit recommended by the Australian dietary guidelines. Despite recommendations to limit meat intake, many Australians do not believe that it negatively affects their health. That is a marketing issue; that is about getting the message out so that our population understands that there is international research, unequivocal facts, linking excess meat consumption to non-communicable diseases like cancer, type 2 diabetes and heart disease. We have to get the message out, particularly to our men, because that is where the cultural groan is about, “Oh, no; eating vegetables.” It is very clear to me that we need to get the message out to the men and boys in our community that eating healthily is good for the whole planet, not just them.

Of course, more research is needed into determining the proper health benefits of complementary or alternative proteins. The environmental footprint of alternative proteins also has to be carefully managed. We cannot just swap plants for animals and expect that it will not have an impact on the climate. That process has to be managed as well. We have to look at the whole supply chain; we have to look at the intervention points along the supply chain and we have to bring climate change mitigation strategies into every step of that supply chain if it is to be successful for the future.

Transparency in the alternative proteins industry is crucial for consumers, particularly our younger generation, who want to know how products are made. Quality and affordability are important factors with alternative proteins, generally at the moment not costing a comparative amount. I might say, though, that the latest statistics show that the price gap is narrowing and that plant-based wholefoods and alternative meat products are becoming much more affordable. This industry is on a rapid growth trajectory. In a matter of 10 years, the technology and the science of alternative proteins has tripled, if not quadrupled. No other industry in the history of the globe has learned so much so quickly, taken on board the results and looked to the future for what the implications are for climate and human health.

There are really very clear economic opportunities in the growing demand for these complementary proteins, with the potential for WA's agriculture and food industries to reap the benefits. There are multiple health and environmental benefits that we should be giving close scrutiny to. We must promote these, and there are a range of government programs and activities that could help.

Next week, I will release a report that I commissioned 12 months ago into this very subject of what government should be doing in this space to promote this industry sector. The paper will be called "Transforming the food system: Opportunities for Western Australia". I just want to point out that the agriculture system is already moving down this path, but it wants significant support from this government to do so. I am sure my colleagues would accept that, and those with an interest in the farming community would endorse it. We need to identify where the opportunities are and how they can most help our farming population. I constantly refer to the issue of dairy farmers. Yesterday I was looking at a piece of research from Australian Dairy Farmers that was released in the eastern states, which stated that 36 per cent of dairy farmers want to change the basis of their production to provide an alternative, more sustainable future because of the threats of drought and the inability to continue to second-guess supermarket tiered pricing and the problems created by that for their industry. Furthermore, 86 per cent of dairy farmers are asking for help to do that—not necessarily monetary help, but help with resourcing, intelligence and information.

I really encourage my colleagues who are invested in the farming industry to take this on board and look at the recommendations that I will put out next week, because there are very clear messages about what any government of any persuasion should be doing in this space to promote the farming industry and its sustainability into the future and, moreover, to promote the health of humanity, the health of animals and the health of this planet.

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2024–25) BILL 2024
APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2024–25) BILL 2024

As to Introduction and First Reading

On motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**, resolved —

That bills notices of motion 1 and 2 be postponed until a later stage of this day's sitting.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION
AMENDMENT (SEX OR GENDER CHANGES) BILL 2024

As to Third Reading — Standing Orders Suspension — Motion

On motion by **Ms C.M. Rowe**, resolved —

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (Sex or Gender Changes) Bill 2024 to proceed forthwith to the third reading following consideration in detail.

Consideration in Detail

Resumed from 8 May.

Clause 1: Short title —

Debate was adjourned after the clause had been partly considered.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Members, this bill has 50 clauses and there are amendments on the notice paper.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2: Commencement —

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Clause 2 is the commencement clause. I note from the explanatory memorandum that clause 2(b) provides for commencement on proclamation, which is normal. During yesterday's discussion, I think the Attorney General mentioned the timing around when this legislation will commence. Could the Attorney General remind me of the timeline? I heard him mention that six months will be allowed for drafting the regulations. What kind of consultation process on those regulations will be conducted during that six-month period?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: There will be a six-month period, as I mentioned yesterday. During development of the regulations and the forms, some consultation will be held with stakeholders. As I mentioned yesterday, consultation will occur with stakeholders on intersex and other things during that six-month period and the regulations will be prepared.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: What will the forms that the Attorney General is talking about be based on? Is there a pro forma that we could look at or will forms be used that other jurisdictions have used? How does the Attorney General propose to go through that process?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I was referring to the actual extract from the register and what words will be contained within the box—that is, "sex/gender" or just "gender". Some other forms will need to be generated, including the application form. That will not be unusual, and there will be some consultation.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The explanatory memorandum notes that new Family Court rules and forms will need to be developed, and also updates made to information and communications technology across the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, the Family Court and the Corrective Services division. From a resourcing perspective, will this require additional resources? Will the development and management of those new forms and rules be reflected in the budget or will they be done within their own resources?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: There are not a large number of people seeking to update their extract of birth certificate through the Gender Reassignment Board. There is a backlog of 20 or 30. We expect there to be more than that because people did not want to go to the Gender Reassignment Board. There will be an uplift in numbers. It is not anticipated at this stage that that will require heavy resourcing. Corrective Services will need to know the changes to gender identification. The courts may need to know. We do not anticipate any resourcing issues.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I do not mean to nitpick, but the explanatory memorandum states —

... development of new Family Court Rules and court forms ...

I am not familiar with what that means. Will it be relatively easy for the court to develop those forms?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Certainly, it will be relatively easy. At the moment, the Family Court has a role to play in gender reassignment for children and gender dysphoria treatment. Yesterday I read out how many had gone to the Family Court. The numbers were not high. The regulations will be produced without any angst. It will not be a difficult task.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I draw the Attorney General's attention to the explanatory memorandum, which states —

... establishment of information sharing and notification processes across multiple agencies ...

What will that entail? Does that relate to privacy and will it allow for information sharing of the register?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: As mentioned in the second reading speech, there has to be notification to supervisory authorities, such as Corrective Services and the police, and other authorities have to be advised of the change in gender identification. We do not anticipate that this will be a heavy workload.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 3 and 4 put and passed.

Clause 5: Section 3 amended —

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I think the bulk of what we need to talk about is in clause 12; however, I do not want to miss anything as we go through. Can the Attorney General provide a brief explanation as to what clause 5 will mean practically? I can see what is written in the explanatory memorandum but I do not quite understand what it will mean practically.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I have the marked-up copy of the bill now, which will give me an advantage in answering the member's inquiry. Section 3, "Objects of Act", will be amended so that it is an act that concerns not just the registration of births, deaths and marriages and changes of name, but also changes of registration of sex and gender. Proposed section 3(da) states —

the issue of documents that acknowledge the sex or gender of persons who are resident in Western Australia and were born outside of Australia;

This proposed subsection will be included as an object of the act; it obviously was not there before because there was no reference to "gender".

Clause put and passed.

Clause 6: Section 4 amended —

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I think this clause goes to the discussion we had yesterday during the second reading debate around what is maintained on the register as opposed to what will be provided through an extract of a birth certificate. I am fairly sure the Attorney General went through this in his second reading speech. Will the Attorney General briefly clarify that and outline whether we will be retaining information in relation to when a child is born—there are some elements around that if something is indeterminate—and how the register will change and be maintained?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Yes; on the way home last night I was thinking about my explanation, and I do not think I made it clear enough yesterday in answer to the member for Vasse. What is maintained on the register will be the original registration of male child, female child or indeterminate. An application will then come in for change of gender identification. That will go on the register. The original registration will remain on the register so that if subsequently the Australian Bureau of Statistics was looking for the number of male children born in Western Australia in 2024, they will still be there even though there have been subsequent gender changes. It is necessary to keep that record because, as the member would appreciate—we discussed this yesterday—an applicant can ask for the certificate to record the historical matters. The initial registration will be preserved, but all subsequent

changes to gender identification will be noted on the register. As I said yesterday, the original registration can be altered only for correction. We want the first registration to be solid and the history recorded on the register. The extract will be the last gender identification, or that plus the history that the applicant requests.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Thank you, Attorney General; I think that answers my question. Concerns have been raised around the record keeping. That is valid in the sense that the way we spend money and the way governments allocate resources is based on the census, but we also rely on the register for historical purposes, so that document is very important. People need to be assured that there will be a record for those who require it. Will the registrable information that will be provided to the individual on their request be shared with anyone else?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: No; there will be regulations prescribing exceptions to the fact that only the person can apply for the registration. There will be exceptions in the regulations for the director general of Justice or prisons or police to be able to check those records. They will be prescribed in regulations and laid on the table in the upper house, subject to disallowance. I could not search the record of the member for Central Wheatbelt—I cannot imagine her ever being incarcerated—but the Department of Justice could search the record of an incoming prisoner. There will be exceptions, but they will be tightly controlled by regulation.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Will it be shared with the permission of the individual?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: No, not necessarily. The Corrective Services division will not ask a prisoner whether it can check their gender identification, for instance. Corrective Services will be prescribed as a body that can check their age and gender identification.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 7 to 11 put and passed.

Clause 12: Part 5A inserted —

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY — by leave: I move —

Page 14 — To delete lines 14 and 15 and insert —

- (4) Despite subsection (3)(b), the Registrar may allow access to the particulars referred to in subsection (3)(a), or issue a birth certificate for the person showing both the person's sex or gender before the registration was changed and the person's sex or gender after the registration was changed, if an application requesting the access or issue of a certificate is made by —

Page 14, after line 17 — To insert —

- (5) If a person's sex or gender in the registration of the person's birth has changed more than once, an application for the issue of a birth certificate may request that specified changes be shown.

Page 15, line 3 — To delete "Division," and insert —

Division or under a corresponding law prescribed for the purposes of this section,

Page 23, line 14 — To insert after "document" —

or an interstate document (as defined in section 36ZF(1)) issued under a corresponding law prescribed for the purposes of this section

The first of the amendments that I moved at lines 14 and 15 will introduce proposed new section 36Q(4), which sets out the obligations of the registrar upon receiving a change of registration of sex or gender. Proposed section 36Q(3) currently provides that the registrar must keep on the register the particulars relating to a person's previous sex or gender but must not allow access to those particulars or issue a birth certificate showing the person's sex or gender before the registration was changed. That will preserve the person's new gender identification. In the bill as introduced, proposed section 36Q(4) provides an exception that will allow a person, or a person or body prescribed by regulations, to apply for access to the particulars relating to the person's previous sex or gender. However, no such exemption is provided in relation to the issuing of birth certificates. I am confirming that amendment will allow a person to apply for and acquire an extract of their birth certificate that will have the gender history on it.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I would like to hear more from the Attorney General.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Some stakeholders expressed a concern that the bill, as drafted, did not have the capacity or facility available for applicants to ask for an extract to show their gender history.

The other amendments that I moved relate to feedback from registrars in other jurisdictions, because there will be other jurisdictions in which some people have already changed gender identification. Sometimes trans and gender-diverse people want or need a document that shows that a change to their registration has occurred and links their current identity to their previous sex or gender. For example, if a parent changes their sex, gender or name on the registration of their birth, such that it is no longer clear from the child's birth certificate that they are the parent of the child, they may require evidence to link their current identity to their sex or gender identity: "I am the father of the child. I am now Joan and have transitioned to a woman, but back in time I was Joe, not Joan, and I am

the father on the child's birth certificate." The ACT recently passed amendments to address this issue and the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages supports this amendment to our bill. Proposed new section 36Q(4), as inserted by this amendment, will enable the registrar to issue a birth certificate showing a person's previous sex or gender and the new sex or gender when requested by the person or the person prescribed, as we have already discussed. It will also enable a person or body prescribed by the regulations to access the particulars relating to the person's gender identification before the application for the change was made.

Related to this change is the amendment standing in my name on page 14, after line 17 of the bill. This amendment will introduce proposed new section 36Q(5), which will allow a person who has changed their sex or gender in the registration of their birth more than once to specify which changes they wish to have shown on their birth certificate. This will provide people with the option to display all the changes, should they choose to do so. It is the government's intention to give Western Australians who change their sex or gender identity the ability to choose how their gender history is displayed on their birth certificate. These amendments will align with our policy aim to ensure that trans and gender-diverse people have access to official identity documents that match their lived identities.

The other amendments that I moved to clause 12 on page 15 will amend proposed section 36S, which is a provision regarding interaction with other laws. Currently, proposed section 36S provides that if a person's sex or gender in the registration of the person's birth is changed in Western Australia, the person is a person of the sex or gender as changed for the purposes of, but subject to, a law of the state. Stakeholders have raised concerns that the bill currently limits the interaction with other laws and provisions to persons who have changed their sex or gender in WA only.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I would like to hear more from the Attorney General.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Although this approach is similar to that in South Australia and the Northern Territory, some jurisdictions extend interaction with provisions to people who have changed their sex or gender registration in another jurisdiction. This is generally achieved by way of prescribing a corresponding law. The proposed amendment will introduce a head of power to enable regulations to be prescribed under corresponding laws for the purpose of proposed section 36S. They will come under the head of power contained in the amendment before the chamber this morning. If a corresponding law is prescribed, which will be considered during the implementation of the reform, a person who has changed their sex or gender in that corresponding jurisdiction—it might be the Australian Capital Territory or Victoria—will be treated in the same way under the laws of Western Australia as a person who has changed their sex or gender in Western Australia; in other words, a change of gender effected in other jurisdictions will be recognised.

A related amendment is to proposed section 36ZC at line 14 on page 23 of the bill. This will introduce a regulation-making power in relation to equivalent acknowledgement of gender documents issued in other prescribed jurisdictions. If a corresponding law is prescribed, which, again, will be considered during the implementation of the reform, a person who has an equivalent acknowledgement document issued in a corresponding jurisdiction will be treated in the same way under the laws of Western Australia as a person who has received an acknowledgement document in Western Australia.

I move that the amendments be accepted.

Mr R.S. LOVE: The Attorney General mentioned in his comments on the amendments that he has had interactions with registrars or authorities in other states and that some of the changes that we are seeing are a result of the feedback that he has received. Is there a way that he could provide to the house the feedback that he has received from those other jurisdictions?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: There were telephone hook-ups with registrars and the issue was discussed. The consultation was verbal and was about how recording historical identifications might be effected—that is, the application to have the extract record all the historical changes that have been made and how they will be noted on the registry. We do not have any documents or letters to put before the chamber in that regard.

Mr R.S. LOVE: This legislation was drafted as a result of Law Reform Commission work that the Attorney General initiated six or seven years ago. At what point since he first drafted the legislation did this phone consultation take place?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The issue of recording historical changes on the certificates initially came about by amendments moved in the Australian Capital Territory in recent times. Once the ACT moved its amendments, that put it on the radar of other registrars, and the matter was discussed nationally, if you like, by registrars. This occurred about three weeks ago. It was put on the national radar by the amendments moved in the ACT.

Mr R.S. LOVE: The idea is that this legislation will be consistent with that in many other states and territories. There was reference in the Law Reform Commission report to the level of consistency, or inconsistency at the time, with other jurisdictions and some discussion about international equivalent systems. I wonder what other consultation has taken place with authorities in the intervening six or seven years, other than a phone hook-up three weeks ago, to determine that the legislation is still reflective of current trends not just in jurisdictions in Australia, but throughout the world, as reported in the Law Reform Commission report.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The government relied principally upon the Law Reform Commission's report 108.

Mr R.S. Love: Which was completed in 2018.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: That was completed in 2018. When I got the report in 2018 and looked at the impact that this would have on the community, obviously the issue that had to be addressed was equal opportunities, because we did not want discrimination against people from the LGBTQIA+ community or other people. I then requested the Law Reform Commission to go further and look at equal opportunities, which has been a large project. This is the precursor to it, because we cannot have complaints on equal opportunity grounds unless a person's gender has been accepted. A person cannot complain that they have been discriminated against because they are a woman when their gender identification is that of a male and they have just put on a dress. Under the legislation that we will soon pass through the chamber, and once equal opportunity legislation comes through and they have their identification as a woman, they will not be able to be discriminated against as a woman. It was all a continuum. The Law Reform Commission's report was the basis for drafting the bill, and we stayed in contact with the LGBTQIA+ community and stakeholders who would be affected by the bill.

