

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

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [6.00 pm]: Before the break, I was talking about KidSport. The KidSport vouchers are making community sport accessible for many families whose kids may otherwise miss out on the opportunity to play. Since December last year, when winter sports junior registrations opened, more than 13 000 vouchers have been provided across WA. That is a total of over \$3 million. As a footy and netball mum and long-term community-sport volunteer, I know firsthand how important small things like this can be when sports registration time rolls around, and when putting on fundraisers for things like new training equipment, sports uniforms or trips away to compete in state or national events.

Bicton is home to many great emerging sporting talents who have been chosen to represent or are working towards representing their school, sporting club and communities in elite competitions. It takes exceptional commitment by athletes and their families for an athlete to reach the top level. I am proud to support these efforts through sponsorships to help them achieve these goals.

Attadale Netball Club is one of the biggest and fastest growing netball clubs in the electorate of Bicton. It has over 500 members, which means it is essential that the right needs are met to ensure that the netball club can grow. I was proud to commit \$100 000 to Attadale Netball Club for shelters at the future Dyoondalup Point Walter multi-use courts, which are well underway. I give a special shout-out to the incredible club president, Lisa Wild, and her committee for the amazing work they do for all at the Attadale Netball Club and beyond, into their communities.

We are levelling the playing field for women and girls in Bicton. Work is now underway at Wauhop Park to upgrade the facilities to service the growing needs of the Fremantle City Football Club. That is a round-ball version of the game! I was proud to pledge \$600 000 together with my electorate neighbour the member for Fremantle towards upgrades for the Fremantle City Football Club's centre for girls' and women's excellence in East Fremantle, which has the highest participation rate for girls and women playing football in WA. I give my sincere thanks to club president Tony Estrano and women's and girls' coordinator David Cain, the players, coaches, committee and supporters for the goals they are kicking for female footy here in Bicton and beyond.

Although Fremantle Surf Life Saving Club is not within the Bicton electoral boundaries, it is the surf lifesaving club of choice for many throughout our community. All of us Bictonites consider Port and Leighton Beaches to be our local beaches. I do not have to tell members how important the work is that the Fremantle Surf Life Saving Club and all lifesaving clubs do each and every day. That is why I was proud to deliver \$15 000 for lifesaving and training equipment, which is essential for developing the skills of lifesavers so that we can all be better protected at the beach. Thank you to FSLSC, the Port Beach Polar Bears and the beached whale swim clubs for everything they do for beach protection and beach users' safety.

Additionally, I am proud of the role I played in securing \$3.2 million for beach erosion protection of Port Beach, with successfully delivered sand nourishment programs to ensure ongoing community use of this place, which is greatly loved by the people of Bicton and beyond.

Troy Park Sporting Association facilities are home to multiple junior sporting clubs and community groups, including the Y Striders running club and Attadale Bombers Junior Football Club. I want to get it on the record today that I am continuing to advocate for the growing needs of the Troy Park sporting community. I have been in discussions with the Troy Park Sporting Association over a number of years about the fact that its facilities are no longer fit for purpose, especially to meet the current standards for female change rooms and the massive increase in female participation in sport. This is an important facility for the Attadale community, and I welcome further discussions about how we can meet the growing needs of the Troy Park community.

I sincerely thank Troy Park Sporting Association president, Greg Peters, and his committee for their continued advocacy for improving the facilities at Troy Park to meet the needs of the growing sporting community right on the shores of the beautiful Derbarl Yerrigan, or Swan River.

The Winnacott Oval Reserve in Willagee is home to multiple sporting clubs and kids, including my own, who played many games of football there when they were younger. The facilities at the reserve are under pressure and are also no longer fit for purpose for the growing needs of the Winnacott Eagles Amateur Football Club and the Winnacott Kats Junior Football Club. The Winnacott Eagles have a formidable history and culture and are now over 250 members strong. The club has exhibited legendary football talent while concurrently focusing on providing a strong and supportive community environment since 1968. This year, the Winnacott Eagles club will hold its second "Bravo" round at Winnacott Reserve to raise funds for the Western Australian Police Legacy foundation

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

in honour of the life of Eagles football club player police constable Anthony “Bravo” Woods, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty in June 2023. This year the “Bravo” round is scheduled for 15 June against Roleystone, and I have it on good authority it is going to be an absolute screamer!

[Member’s time extended.]

Mrs L.M. O’MALLEY: I am proud to be supporting this year’s “Bravo” round by providing assistance and support to help ensure that this year’s round is another great success. I encourage everyone throughout the electorate of Bicton and beyond to come along to the “Bravo” round, which will bring together our wonderful community from all walks of life to commemorate the legacy of one of the club’s most loved members. I say a special thankyou to Winnacott Eagles president Logan Duncan-Smith and secretary Ed Scheepmaker, and to the Winnacott Kats club president Jeff Knight, for welcoming me so wholeheartedly. I am excited to see how I can assist these great clubs going forward.

I am grateful for the vital role our sporting clubs play in the community and I make it a top priority to help facilitate greater participation and engagement in sports. I understand the challenges that ageing infrastructure poses. Winnacott Reserve’s facilities are also no longer fit for purpose and are really unable to deal with the increased participation in the sports played at the oval, particularly the rapid increase in female participation. Other clubs in my electorate of Bicton that are facing similar issues include Melville Water Polo Club and the Fremantle Rowing Club. I also affirm that I am committed to doing whatever I can to support their clubs’ infrastructure needs.

I acknowledge all the sporting clubs throughout the electorate of Bicton and their members, supporters and volunteers who have given so much to one of our community’s much-loved organisations. I say thank you to all the sporting clubs throughout the electorate, including the following junior clubs: Attadale Junior Football Club, Attadale Netball Club, Bicton Junior Cricket Club, Bicton Netball Club, St Christopher’s Netball Club, East Fremantle Junior Cricket Club, East Fremantle Junior Football Club, Fremantle City Football Club, Wauhopp Park, Melville Junior Football Club, Melville Lakers Netball Club, Melville Water Polo Club, Palmyra Junior Football Club and Winnacott Kats Junior Football Club. I cannot express how important the work you do for our community is to me and everyone throughout the electorate of Bicton. When we support sporting clubs, we build stronger, healthier, happier and safer communities, along with the development of future leaders and the growth of their communities.

In conclusion, this budget, like the seven before it, will deliver great things across our wonderful state and it will most definitely deliver for the people of Bicton. This is a budget for now and for the future, in health; mental health and wellbeing; cost-of-living relief; housing and homelessness; environment and climate action; education and training; small business support; creative industries; economic diversification and energy transition; public infrastructure and so much more. This budget has something for everyone. It is a budget that does what is right for Western Australia and I commend it to the house.

MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara) [6.10 pm]: I rise today to support the Appropriation (Capital 2024–25) Bill 2024 and the Appropriation (Recurrent 2024–25) Bill 2024 and what this means for the Pilbara economy and local communities. I commend our hardworking Treasurer, Hon Rita Saffioti, on delivering her first state budget as Treasurer and delivering the eighth budget of our Western Australian Labor government. As the Treasurer mentioned, navigating our exceptional economy and the accompanying population growth poses challenges and pressures. These include addressing the growing demand for housing, health care and education services, all of which strain existing infrastructure and resources. That is why I am proud to be a part of the Cook Labor government that has demonstrated responsible financial management. I also want to congratulate the Treasurer for delivering a strong and fair budget. This budget focuses on creating more jobs for the future, diversifying our economy and investing significantly in key services. Additionally, it provides support for the cost of living to all Western Australians across the state, including in the Pilbara, during these challenging times.

I would like to thank Hon Paul Papalia, MLA, the Minister for Police; Corrective Services; Racing and Gaming; Defence Industry; Veterans Issues for coming to Karratha to deliver the budget in the morning. I would also like to thank Hon Stephen Dawson, MLC, the Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Medical Research. I thank Hon Reece Whitby, MLA, the Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action for presenting the 2024–25 state budget in Port Hedland.

The Pilbara is the economic powerhouse of Western Australia and in recognising the Pilbara as a vital economic driver for Western Australia, it is important to sustain its strength and resilience. Keeping the Pilbara strong means supporting local industries and jobs, which in turn benefits the broader economy. However, this task comes with its share of challenges, especially in managing the region’s growth amidst a rising population and an increase in projects. Balancing these factors is crucial to ensuring the Pilbara continues to thrive while contributing significantly to the broader economy. I am proud that the Cook government is doing what is right for Western Australia and the Pilbara, with significant investment in cost-of-living support, jobs, health, education, training, infrastructure and community services across the Pilbara in this budget. I would like to thank the Cook government for providing

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

important cost-of-living relief for local households, particularly in the Pilbara. This includes the \$400 household electricity credit to help keep household fees and charges below inflation. This is the fourth time our government has delivered this household electricity credit. This is on top of the more than \$3 billion invested to subsidise the cost of water and electricity, which Pilbara residents welcome. They are aware that we pay the same costs as people who live in Perth. Another policy that has been warmly received by Pilbara residents is the WA student assistance payment, which eases the pressure of school expenses by providing \$150 for WA kindergarten and primary school students, and \$250 for secondary school students. In the Pilbara, 3 326 students have taken up this assistance program. I am hopeful and confident that more will take it up.

I am also pleased that the regional airfare zone cap has been extended to the end of 2025. It caps airfares at \$299 one way for Pilbara residents to travel from the Pilbara to Perth. I would like to thank the government for its commitment to this airfare cap because it has been asked for since 2017 when I doorknocked every resident. It goes without saying that this is the only government that is investing in regional Western Australia. Only a Cook Labor government will work in the best interests of regional WA and the Pilbara. I am pleased to see that the Regional Pensioner Travel Card value has increased by \$100, which means that our seniors in the Pilbara region will have additional financial support when travelling. I want to thank the Minister for Regional Development; Seniors and Ageing; Disability Services; Fisheries; Volunteering for meeting with and delivering for many seniors in my electorate. Other cost-of-living relief measures, such as free flu vaccinations, fee-free TAFE programs and free regional school bus services will all make a huge difference to Pilbara residents.

This budget has a record \$12.8 billion investment in regional infrastructure and billions more in regional service delivery over the next four years. This is in addition to the \$4 billion in royalties for regions funding. I know a lot of people say that we have removed royalties for regions, but people do not understand that royalties for regions is, I am proud to say, in legislation and will be delivered every year by this government. I am pleased that the Cook government is continuing to deliver the Lumsden Point development. It consists of \$629.1 million of state and commonwealth funding to establish a new berth and facilities at Lumsden Point at the port of Port Hedland to support renewable energy and critical minerals projects. The project has been progressing rapidly, with the seawalls at Lumsden Point nearing completion, enabling the next stages of the project to get underway, including dredging and causeway construction. I am proud to be part of the Cook government that continues to invest in infrastructure that fuels future prosperity and supports growing regional jobs growth.

The \$140 million for the Pilbara hydrogen hub is jointly funded with the commonwealth government. This hub will be a major centre for hydrogen production and export, with the potential to become an international gateway to Australian-made green steel and iron. This project will bring thousands of jobs to the Pilbara as well as strengthen and diversify our economy for the future. Construction will commence this year, with the hub expected to become operational in mid-2028. Further investments aimed at bolstering the Pilbara's economy and fostering local employment include a \$500 million allocation to unlock strategic industrial areas such as Boodarie, Maitland, Ashburton North and Anketell. This funding will facilitate the development of job-generating clean energy industries and prepare these areas for projects in growing sectors like critical minerals and hydrogen. There is also \$39.1 million towards the Burrup seawater supply scheme upgrades to support industrial growth, and another \$148 million to support the development of transmission network infrastructure in the north west interconnected system in the Pilbara.