Mr R.S. LOVE: The Attorney General mentioned the equal opportunity legislation that he is working on. When does he anticipate that that will be drafted and brought to the house?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The drafting is at a very advanced stage. The Premier has publicly promised that we will get it through early in 2025. One of the constitutional issues that we are facing at the moment is that the commonwealth has said that it is going to pass laws in this space. Under the Constitution, unless the commonwealth preserves the primacy of the state law, any law passed by the commonwealth on the same subject matter will take precedence.

A lot of the drafting has been done. The commonwealth has come out and said a number of times that it is about to introduce amendments to the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. We do not want to pass an act that will be struck down for being unconstitutional. We have also made it clear that this is not an ongoing process. The commonwealth has to call it by the end of the year, because if it does not move, the bill will come on in any event. It is on notice. We will bring in amendments to the Equal Opportunity Act early next year.

Mr R.S. LOVE: The minister mentioned the problem of commonwealth and state inconsistencies and its effect. To the minister's knowledge, is that federal legislation likely to impact the bill we are discussing at the moment?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: It will not impact gender identification. The commonwealth might choose to protect a particular attribute that the Western Australian government has not protected. I will give the Leader of the Opposition an example, but I am not giving him a window to the actual legislation. It could be said that one of the protected attributes in the Law Reform Commission's report is personal appearance. The commonwealth may do personal appearance; we may not. If the commonwealth does it, then attributes appertaining to personal appearance will rule. For an example on personal appearance, for a person with a birthmark right over the face, one jurisdiction might say, "That is protected; you can't discriminate because they have a birthmark all over their face", while another jurisdiction has not put it in. In that instance, the commonwealth will prevail. Nothing in this legislation or the commonwealth legislation will affect attributes. This is only for gender identification. With the Equal Opportunity Act, we have to carefully step that out in relation to some of the attributes because of what the commonwealth has signalled without introducing.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Thank you, Attorney General. Getting back to the consultation the Attorney said was undertaken by the registrars following amendments in the ACT, has there been any conscious effort to look at any further consultations with other agencies to see the impact that their different systems have had compared with Western Australia or is that something restricted purely to the phone hook-up with the registrars?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: As I said, the consultation was to do with the production of the extract and what will be on the extract. That was the consultation with the other registrars. Subsequent to the Law Reform Commission's report, there was quite extensive consultation during the drafting of the bill. I will enumerate that. The drafters and the department consulted with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages; the Family Court of Western Australia; the Gender Reassignment Board; the Department of Communities; the Department of Health; the Public Advocate; the State Administrative Tribunal; the Department of Justice and Corrective Services; the WA Police Force; the Prisoners Review Board; the Supervised Release Review Board; the Commissioner for Victims of Crime; the Commissioner for Equal Opportunities; and the State Solicitor's Office. In mid-April 2024, briefings about where we were going with the legislation were provided to the following stakeholders: Rainbow Futures; Live Empowered; TransFolk of WA; GRAI—GLBTI Rights in Ageing—a rights groups for elderly people; Ending Conversion Practices WA, another group; and Equality Australia. All those people were consulted during the drafting process.

Mr R.S. LOVE: The Attorney General can see my concern. We have quite extensive amendments to the Attorney's own legislation that he has only just drafted following a phone hook-up three weeks ago. What confidence can we have that there are no other unknown deficiencies with this legislation that might be revealed by further discussion with other jurisdictions or considerations on that landscape that he just spoke about, with the commonwealth bringing in legislation down the track?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I take gentle issue with the Leader of the Opposition when he says “extensive amendments”. The only amendments here are for the capacity for the registrar to produce a certificate with historical information—that was a request that came through—and the recognition of gender identification documents from other jurisdictions. That is it. That is not “extensive amendments”; it is just two minor matters attended to during the drafting process. The Leader of the Opposition knows my record as an Attorney. I have never been shy of amending when appropriate. We did that with retail workers following consultation with the Leader of the Opposition and sole traders. I know that I am subject to the criticism that I have brought bills in here and amended them, but I have done that to try to improve them. None of the bills that we have passed has ever been successfully challenged on a constitutional or other basis, because we try to improve them.

Amendments put and passed.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms R.S. Stephens): The question now is that the clause as amended be agreed to.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Sorry; I seek some clarification. Is this where we debate said clause as amended.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Yes.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Right; I have questions. That was nearly the entire bill done, which I am sure the Attorney General would be very happy about!

Mr J.R. Quigley: I missed that.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Nothing, Attorney General, it was an aside; maybe Hansard missed it as well.

The crux of the legislation, as I understand it, sits within the new part 5A. If we could work through that now as it has been amended. The Leader of the Opposition has asked questions about the amendments. I have to say I tend to agree with the Leader of the Opposition. The Attorney General has a very good way of spinning amendments on government legislation that come to this place. It is a very effective way of putting things. It could be convincing in some quarters. Unfortunately, the Attorney General’s other colleagues tend to do the same thing. I cannot remember the exact number of pieces of legislation amended by this government itself in the last term, but it is significant and does cause concern.

Mr P. Papalia: But then you complain if we don’t do that.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: No.

Mr P. Papalia: You do. You complain if we don’t.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The government never agrees to any of the amendments we put, minister.

Mr P. Papalia: That’s not true. I put one in for the Firearms Act that you guys had suggested.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I should never use the word “never”, or very rarely. I think the minister knows what I am trying to say. I will be more precise next time.

Proposed part 5A first goes through the terms that will be used. I would like to go to division 2, “Change of registration of sex or gender”, and proposed section 36J to talk a little about the rationale for having different application processes for different ages. Obviously, adults have the right to make those decisions for themselves. Could the Attorney General walk through exactly what will happen if someone wants to initiate this process, now that they will no longer have to go through the process outlined as part of the Gender Reassignment Board? I am referring to proposed section 36J, “Application to Registrar by person 18 years or more”. Could the Attorney General explain to the house what a person who is aged 18 or over will have to do to apply to the registrar, what they will have to provide and what will be required from them as documentation?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Certainly. As I have said, there will be an application form under the regulations that a person will have to lodge with the registrar. The proposed section provides that a person who is 18 years of age may apply to the registrar to change their sex or gender in the registration of their birth certificate. Under proposed section 36J(1), it will have to be a birth that was originally registered in Western Australia and the person believes the person’s sex or gender to be the sex or gender specified in the application. Proposed section 36J(2) provides that an application under this section must —

- (a) be made in the approved form; —

The regulations will cover that. It continues —

- (b) specify a sex or gender of a kind prescribed in the regulations; —

That is, male, female, non-binary or indeterminate. It continues —

- (c) be accompanied by —

- (i) a statement by a doctor, or a psychologist, certifying that the person has received appropriate clinical treatment in relation to the person’s sex or gender; and
- (ii) any other document or information prescribed by the regulations;

The statement will be a letter from a doctor saying that they have been consulted and the person has received appropriate clinical advice. It will not have to be surgery. It will not have to be chemicals. The doctor will have a discussion with the person and the doctor must be satisfied and approve that letter to the registrar. The term “appropriate clinical treatment” is not defined. South Australia defined that term by way of a minimum number of visits and their duration. I do not believe it is for the Parliament to prescribe to clinicians how often they have to see a patient or for what duration. This is the world of psychologists and doctors. They might have seen the person for two years, two weeks or for a day, but they will then provide a letter saying that this has been discussed and the person has received the appropriate clinical treatment. Some people might need long-term counselling. Some people might need some chemical assistance. I spoke to the sector—that is, TransFolk of WA—about this proposed subsection. People in Queensland do not need a letter. We have to remember that when we recognise gender identification from other states, we will be recognising people from, for instance, Queensland, who never had to provide such a letter. We are taking a more conservative approach so that people do not just come in off the street on a whim and say, “I want a new document. This’ll be a lark; I’ll go home tonight and tell the wife I’m now a woman!” It is a serious matter. People will have to consult a doctor, who will then provide a letter to the registrar.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Thank you, Attorney General. Will there be any requirements around the doctor whom an individual must use? Must it be someone they have a relationship with and have been seeing for some time? Will there be recommended doctors or psychologists that the registrar will recognise as having appropriate qualifications, or will it be doctors or psychologists as prescribed elsewhere in other legislation? Will there be a time frame? What will the registrar be looking for in the letter provided by a doctor or psychologist? I ask that to provide guidance to the medical fraternity. From the consultation that the government has done, are the proposed amendments something that the medical profession will be familiar and comfortable with?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The answer is no; it will be up to the medical professionals and psychologists and their conscience to sign the letter and give the opinion. It will not be for us to prescribe that. The registrar will not be able to go behind and interrogate the doctor or the certificate. That requirement will be there so that people do not say on a whim, “I’m a woman”, or, “I’m a bloke.” There will have to have been some thought about it and it must have been discussed with a professional.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Given this is specifically for Western Australian-born people, will the doctor have to be registered in Western Australia or could it be a doctor or psychologist in any jurisdiction?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Unlike the legal profession, which I have been trying to push towards a national profession, the medical profession is a national profession controlled by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. Any health professional—that is, a psychologist or medical practitioner—who is registered with AHPRA will meet the criteria for the legislation.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I have one further question. Proposed section 36J(2)(c)(ii) states —
any other document or information prescribed by the regulations;

Can the Attorney General advise what he might foresee that to be?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: This is a little baby Henry VIII clause. All other jurisdictions have put this in in case a document, such as ID, is required when making the application. No jurisdiction, having put this in, has yet regulated any other document. It is like a mini-Henry VIII clause. It is there because the regulations might require photo ID when someone is making an application. All the other jurisdictions have got it, but no-one has regulated anything else. At the moment, the only thing they can think of is that the person at the counter making the application, who is on the register, might be ID-ed, but there is no regulation contemplated at this point.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I will make a very quick comment on that. If it is a Henry VIII clause, the Attorney General knows that the Legislative Council will be all over that like a rash on a schoolkid. Amongst all the other things that are in this legislation, having been a member of the Council previously, that is something that I know the Council does not like from a structural perspective.

Mr J.R. Quigley: I recall that in the judgement of the Mineralogy case, it said that the Henry VIII was the mother of all Henry VIII clauses. This is the baby of them all.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I will leave that for Hansard and the Council to reflect on when it gets to the debate.

Proposed section 2(d) is about a required declarant. I assume that relates to people who are registered sex offenders and reportable individuals, or have I got that wrong? Proposed section 2 states —

The application must —

- (d) contain a declaration by the applicant setting out whether the applicant is, at the time the application is made, a required declarant.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: At the time that the application is made, the applicant will have to set out whether the applicant is a required declarant. I go to section 28A of the act, the definition section of part 5, division 1. It states —

required declarant means a person who is any of the following —

And that is those people who were referred to in the second reading speech —

- (a) a high risk serious offender;
- (b) a detainee;
- (c) a person subject to an early release order;
- (d) a prisoner;
- (e) a reportable offender;
- (f) a supervised offender;
- (g) a supervised young offender;

At the time that the application is made, they have to reveal whether they are a required declarant.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I presume that is for security purposes. Perhaps the Attorney General can explain to me why that is a necessary clause, from the perspective of the government and within other jurisdictions.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: This was raised in the second reading speech. Remember, we took the serious sex offenders across to the high-risk serious offenders legislation. To clarify, an applicant who is a serious high-risk offender might be a declared applicant—that is, a high-risk serious offender. It is crucially important that both the registry knows that and subsequently that person's change of sex be advised to the police and supervisory authorities. How else would they be able to protect the community if someone were floating around who we thought was Joe, who we could track, but they were now Joan? We would not know where Joan was. From the government's point of view, it has to be linked all the way through to these declared persons.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Just to clarify, will it not be a gate to go through in terms of their application being accepted by the registrar? Will it simply be an administrative mechanism to make sure that community safety is upheld? Will it be able to be used as a basis for saying no?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: There is a little more to it than just tracking the person and ensuring that the person who is subject to a high-risk offenders supervisory order is known to the community corrections officers after they change their name and gender identification. Proposed section 36ZJ(5) states —

A supervisory authority must not approve the making of a change of sex or gender application, or the making of an application for an acknowledgment document, if the authority is satisfied that the change of the restricted person's sex or gender in the registration of the person's birth or issue of an acknowledgment document is reasonably likely —

Then the bill sets out paragraphs (a), (b) and (c). The authority will not approve the change of name or sex identification if —

- (a) if the restricted person is detained — to have an adverse effect on the security, discipline or good order of the place in which the restricted person is detained ...

It will not be approved if it will compromise the security, discipline or good order of the prison or other place of detention. It can be rejected if it is —

- (b) to be regarded as offensive by a victim of crime or a significant sector of the community; or
- (c) to frustrate the administration of any of the following Acts —
 - (i) the *High Risk Serious Offenders Act 2020*;
 - (ii) the *Prisons Act 1981*;
 - (iii) the *Sentence Administration Act 2003*;
 - (iv) the *Sentencing Act 1995*;
 - (v) the *Young Offenders Act 1994*.

It will not be approved by the supervisory authority in those circumstances, which is why I suspect, the member quite correctly said, that nothing in here puts women at further risk. From what is happening in our community at the moment we all know that there are risks out there for women. We see it on a daily basis, tragically. Nothing in here will further expose them, because the supervisory authority could refuse to consent to the application in those circumstances.

Ms L. METTAM: I have a question on the doctor or psychologist's statement certifying the person has received appropriate clinical treatment. If a person goes to a doctor and there is not support for the specified change of gender, is there an issue there? Would anything stop somebody from going to one medical specialist who does not support it, particularly in the case of a juvenile or a child, and then going to another psychologist or doctor to get support for that change?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: No, there is never a constraint on getting a second opinion. There is never a constraint and you can run with the opinion. I have sought a second opinion. I was given an opinion that I had terminal cancer, so I went to another doctor, and he said, “You haven’t got that. We can save you”—much to the disappointment of my enemies and opponents—and they did! But that was going on the basis of a second opinion.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Then we shift from adults who are in charge of their own destiny to children, who still have guardians or parents. There is a delineation between 12 years to 18 years of age and then 12 years and under. For clarity, those aged 12 years and under have to go to the Family Court for the decision, but for those between 12 and 18 years, there is a process whereby, with the parents’ approval, they can go through the registrar. If both parents agree, that process should be relatively easy—along with the documentation that has to be provided. Perhaps the Attorney General could just outline what happens if both parents do not agree.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: This is such an important area for both Parliament and the community. I am sure the member will indulge me to give a detailed explanation. It is only about a page long, but I want to give a detailed explanation.

Minors have the same rights as adults to live authentically in terms of gender identity. The bill allows for parents or guardians of children aged 12 years and over to apply to the registrar to change the registration of a child’s sex or gender with a separate process through the Family Court applying to children aged under 12 years, which the member has already identified. For children aged 12 years and over, the application must be accompanied by a statement by the child consenting to the change in their sexual gender in accordance with the application.

In addition, the accompanying statement by a doctor or psychologist must certify that (a) the child has received appropriate clinical treatment in relation to the child’s sex or gender; and (b) understands the meaning and implications of the application. A child aged 12 years or over may also apply to the Family Court—this is a separate route for the child, when there is no parental consent—for an order approving the change of a child’s sex or gender in registration of the child’s birth.

Proposed section 36N caters for children who may not have direct family support to make the application. In these cases, the Family Court may make an order if it is satisfied it is in the child’s best interests. The Family Court will consider any views expressed by the child and any parents or guardians, and also take into account the child’s maturity and level of understanding. Similarly, the Family Court will consider the views of any child, parents and guardian and the child’s maturity and level of understanding when making an assessment of the child’s best interests for applications for children under the age of 12 years. If a child aged 12 years or over is unable to give informed consent, the parents will be unable to complete the required application. In these cases, the parents will be directed to apply for an order from the Family Court.

According to the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, about 1.2 per cent of Australian schoolchildren—approximately 45 000 of them—are thought to identify as transgender. Almost all children express their gender identity by three years of age, though children may experiment with gender roles. For some children, living with their birth-assigned sex may become increasingly distressing as they age. The onset of puberty, when children begin to develop secondary sex characteristics that do not match their gender identity, is often a time when children become very aware of the persistence or desistance of childhood gender dysphoria. Some studies show that as many as 75 per cent of trans children will experience gender dysphoria by the age of seven years. That is a very unhappy childhood.

The Trans Pathways research report found that parents realised their children were trans during the following age ranges: zero to five, 26 per cent of the parents identified their children as trans; six to 12, 22 per cent of parents identified their children as trans; in the age bracket 13 to 18 years, 44 per cent of parents identified their children as trans; and 19 to 24 years—it is unsurprising, because they are leaving the nest—eight per cent of parents recognised their children as trans. But gender dysphoria treatment prior to puberty focuses on gender affirmation and providing a supportive environment for the child’s physical and mental wellbeing. Treatment after puberty can involve puberty blockers. This is after puberty, member for Vasse.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I would like to hear more from the Attorney General.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: After the age of 12 years, after puberty, they may involve the use of puberty blockers, which is reversible. The use of gender-affirming hormones is usually not commenced until a child is 16 years of age, as this treatment is only partially reversible, and surgical treatment is undertaken only in adulthood.

Research by the Law Reform Commission found that the rate of attempted suicide amongst adults who did not feel they conformed with their assigned sex at birth—this is where their identification does not match their assigned sex at birth, member for Vasse—is 40 per cent. That is tragic. However, when a child is able to choose their gender in a supportive environment, this figure decreased by 93 per cent. Research further suggests that trans young people experience clinically significant depressive symptoms at almost 10 times the rate of the general population and anxiety disorders at 10 to 13 times the general frequency for young people. I have set out both the process by which it can be achieved and the dreadful toll it is taking when people identify as a gender that is different from their assigned gender at birth.

Ms L. METTAM: Just to clarify in relation to children or juveniles, this bill would enable the registration of sex to change even if a medical professional, a psychologist or a doctor does not support that change; it would allow for that second opinion. That path could be pursued regardless of previous medical advice not supporting that. The Attorney General talked about second opinions before.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I think there are two parts to the member's question. Firstly, going down the Family Court route because the parents have not consented, so the 12-year-old to 18-year-old goes to the Family Court or cannot find their parents or whatever, will that pathway to change gender identification get around the requirement for a doctor's certificate? The answer to that is in the negative—no, because when a child goes to the Family Court —

Ms L. Mettam: I was asking about if the first doctor they see doesn't support the transition. Is there anything acknowledging that if medical advice does not support it?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I will just complete the answer. The Family Court must take into account when granting the approval whether the child received appropriate clinical treatment. If a child goes through the Family Court, they still do not get around the doctor's certificate.

As to the narrower aspect of the member's question—that is, if one doctor has said, "I haven't given them any clinical treatment"—it is not a question of support or the doctor saying, "I support this person's transition." The doctor might not have come to that conclusion. It is a question of whether the person has received appropriate clinical treatment. It might be a case of the doctor asking, "Have you thought about this?" I cannot go into what a psychologist might do. It is not a matter of them saying, "I approve this person for transition. I have discussed and dealt with all the issues that the applicant is presented with." It may include medical intervention. Some people might go along wanting a breast reduction. The doctor can say, "I have given them clinical treatment, and they have had a breast reduction" or whatever. It might be a case of the clinical treatment involving consultations, whereupon the doctor concludes that no medical intervention is required and certifies the purpose, and the person has had appropriate clinical treatment in the sense that they have come to the doctor and discussed all the issues.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Does it require both parents or guardians to agree? There is a relatively linear pathway to the registrar for the child or the person between the ages of 12 and 18 years if both parents agree. What happens if there is disagreement between the parents or between the child and the parents?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: If there is disagreement, the child can go to the Family Court with a person who supports them or with an officer from the Department of Communities. The child will not be blocked by a dissenting parent. If the parent dissents, it will be up to the court to assess what is in the best interests of the child. The court will take into account the views of the parents and, as a requirement, the doctor.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: If both parents or guardians, or the CEO if someone is in care, supports a child aged between 12 years and 18 years, the pathway is clear. If one parent or guardian does not support the child and the other does, does that have to go to the Family Court for arbitration?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I do not want to nitpick, but it is not arbitrating —

Ms M.J. Davies: Sorry, it is me not using the proper language.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: It is not a case of arbitrating the dispute between the parents. The test for the Family Court will be what is in the best interests of the child. In determining what is in the best interests of the child, the court will consider the views of the parents. They are dissenting. It will also consider the views of the doctor and whether the child had clinical treatment. A range of factors will be taken into account but primacy is always the best interests of the child.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It is quite a difficult pathway for someone between the ages of 12 years and 18 years to go to the Family Court without the support of their guardians or family. I imagine it is not supposed to be an easy pathway when a young person is still formulating much of their identity. It would be challenging for an individual between the ages of 12 and 18 to find their way to the Family Court.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: It is not unusual in the Family Court for children to have independent representation—an independent children's lawyer. A unit within Legal Aid Western Australia can appoint an ICL because there are often disputes between parents, not as to gender but as to where the child will live after their parents divorce, what school they will attend et cetera. When there is an acrimonious dispute between mum and dad about those things, the court will invariably say that the child has to be independently represented. It will want to hear the child's views, so they will be sent to an independent children's lawyer within Legal Aid Western Australia. That is what will happen if a child is in difficulty. They can go to a community legal centre, and will be referred to Legal Aid in a flash.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Perhaps I should have asked this question first: why was the delineation of 12 years made—above and below?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: It is an arbitrary thing in one sense, but in another sense, it is sort of like puberty. Post-puberty, people might be more mature in the assessment of their own sexual identity. Having said that, during

my second reading speech, I referred to a five-year-old child in my electorate who identifies strongly as a girl. She is a gorgeous girl, but is biologically a boy. She is a terrific little girl; I love her. She is very, very smart. She mimics the announcements on train stations; she can name every station to Perth. She is a lovely little girl but is biologically a boy. She is only five. She strongly identifies as a girl.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: During consultation, is any medical advice obtained by the department? I have read the Law Reform Commission's report on the review of the legislation. I cannot recall it being in there but it may well have been. Is this consistent with other jurisdictions—that age delineation of 12 years and then 18 years?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The member has a good memory. It is in the Law Reform Commission's report. It was dealt with. The commission recommended the age of 12 years. The government has accepted that recommendation. It is sensible.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The second part of my question is whether the age delineation is consistent with other jurisdictions.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: It varies around the nation. Some do not have any difference for children under 18 years of age; if they are under 18 years of age, they are a child. Some say under 16 years of age. The Law Reform Commission recommended we go as low as 12 years of age for safety, I think, as a more conservative approach. We have taken the conservative approach on the Law Reform Commission's recommendations. For example, the member might recall that the Law Reform Commission recommended that there be no sex or gender identification on a birth certificate. It said to just forget that; if a person wants to prove their identity, they can get a gender identification document. The government rejected that because the community is used to seeing a birth certificate extract with gender or sex on it. We have tried to take the conservative approach and accepted the Law Reform Commission's recommendation.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: This might be further on, but I do not want to miss it. If there is an application for a child born outside Western Australia, is there a provision? I want to clarify that this is for people who were born in Western Australia, and there are processes for those born outside Western Australia. Are they dealt with in the same way?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: There are two aspects to extra-jurisdictional consideration—that is, jurisdictions within our nation and overseas. Within Australia it is up to the home jurisdiction where the person is registered. We are the last state to come aboard with this. Jurisdictions will have their own rules as to the ages of 18 or 16 years, but leaving that aside, it will have to be the home jurisdiction. For someone born outside of Australia, for example, we cannot change the registration details in the United Kingdom. There will be an acknowledgement document so they can have a document acknowledging gender without changing the particulars of registration.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I refer to proposed section 36Q. I am happy to have this clarified, but I think this is what the registrar has to do on receipt of an application. I would like the Attorney General to advise what would give the registrar cause to refuse to make the requested change. The Attorney General said that they cannot look behind the documentation—they are not there to judge and this is not a reiteration or reformation in a different guise of the board and its previous functions but an administrative task. Could the Attorney General outline under proposed section 36Q(1)(b) —

Mr J.R. Quigley: Some of the circumstances.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: — some of the circumstances in which the registrar would refuse to allow this to happen, or is there a defined number of circumstances that can be put on the record?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: This has to do with ensuring that the application meets the requirement of the legislation. For example, if the letter of clinical treatment was signed by someone whom a google search showed that they had been suspended, disbarred or was not even a psychologist, then the registrar would refuse the application because it would not meet the requirements of the legislation. Similarly, the member will note that the legislation provides that sex or gender can be changed once a year to a maximum of three times.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 2068.]

ANZAC DAY SERVICES — COLLIE-PRESTON COMMUNITY

Statement by Member for Collie-Preston

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie-Preston — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.15 pm]: I would like to recognise the community of Collie-Preston for its amazing support of this year's Anzac Day services. I had the pleasure of attending three services—the dawn service in Collie, followed by a 9.00 am service in Dardanup and an 11.00 am service in Capel. Each service was different yet meaningful. The dawn service, coordinated by the Collie-Cardiff RSL, was a moving, eerie commemoration of the Anzacs. Dardanup's service, coordinated by Dardanup's residents and ratepayers association, was followed by a screening of *Saluting Their Service*, a short film recounting the stories of residents who lived in Dardanup and surrounding areas in the late 1800s to early 1900s. Local historians Danny Harris, Jeff Peirce and Darren Foster recounted the achievements and struggles of six residents, William and Joseph Harris, Mervyn and James Ross, John George Foster and Elma Mary Linklater in this moving tribute.

At the Capel service, coordinated by the Capel RSL, much mateship was shared after the official proceedings were complete. On my return to Collie in the afternoon, I made good on my 5.00 am promise to head to the Collie–Cardiff RSL. Having the honour of drawing the annual crayfish raffle, and having a beer with the RSL members, I nervously eyed the two-up that was well underway. I lost \$50 in the first 10 minutes, fleeced by a local resident who will remain nameless for the purposes of *Hansard*! Meanwhile, across the world, Collie Senior High School students were preparing for the dawn service at Villers-Bretonneux. It was the pinnacle of the 2024 Collie SHS Anzac tour. The Anzac tour has been organised for many years by tour leader and dedicated Collie Senior High School teacher Ed Croft, and this year took the students to the Western Front and the United Kingdom. The students fundraised to cover the cost of the tour for themselves, the staff and parents and a member of the Collie–Cardiff RSL. The Collie community is very proud of the endeavours of these young people.

HYDROGEN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA — WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [12.17 pm]: I extend my congratulations to the WA chapter of the Hydrogen Society of Australia for its tireless efforts in advancing hydrogen as an alternative energy source in Western Australia. Last week, I had the privilege of participating in the hydrogen economy community engagement workshop in Carnarvon facilitated by Dr Furat Dawood, the WA chapter leader and managing director of the Hydrogen Energy Group. I was joined by my parliamentary colleagues the member for North West Central and the Leader of the Opposition. We were provided the opportunity to visit the Denham Hydrogen Demonstration Plant located at the Horizon power station in Denham. The workshop served as an important platform for industry experts, policymakers and Carnarvon region residents alike to meet and learn about how hydrogen can play an important role in the midwest and north west. Attendees were presented with information about the opportunities and challenges faced in developing a hydrogen industry based in the midwest and north west.

Hydrogen is an exciting molecule, being both a potential source of energy for fixed and mobile use and also an important reagent for chemical manufacturing and downstream mineral processing. I thank the Minister for Energy for allowing us to visit the Denham Hydrogen Demonstration Plant. This was an extremely informative visit and Horizon Energy deserves congratulations for trialling this important pioneering technology. The demonstration plant is an extremely sophisticated piece of technology. There is a high level of sophistication in the plant itself and an equally sophisticated electronic control system that allows the seamless integration of the separate power generation systems, being the diesel-fuelled generators, wind turbines, lithium batteries and the hydrogen plant. The demonstration plant is world leading. Although I suspect the plant will not end up being a major contributor to the overall energy supply for the community, the learnings from running the plant will be absolutely invaluable in understanding the role that hydrogen can play in providing firming capacity in our electricity network. In closing, I thank Dr Dawood and the WA chapter of the Hydrogen Society of Australia for promoting the growth of the hydrogen industry in Western Australia.

ASHLEE MONAGHAN — ACHIEVEMENTS

Statement by Member for Kalgoorlie

MS A.E. KENT (Kalgoorlie) [12.19 pm]: Today I want to share with members the story of an incredible young woman. Ashlee Monaghan is a year 10 student at John Paul College in Kalgoorlie. Although she has participated in many sports, it is in basketball that Ashlee has excelled. For the second year in a row, she was selected for the 2023 WA country women's under-16 team for the Australian junior championships. Ashlee is in her second year as a contracted player for the Goldfields Giants NBL1 West Women's Team, and her achievements continue, with Ashlee being selected for the under-18 Basketball WA country women's basketball state team. Ashlee also represented WA at the nationals in Brisbane in April 2024 for the fifth time. However, the big news is that in July this year, Ashlee will be participating in the Amateur Athletic Union basketball tour to America. This opportunity will provide Ashlee with a platform to compete against talented American players, showcase her skills and give her exposure to American culture and talent scouts. She could possibly earn a US college basketball scholarship. What a wonderful opportunity for Ash.

I want to outline Ash's amazing sporting prowess because Ashlee and her team want a state-of-the-art basketball stadium. That is why I advocated strongly on behalf of the Kalgoorlie–Boulder Basketball Association to rebuild its outdated stadium in Kalgoorlie–Boulder. I am immensely proud to advocate on behalf of the government to provide \$5 million to build the stadium that will be finished in November. It is safe to say that thousands of goldfields community members who love basketball—adults and children—are very excited to see this stadium finished, and none so more than Ashlee Monaghan. From all of us in the goldfields, good luck. We are so proud of her.

NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Statement by Member for Moore

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [12.21 pm]: It is National Road Safety Week, which is a time to reflect on the lives lost to road accidents and consider the impact of road trauma and how we might reduce it. In WA last year, 158 people were killed on our roads, compared with a national total of 1 266. Nationally, another 40 000 people were seriously injured in traffic accidents. These figures are disproportionately higher in

regional communities. In Western Australia there have been more deaths on regional roads than metropolitan roads every year over the past 10 years. If we look at the average number of road fatalities in the regions over five years, we can see that 66 per cent involved a single vehicle and 75 per cent of victims are male. The statistics around fatalities and those seriously injured in car accidents in the regions are heartbreaking. Between 2018 and 2022, there were 537 fatalities and 2 882 people seriously injured in Western Australia. The effect of road trauma, be it physical, emotional or psychological, is immense in country towns and is felt by not only those involved in the accident, but also the witnesses and first responders. There is every chance that the ambulance volunteers know those who are seriously injured or killed.

I acknowledge three advocates in the regions who work tirelessly to raise safety issues. Heather Jones of Pilbara Heavy Haulage Girls Group sits on the federal government's Heavy Vehicle Rest Areas Steering Committee as an important advocate for truck drivers and road safety. Lara Jensen, a pastoralist from Mt Magnet, continues to campaign tirelessly to improve lighting on trains following the death of her brother, Christian, and his two friends Jess Broad and Hilary Smith at an unlit rail crossing in 2000. Ian Dempsey has championed the need for a rescue helicopter in the midwest for several years. Ian has organised not one but two petitions to the state Parliament, with a combined total of 4 000 signatures calling for a rescue helicopter to help save lives in his region. A quicker response time to road accidents is a key reason for that. Despite setbacks and dismissal from the Cook Labor government, Ian has never given up on this life-saving mission. Thank you, Heather, Lara, Ian and the many others in the region for their commitment to road safety.

POYNTER NETBALL CLUB

Statement by Member for Carine

MR P. LILBURNE (Carine) [12.23 pm]: The Poynter Netball Club roared into life on 9 March 2024—the mighty tigers! The club's executive of Nicole, Brad and Tegan, and the many volunteers, held another successful sausage sizzle at Bunnings in Balcatta. I am honoured to have been asked to be the club's patron. As the Poynter Primary School community is strong, interest in club membership has been very high and the contributions have been flowing in. I have donated netballs, playing bibs and training equipment to the club so far and look forward to contributing more before the teams' first games. I make a special mention of coach Tegan for her recent professional development, which will be invaluable to the club's ongoing growth. I will promote the attributes of this super organisation because it encourages youth involvement in sporting activities and social interaction. Congratulations to all the children who want to be in the mighty Tigers team at Poynter Primary School.

On 14 April, the Poynter Primary School netball club organised a barbecue. The students have shown wonderful interest in the new squad and have formed four teams since its creation. The teams train at Poynter Primary School netball courts, and it is my honour to be their patron. The Poynter Netball Club Tigers is another example of the importance of children's involvement in sporting activity and the importance of sporting activity to the Cook Labor government in Western Australia.