I am pleased that this budget is delivering \$165 million for outdoor adventure tourism to make it easier to see our sights. This includes \$1 million for upgrades at Cape Keraudren boat ramp; \$2.5 million for a new trail to provide access to and views of Red Gorge at Karijini National Park; \$5 million towards a new contract with Fairbridge for the lease and operation of five department-owned school camps, including Dampier school camp; and further investment in events to attract visitors to the regions such as the Karijini Experience, the Outback Fusion Festival, and the Red Earth Arts Festival in Karratha, which are significant events in the Pilbara calendar. I attended the Karijini Experience last month with my parliamentary colleague Hon Peter Foster, MLC. We had a wonderful time connecting with Banjima country and immersing ourselves in culture, art and nature amongst the breathtaking landscape of Karijini National Park. Investing in the Pilbara's tourism industry means more visitors to our regions, the creation of local jobs, support for local businesses and help to diversify our Pilbara economy.

The Cook government's significant investment in regional health and mental health continues, with an allocation of a significant \$17.3 million to enhance healthcare infrastructure in the Pilbara region.

Earlier this month, I was pleased to join the Minister for Health, Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson, in South Hedland to announce the investment of a \$15 million MRI machine at Hedland Health Campus. A further \$2.3 million will be invested to establish a four-chair dialysis unit at Karratha Health Campus. This will add to the existing services in the Pilbara region at Port Hedland, Onslow, Roebourne and Jigalong. A lot of elders from Roebourne have advocated with me and I am proud that in the future we will be able to provide dialysis for one of our elders from Roebourne, Tootsie Daniels, who has advocated a lot with me in that regard. Too often, families are forced to endure separation to access life-saving renal dialysis services. With the introduction of these new renal chairs, patients will have the

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

opportunity to remain close to home, surrounded by their family and loved ones. This will not only enhance their quality of care, but will also foster a supportive environment integral to the healing process.

Other initiatives in the 2024–25 state budget for the Pilbara include \$405 million to develop and boost regional healthcare services delivery, including nearly \$12 million to incentivise nurses and midwives to work in the regions; a \$32.5 million boost to the patient assisted travel scheme; and \$8.6 million to expand child development services in the regions. These investments are important to ensure that people in the Pilbara have access to quality health and mental health services.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our dedicated healthcare workers, especially those in the Pilbara, who continue to provide first-class patient care every single day. Being on the front line is not easy but it is very much appreciated.

The state budget prioritises education and training with a \$195 million investment to ensure training remains affordable and to facilitate more local workers entering future job markets. This includes Pilbara residents who will continue to have access to training opportunities through an \$8 million top-up of the successful fee-free TAFE initiative in 2025. This significant investment aims to bolster the Pilbara's skilled workforce and support residents in securing employment opportunities so they can live and work in the Pilbara.

I was pleased to see \$11.6 million invested to continue and expand the driving access and equity program that assists young people in the Pilbara to obtain a driver's licence. Without a driver's licence, opportunities and access to essential services in the regions is challenging. This investment will also boost job prospects.

Other investments include \$4.2 million to continue providing specialist services for Aboriginal people at jobs and skills centres in Karratha and Hedland.

I am pleased to see that the Cook government will continue to improve education outcomes for Pilbara students. Last month, I was pleased to join the Minister for Training and Workforce Development, Hon Simone McGurk, to attend the official opening of two cutting-edge trades workshops at North Regional TAFE's Pundulmurra campus, fulfilling an election commitment with a total of \$48.9 million in upgrades. These state-of-the-art workshops, designed by MPS Architects and constructed by the Decmil Group, are equipped with modern classrooms and specialised training areas to prepare apprentices and school-based trainees for careers in heavy automotive, heavy mobile and fixed plant, and engineering trades. These new facilities will enable people to get the skills they need locally and go on to a rewarding career right in the Pilbara.

It will be exciting to witness the much-anticipated \$72.4 million redevelopment of Roebourne District High School. This is another project that I was very fond of. I advocated very hard to ensure that the government stuck to its promise and built the school. This project has been developed in partnership with the First Nation people of the Roebourne area, including the Ngarluma, Yindjibarndi and Banjima language groups.

I am also pleased to see various projects underway at our schools across the Pilbara, including a \$6.1 million expansion at Baler Primary School in South Hedland, \$6.3 million for a new classroom block at Cassia Primary School in South Hedland, \$1 million for the refurbishment of the music hall at Dampier Primary School and \$700 000 to repurpose a STEM classroom at Newman Senior High School. I am proud to be part of a Cook government that is committed to ensuring students across the Pilbara receive a high-quality education. These upgrades will not only enhance learning experiences, but also create jobs for locals.

It is always great to catch up with principals, P&C members and staff of the schools to talk about various issues and the future for their schools. Education is important to me, and I am passionate about ensuring our schools thrive in the Pilbara. I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to all school staff and families for their efforts in keeping students safe and engaged in their learning. The dedication and care shown by our principals, teachers and staff members in maintaining a safe learning environment for students is truly appreciated.

The 2024–25 state budget also brings continued investment in regional roads and transport projects. As someone who regularly drives around my electorate—often for six and a half hours at a time—it is fantastic to see all the work being done by Main Roads, particularly on Great Northern Highway. I am proud to be part of the Cook government, which is taking action on road improvement and safety along Great Northern Highway. With the commencement of 11 new overtaking lanes between Newman and Port Hedland, valued at \$50 million, we are not just upgrading roads, but also investing in the future of the Pilbara region. These lanes will support our booming mining industry, boost economic development and ensure safer travels for all road users, especially heavy vehicle drivers.

I am also pleased that our government is bringing road maintenance back after it was outsourced by the Liberal–National government in the 1990s. Returning road maintenance functions to Main Roads means more local jobs, improved conditions for workers and, importantly, better response times to issues on our network.

[Member's time extended.]

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

Mr K.J.J. MICHEL: I am proud that the Cook government is delivering \$60 million to continue the Marble Bar Road upgrades. This road is the only link for a number of communities in the East Pilbara for food supplies and essential services. The wet season can see this road closed for up to three months, and communities become isolated. This upgrade will improve safety and connectivity for tourism, industry and the inland Pilbara community.

The Cook government is continuing to deliver the \$380 million Manuwarra Red Dog Highway between Karratha and Tom Price. This is another important project of mine. I wanted it completed years and years ago. It is only a Labor government that will complete this road. I am proud to say that we have finished stage 3 and planning for stage 4 is underway and will be completed.

Further investments include an additional \$21 million to the regional road safety program to upgrade 152 kilometres of roads in the Pilbara and \$17 million for essential roadworks at the Utah Point bulk handling facility in the port of Port Hedland to service heavy traffic loads that are critical to facilitating trade; and \$101 million in additional funding over four years for construction of the Dampier bulk handling facility.

The 2024–25 state budget will ensure that Pilbara communities are kept safe and strong, especially with a \$23.4 million investment to extend Operation Regional Shield to tackle youth crime. Operation Regional Shield enables additional police capability to be deployed to the Pilbara as necessary to tackle juvenile offending. This is a welcomed initiative as it gives our local police more resources to respond to criminal activity and keep our community safe. I express my appreciation to our police officers for their hard work in keeping the Pilbara community safe. The budget also continues the Cook government's commitment to rehabilitating offenders and improving infrastructure within Western Australia's custodial estate, and includes \$3.1 million in additional funding to facilitate the installation of air conditioning at Roebourne Regional Prison.

Protecting victim-survivors of family and domestic violence is a key focus of the 2024–25 state budget. Sadly, it has been reported that the rate of domestic violence in the Pilbara continues to be the second-worst rate in WA and is more than five times the rate in the Perth metropolitan area. As part of the 2024–25 state budget, the Cook government has committed \$96.4 million to family and domestic violence initiatives, including \$19 million to continue the operation of the expanded family and domestic violence coordinated response service, which works in partnership with the police, and \$25.6 million to have these teams operate seven days a week. I am also working alongside the Salvation Army to build a new women's refuge in Karratha. I know that it has been five years in the making, but we have started the earthworks in Karratha. The construction of the buildings has also begun in Port Hedland and they will be transferred to Karratha, hopefully by the end of the year. I thank the Minister for Community Services for supporting this great project by giving us yearly operational money to run this project. I welcome the \$26.4 million for programs and initiatives to address family and domestic violence across regional WA, including boosting the family and domestic violence response teams in Karratha and Port Hedland.

Community safety is a concern that is raised by many constituents when I doorknock, so I am pleased to see that our government is investing in initiatives that aim to keep our communities safe and strong. I am pleased to see the Cook government investing \$8.6 million to support WA's vitally important emergency services volunteers with communications equipment, road crash rescue equipment and station upgrades. Last month, I had the privilege of joining the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Stephen Dawson, MLC, to provide our exceptional local emergency services volunteers with a new marine rescue vehicle and four additional frontline response vehicles. These invaluable resources will enhance the Pilbara region's capacity to respond effectively to fires, marine incidents and storm and flood emergencies. Marine Rescue Dampier received the *Dampier Legend*, a \$950 000 search-and-rescue boat. It joins the *Dampier Angel*, which was launched in 2023. The Dampier Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service got a \$250 000 light tanker with advanced safety features, in addition to a \$813 000 heavy rescue appliance, while Karratha State Emergency Service, Roebourne District State Emergency Service and Onslow Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services all received \$150 000 general rescue utility vehicles to provide a rapid response to various emergencies. I was also pleased to attend the Karratha Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service's open day last month, when the local community could walk through the upgraded fire station and see the new urban pump appliance, which was officially handed over to the brigade on 15 December 2023, and the new fire truck. I am proud to be part of the Cook government, which looks after the needs of our firefighters and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services by supporting the Karratha VFRS with a new urban pumper heavy rescue appliance in December 2023 at a cost of \$813 000 and a \$1 million upgrade to the station, which was completed earlier this year. Our volunteer firefighters—most of them are volunteers—do an amazing job in the regions. It is very important that they have the best equipment so that they can do their job safely and quickly. I take this moment to thank all emergency services volunteers across the Pilbara; their commitment to helping others, even in challenging situations, is truly appreciated. Their efforts do not go unnoticed. We are grateful for everything they do for our community. I thank Hon Stephen Dawson for his support, for listening to my advocacy and for helping us to get the best equipment.

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

I am pleased to see that this budget has committed an additional \$1.1 billion investment to boost housing supply and affordability. Boosting land and housing supply is crucial, especially with a growing population in the Pilbara region, attributed to various projects. The allocation of \$13 million to develop 51 new residential lots at Madigan at Baynton West in Karratha is a significant step in addressing the increasing demand for housing. In the past, land in the Pilbara cost \$365 000 a lot. Today, people can get land for much less—from \$90 000 to \$200 000, depending on the lot size. This is how the Cook Labor government looks at helping people in the regions—by reducing the cost of land. All I can say is that members opposite talk rubbish; they say that we do not do anything in regional WA.

I am also pleased to see funding for other initiatives, such as \$400 million for social and affordable housing projects, including in the Pilbara; a \$43.8 million additional investment for Government Regional Officers' Housing; as well as the delivery of \$30.6 million for the Pilbara Aboriginal home ownership program, which will provide 28 homes with affordable rentals, with an option to purchase. It is evident that the Cook government is aware of the housing pressures that are being felt in this state and is addressing housing supply from all angles, including by increasing support for first home buyers by lifting stamp duty exemptions and concession thresholds. There are many more commitments in this budget in which priority has been given to the needs of the regions, including the Pilbara. I congratulate the Premier, Treasurer and ministers for delivering a budget that will keep the Pilbara strong and vibrant, and one that highlights the importance of the Pilbara to the Western Australian economy. The Cook government is a financially responsible government. On behalf of the Pilbara community, I commend the bills to the house.

MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka — Parliamentary Secretary) [6.36 pm]: I also rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2024–25) Bill 2024 and the Appropriation (Capital 2024–25) Bill 2024, which are colloquially known as the budget. I will start, as others have done, by acknowledging the work of our Treasurer, Hon Rita Saffioti, and congratulating her for handing down her first budget. Of course, the budget continues the tradition of this government, since it was elected in 2017, of responsibly managing the finances and then using that responsible management as a way to invest in infrastructure, build the economy and share the wealth of this great state with the people of Western Australia in a variety of ways. That has been the theme and commitment of this government since it was elected in 2017 and continues to be the approach that this government takes. It has been incredibly successful.

Many speakers before me referenced the mess we inherited on coming to government following the Liberal and National years of government. Not surprisingly, that government was removed in 2017 for a range of reasons, but one of those was the lack of sound financial management that the people of this state had endured. I find it a bit rich when members opposite come in here and say that we are squandering a boom when that was indeed the case for all those years that we had that Liberal–National government in Western Australia. We had record levels of income coming out of mining and other industries but literally nothing to show for it. I remember the cuts that that government started to make in a range of areas when it was coming to an end. People were feeling it through unemployment and underemployment. At the time, the underemployment level was about 10 per cent—one of the highest levels we have ever experienced. Ten per cent of people wanted to work more hours but were unable to get those hours, and there were falling levels of participation in the labour market as people basically gave up hope of finding work. There had not been investment in our local industries or infrastructure. Lots of work that should have come out of that mining boom was simply sent offshore. We had a ludicrous situation in which things were made entirely overseas and then shipped to mine sites in the north west.

There is a lot one can say about the economic performance and the turnaround that has happened in that time. It is really critical that Labor governments always understand that economic and social success, and community cohesion, comes when the economy grows and the benefits are shared around the community so that everyone benefits. That is at the heart of the difference between our side of politics and the other. Although they might want to grow the economy, there is no commitment to sharing the benefits of that economic growth around community in a way that is fair or equitable. We can point to significant periods when the other side of politics failed to invest in growing the economic productivity of this state. In 2017, we understood that jobs were a key part of that economic success. If we were to grow the economy, then people needed to be able to participate in that economy with a good quality job, because that is one way that we are able to share that economic wealth and ensure the wellbeing of individuals and families. That is why we committed early on in that term to creating 150 000 additional jobs. The Treasurer talked about it on budget day as an incredible achievement. We have created 300 000 additional jobs since being elected. That is in stark contrast to where we were, in simple economic terms, in 2017.

Today I really want to talk about education. A couple of education bills have made their way through this house. At different times, I had prepared some comments but did not get an opportunity to talk to them, so the question of education has been on my mind for the last couple of months. We heard from members of opposition parties—not so much in this sitting block but in previous ones—who came in here sounding a lot like fully paid-up members

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

of the State School Teachers' Union of WA or one of the other education unions and making a range of claims about the deficiencies of this government in respect of public education. I have to say that I found that pretty difficult to listen to because I remember what the Liberal–National government did in education when it was last in government. It is really important to go back and remember what those parties did when they last had the opportunity in government.

As we have heard, in a number of key policy areas, the Liberals and the Nationals WA do not have a comprehensive suite of policies that set out for the Western Australian people what they would do if they won government. They have no policies in the significant area of housing or in other areas. If there is a dearth of policies, it is very easy to come in here and sling criticism at us. It is really important to understand that these political parties will say and do anything to get elected. We have particularly seen that with the Liberals in the last couple of weeks when it made policy announcements about puberty blockers, clearly not grappling with the significant issues facing the people of Western Australia. They have been willing to say and do anything to get themselves elected, hoping that they will be able to fool the Western Australian people enough to pick up some additional seats at the next election. I want to say quite earnestly that I think that never works. I think people are cleverer than our opposite numbers in the corner give them credit for. I think that people pay a lot of attention and they reward governments that do the hard work. If oppositions do the hard work and develop policies and have something substantial to say, they can see that. But the public does not buy parties that say and do anything to get elected. Never mind what those members come in here and say. Let us look at what they did when they last sat on the government side of this chamber.

I remember in 2016 when they implemented huge cuts to the education system. We heard a lot in the lead-up to the industrial action that the teachers' union took fairly recently about the scale of that industrial action. I wanted to take the opportunity to remind the house that one of the biggest industrial actions that have taken place in Western Australia was, in fact, against the cuts to education put in place by the Liberal–National government in 2016. I know that because I was there. There was a massive turnout of 20 000 people in the city and industrial action took place right around the state. It was a huge rally and people at the time commented that the only sort of rally or strike that they could remember that was bigger was when Court and Kierath took the knife to industrial legislation when the previous Liberal–National coalition had held office. One thing we can rely on from Liberal–National governments is that they will attack working people enough to lead to massive industrial action. It was huge industrial action. I remember seeing people on strike on Christmas Island. People had gathered together, made a sign, taken a photo and participated in an action because they were so outraged by the action taken. It involved not just the teachers' union. A range of educators and unions were involved in that event, but the community was there as well. One of the great things that came out of that was the activation of a range of parents who saw the cuts that were being made and wanted to get involved in a community campaign to put a stop to them. The member for Bicton was indeed one of the parents activated by those cuts. She became a member of a group called Save Our Schools and subsequently ended up in Parliament. There was one good thing that came from the actions taken by that government at that time. That action involved not just working people, but also the community. They hated those cuts, and quite rightly.

I want to share with the chamber some things that were said about those cuts at the time because people do not always remember what they read many years ago. It is important to recall these things. An article by Yasmine Phillips in PerthNow of 6 March 2014 is headed —

WA Premier Colin Barnett doubts teachers want to strike ahead of April 1 walkout over education cuts

He was proven wrong about that because people did walk out. The article states —

When asked what he thought of feedback from some parents that public education funding should not be cut at a time when Elizabeth Quay and Perth's new stadium are being built, Mr Barnett replied: "What I'd say to you and people listening, (is) get a life".