AVIATION — AROUND-THE-WORLD SOLO FLIGHT — MICHAEL SMITH — CARNARVON

Statement by Member for North West Central

MS M. BEARD (North West Central) [12.25 pm]: In 2016, aviation adventurer Michael Smith won the coveted Australian Geographic Adventurer of the Year medallion after his around-the-world solo flight in a custom-built seaplane. Michael is now replicating the historic flight around Australia made 100 years ago by two Air Force pilots, Commanding Officer S.J. Goble and Flying Officer Ivor McIntyre. On 6 April 1924, these two men embarked on the first circumnavigation of Australia by seaplane in a fragile craft, carving a path of discovery and determination.

The town of Carnarvon had the privilege of welcoming Michael Smith as he circumnavigates Australia, flying solo in his trusty seaplane the *Southern Sun*. Carnarvon hosted Michael and his iconic seaplane, which included his splash-and-dash landing on the fascine waterway, again replicating the past journey 100 years before. Michael's journey is more than just a nod to the past; it is a commitment to authenticity and a dedication to retracing the steps of those who paved the way for aerial exploration. Leaving from the RAAF base at Point Cook in Victoria, he navigates the skies in his twin-engine seaplane. Michael relays stories and vision on his website and social media depicting the incredible people he meets and the landscapes he experiences along the way. His journey is a tribute to the unsung heroes who braved the elements and conquered the skies all those years ago. For Carnarvon, a town steeped in history, with a warm and generous community that embraces the significance of history, Michael's visit was another very historic event.

Local Carnarvon community member Margaret Seaton should be congratulated and thanked for the significant role she played in hosting and supporting Michael during his time in Carnarvon, even providing him with a limited edition T-shirt commemorating his historic journey and his stop in Carnarvon, which he proudly wore. Thanks also to Justin from Coral Coast Helicopter Services, who generously provided the use of his hangar to house Michael's plane. Michael continues his journey, arriving in Perth on Saturday, 11 May with a landing on the Swan River and arriving back at Point Cook on Sunday, 19 May. Thank you, Michael, for your commitment to and recognition of our aviation pioneers and the significant role they played in our history, and I wish you a safe journey.

**BUSHFIRES — FRONTLINE SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERS —
MURRAY–WELLINGTON ELECTORATE**

Statement by Member for Murray–Wellington

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [12.27 pm]: I would like to take a moment to honour a group of extraordinary individuals, the volunteer bush fire brigades, the volunteer fire and rescue brigades, the air support services and the staff at the Department of Communities across WA, particularly those in Murray–Wellington. WA has endured an eight-month season of hot, dry weather, with little or no rain. During the recent Nanga Brook bushfire in the Shires of Waroona and Murray, which also brought back terrible memories of the 2016 Yarloop–Waroona fire for the community, our vollies came from far and wide. They faced unprecedented challenges. The rugged terrain, unpredictable winds and relentless flames tested their mettle, yet they stood firm, forming a human shield between destruction and our homes. Their tireless efforts saved lives, wildlife and countless memories etched into the landscape. These people selflessly put their lives on the line to protect our homes, our land and our way of life.

These everyday heroes embody courage, resilience and an unwavering commitment to service. Our vollies are the heartbeat of our community. They are our neighbours, our friends, our husbands and wives and our fellow citizens. These brave souls battle not only fires, but also exhaustion, fear and doubt. Their bravery knows no bounds. To each firefighter who fought in the Nanga Brook blaze, I say thank you. Thank you for your sleepless nights, your sore muscles and your unwavering commitment. Thank you for being the guardians of our community. We honour you, we appreciate you and we are forever in your debt.

I also thank chief fire officers Robert “Bluey” Wilson, Steve Thomas and Wayne “Jacko” Jackson for supporting and leading our vollies all year round, but particularly during the Nanga Brook fire, and our Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Stephen Dawson, and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner for their unwavering support of our valuable vollies in WA. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to all our bushies and VFRS brigades in Murray–Wellington. You are truly remarkable.

NATIONALS WA — CANDIDATES — 2025 STATE ELECTION

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt) [12.29 pm]: I rise to draw the attention of the house to the growing group of strong local champions that the Nationals WA has preselected in advance of the March 2025 state election.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Our party prides itself on being a grassroots organisation with links to the communities that it seeks to represent, no matter where people live in Western Australia. At the next election, we are extending our commonsense, grassroots, community-driven approach to encompass the metropolitan area.

Our team of local champions is growing across the state and includes a number of strong, capable women. Mt Pleasant resident Donna Gordin has been selected to represent the electorate of Bateman. As a local business owner with a background in community advocacy, Donna is a valued member of our expanding team. Como local Jonathan Shack will represent South Perth. He brings a wealth of experience in business to the party’s ranks. Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale councillor Morgan Byas will join the team in Darling Range, and Lisa Logan will represent Kalamunda. Lisa has worked across small business, local and state government and the not-for-profit sector and is a dedicated volunteer across a variety of community groups. In Geraldton, Kirrilee Warr is already working hard. She is the shire president of the Chapman Valley council, runs a farm business with her husband and has a strong history of community advocacy, particularly in the wake of cyclone Seroja. Local business champion Bevan Eatts has put up his hand in Warren–Blackwood, while mining specialist Kieran Dart will be contesting the seat of Pilbara. In Central Wheatbelt, Lachlan Hunter is already working hard.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Originally from Bruce Rock, Lachlan completed his education at the Western Australian College of Agriculture in Cunderdin. He has worked in the agricultural and live export sectors and for Australia Post, and has experience across state and federal governments. Wherever he has been in his career, he has stayed connected to, and been an effective advocate for, the wheatbelt.

Of course, our leader and deputy leader, Shane Love and Peter Rundle, were both preselected. They are steadfast in their commitment to their electorates and the future of our state and are working hard to build a team of local champions connected to their communities who will work hard on behalf of all Western Australians.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, those statements are given within a very short amount of time. It is not helpful when people interject, however provocative the statements might be!

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER —
PHOTOGRAPHER AND TELEVISION CAMERA ACCESS**

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [12.32 pm]: I advise that I have approved the presence of a television camera and photographers from 2.00 pm today to enable coverage of the presentation of the state budget. I also advise members that if they have not pre-booked with me to have someone in the Speaker's gallery, there may not be room for them, because I have already accepted a number of people for that presentation.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

WESTPORT PROJECT

293. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Premier:

During the Prime Minister's apparently unwanted visit to Perth yesterday, he and his transport minister stated that Westport is set to be the next major construction project for Western Australia, following Metronet. What assurance can the Premier give to the taxpayers of Western Australia that Westport will be constructed on time and on budget, as opposed to the disastrous delivery of Metronet, or will his government simply oversee another economically disastrous project—in effect, Metronet 2.0?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

If this is going to be Metronet 2.0, I hope it will be just as popular as Metronet, because we know how much Western Australians appreciate how we are transforming the public transport system of Western Australia!

A government member: It'll be the Metronet of the sea!

Mr R.H. COOK: Yes, the Metronet of the sea! Metronet is one of those multigenerational programs that will transform the way that people live, move and connect with their city and make sure that people in the outer suburbs of Perth have the opportunity to commute. People, like me, who live in Kwinana can commute to Perth inside half an hour because we live near a Metronet station. It is an amazing piece of economic infrastructure that significantly boosts economic activity and creates housing and great communities in Western Australia.

Of course, we need to continue to make sure that Western Australia stays the engine room of the nation's economy. As an export-oriented economy, we need investment in our economic infrastructure to ensure that we can continue to be prosperous into the future. That obviously means that we need to make sure that our ports are growing and equipped with what they need to be internationally competitive, not just as a local community but also as a national economy. The Prime Minister, who was widely welcomed yesterday by the Western Australian business community, including the Leader of the Liberal Party, laid out his vision for Western Australia. Part of that obviously includes making sure that Westport is a central piece of economic infrastructure that will continue to propel the Western Australian economy forward.

We are committed to Westport. It will be a singularly important piece of economic infrastructure that will help our economy continue to be prosperous. It will create jobs. It will lead to the significant upgrade of roads and rail in the Kwinana community. On behalf of the member for Kwinana, I thank the government for its commitment to that expenditure; he is most appreciative! We are very proud of the work that my government is doing to make sure that we have the social, economic and transport infrastructure to continue to take this state forward, whether it is Metronet and the way it is transforming the way that people live, move and connect in the city, or Westport, which will continue to make us a world-class export-oriented economy.

WESTPORT PROJECT

294. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given the huge cost blowouts that we are seeing in major projects in Western Australia, will the Premier consider splitting the transport and treasury portfolios to ensure that they have separate ministers?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

We will shortly hear from the most qualified Treasurer in Australia as she delivers her first budget, which will do three things. It will present significant cost-of-living relief for Western Australians. We know our economy is strong but there are those who are doing it tough, and we will make sure that we support them. It will provide significant investment to make sure that we resolve the issues around the housing challenges that we have in our community and are shared with communities around the world and the country. Of course, there will also be significant investment that will continue to make Western Australia's healthcare system the best in Australia.

Visitors — Darling Range Seniors Hub

The SPEAKER: On behalf of the member for Kalamunda, I would like to acknowledge Ms Yvonne Fletcher and the team of volunteers from the Darling Range Seniors Hub, which is based at the Jack Healy Centre in Kalamunda. Welcome.

TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT — BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICES

295. Ms C.M. COLLINS to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to supporting apprentices and creating local jobs.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how the apprenticeship support package in this year's state budget will support and grow Western Australia's construction workforce and get homes built sooner?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on other initiatives supporting the employment of more local apprentices in WA's building and construction industry?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. As members in this house know, I love getting up and talking about what we are doing in training in this state. As a government, we are investing so much in training young people or anyone who wants to improve their skills, wants to re-enter the workforce or is nervous about their participation in a new career. We are there for them by providing additional resources and support. That is no more the case than in building up our construction workforce, which we know is crucial on a range of fronts but particularly for housing.

I want to talk about some of the initiatives in this year's budget. It totals an extra \$52.3 million; it is a really significant uplift. I thank the team at the construction training fund and all the industry partners who have worked with us to understand how we can best target this spending. First of all, we have incentives for building and construction apprentices who are in the system now to complete their apprenticeships. Along with a tool allowance, they can receive \$5 000 in cash across the course of their apprenticeship. They will get commencement, tool allowance, milestone and completion payments to complete their apprenticeship.

That will be \$5 000 cash to help them get through their training period, which is fantastic. We have also increased employer grants significantly, investing \$26 million to uplift the amount of contributions for the Construction Training Fund, an employer-based grant. That means, at the moment, we have over 10 000 apprentices and trainees in building and construction in this state. It is such a fantastic figure. This is not just in the metro area; this is in our regions as well, with people who live out there, connected to their community, doing the work and building new homes for the community as well as throughout the state. It is really fantastic and a figure I am very proud of.

We have increased bonuses for female and mature-age apprentices. We have to look at increasing the female participation in the building and construction industry. Tackling this is one of the last bastions really, and I know that industry leaders are acutely aware of that and want to look at ways to increase the participation of women and mature-age apprentices. The bonuses are from 20 to 40 per cent. It is really fantastic. We increased the apprenticeship travel allowance, with over \$470 000 to provide for regional apprentices and trainees. If they have to travel more than 70 kilometres, they get some additional support.

Finally, the group training organisation wage subsidy is really important. It all but pays for the full cost of an apprentice for group training schemes. It is very important. We have already funded about 450 local apprentices, and we recently announced a further \$21.5 million. It is fantastic. These are 450 apprentices whose wages are all but paid for by this scheme. It is very good practical support.

I give a shout-out to Sam and Tyson, who I met on the weekend, when making this budget announcement. They are employed by Kardan Construction, which is an Aboriginal-controlled construction company. I first met them at Fremantle Prison. They have gone on to do work for the Department of Communities at Boorloo Bidee Mia and other projects. They are doing so well. Sam is a mature-age apprentice who recently has bought her first house. As a result of the support of this government and organisations like Kardan Construction, a woman working in building construction, when she finishes her time—I am sure she will—has work for the rest of her life and gets the keys to her first house. All strength to Sam, and to Tyson as well, and all the crew at Kardan Construction.

Just quickly, I wonder whether anyone here can think of one thing that the Liberal–National party did to improve apprentices and trainees when it was in office. If members can think of anything, just direct message me. I would be really interested to know, because I cannot think of anything!

ROSSMOYNE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL — STUDENT SUSPENSION

296. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the time line of events at Rossmoyne Senior High School. Firstly, an explosion in the toilets in 2022, which the minister, in Parliament on Tuesday, denied took place. The student was subsequently suspended and enrolled in a countering violent extremism program. The minister's director general indicated yesterday —

“There was no indication at that point that he was at a risk in terms of an imminent threat to danger in the school” ...

Then a physical altercation with another student took place last week. The student was subsequently suspended again. What does it take to exclude a child from the public school system in WA?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

I start off by correcting a complete misrepresentation of what was said in Parliament. We never denied there was an explosion. We said there was no major damage, as the member's junior partner was estimating. That is what we said. The Minister for Police got up in the matter of public interest and explained in some detail what happened. Then the member's junior partner tried to question him about what is a bomb. This is a bloke who has spent 30-odd years as a Navy clearance diver; I think he might have some idea.

Anyway, getting to the substance of the question, the school has acted appropriately at all times. As the member said, it suspended the student back in 2022. He was suspended last week for a period of time. As members would also know, last year I made some announcements in regards to enhancing our anti-violence program, and I made quite clear to principals that we had their back and that they can use the full force of the law and also the policy framework in the education department. If they feel a student should be excluded, they will exclude the student. His behaviour at the time was deemed by the principal to warrant a suspension and that is what happened.

ROSSMOYNE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL — STUDENT SUSPENSION

297. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:

I have a supplementary question. Given the events of the last week, will the minister be sitting down with his director general and the department to re-evaluate the suspension and exclusion policies?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

No.

STATE BUDGET 2024–25 — HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

298. Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE to the Minister for Homelessness:

I refer to the record investment by the Cook Labor government to support critical homelessness services in Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house how today's state budget will deliver new funding to provide further support for Western Australia's most vulnerable community members?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how advocates in the community services sector have responded to this funding investment?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

- (1)–(2) As we know and have said repeatedly in this house, there are people doing it tough. Western Australia and, of course, every state face the same scenario that COVID-19 has radically reshaped our housing markets. Accordingly, we have seen pressures, whether it is cost escalations, global supply chain issues or skilled labour shortages. Our government is responding. It has demonstrated that we are consistently looking at ways in which we can provide support to the most vulnerable, and, of course, boost housing supply. Our budget today reflects that commitment and our drive to assist those who are doing it tough.

That is why we, in this budget, are committing an additional \$92.2 million in new funding for homelessness initiatives. A critical part of this is an unprecedented increase in the baseline funding of 120 homelessness services across Western Australia. This includes funding for emergency accommodation services, engagement hubs, outreach services and specialist support services. In addition, we are providing \$15.7 million to expand the housing first support services. That is about providing that intensive case management support for people sleeping rough. We are also expanding our highly successful supported landlord model. We are extending that to the regions. We are providing \$9 million for the Housing First Homelessness Initiative support services to roll out into Geraldton and Albany, and to begin the work in Kalgoorlie.

We talk about big figures, but these figures are changing people's lives. Our supported landlord model to date, since being introduced in January last year, is currently now supporting 136 people in homes who were previously sleeping rough. It is changing lives. That funding, and our ongoing funding, has been strongly welcomed by the sector. I note that St Patrick's Community Support Centre stated that this investment recognises the incredible work its teams and its partners are doing to support vulnerable people in our community. St Pats thanked the WA government for this major funding boost to support the sustainability and capacity of homeless services at this time. Of course, it is not just the community housing sector.

The Housing Industry Association, following our \$843 million boost, stated —

The announcements by the Cook government over the last 48 hours to support our future workforce and funding for our future homes will provide a significant boost in the quest to build more homes for Western Australians ...

It is not us saying that; it is the advocacy groups in community housing and industry that are recognising the investments we make. Unfortunately, I have bad news. The opposition again criticised all of it. Hon Steve Martin actually said that we had run out of ideas. I really want members to think about this. Hon Steve Martin's main criticism now, after we announced a \$5 000 incentive to get vacant stock into the system, is that we are running out of ideas. What is one policy of the Liberals? What is one policy on social housing, homelessness or housing affordability? It is zero. Neil Thomson's press conference, which I understand was one of the most embarrassing —

Several members interjected.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Hon Neil Thomson!

Point of Order

Dr D.J. HONEY: The minister should refer to the member in the other place by his proper title.

The SPEAKER: Minister, that is correct. We have an abbreviated question time today, and yours is the longest answer so far.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.N. CAREY: I just want to put on the record that Hon Neil Thomson's prior response to the budget was one of the most embarrassing performances by an opposition shadow spokesperson who, when pressed consistently, could not name one. He said we had the wrong priorities, but could not name any priorities because his party does not have any policies. This is the scenario we face; there is a very clear divide. On that side, there are no policies or a National Party that wants to increase red tape for key workers' accommodation and housing, and this side is consistently driving policy solutions for the housing supply issues we face in Western Australia.

MATERNITY SERVICES — CARNARVON

299. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the minister's comments that the most important thing to any delivering mother and child is safety, and her promise to reinstate permanent maternity services to the Carnarvon Health Campus, which after two years has yet to happen. Will the minister guarantee the return of Carnarvon's midwifery services in the 2024–25 budget; and, if so, when can mothers expect this important service to be returned?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

As I have outlined previously, and I am more than happy to do again, the provision of maternity services, particularly regionally, is not a matter of budget; it is not a financial matter. It is a matter of safety, volume and workforce. They are the critical considerations when it comes to delivering regional birthing services. There are maternity services in Carnarvon. It is absolutely not true. The opposition continues to pedal untruths; there are maternity services at Carnarvon. What is not available at the moment are birthing services. Because of the number of births that are steady and that occur in Carnarvon, it is impossible for midwives and a general practitioner obstetrician to maintain their currency of practice. That is just a reality of numbers, unfortunately. We are working with the WA Country Health Service, which is working with the Australian Nursing Federation, around a fly-in fly-out model, around midwifery groups practices and around a whole range of other workforce models that will enable us to restart those birthing services. In the meantime, we can absolutely guarantee that they will be provided with a safe and quality birthing experience in a public hospital. That is what we guarantee—a safe birthing experience in a public hospital, and it will be financially supported to do so.

MATERNITY SERVICES — CARNARVON

300. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. With the Royal Flying Doctor Service under increased pressure in a wealthy state, will the minister be prioritising the Carnarvon maternity services to work towards having this completed by the end of the year, when possible?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I do not know what birthing services have to do with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, because births are generally planned around —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms A. SANDERSON: When someone has an acute issue, they would have to go to a tertiary service. That is how clinical services work. We have expanded midwifery group practices across the state, more than has ever been done before. This government's commitment to quality birthing services, birthing choices and maternity services is unparalleled. The member's government did not come anywhere near it. It came absolutely nowhere near it. We have increased the number of midwifery group practices in Carnarvon, Manjimup, Bridgetown, Northam, Collie and, more recently, in Margaret River. That is on top of existing group practices in Bunbury, Narrogin and Broome.

Actually, the Liberal–National government closed birthing services at Katanning and Northam. They were closed under the Liberal–National government. The member's party has no credibility in this area. It is this government that is expanding maternity services. It is this government that is providing acute and tertiary maternity services that are better for regional women. It is better for regional woman in Murdoch. At some point, the Leader of the Opposition and the Nationals WA will have to have a public position on this. Will it support its junior coalition partners to concentrate all those maternity services in the central area, or will it support a model that supports regional women?

HEALTH — MEDICAL IMAGING SERVICES — REGIONS

301. Mr K.J.J. MICHEL to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to delivering world class healthcare services to all in regional Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this government's delivery of new MRI services in Hedland will reduce the need for patients to travel to Geraldton or Perth for important free diagnostic tests?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on other important health infrastructure projects improving the quality of care for families living in the regions?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Pilbara for the question and for his ongoing advocacy for the expansion of health and mental health services in the Pilbara. We know that the Pilbara and the community of the Pilbara makes an enormous contribution to the standard of living and the quality of life that we all enjoy in Western Australia. In this budget we have announced \$15 million for an MRI at Hedland Health Campus. In the last financial year alone, 500 Pilbara residents received patient assisted travel scheme support and made 930 trips between them to access MRI services. The closest MRI is in Geraldton or in Perth. There is well and truly a need for it. This will significantly reduce the need for patients to travel for imaging services and provide better access closer to home. Importantly, it will also help attract staff to the Hedland Health Campus and it will expand the range of clinical services it is able to provide. This is delivering on one of the government's and the local member's election commitments. As part of that announcement, we also announced that Karratha Health Campus would be getting four renal chairs, which will provide more than 2 000 renal dialysis sessions a year and will allow patients to stay closer to home, or if not on country, closer to country and family.

In an effort to manage the very challenged area around the country of regional maternity services, we are looking at doing things differently from providing those services. We launched the midwifery group practice at Karratha. The staff are very excited. It is up and running. We know that midwives want to work in this model of care. They want to work in a group practice model that provides continuity of care for women's maternity and birthing care. Karratha has some of the best birthing suites in the state, I have to say. This trial will see women cared for by the same midwife throughout their pregnancy and will support 140 local women. That is on top of all those MGPs that we have already launched under this government that I outlined in the previous question. This is on top of the \$61.4 million Newman Health Service redevelopment. It is a beautiful redevelopment, supported by BHP, delivering a new emergency department, inpatient beds, emergency and treatment bays, a dedicated medical centre, consultation spaces and dental services. And, of course we increased PATS by 66 per cent and expanded the eligibility for patient escorts for maternity and cancer patients.

We know that there is always more to do, and access to health care for regional communities is one of those critical issues. We are absolutely committed to expanding that. These announcements and this funding, on top of the existing commitment, will make it easier for the member's local constituents and residents in the Pilbara to access high-quality health services closer to home.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2024–25) BILL 2024

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Ms R. Saffioti (Treasurer)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Treasurer.

Second Reading

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Treasurer) [2.01 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

[The Treasurer read the following speech.]

INTRODUCTION

Madam Speaker, I rise to present the eighth Budget of our WA Labor Government, and my first as Treasurer.

The 2024–25 State Budget is a Budget for the times.

A Budget presented at a time when the Western Australian economy is firing on all cylinders.

At a time when we have record numbers of people moving to Western Australia.

At a time when our nation adapts to a higher cost environment.

And at a time when global conflicts continually challenge supply chains and commodity prices.

Madam Speaker, this Budget rises to the challenge.

It invests to create more jobs into the future and diversify our economy; invests like never before in key services; and delivers cost of living support to all Western Australians across the State, at a time when it is most needed.

Western Australia's economy has defied predictions.

People are moving to Western Australia like no other time in our history.

This year alone, Western Australia's population increased by a record 94,000 people, the equivalent of the population of Bunbury and Karratha combined.

Just a few years ago, critics said people would never come to Western Australia.

The opposite has happened, with people flocking to our State.

Managing our extraordinary economy, and the population growth that fuels it, undoubtedly brings with it opportunities and pressures, including additional demand for housing, health, and education services.

This Budget makes additional investments to address these demands.

Across the country and around the world, economies are emerging from a high inflation environment, defined by increased costs to deliver essential services and priority infrastructure.

Western Australia is no exception.

We are in the midst of a transition in our economy. While forecasts generally expect inflation to continue to moderate, some sectors are still adjusting to this new environment.

Another feature is global uncertainty, whether it be changing economic conditions in China, or volatility in the Middle East.

Despite this, the Western Australian economy remains strong.

Our responsible management of the State's finances has allowed us to address demands and boldly invest in the future of our State.

In this Budget, we have boosted our cost of living support for Western Australian households and businesses.

We make significant investments in health, education and training, and community services.

We double down on our efforts to increase housing supply.

We invest in infrastructure that will shape our State for decades to come. This is truly a Western Australian Budget.

It is bold and ambitious.

It builds on our economic success.

It celebrates our natural environment.

It enhances our quality of life.

But most importantly, it also ensures that the most vulnerable in our society are supported, no matter where they live across our great State.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY

Madam Speaker, Western Australia's economy continues to go from strength to strength.

When we came to office seven years ago, we made a promise to Western Australians.

We said we would turn the economy and the finances around, and create more jobs.

It is the delivery of this commitment that makes Western Australia the envy of the nation today.

What was the nation's weakest domestic economy seven years ago, is now the strongest.

What was the nation's highest debt burden, is now the lowest.

And since 2017, more than 300,000 jobs have been created in Western Australia. The current unemployment rate of 3.4 per cent remains at historically low levels.

In fact, the unemployment rate has remained at or below 4 per cent for 29 of the past 30 months, the longest sustained period of low unemployment since 2009.

Western Australia's domestic economy grew by 4.7 per cent in 2023, more than twice the growth of the national economy.

Madam Speaker, the growth is far from over.

Treasury forecasts our domestic economy will grow by 5.25 per cent this financial year, well above the long-run average.

As the economy has grown, business confidence has grown with it.

Business investment is expected to grow by more than 13 per cent this year, the highest growth in more than a decade.

It's this confidence that helps Western Australia outperform other States.

Government investment is expected to grow by 10 per cent this financial year, underpinned by our record \$10.6 billion infrastructure spend in 2023–24 alone.

To put that in perspective, this is more than double the annual government investment when we came to Government.

Our \$42.4 billion investment in infrastructure over the next four years will continue to drive our economic expansion and meet the needs of our growing population.

Madam Speaker, one of the most important economic signs for working families is this:

Wages are going up, and inflation is easing.

Wages grew by 4.4 per cent in 2023, the highest annual average growth rate in the nation, and more than double the decade average.

STATE FINANCES

Madam Speaker, I am proud to announce that Western Australia is on track to deliver a sixth consecutive operating surplus in 2023–24 at \$3.2 billion.

For 2024–25, Western Australia is forecast to achieve a \$2.6 billion operating surplus, with operating surpluses to be maintained across the forward estimates.

This achievement is despite ongoing volatility in our revenue base through fluctuations in commodity prices, taxation revenue, the GST, and other Commonwealth grants.

For these reasons we continue to budget conservatively and ensure we live within our means. It is why we continue to fight every day to ensure Western Australia gets its fair share of the GST and other Commonwealth grants, recognising no State provides more to the Federation than ours.

This Budget uses our strong financial position to invest in the things that matter to Western Australians.

Highlights in this Budget include:

- \$762 million to deliver record cost of living support to Western Australian families;
- \$1.1 billion for housing and homelessness, focused on boosting housing supply and affordability;
- a record \$3.2 billion boost for our health system, supporting more doctors and nurses across Western Australia;
- \$1.3 billion for education and training, including more teachers and education assistants, and new and upgraded schools to keep pace with our growing population; and
- \$1.8 billion to diversify and decarbonise our economy, driving Western Australia's energy transition and the jobs of the future.

Consistent operating surpluses have allowed us to fund infrastructure that will benefit Western Australians for decades to come.

At the same time, net debt remains over \$15 billion lower than projected under the former Liberal National Government.

Net debt is expected to be lower than originally budgeted this year at \$28.6 billion by 30 June 2024, compared to the \$29.4 billion estimated at the 2023-24 Budget.

Net debt as a percentage of Gross State Product is expected to be just 9.7 per cent by 2027–28, unchanged from the forecast in the last Budget, and significantly lower than any other jurisdiction.

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

Madam Speaker, while the economy remains strong, and employment is at an all-time high, we understand cost of living pressures on working families.

That's why the Cook Labor Government is delivering \$762 million in new cost of living support measures in this Budget.

The initiatives will help Western Australian households and small businesses through the current cycle of higher costs.

This Budget's cost of living support builds on prior measures and brings the total assistance provided to over \$3.5 billion since we came to Government.

As I speak, our WA Student Assistance Payment is supporting Western Australian families.

Around 170,000 Western Australian families have now claimed the payments of \$250 per high school student, and \$150 per primary and kindergarten student.

In addition, earlier this year, we made public transport free for school students, saving a family with two kids around \$560 per year.

And in regional WA, we have more than doubled the transport allowance for students who cannot access a free orange school bus, the biggest increase in two decades.

Further to that, we are adding \$65 million to extend our Regional Airfare Zone Cap. This Australia-first initiative, introduced by our Labor Government, has already delivered more than 250,000 capped regional airfares, saving regional residents hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars per year.

Additionally, this year we are increasing the Regional Pensioner Travel Card by \$100 to \$675, to support pensioners in regional WA with the cost of transport.

Madam Speaker, these initiatives will make a huge difference.

And today, I am proud to announce that thanks to the strong management of the State's finances, we can again afford to give all Western Australian households a new electricity credit.

This Budget delivers a Household Electricity Credit of \$400 to more than 1.1 million Western Australian households.

This is the fourth time our Government has delivered a household electricity credit.

Importantly, our credit will also be extended to more than 90,000 small businesses to help hard working Western Australians with the costs of running their business.

The combination of cost of living measures means an everyday family with two school-aged children will receive more than \$1,400 in State Government assistance this year alone.

But Madam Speaker, we know some households do it tougher.

That's why more than \$3,500 in targeted assistance is available for households with eligible concessions. This includes, for example, the \$334 Energy Assistance Payment, that will be provided to around 330,000 households on top of the \$400 electricity credit.

This will be the fifth Budget that the Government has limited increases in household fees and charges to below inflation.

In fact, for the third time during this period, the basket of household fees and charges will actually decline in 2024-25, with a 2 per cent, or \$124, reduction.

Significantly, households will spend around \$140 less this year on State Government fees and charges than they did six years ago in 2018–19.

In line with our commitment at the last election, electricity, public transport, and water prices will rise by less than inflation.

This Budget well and truly delivers cost of living support to all Western Australians, delivering extra support to those who need it most.

HEALTH

Madam Speaker, good quality healthcare that's affordable and accessible is a right of every Western Australian. In this Budget, we are continuing our major investment in the Western Australian health and mental health system:

- with a record \$3.2 billion to boost system capacity;
- by investing in more nurses and doctors; and
- improving access to quality care for patients across the State.

The WA Labor Government's investment in our health system over the past seven years has been unprecedented.

Since June 2017, we've increased the health workforce by over 4,400 nurses and 1,800 doctors, an increase of almost 35 per cent.

We will spend \$12.8 billion in 2024–25 alone; up 45 per cent since 2017.

We have the best funded hospital system of any State, with the highest per capita spending on hospitals, 14 per cent above the national average.

In this term of Government alone, we have delivered 709 new beds.

A further 550 hospital beds are set to be delivered, not including those in the new Women and Babies Hospital in Murdoch.

Our health system is normalising following the significant disruption of the pandemic.

Ambulance ramping is easing, and elective surgery wait times are down 31 per cent since they peaked in the pandemic.

Things are moving in the right direction.

To keep it going, this Budget includes a further \$1.2 billion for our public hospital services to meet the growing demand in Western Australia.

As part of our reform plan, we are committing a further \$155 million to improve emergency access and reduce ambulance ramping, bringing our commitment to emergency department reforms in this term of Government alone to \$827 million.

A further \$405 million will be spent on health services in the regions, including funding for regional workforce initiatives, priority programs, like the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme, and the Kimberley Ambulance Service.

We will invest an additional \$260 million on mental health and alcohol and other drug initiatives, including further investment in suicide prevention and mental health hospital services.

Our new commitment to health and mental health includes \$61 million to build on our previous responses to the recommendations of the Infants, Children and Adolescents Mental Health Taskforce.

This includes more Acute Care Response Teams, and extending the Crisis Connect service, providing a rapid response to support young people in crisis.

Importantly, we are reforming our health and mental health systems to meet the changing needs of our growing population.

We also understand the incredible demand for Child Development Services in the community.

That's why in this Budget, we're also significantly expanding these services, with an additional \$39 million for more staff to provide an increase in assessment and intervention services.

This Budget also includes a further \$839 million in health infrastructure, with funding for the next stage of the roll-out of the Electronic Medical Record and Critical Health ICT infrastructure programs.

An additional \$173 million has been committed to the redevelopment of Bunbury Hospital, plus \$15 million to deliver an MRI unit at Hedland Health Campus, and close to \$9 million to expand Child Development Services in regional WA.

Meanwhile, we continue to roll out major upgrades to hospitals across the State, including at the Geraldton Health Campus, as well as redevelopment of the Peel Health Campus, with services on track to return to public hands in August, and redevelopment enabling works set to commence later this year.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Madam Speaker, we need more homes for Western Australians.

The pandemic, and the population surge in its wake, has created unprecedented pressure on housing markets across Australia, and indeed, the world.