The concerns that people were raising about the priorities of that government were dismissed out of hand. I want to talk about the cuts again and how they were going to affect schools. This is really important because we have heard a lot about how we are disadvantaging people. I refer to an article again in PerthNow of 19 October 2013 that states —

THE biggest losers in the Barnett Government's cuts to education funding are some of the state's most vulnerable students.

A report obtained by The Sunday Times reveals the 30 per cent across-the-board reduction to the School Support Program Resource Allocation—which helps schools tackle behaviour, attendance, literacy and numeracy problems—will hit many remote Aboriginal communities the hardest.

In debate in this place, we have talked about and remember the savage cuts that the Liberals and Nationals made to small, remote Aboriginal communities and their scandalous impact. I want to reflect on some of those details,

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

which can be found in the same article. Halls Creek District High School copped a \$159 918 cut the next year, which was three per cent of its total resources. Fitzroy Valley District High School had a \$114 417 cut, representing 2.6 per cent of its budget. Other losers included the then Kununurra District High School, which lost just under \$200 000. Carnarvon Community College—we hear a lot about Carnarvon in this place—had \$150 568, or 1.9 per cent, cut from its budget, and Derby District High School had a cut of 2.11 per cent. The Ngaanyatjarra Lands School, where most of the school's 300 students spoke different Indigenous dialects as their first language, suffered the hardest blow, with a loss of \$210 722, or 5.2 per cent of its budget.

We have heard a lot in recent months about our government's performance in education, but—I tell you what—the Liberals and Nationals' performance when they were last in government was not just about teachers' pay. They were implementing real cuts to school funds, mostly having an impact on the most vulnerable students in our system. What did the Australian Education Union, the teachers' union, have to say at the time? I know that the Minister for Education has had the teachers' union quoted to him quite a lot. It said —

... the Barnett Government has made huge cuts to schools funding across WA and has failed to pass on needs-based Gonski funding from the Federal Government to public schools.

... WA's public schools have seen their real per student funding drop by 10.6% between 2009 and 2014 and student/staff ratios have risen from 14.5 to 15.5. Private schools have seen their State Government funding increase during the same period.

... President Correna Haythorpe said failing to pass on Gonski funding was failing WA students and denying them the opportunities extra resources were giving to children in the rest of Australia.

“The WA Government has abandoned its public schools and delivered cuts which have hit disadvantaged students the hardest,” Ms Haythorpe said.

She said that at the time. I have to say that I find it a bit rich to listen to the contributions about education because it seems that members of the Liberal–National opposition have pretty short memories about what their performance looked like when they were in government. I talked about the figures, but it is really important to reflect on the fact that \$180 million was taken out of the education budget and 500 jobs were cut, and many of the jobs cut were for education assistants who provide support to the most vulnerable students in the system. I am not sure whether the opposition is in any place to come in here and lecture us about education. When people contemplate our record since we were elected in 2017, the contrast is very stark.

I want to talk about that because it has been a significant and important achievement, and not just when it is contrasted with the kind of axe that the Liberal–National government took to education. It has been a substantial contribution to our public education system. When we were elected in 2017, we inherited a pretty sorry state of affairs. Cuts had been made, and some of the staff who were supporting our most vulnerable students had gone. As we have heard, we had bigger student–staff ratios and bigger class sizes because of the woeful management of those who are now in opposition. In contrast, what have we done? We have invested significantly in school infrastructure, and the Minister for Education recently talked about how our government has invested a record \$4.4 billion in building and upgrading schools right across WA. This budget delivers another \$1.6 billion over the forward estimates. Since 2017, we have opened 32 new primary schools, with two more due to open next year, and 10 new high schools have been built.

I spent a bit of time going through the many budget papers. Next week at the forward estimates we will be able to go through them in detail, but I want to refer members to the long, long list of the asset investment program for education. At one stage, I thought it would be good to read them all, but there are too many and it might take quite some time to get through them. Literally, there is a list of 94 colleges, schools, upgrades and projects that are being undertaken to invest in the infrastructure of our school system. I am really excited that Balga Senior High School is on that list; it will have a new performing arts centre and science, technology, engineering and mathematics—STEM—laboratory built soon. People in Balga are incredibly excited to see that project start and be completed. People are excited not just in the school but also in the community because it will be a great investment in our community. There are 94 capital projects.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: That is a significant investment, but we have not just delivered infrastructure. We have upgraded literally hundreds of schools, both high schools and primary schools, with new science classrooms. More than 300 public schools have had upgrades to their science facilities since Labor was elected in 2017, and a couple of tranches of money have been allocated for that. I understand that about 30 public schools have opened new science classrooms just this year. An impressive list of school improvements is happening right around the state, not just to meet the increased population but also to invest in our schools because we understand that public education is one of the key planks of ensuring that this state will succeed both economically and socially in the future. We have

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

not stopped at infrastructure because we know that the heart of a school is not the buildings but what happens in the school.

I want to mention the schools clean energy technology fund, which is another great initiative of this government. We have upgraded many schools with solar panels and energy-efficient lighting. I also want to give a shout-out to Synergy's virtual power plant program, which has assisted schools with batteries. Over the last four years, about 240 public schools have had access to the clean energy technology program, which not only helps them to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also reduces their energy costs, one of the major costs for schools, so they can transition into the clean energy future and benefit from the savings of those kinds of investments. It is consistent with this government's values and a really important program that schools in my electorate and right around the state have benefited from.

We have expanded the autism specialist learning program to 24 schools. We provide specialist support to students who need it most. It is also important to mention the grants of \$5 000 that were introduced to support education assistants who are working in public schools in a setting with a child with a disability. We are making sure that we run programs and support staff to provide those specialist services.