While there are some positive signs, including rising building completions and approvals, the State Government will continue to deliver new initiatives to boost supply and support those without a home.

This Budget delivers a massive \$1.1 billion for housing and homelessness-related initiatives.

A further \$400 million is being invested in the expanded Social and Affordable Housing Investment Fund, taking our total investment in the Fund to \$1.6 billion.

In this term of Government, we have now funded almost 5,000 additional social homes, with more than 2,100 homes already delivered.

The new investment will help support a pipeline of affordable multi-residential housing across a range of high priority sites, including METRONET precincts.

We will partner with the Commonwealth through Housing Australia, and the community housing sector to build hundreds of new affordable rental homes in the coming years.

In addition, this Budget includes \$144 million to deliver new social and affordable residential apartments across Western Australia, including the Pier Street project in Perth.

We are also providing a \$179 million boost to maintain the State's portfolio of around 45,000 social houses, key worker and Aboriginal housing.

Our Government continues to make significant investments in regional housing.

Grants totalling \$60 million will be delivered to regional community housing providers for new and refurbished housing, while \$25 million is being provisioned to improve the energy performance of housing in Aboriginal communities.

A further \$35 million is being provided to deliver additional development-ready land in Broome, Karratha, and Kalgoorlie, and \$9 million to boost homelessness services in regional WA.

An additional \$44 million has been invested in Government Regional Officer Housing, plus a further \$6 million to extend the freeze on tenant rents.

We know that growing the supply of labour is critical to delivering more housing.

That's why this Budget includes an \$85 million boost to the capacity of our residential construction workforce.

This includes an additional 150 apprenticeships in group training organisations to increase the number of carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, and electricians to build our homes.

This is on top of the 150 places already taken up since January this year.

Madam Speaker, we know we need to explore all avenues to increase housing supply.

That's why we introduced a \$10,000 payment to convert short-term holiday rentals to the long-term rental market, with around 140 released as a result of this scheme in the first six months.

To build on this, we are introducing a new scheme to further increase the availability of long-term rentals. \$5 million has been allocated for grants of \$5,000 for owners of vacant homes who place them on the long-term rental market.

Madam Speaker, we know that the increase in the average house price means fewer Western Australians have been eligible for stamp duty assistance for their first home.

That's why I'm pleased to announce this Budget will increase assistance to those buying their first home, including those who are currently renting.

This Budget delivers \$82 million to increase the first home owner transfer duty exemption and concession thresholds to \$450,000 and \$600,000 respectively. This will assist almost 5,000 first home buyers per year and increase the maximum duty relief under the concession to over \$15,000.

Our WA Rent Relief Program, delivered in partnership with community service organisations, continues to support those experiencing financial stress due to higher rents, with more than \$2.4 million already provided to almost 600 Western Australians to help keep a roof over their heads.

This Budget also provides a further \$92 million to support critical homelessness services delivered by more than 120 providers, as well as case management and wrap-around support for rough sleepers to transition into permanent accommodation.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Madam Speaker, a world class education and training system that's accessible to all is the key to remaining the nation's strongest economy in the decades ahead.

We're improving the system on several fronts, more teachers, more schools, and affordable training, including Fee Free TAFE.

We've added more than 6,000 new teachers and education assistants to public schools across Western Australia since 2017.

This Budget delivers a record \$1.3 billion investment in education and training to meet the needs of our rapidly growing population and economy.

In fact, almost \$34 billion will be spent on education and training over the next four years, plus more than \$1.7 billion on new school and training infrastructure.

\$410 million will be spent to build new schools, expand capacity, and upgrade and maintain existing schools.

A further \$391 million will be invested to meet projected enrolment growth for schools, as well as support students with English as an additional language and students with disability.

Importantly, a new feature of this Budget is a further \$3 million to bolster swimming and water safety programs in Western Australia.

Madam Speaker, this Budget doubles down on our efforts and commitment to training Western Australians.

Nearly 40,000 Western Australians have accessed Fee Free TAFE over the past year, giving more Western Australians the skills they need for the jobs that support our economy and community.

Western Australians who wanted to become Early Childhood Educators had to pay almost \$7,000 under the Liberals and Nationals.

Today, they pay nothing under WA Labor.

Western Australians who wanted to become Enrolled Nurses had to pay almost \$10,500 under the Liberals and Nationals. Today, they pay nothing under WA Labor.

In this Budget, an additional \$195 million will be invested in our training system, including:

- as mentioned previously, \$85 million to train more tradies to build more homes; and
- funding to continue the Government's Fee Free TAFE places in 2025, ensuring everyone, no matter their income, has access to training.

Importantly, we are getting people who may have never worked before, or been out of work a long time, into jobs.

Just look at our Heavy Vehicle Driver training program, which has seen 650 people trained and employed as truckies, nearly 40 per cent of them women.

An incredible achievement considering women make up around five per cent of the industry nationally.

And this Budget, we are expanding the Heavy Vehicle Driver Training Program to the regions, as part of our overall investment of \$1.1 billion for training in regional WA.

Madam Speaker, not only will this Budget give our schools, TAFEs, and training organisations the immediate boost they need to cater for our growing population, it will prepare our younger generations for the future economy, where more jobs require specialist skills and education.

Our training system is offering more and more opportunities, and engaging more and more people in our economy.

METRONET AND TRANSPORT

Madam Speaker, education and training is just one way we're creating opportunities.

But we also need to ensure people can get to these opportunities.

One of the best ways we can do that is ensuring they have access to affordable, efficient public transport.

As cities continue to develop, and our population grows, it is those cities that can move their people around quickly and reliably that will gain competitive advantages and continue to prosper.

METRONET is setting Western Australia up for future success.

It gives communities and families the ability to move beyond their suburbs to access employment, education, training, and services.

Since being elected in 2017, we have rolled out METRONET across our suburbs.

Over the past year, we have opened Lakelands Station and the New Bayswater Station, following the delivery of the Forrestfield Airport Link, the METRONET Railcar Facility, the Mandurah Multi-Storey Car Park, and the Denny Avenue Level Crossing Removal.

And importantly, after a former Liberal National Government shut down the industry in the early 1990s, we've brought railcar manufacturing back to Western Australia.

Right now on our rail network, the first locally made train in over thirty years is carrying passengers on our Joondalup and Mandurah lines.

\$2.7 billion will be invested in METRONET in 2024–25, which will see the completion of the commitments we made at the 2017 election, including:

- the Yanchep Rail Extension;
- the Morley–Ellenbrook Line;
- the Byford Rail Extension;
- the Victoria Park–Canning Level Crossing Removal program; and
- the Thornlie–Cockburn Link.

From reopening the Fremantle Line, to building the Joondalup and Mandurah Lines, to now delivering METRONET, affordable, high-quality public transport is in Labor's DNA.

Our commitment to capped fares, free student travel, and free travel on Sundays means there is no other place in Australia where people living in the suburbs have access to high-quality public transport at such an affordable rate.

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Madam Speaker, our investment in METRONET is one way of improving our State. Creating safer and stronger communities is another.

This Budget continues our Government's track record of investment in programs and reform that support the most vulnerable in our community, and improve community safety.

We are spending a further \$96 million on initiatives to prevent family and domestic violence, bringing our investment to \$422 million in this term of Government.

Since 2020–21, we have supported an extra 58 refuge beds for women fleeing violence in the home, with a further 77 beds to come.

An additional \$54 million will expand our interagency Family and Domestic Violence Response teams. Support will be extended to seven days a week, with a focus on early intervention to keep victim-survivors safe.

We are delivering an additional \$88 million for child protection initiatives. This includes more than \$46 million to expand access to the Home Stretch WA program to support young people leaving out-of-home care.

\$16 million is being committed to the 10-year Early Years Partnership, with a further \$19 million from the Minderoo Foundation. The Partnership will improve early childhood learning, intervention, and support for families in four Western Australian communities, Armadale West, Central Great Southern, Bidyadanga, and Derby.

This Budget also includes:

- \$70 million towards reforms that improve fairness, advocacy and services for people with mental impairment in our justice system, while ensuring the safety of our community;
- \$16 million for youth justice programs that provide targeted early intervention and intensive support for at-risk young people, including alternatives to detention; and
- \$23 million to extend the successful Operation Regional Shield, to allow WA Police to rapidly deploy officers to the regional areas where they are needed most.

A further \$17 million has been allocated to support our Government's landmark firearms reforms.

This includes funding for the development of a new Firearms Licensing and Registry System.

It also includes additional resourcing to manage the voluntary buyback scheme currently underway, which has already taken thousands of guns off our streets, making our community safer.

Since 2017, we've increased our police workforce by an additional 604 officers, and we have a record number of recruits going through our academy right now.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Madam Speaker, this Budget delivers \$72 million to bolster emergency services and protect the Western Australian community.

This includes funding for an additional 60 career firefighters as part of the biggest boost to frontline emergency services in Western Australia in more than 50 years.

A further \$9 million will support Western Australia's vitally important volunteer bushfire brigades, including equipment upgrades, and funding for Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service stations in the South West.

In addition, this Budget includes more funding for the Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service and Critical Care Paramedic contracts, and the Air Operation Fleet to ensure the safety of Western Australians during emergencies.

A further \$30 million will be provided to boost bushfire mitigation and frontline resources at key priority locations across the State. This includes 34 additional firefighting and fire management staff, and an extra eight fire trucks.

OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Madam Speaker, Western Australians are rightly proud of our incredible and unique environment.

Our Government continues to deliver on our vision to create five million hectares of new conservation estate under the Plan for Our Parks, with a further \$73 million to continue these efforts in partnership with Traditional Owners.

We are protecting our native forests for generations to come, investing in sustainable tourism and outdoor adventure projects.

We are investing \$67 million in the ten-year Forest Management Plan, that will support forest monitoring, create new jobs, and work with Traditional Owners to protect native wildlife and forest health.

And we are investing \$46 million in new hiking and cycle trails and \$17 million in new and upgraded camping facilities across the State as part of our Outdoor Adventure Tourism Package.

DIVERSIFYING AND DECARBONISING OUR ECONOMY

Madam Speaker, Western Australia is an economic powerhouse and continues to dominate the national economic landscape.

This Budget delivers an additional \$1.8 billion to further diversify and decarbonise our economy, increasing our investment to \$11.2 billion in this term of Government.

To fuel economic growth into the future, we are:

- supporting the decarbonisation of our economy and our trading partners;
- making our Strategic Industrial Areas ready for projects in new and emerging industries like critical minerals and hydrogen;
- investing in economic infrastructure, including desalination plants, transmission infrastructure, ports, road, and rail;
- undertaking economic reform, including streamlining government approvals, to attract new investment;
- investing in tourism and the creative industries like never before; and
- building capacity in science, innovation, and technology to improve the competitiveness of our industries.

Climate Change and Decarbonisation

We're closing our coal-fired power plants by 2030 and moving to cleaner, more reliable and affordable energy.

To enable more uptake of renewables, we're overhauling the South West grid.

We previously committed over \$4 billion to the grid to expand generation, transmission, and storage infrastructure.

This Budget provides a further \$324 million for planning and to procure long-lead items for network infrastructure.

A further \$148 million has been committed towards the North West grid that will help our energy-intense resources sector to transition to more renewables.

But we're not just thinking about our backyard, we also have the resources to help our trading partners' shift to clean energy.

With vast quantities of the critical minerals required to decarbonise, Western Australia will play a central role in the global transition to net zero.

Strategic Industrial Areas

Strategic Industrial Areas will be a key element.

Our industrial land will host projects that enable us to process the minerals we extract.

We are achieving more downstream processing. We can also manufacture more products that will contribute to the world's energy transition.

This Budget delivers a new Strategic Industries Fund valued at \$500 million to ensure these areas are project-ready for new investment.

Economic Infrastructure

In a State like Western Australia, delivering economic infrastructure is fundamental to our continued prosperity. We are a State rich in resources, but these don't simply jump out of the ground onto a waiting ship.

Our ability to move products efficiently around the State, on roads, on rail, and through our ports, will determine our economic success.

Our ports play a key role in our economy. This Budget invests a further \$373 million in our ports from the Kimberley all the way to Esperance. These investments include the delivery of the Dampier Bulk Handling Facility and Lumsden Point.

Meanwhile, Westport is moving ahead, delivering a larger, more efficient container port in Kwinana, with dedicated rail and road links to help move freight around our State. A further \$116 million is included in this Budget to continue planning, including provisioning for the early marine, civil and road works.

Our Government continues to roll out investment to support the more efficient movement of grain through the Agricultural Supply Chain Improvement Program.

And Madam Speaker, WA Labor is delivering major road projects in regional WA that will improve productivity, regional growth, and liveability for local communities.

Projects like the Bunbury Outer Ring Road and the Albany Ring Road will support economic growth, reduce travel times for freight and take trucks off local roads.

Over 7,500 kilometres of our regional roads have been made safer through our investment in the Regional Road Safety Program, and we will continue to roll out those life-saving improvements through a \$107 million investment in this Budget.

Meanwhile, our investment in Great Northern Highway in the Kimberley and Pilbara, including \$107 million to replace the Brooking Channel Bridge and other investments, are making it safer for truck drivers and the general community.

In addition, \$29 million has been committed to upgrading airstrips in Carnarvon, Onslow, Eucla, Albany, the East Kimberley, and in remote Aboriginal communities.

In our drying climate, we are taking significant steps to ensure the ongoing supply of water across regional Western Australia.

\$15 million has been allocated towards planning for future water supply to the Goldfields.

Early works have also commenced in Alkimos on Perth's third desalination plant.

The \$2.8 billion facility will help secure water supply for the Western Australian community for generations to come.

Economic Reform

Our Government is also making it easier to do business in Western Australia, slashing red tape to unlock job-creating projects.

Late last year, the Premier announced an overhaul of Western Australia's environmental approvals system, building on the nation-leading reforms we've made to our planning system.

This Budget includes \$36 million to facilitate those reforms to help drive the projects of the future, while protecting our environment.

Tourism and Creative Industries

Madam Speaker, we've made no secret that tourism is a key pillar of our State's economic diversification journey.

Nature is a big part of our appeal, and we're leveraging those strengths.

We want more people to holiday at home, and we want to make sure we have the infrastructure to support interstate and international tourism.

That's why in this Budget, we have committed \$165 million for a new Outdoor Adventure Tourism Package, including creating and upgrading key boating, camping, and fishing facilities across the State.

It's the single largest regional tourism infrastructure investment in our State's history.

Madam Speaker, Rottnest Island is a tourism icon; and the global capital of the coveted Quokka selfie.

A record \$150 million is committed to ensure we have the staff accommodation and infrastructure to allow Rottnest to reach its full potential.

To further progress Western Australia's tourism potential, we'll continue to focus on creating a nationally significant events calendar.

We'll continue supporting our homegrown events, including a new metro events program to match our regional events program, and working to attract and secure unique and exclusive blockbuster events.

And in this Budget, we see further funding for our Screen Production Facility in Malaga.

Backing it in is an additional \$13 million toward our Screen Industry Strategy, which is focused on developing the skills required for the productions that will be made in our new facility.

We've also increased funding for arts organisations to support their role in nurturing Western Australian talent and supporting future productions.

Science and Innovation

Madam Speaker, Western Australia has an extensive history of scientific and medical advancement.

Our vast space and our dark skies make us attractive to those looking to the stars, with the Mid West housing the globally significant Square Kilometre Array. Another \$10 million is allocated to help grow our space industry.

This Budget also includes \$16 million to support innovation by industry, including to open a Founders Factory in Western Australia to support entrepreneurs and start-ups to commercialise new technologies.

REGIONAL WA

Madam Speaker, throughout this Budget we have highlighted our Government's incredible efforts in regional WA.

Across the entire Budget, priority has been given to the needs of our regions.

Our dedicated cost of living initiatives, like the increase to the Regional Pensioner Travel Card, and the extension of our Regional Airfare Zone Cap, highlight our commitment to regional communities.

We continue to support Royalties for Regions, with \$4 billion allocated in this Budget.

But WA Labor's commitment does not end there.

A record \$12.8 billion is being invested in regional infrastructure, and billions more in regional service delivery over the next four years.

CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker, this Budget continues to drive our State's economic momentum.

This eighth Budget of the WA Labor Government delivers on our commitment to the people of Western Australia in 2017 and 2021.

It was a commitment to:

- manage the finances responsibly;
- create more jobs and a strong economy; and
- improve services and infrastructure right across Western Australia.