I should also mention that one of the first acts we did in government was to re-employ some of the education assistants who had lost their jobs, including some Aboriginal education assistants, to ensure that people are in classrooms to work with the most vulnerable students. We did not just stop there. We have been doing much more besides.

The Minister for Education increased funding to the School of Isolated and Distance Education by over \$7.1 million for students in regional areas. Indeed, we know that is used by many students who are not in regional areas but perhaps cannot access the ATAR course of study they want. That is a way that people can get flexibility, even if their local high school does not offer a program.

I also want to talk about the work we are doing to support students. We are not just investing in infrastructure and programs; we are also making sure that supports are there to help students. There are a couple of things, but one thing that I think is such an important and sensible policy initiative is the introduction of free period products. A great initiative of this government is providing free period products into 120 secondary schools and TAFE colleges. Just this year, we announced that it was being rolled out to another 570 primary schools from term 3 of this year. This is an outstanding initiative. It obviously provides some cost-of-living support for people who need it. I do not have the book with me, but I will refer to a very good memoir called *Tell me again* by Amy Thunig. I do not know whether the Minister for Education has read it, but it is a very compelling story about a young Indigenous woman in very disadvantaged circumstances. She was bright, capable and passionate about going to school, getting an education and making a difference in her life. In her book, she talks in quite compelling terms about the choices she often faced as a young woman who had parents affected by incarceration and addiction. She made choices between buying period products or buying food. If she wanted to go to school, she needed period products, but that meant that she went without food, often for long periods of time. Our program of introducing period products is incredibly important for keeping disadvantaged students in school so they can have the opportunities to transform their lives. I urge anyone who thinks that this is not an important policy to read that book. I found it very sobering because she gives a very honest and raw account of what it looks like. It is a really important initiative.

Free public transport is, again, a fantastic initiative of this government. For some students who are disadvantaged, the opportunity to travel without cost to and from school can make the difference between getting to school or not. It also saves families money. If a family has two kids in school, it will save up to \$560 a year. It is a great way to support families and assist with the cost of living. For some people, that will be the difference between whether they get to school or not, and to use the frame of reference that Amy had in her book, whether they get to eat or have to spend that money on getting to school. It is a fantastic initiative.

I want to talk about the increase we have introduced to the conveyance allowance for students in regional areas. The member for Roe has been a strong advocate for this, but the reality is that it took a Labor government to deliver it. That is the truth. The Labor government has doubled the allowance from 25¢ per kilometre to 55¢ per kilometre. I acknowledge the member for Roe, who was part of the committee with me when we looked at that, but the reality is that the Labor government has delivered it, and we have been able to do that because of the strong financial management we have put in place. It is very telling that despite the protestations of the member for Roe and others, it was never addressed in the eight and a half years of the Liberal–National government. It is a great initiative and one way that we can assist students in regional areas when they are unable to catch the orange school bus.

The student assistance payment is a significant policy initiative. Many people have talked about it in their contributions today. What an incredible support for families and students it is! It is \$250 for each high school student and \$150 for primary school and kindergarten students. That is a brilliant initiative. It will make a real difference to families right around WA, but for the families that I represent in my community, this is incredibly important. I take the opportunity to congratulate the government, the Minister for Education, the Treasurer and all those involved in putting

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

this initiative in place. It is incredibly important. I also take this opportunity to encourage all parents in my community to make sure they complete their application before 28 June so that they do not miss out. It is a fantastic initiative that is a cost-of-living relief and another way that we are keeping students in school and engaged in learning.

I am almost out of time. I had a lot of other things I wanted to talk about. I need to talk about the federal agreement. I congratulate the minister for his work in signing the statement of intent with the federal government, securing that increase in funding for all public schools in WA from 90 per cent of the schooling resourcing standard to 100 per cent by 2026. The most disadvantaged schools will be funded first through that arrangement. The Cook government has also invested an equivalent amount over the period. The total investment from the state and federal governments is \$1.6 billion. That is an incredible achievement. Again, it stands in stark contrast with the cuts that were implemented in education through the years of the Liberal–National government. That is a significant achievement. The minister should be very proud of that. It delivers funding that we need into the schools that most need it, and it will make a difference to all students in Western Australia.

I could not finish without mentioning that we are also helping kids go to Rottnest Island for their camps. It is an important initiative for the people I represent. Two schools have been successful: the students at Girrawheen Senior High School and Balga Primary School in my electorate will have the opportunity to go to Rottnest. Many of them will never have been to Rottnest before. It is not something they can afford to do, but we are making it affordable by providing subsidies for accommodation and ferry transfers. It is a fantastic way that we are making sure that school students get not just a great education in school, but also to participate in those extracurricular activities.

There is probably a lot more that I could say, but I am out of time and conscious of the hour. I was not going to talk for this long. There is so much to say. I take this opportunity to recognise the former Minister for Education and Training, Hon Sue Ellery. I recognise Minister Buti for his work. We have done so much in education. We have not just delivered better infrastructure and better programs; we have also supported programs to fund teachers to help them go to remote and regional areas. We have funding to support education assistants to study disability. We are investing in staff, programs and infrastructure, and providing support for the most vulnerable students to make sure they can keep going to school. We are also giving families the support they need through the student assistance payment. We on this side of the house understand that access to a quality education is one of the things that allow young people to transform their lives, and that is why we are so committed to it. If members did a headcount, they would find there are now more teachers in the Labor caucus than union officials, and that really speaks to the fact that this is a party that fundamentally believes in the importance of public education. It is not something we are just doing now; it is something that we have always done and we will always believe in. We will continue to invest in it, and our record stands in stark contrast to what the Liberal–National government left when it last held the Treasury bench. Members opposite do not have policies in this space. They are trying to sneak in hoping they will pick up some seats without saying what they believe in. But my message to the people in the community is if they want to know what people stand for, look at what they do. Do not take account of what they say; look at what they do. When the Liberals and Nationals WA members were last in government, they slashed the education budget, cut staffing and really undermined our public education system. That stands in stark contrast to the incredible work that this government has done, the work of this minister and the work of the former minister, Hon Sue Ellery.