And despite the global challenges we have faced, our State is much stronger today than it was seven years ago.

This Budget sets Western Australia up for future generations; and makes sure our State continues to be the envy of the nation.

A State where we can continue to support the most vulnerable. A State that creates new jobs and opportunities.

And a State, where even the daughter of migrant parents can grow up and become Treasurer.

Madam Speaker, this is a Budget that delivers on our vision for the State and reflects our proud Labor values.

I commend the Budget to the House.

[Applause.]

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Now for the boring bits, the formalities! A bit of an anticlimax, but we have to do it! It continues —

I would now like to proceed with the formalities.

Appropriation (Recurrent 2024–25) Bill 2024 is for recurrent services, which comprise the delivery of services and administered grants, subsidies, and other transfer payments.

Recurrent service estimates of \$33,789,966,000 include a sum of \$2,985,161,000 permanently appropriated under Special Acts, leaving an amount of \$30,804,805,000 that is to be appropriated in the manner shown in the Schedule to Appropriation (Recurrent 2024–25) Bill 2024.

Madam Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr P.J. Rundle (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)**.

VISITORS

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [2.41 pm]: Just quickly, it is required that people remain seated in the public gallery. I make a special acknowledgement of some of my special guests in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon: to Grace, Alessio and Lucia Fraser, welcome; and to Rachel Matthews, welcome.

APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2024–25) BILL 2024

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Ms R. Saffioti (Treasurer)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Treasurer.

Second Reading

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Treasurer) [2.43 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The bill seeks supply and appropriation from the consolidated account for capital purposes during the 2024–25 financial year, as expressed in the schedule to the bill and as detailed in the agency information in support of the estimates in the 2024–25 *Budget statements*. Included in the capital expenditure and financing transactions estimates of \$9 762 576 000 is an amount of \$403 909 000, authorised by other statutes, leaving an amount of \$9 358 667, which is to be appropriated in the manner shown in the schedule to the Appropriation (Capital 2024–25) Bill 2024.

I commend the bill to the house and I now table the *Treasurer's speech*, budget paper No 1; *Budget statements*, budget paper No 2; the *Economic and fiscal outlook*, budget paper No 3; and the *WA budget overview*.

[See papers [2818](#), [2819](#), [2820](#), [2821](#) and [2822](#).]

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr P.J. Rundle (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)**.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION AMENDMENT (SEX OR GENDER CHANGES) BILL 2024

Consideration in Detail

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

Clause 12: Part 5A inserted —

Debate was interrupted after the clause, as amended, had been partly considered.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind the chamber that we are dealing with the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (Sex or Gender Changes) Bill 2024. There are 50 clauses and we are dealing with clause 12, as amended.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I will ask some indulgence because as the day has progressed, the progress of this bill has changed somewhat. I have a referral motion to a committee under standing order 171. Can I move that now, please?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please move the motion. To do that, we will have to revert back into normal operations, so I ask the advisers to leave the floor, please.

Debate interrupted.

[Continued on page 2069.]

Referral to Community Development and Justice Standing Committee — Motion

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt) [2.48 pm] — without notice: I rise under standing order 171 and move —

That the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (Sex or Gender Changes) Bill 2024 be referred to the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee for consideration and to report back to the house by 20 June 2024.

I do not intend to take any considerable time on this. It was something that we flagged during the second reading contributions, and we have had some discussions along the way about the timing of this bill. Obviously, the budget has just been handed down. The Leader of the Opposition, who has been in the house today, was hoping to be able to continue participating as part of the consideration in detail debate and for this referral. We also have to consider the Leader of the Liberal Party. I am sure that members understand that the budget becomes a priority for us on a day like this. It does not mean that this is not an important piece of legislation, but we also want to do the job properly. We foreshadowed that we were going to move this referral to a committee. I suspect that the same will be done in the Legislative Council with a referral to the Standing Committee on Legislation, but we have the opportunity to do the committee referral here in this house.

I ask that the Attorney General consider this for the following reasons. The bare minimum of time has passed from when it was introduced to when we are debating it now. Amendments have been made to the legislation, and the

opposition was not given a great deal of time to consider the amendments. Although we have talked about them, I feel that there has been a bit of time pressure for us to get this through today. Amending the legislation raises some flags for me about other elements of the legislation. From my perspective, the flags are not about the policy. I speak on behalf of myself as the member for Central Wheatbelt and not for my broader colleagues; I cannot do that. Will the clauses as written actually deliver the intent of the legislation? It raises concerns for us when the government makes continual amendments to the government's own legislation.

Some more time could be provided for a committee to go through this on a short turnaround. We could park the rest of this debate for the day, leader of government business, give the committee an opportunity to look at it, and return to the bill in the June sitting. I have made it clear, for myself at least, that this is not something that I seek to delay. I understand that other members have different views about the policy of the bill, but we just want to make sure that we get it right. Asking the committee to do a short and sharp inquiry, giving the committee the opportunity to perhaps seek some advice, allowing other external stakeholders to come in and take part in that, and then giving the opposition perhaps some additional time to look at the detail would be something that I think this Parliament should support.

We are giving the government the opportunity to make sure that it has the bill absolutely right. It is an important issue for the community, which has waited with bated breath for seven years since it was first announced that these changes would be made. I am sure that another three or four weeks will not mean a great deal of difference. We will be able to pass it before the end of the year, and the government can then get on with putting in place all the issues that need to be put in place. I am sure that members would like Parliament to have considered this as fulsomely and properly as possible.

Division

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

Ayes (5)

Ms M. Beard	Ms L. Mettam	Ms M.J. Davies (<i>Teller</i>)
Dr D.J. Honey	Mr P.J. Rundle	

Noes (47)

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

Question thus negatived.

Consideration in Detail

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

Clause 12: Part 5A inserted —

Debate was interrupted after the clause, as amended, had been partly considered.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I think that before we broke, we were on the duties of the registrar once an application has been received—that is, proposed section 36Q. I do not know whether we had moved on from there. A lot has happened since then. As I recall, the conversation we were having was around the duties of the registrar once something has been —

Mr J.R. Quigley: That is right.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: They will have limited capacity to refuse unless there is a lack of documentation. I think that the Attorney General may have been on his feet and talking to that when we were interrupted.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Yes; the registrar will have the capacity to refuse the application if the documents in the application are not in order or there is something irregular about the documentation. If an application is made without, for example, a medical practitioner's or a psychologist's letter appended, the application could be refused because it does not comply. If there is something irregular in the documents, such as that the registrar was of the view at the time that someone else had signed the document and not the applicant, the registrar will be able to decline. The registrar will be able to decline if the applicant has exceeded the number of counts. The applicant will be able to apply once a year, but not more than three times; however, changes made while a child will not count.

If the applicant does not comply with those rules, the registrar will be able to refuse. Upon the receipt of an application under proposed section 36P, “Application to Registrar if Family Court order made”, the registrar must make the change in accordance with the order of the Family Court. That is dealing with children. There are circumstances in which the registrar will be able to refuse the application, but there will not be a subjective judgement of whether this person is living the gender they are applying to be recognised as.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I have a follow-up question on something that the Attorney General said. There was a reference to how many times someone can do this. I am not sure whether that is further on.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Yes.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: We will deal with that later.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Yes. I referred to it in the second reading speech three times.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I wanted to ask some questions about why changes made when someone is a child will not be applied, but we will get to that.

If we go to proposed section 36R, “Entitlement not affected by change of registration of sex or gender”, we can link it back to something the Attorney General was talking about before. The Attorney General explained why a document might need to be produced to allow, potentially, a parent or someone to prove that they have a different history than they have now in relation to maybe a child’s birth certificate or a child having to prove themselves.

Mr J.R. Quigley: To show that they were the dad.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: That is right. I presume that is slightly complicated in terms of managing records and linking them all together, but smarter people than I —

Mr J.R. Quigley: They can ask for the history to be put on the —

Ms M.J. DAVIES: They will be able to if they need to, yes. Again, that seems to link to this, because you are not an island in the world, are you? For the purposes of wills, probate, trusts and things like that, people are linked to their family and, at the best of times, I presume that if a will is contested and from a legal sense somebody has changed their gender and the documents do not align, that could raise issues. I am probably not articulating myself as clearly as I could. I am thinking about all the numbers in the budget that we just talked about and how I am going to respond to that in my community tomorrow, but I think there is perhaps an explanation from the Attorney General around what that proposed section will do and some assurances that there is always going to be a pathway to determine, if someone is, for instance, creating a will and they say “In my last will and testament I leave all this to Joseph —

Mr J.R. Quigley: Or “my firstborn son”.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Yes; that is quite old-fashioned language, but I presume some people still use that instead of articulating the name of the child or the person whom they are speaking about. There needs to be clarity in those cases; otherwise, it could be very distressing. Could the Attorney General comment on that to make sure that that has been thought through?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Certainly. Proposed sections 36R(1) and 36ZB(1) are based on similar provisions in most other jurisdictions in Australia. The legislation in ACT, South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland contains the provision that a person under an entitlement under a will or trust or other instrument will not lose that entitlement because they have changed their gender identity. In *Project 108: Final report*, the Law Reform Commission recommended in recommendation 17 that a similar proviso be added to the act —

... to provide protections for entitlement under a will trust or other instrument for a person who has changed their gender.

Otherwise, the “by operation of law” statement is intended to capture any other legal instrument or other legal agreement such as a deed that may provide certain entitlements to someone for nothing in return, notwithstanding proposed sections 36R(2) and 36ZB(2) have been drafted with the intention of protecting a person whose sex or gender has changed under the bill from consequently losing an existing entitlement under a will, a trust or by other operation of law. However, these proposed sections will not necessarily prevent a person who has changed their gender from being disinherited on the basis of a sex or gender or issue of an acknowledgement document where there was an expressed condition to that effect in the will and that is the expressed intention of the testator.

When the member says “to my firstborn son” is old language, wills from decades and decades ago are still in existence and leave a life interest to someone and the remainder “to my firstborn male grandchild”. They try to— I was going to say rule beyond the grave; that is not quite right, but a lot of these wills have trusts with remainder then to ultimately vest. As the member knows, in Western Australia it has to vest within 80 years, so in the interim, if the firstborn grandson has changed gender identity, it will not affect the entitlement under the will, the same as under a deed, because some deeds are expressed in that way— “to my son”.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I have a further question on this division but on proposed section 36ZD. For the purposes of Hansard, the intervening section is regarding people who have moved from outside of Australia and have asked

for an acknowledgement document. The process, as far as I understand it, is similar, except the person will end up with an acknowledgement document because, as the Attorney General advised earlier, we cannot change other jurisdiction's registries.

I want to go to proposed section 36ZE in division 4, "Restrictions on change of registration based on frequency of change". We were just talking about this. This proposed section provides that the registrar must not change a person's sex or gender in the registration of the person's birth on application if the registrar is aware that this has been done within the previous 12 months or that three or more changes of that person's sex or gender have been made. Can the Attorney General provide feedback on why those numbers were arrived at? Why will we be giving people the opportunity to change their sex or gender three times? That is a reasonable question, and one that the public will most likely ask.

Mr J.R. Quigley: The question about three times?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Yes. Where has that come from, and why was that allowance made?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: It was a recommendation of the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia to align applications for change of gender identification with applications for change of name, which already exist. The number of applications for change of name is limited to three.

Ms M.J. Davies: In a lifetime.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: This bill will bring the gender identification change into alignment with change of name, as recommended by the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia. That is how we ended up with that. The registrar will have discretion in special circumstances.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Does the Attorney General have any information on how often individuals—the Attorney General cannot answer that because it has not been allowed. What about in other jurisdictions? Has there been any information collected on multiple changes by individuals?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: As to other jurisdictions and frequency, I cannot help the member.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Could the Attorney General provide advice on why changes an individual makes before they reach 18 will not count towards the changes that person makes as an adult? How many times will a person be able to make a change prior to turning 18, and why will those changes be discounted when that person hits 18 years?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Once again, the frequency of change, or the number of times a child could change will be brought into alignment with changes of name for a child, which is not delimited by frequency. Theoretically, it could be changed four times. Children are supervised by parents or the court. They cannot just go and do it themselves. It will be the same as changes of name for a child. A child's name can be changed more than three times. Changes of gender for a child will be the same. This might happen because of family restructuring or all sorts of things.

Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania all limit changes of gender identification to once in 12 months. Because a child is under the influence, or supervision, of their parents, changes made as a minor will not be counted when counting the three changes by an adult making a decision. The adult should not be bound by what happened as a child. That is the philosophy behind it. It is the same with offences committed as a child and the whole lot; they start afresh as an adult.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: There will be a review in three years' time. Is there information on whether that sort of data will be looked at—how many applications are made by individuals, the frequency of change and what happens after the first influx? Given that the Gender Reassignment Board and that process will be removed, I suggest there will be an influx in the first 12 months, and then the numbers might settle across the three years. Is that the sort of data that will be collected and part of the review? I am just trying to get an understanding of what will be reviewed.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Those data points will be collected and will inform the statutory review. Three years is a reasonable period. Five years would be too long. The member commented about there being a bit of a catch-up at the start that could skew those data points, but after three years it should have evened out. The statutory review will have a good view of it.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I move on to consider an application by a restricted person.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Where is that?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It is within proposed sections 36ZG and 36ZH in the same clause. Can the Attorney General please explain whether the requirements in proposed sections 36ZG and 36ZH will apply to the registrar or the person making the application? What will it practically do?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Proposed section 36ZH, of course, has to be read together with the proceeding subsection that provides —

The Registrar must not change a restricted person's sex or gender in the registration of the person's birth, or issue an acknowledgement document for a restricted person, on an application, unless the Registrar has been given a copy of the written approval for the application by the supervisory authority for that person.

It then lists off the responsibilities of the restricted person. The registrar is to be prohibited from changing it for those restricted people. The member can then see that the penalty for the offence of an applicant who does not make a declaration is \$12 000.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: How will the registrar know? The registrar will have the form and the person will seek to subvert the knowledge of the registrar and may get away with it. Obviously, there is a penalty. I think if someone is at that point, they will probably think that they will get away with it. Will the registrar run a check on a list of, I do not know, the prison population or listed people? How will they assure themselves that they are not in fact issuing it for a restricted person? That is aside from relying on ticking the box. Human nature means that people will try to get away with things like that, I imagine.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The registry record system interfaces with the Corrective Services' total offender management system and the adult community corrections community business information system under the acronym CBIS. The system automatically matches data across these systems using a range of personal identifiers such as given names, surnames and dates of birth to identify when an application has been made by or for a restricted person. It allows for the notification of the relevant supervisory authority by the registrar. The registrar will pick it up from the data point via a CC officer. If an application is not accompanied by the appropriate supervisory authority approval, the registry will liaise with the relevant supervisory authority and will not approve the application until the criteria is met.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Proposed section 36ZJ is titled "Approval by a supervisory authority". Will the supervisory authority essentially be a gatekeeper on whether those restricted individuals will apply? Could they say no or is it just to be a statutory requirement that they be notified of and sign off on the documentation? Will they not be actual gatekeepers on whether someone should be allowed to change their gender?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: They will be able to say no. The registrar will have the authority to refuse the application and must not approve the change of sex if they do not have approval. They will be able to just say no. The bill reads —

A supervisory authority must not approve the making of a change of sex or gender application, or the making of an application for an acknowledgement document, unless the authority is satisfied that the change of the restricted person's sex or gender in the registration of the person's birth or issue of an acknowledgement document —

Is reasonable likely. I referred to this earlier in considering proposed section 36ZL.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: In proposed section 36ZJ(5)?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Proposed section 36ZJ(5)—sorry. Proposed section 36ZJ(5)(a) refers to the approval of a restricted detained person having an adverse effect on security or discipline. I remember going through this earlier today. If it is regarded as offensive to a victim of a crime if the person were allowed to change their identity or if it were to frustrate the administration or any of the following acts—the High Risk Serious Offenders, the Prisons Act, the Sentence Administration Act, the Sentencing Act or the Young Offenders Act—the registrar could refuse.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Sorry, I am confused now. This proposed section is about approval by a supervisory authority, not the registrar. To me, it reads like the supervisory authority will have some leeway in making a decision about whether they will sign the documentation that then goes to the registrar. The registrar will make the ultimate decision. I understand that. But there seems to be a step here with a restricted person requiring the approval of a supervisory authority. The supervisory authority is to be a gatekeeper in terms of signing the documentation. Following from that question, Attorney General, how will they meet the requirements? Proposed section 36ZJ(5)(b) states that a supervisory authority must not sign an application unless they are satisfied that it will not be regarded as offensive to a victim of a crime. Does that mean the supervisory authority has to contact the potential victim and ask whether that is likely to be offensive before putting their signature on the document? I am trying to understand the process and what role that supervisory authority will have when dealing with a restricted person.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The supervisory authority will have access to the information regarding a restricted person's offences, including information about victims and whether the person has a Victim Notification Register alert. The supervisory authority will also be in a position to assess the effect that a restricted person's change of sex or gender may have on the security, discipline or good order of the place in which the restricted person is detained or the conditions of the person's supervision—for example, their parole conditions. The supervisory authority, be it a community corrections officer or whatever, will have that capacity. For a change of name, an application will not be endorsed if the change is considered reasonably likely to have an adverse effect on the safety and good order of the prison or if it is considered to be offensive to the victim, which I have already explained. When the prisoner has a Victim Notification Register alert, Corrective Services must consult with and obtain comment or advice from the victims through the Victim Notification Register. That is when there is a victim notification alert. They will be consulted. The same considerations will apply to applications to change the sex or gender, and it is not anticipated that the same process, including the opportunity to comment for any of the crime victims, will be followed. When there is an alert, they will go back to the victim.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: We are sort of in the weeds now, Attorney General. If a male prisoner would like to change his gender to female—setting aside what we have just spoken about; I understand the victim side of those things—there is an allowance in the legislation that says the supervising authority can say no because they think that as a prisoner in that particular prison, changing their gender will be disruptive for the security, discipline or good order of that place. That male prisoner could potentially be denied based on the fact that there is no accommodation in a women’s prison or they could not be accommodated in a men’s prison. This is something that is going to arise, so we should ventilate the matter here. We have talked about spaces for particularly males or females, of which prisons are one. This will probably be something that the Minister for Corrective Services and others will have to turn their minds to. I am interested to know whether the government has turned its mind to that issue.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: When we deal with prisoners, safety and security is the number one consideration. When we consider the number of prisoners we have, there are already many trans people in the system. Protocols are already in place for managing trans women and men within the correctional system. When they are being managed, the primary consideration is the safety and security of that prisoner and the prison itself. The current protocols will continue. The issue of a certificate with a new gender identification on it will not displace the current protocols.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 13 and 14 put and passed.

Clause 15: Section 61 amended —

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I need some guidance on this clause, Attorney General. I am happy to be corrected, but I think this is about what happens if a fraudulent change has been requested. What happens and what does the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages have to do? I do not understand it. Section 61(3) of the act reads —

The Registrar may impound or require the return of —

...

(c) a certificate under this Act about a registrable event ...

It does not really make a lot of sense to me and I want to know what will happen when an applicant succeeds in changing their gender ID, but it is determined that it was done fraudulently. That might come under clause 16.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Under the act as it is, an event like a marriage could happen in which the name changes or some such thing. In this amendment, we are now including “the event, or other registrable information”. That other registrable information could be the acknowledgement of gender. The acknowledgement is registered. We are introducing the acknowledgement of register, so that little bit in the act had been expanded to catch the acknowledgements.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Do the words “impound or require the return of a certificate” mean that a person has to physically return that bit of paper to the registrar if a change has been made?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Yes, the document itself must be returned. This comes under clause 61 “Falsification of certificate etc.” Amended subsection (3) will read —

The Registrar may impound or require the return of —

(a) a document which the Registrar has reason to believe bears a forged impression of the Registrar’s signature or seal;

...

(c) a certificate under this Act about a registrable event if the entry in the Register about the event, or other registrable information, has been cancelled or corrected since the issue of the certificate;

If there has been a change since the issue of the acknowledgement of gender, they can “Reith” the certificate back. There should not be people in the community with irregularly issued certificates in their possession. It is a common requirement around the nation that if a person has a certificate through falsification or irregularity, it has to be returned physically; otherwise, they could be presenting it at places.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 16: Section 62 amended —

Ms M.J. DAVIES: To follow on from the conversation we just had, if the registrar becomes aware that they have issued a certificate or acknowledgement that is fraudulent, they will request for that to be returned and they will have the power to change the register. Does the event in which a certificate was issued fraudulently get erased from the register like it never happened or does it become a matter for the public record because it should never have happened?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I am going to filibuster because I have to text the registrar. It says “revoke”. It depends how the record is kept and in which database. I expect it will all be retained; however, the effect of it is revoked. The order is revoked but there is a record of what has happened. I have just received the text; technology is wonderful.

This text is from the registrar and says that the record will be amended; however, the historical changes will be retained. The register will have the change of gender reversed, but all the dealings will be there, and the historical record will be kept.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: If someone goes through that process, and we would presumably find if it was fraudulently obtained, are they then prevented from going through that process again if they have not exceeded their limit of three times? Does it prohibit someone from going down the path and doing it legitimately?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: They could go again. There are some loose people out there and they might make an application that is refused because of fraud or anything; that should not bar them for life from making a regular application.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 17 and 18 put and passed.

Clause 19: Section 70A inserted —

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I understand this to be the savings provision, so there is obviously some transference and I imagine there are applications in process or underway at the moment. What happens to things that are underway at the moment? Do they carry through with the Gender Reassignment Board? Do they get withdrawn and then go through the new process? Are they automatically issued with a certificate, assuming that the new process will go through Parliament? Do they get held over? What happens?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The bill is drafted to come into operation on proclamation to allow time for the implementation of these reforms. We discussed that a little bit before, and we talked about the six months. The government's intention is to commence the new act, all necessary subsidiary legislation that has to be drawn and administrative arrangements on the same date, approximately six months after royal assent to the bill, which is part 1. The period will allow for outstanding applications to the Gender Reassignment Board to be finalised. Any applications to the board that remain outstanding when the new act commences will be transitioned over to the new system, when the board is abolished and the new system commences operation, if that is what the applicant chooses. However, we anticipate that all existing applications to the board will be finalised before the commencement of the new act. I think we are up-to-date with the board. We must remember that people who are transitioning do not want to go to the board. They have been holding back and I think—to the extent that the member alluded to before—there will be a catch-up. We are confident that the outstanding applications will be completed within six months. For a while there was no chair because Magistrate Hogan retired, and we had not appointed a new chair. I think there was a backlog of about 23 applications. They were cleared within a month.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 20: Written laws repealed —

Ms M.J. DAVIES: This will repeal the Gender Reassignment Act 2000 and get rid of the board and its functions, as I understand it. What will happen to the board? Will it be disbanded? How long will they sit? On what date will the board members get their “Don't come in on Monday” letter? How does that work?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: It will be on proclamation of that part of the act, which is the commencement provision in clause 2, as I recall. Part 1 will be on royal assent, and they will know that within six months it will be wound up. I do not know whether the member knows that the chair of the board is someone who could be a magistrate. He is a legal practitioner. He has already been appointed to the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia. People will be utilised, but it will be “finito”.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: From a records perspective, what will happen to the documentation that sat with the Gender Reassignment Board when the board ceases to exist? Presumably it has to be kept by an entity somewhere.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: It will have to be kept under the requirements of the State Records Act 2000. I think those documents are maintained in “iron mountain”. I do not know where Iron Mountain is. It is a curious place, is it not? I keep hearing about this joint called Iron Mountain, somewhere. However, under the State Records Act, they must be maintained. We do not know where they are physically maintained. There will also be an electronic record of it all, but it will have to be maintained under the State Records Act. That is necessary because there are still change of name limits and we have to know what has happened in the past.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 21 to 50 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Third Reading

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [3.48 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt) [3.48 pm]: May I start by thanking the Attorney General and the staff who have been involved in consideration in detail, brief as it has been. I would suggest that it will be slightly more lengthy in

the Legislative Council where the matters will be explored in great depth, I suspect. From my perspective, the questions that I had have been answered. Again, I appreciate the briefings that were provided to the opposition, albeit it has been a quite compressed time frame for getting across the very important issue for the community that we are talking about.

I do not intend to go back over what I spoke about in my second reading contribution. From my perspective, this issue has been ventilated through the Law Reform Commission report, there has been consultation with the community, and, albeit it was some time ago, I understand that there have been regular conversations on this matter to bring this bill to the house. I say again that it would have been preferable to have done this earlier than in the final year of this term of Parliament, especially given that we saw the work done on this back in 2018, and my strong preference is that it go to a committee. We asked the house to consider sending it for a short, sharp review, and it has declined to do that. I live with optimism that the Legislative Council might agree to that; I am not holding my breath. From the perspective of making sure that we get this absolutely right, using all the tools that the Parliament has and having a good government and governance, I think that would be the right thing to do, but I also know that from the perspective of the community we have been talking about, this legislation has been delayed for some time. They would like to see it pass so that they can see and use a process that is less traumatic and does not require the surgical intervention that the process in Western Australia currently requires.

As I said earlier, we have a conscience vote in the Nationals WA. I am comfortable that the processes will provide oversight for those individuals who require it, such as children and those who are still forming their personalities, who will make these decisions with the guidance of guardians and parents, and, where necessary, the state. I do not pretend that will be an easy process. I do not think any of this will be an easy process, but I think that for those who have to go through it, it is incumbent on us as legislators to try to remove some of the more traumatic and unnecessary steps for them to be able to live their life as the person they feel they are. Quite frankly, I do not think it is anyone else's business if a person is not impacting on anyone else's health or safety. As I was researching this subject, I read and we heard about some of the statistics on the prevalence of mental illness and suicides in this community as a result of people not being able to identify as who they feel they are and not having the state recognise them as such. It adds to someone's level of anxiety when they are already trying to find who they are and live their real life. For me, I think that is a very important point when we have these discussions. We can talk about all the scenarios that could or might happen, but, again, I think that incrementally, as we have these discussions in society and the community about sex and gender and sexuality, we always find a way to accommodate that. I think we will continue to do that. Our institutions have to continue to do that. I do not think that when we walk out of this Parliament after agreeing to this legislation, we will have fundamentally undermined our community, our safety or our society, but it will make a huge difference to this cohort—this community, their families and loved ones—as opposed to preventing them from being able to access this process.

With that, I am happy to add my support. I thank the Attorney General for dealing with this legislation. However, I would have much preferred the Leader of the Opposition to be here, and I know that, particularly on state budget day, he would have liked the opportunity to continue to be a part of this discussion. To me, it is unsatisfactory that he was not able to continue to put forward his comments on this, but we understand that he is the Leader of the Opposition and it is state budget day. I say this so that it is on the record in *Hansard* for anyone who may come back and look at why he might have been absent at this point in time. He is actually the Leader of the Opposition in Western Australia. The Leader of the Liberal Party is here, and she is going to contribute, but I know that the Leader of the Nationals WA has views about this, and he would have enjoyed or at least appreciated the opportunity to have asked some further questions and certainly would have been able to speak to the referral that we made. It would be remiss of me not to note that as I close my comments on the third reading for this legislation.

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party) [3.55 pm]: I certainly reiterate the comments about the way the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (Sex or Gender Changes) Bill 2024 has been rushed through the Parliament and the fact that the motion to suspend standing orders has pressed us to deal with the consideration in detail and finish this bill today, which is budget day. As the Leader of the Liberal Party, I say that we and the Nationals WA have been given very little time to deal with this, and I reflect the sentiments of the member for Central Wheatbelt about the opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition to contribute to this debate as well as the consideration in detail process.

We had a briefing on Friday. The lead on this bill is Hon Tjorn Sibma in the other house. The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages was not available for that briefing, which was also disappointing. We have raised significant concerns, which I have highlighted in my speech, about the birth certificates themselves and the fact that this legislation can and will effectively remove the original sex of an individual at birth and make it easier for them to become a woman or man in the eyes of the law. We have raised concerns about this bill as it relates to juveniles and children, and I have also raised concerns about seeking medical approval for the transition, and what it will mean for restricted persons and restricted places and gender-aligned spaces.

I am passionate about standing up for women. I found it quite offensive and, in fact, misogynistic to suggest that my position on this bill is anything but about that and about ensuring that this legislation is the best that it can be. There is a lot wrong with this proposal, and I am happy to call it out and take a stand. I also find it highly offensive, less so to me, but in particular to the Jewish community —

Point of Order

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: This is a third reading debate. It is not a second reading debate. The Leader of the Liberal Party should be directing her comments to the clauses of the bill, the technical parts of the bill and perhaps to discussion of the consideration in detail, but it is not a second reading debate to cover any issue that she likes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member. There is no point of order. The member is referring to some comments she made during her second reading contribution, which she is allowed to, so carry on, member.

Debate Resumed

Ms L. METTAM: Thank you. I find it very hard to understand how members could conflate the debate on this bill and my position on these matters with the murder of six million Jews, as the member for Scarborough did. I believe that the Jewish community deserves an apology from him for having made such offensive comments.

I will leave my comments there. As I have stated, we are under pressure from a time perspective, but the Liberal Party and I will be opposing this bill.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [3.59 pm] — in reply: I will be brief with my comments. Firstly, I want to compliment the member for Central Wheatbelt on her contributions to both the second and third reading debates and, indeed, on the way in which she interrogated the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (Sex or Gender Changes) Bill 2024. I think the Leader of the Liberal Party diminished herself during this debate and I will briefly explain why.

During the second reading debate there were complaints that there had been no consultation and that we needed to go back to the people and hear what the people had to say. There was no mention of the Law Reform Commission report at all. The Leader of the Liberal Party read out a prepared speech that advanced ideological arguments, not legal arguments, and did not address any of the issues relevant to the Law Reform Commission report.

I would like to say this to the Leader of the Liberal Party: I think you diminished yourself by ignoring the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission report. I think you diminished yourself by just reading out the ideological rantings of members of the upper house. I went home after that speech and thought, “Perhaps I’ve been a little harsh on the Leader of the Liberal Party”, so I pulled out my generic AI and asked, “Tell me about the proposed gender identification laws in Western Australia”, and it all came up. That is all you had to do; it would have taken you two seconds. It came up to say that these reforms are part of the Cook Labor government’s commitment to supporting diversity in Western Australia, in line with the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission’s report, which you did not even know about. I then asked AI to show me the Law Reform Commission report, and it went right through how this bill reflects what is in the Law Reform Commission report.

The Leader of the Liberal Party was ignorant of all that because she had given over to the ideologues in the upper house, who did not even mention the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission report, upon which all of this is founded. She diminished herself in this chamber, sadly. All she had to do was, instead of following the rantings of people from the other place, just ask artificial intelligence—it took me two minutes—“Tell me about the proposed reforms”. That shows us that this little iPad has more intelligence than the ideologues in the upper house combined.

I commend the bill to the house.

Division

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

Ayes (42)

Mr S.N. Aubrey	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Ms J.J. Shaw
Mr G. Baker	Mr H.T. Jones	Ms L.A. Munday	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mrs L.M. O’Malley	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mr J.N. Carey	Ms E.J. Kelsbie	Mr P. Papalia	Mr D.A. Templeman
Ms C.M. Collins	Dr J. Krishnan	Mr S.J. Price	Mr P.C. Tinley
Ms D.G. D’Anna	Mr P. Lilburne	Mr D.T. Punch	Ms C.M. Tonkin
Ms M.J. Davies	Mrs M.R. Marshall	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr R.R. Whitby
Mr M.J. Folkard	Ms S.F. McGurk	Ms M.M. Quirk	Ms S.E. Winton
Ms M.J. Hammat	Mr D.R. Michael	Mr P.J. Rundle	Ms E.L. Hamilton (<i>Teller</i>)
Ms J.L. Hanns	Mr K.J.J. Michel	Ms A. Sanderson	
Mr M. Hughes	Mr S.A. Millman	Mr D.A.E. Scaife	

Noes (3)

Dr D.J. Honey	Ms L. Mettam	Ms M. Beard (<i>Teller</i>)
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Pair

Ms R. Saffioti

Mr R.S. Love

Question thus passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BILLS

Returned

1. Criminal Investigation Amendment (Protection of Law Enforcement Animals) Bill 2023.
2. Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Application Bill 2023.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

BILLS

Appropriations

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following bills —

1. Appropriation (Recurrent 2024–25) Bill 2024.
2. Appropriation (Capital 2024–25) Bill 2024.

House adjourned at 4.10 pm