I am out of time. There is still much to say. I feel I could go on much longer, but I will bring it to conclusion. With that, I commend the bill to the house.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Landsdale) [7.05 pm]: I apologise, member for Nedlands. It is very hard to follow someone so passionate and enthusiastic. After the next election, she will be the second member for Girrawheen. I am a bit more laconic in my delivery, but I want to reflect. As members can imagine, this is a time for nostalgia and reminiscence on my part, and so in my contribution I want to make a few general observations about how the budget process has evolved during my time in Parliament. I do so because next week we are going to estimates hearings, which is a time when governments are rightly held accountable. It is a time when a diligent opposition has the opportunity to robustly focus on line items and get clarity on programs and priorities for capital expenditure. Are the government policies that drive the underlying assumptions in the budget sound or are they ill founded? Are there still areas of unmet need? Are there instances of profligate or reckless spending? These are all legitimate questions.

We all strive for an open government. We all believe that transparency is fundamental in a democracy such as ours. From my recollection, the budget process has changed over my time. In the past, budget papers contained much more information about programs and the allocation of funds or what some now refer to as the granular detail. Over time and under governments of both persuasions, the budget papers are far less descriptive with less commentary. I do not consider that this lack of prescription in the budget is an attempt to obfuscate or conceal, rather it represents a more complex economy with the budget almost fourfold the size of when I became a member. The mere size of the budget papers dictates that the information must be rationalised and revised if for no other reason than we face the risk that the papers might have to be printed at font size six. With fewer details, the imperative to effectively interrogate it is even more pressing, yet some say that in recent years budget estimates hearings are becoming

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

increasingly irrelevant. This is in no small measure due to the grossly ineffectual opposition. I must admit that I exclude the member for Central Wheatbelt from this. I was very moved by her speech today and her diligence over the years. However, the rest of the current opposition members are grossly ineffectual in their conduct in Parliament.

Before continuing in this manner, I must digress to confront the likely response that will arise from my comments that follow. I have the privilege to act as an Acting Speaker and a Chair of Committee in estimates hearings. In that role, it is important to act objectively and in a nonpartisan manner, and I strive to do so. That does not mean that I will not suggest there be a greater clarity of questions, nor that a specific line item in the budget needs to be referenced. Moreover, the purpose of an estimates hearing is to secure vital knowledge from line ministers and bureaucrats. It should not predominately be about making declaratory and rhetorical statements aimed more at the media than at eliciting. That is, after all, what media statements are for.

A meaningful answer can be given only if a question is concise, does not conflate several disparate issues and is germane to the line item. I make this preliminary observation to avert accusations of being partisan in my role as chair. I reject any suggestion to that effect outright. I continue.

In the past, with more information in the budget papers, it was possible for lazy opposition members to front at estimates and find a line or two that they could ask a question about without having done any research or preparation. These days, that is harder to do. These days, it is opposition 101 to prepare well in advance of the budget. I recall an editorial in *The West Australian*. I think it was in mid-2017. The diligence and application of the then new opposition was questioned and compared unfavourably with the previous hardworking Labor opposition.

A telling example is that opposition members, especially shadow ministers, in the first quarter of the year should ask a number of questions on notice to receive the answers back well before estimates. This enables them to have the background and information required to pursue an intelligent and informed line of questioning in estimates. I am indebted to parliamentary officer Denis Hippolyte who has extracted figures for me on the amount of questions on notice asked by opposition members in the first quarter of each year. These figures are telling.

Over the period of 2015, the Labor opposition asked over 589 questions. In the first quarter of 2016, the year before the state election, the Labor opposition asked 451 questions. Compare and contrast this with the Liberal and National members for the first quarter of 2020, in which 441 were asked. It has tapered off even more since then, with 104 questions being asked in 2022, 59 in 2023 and only 110 for the first quarter of this year. It is a statement of the bleeding obvious to say that if no effort is invested, the return for that effort will similarly be diminished.

Then there is the issue of questions asked during estimates. Over the years, the opposition has asked the lion's share of questions, as it should. In 2009—there are no statistics available for earlier years—the then Labor opposition posed 80 per cent of the questions. In 2022, the Liberal–National opposition was permitted to ask 97 per cent of the questions and asked 95 per cent last year. The process is such that the member asking questions can pursue a line of inquiry and ask a number of questions in sequence to tease out the issues and information on a particular topic. That tends to be at least five or six questions in a row, and sometimes the member will return to the subject in subsequent questions.

Given this latitude, it could be expected that once a question has been skilfully asked after preparation beforehand, that the interrogator would make some progress and secure adequate information. My observation is that rarely occurs with there being badly drafted questions and a lack of focus and limited cooperation between the two opposition parties, leading to sub-optimal outcomes. To put it in computer parlance: garbage in, garbage out.

As for question time, there is an even greater pressing need for the opposition to ask concise, well-constructed questions that are in compliance with the standing orders. There is not the luxury, as there is in estimates, of asking a series of questions. Questions on the same subject matter are ineptly asked time and again. I have reflected on a number of occasions that I thought I was trapped in *Groundhog Day*. There is no indication that the person posing the question even cares about the answer—immediately and incessantly interjecting as soon as the minister stands to answer the question. More fundamentally, the subject matter of those questions closely follows what has appeared in *The West Australian* newspaper over the preceding days. That is not to say that there is no public interest in pursuing such issues; quite the contrary. Rather, it is that the matter is already in the public domain and the responsible minister has most likely already issued a media statement and possibly held a media conference. This begs questions. What is the utility of flogging a dead horse? Why is it that the opposition is incapable of developing and pursuing its own issues?

I have no statistics for the number of freedom of information applications made by the opposition—another tool in the opposition armoury. I know that the FOI process can be tortuous and frustrating, but I suspect that if the basics I have already described are being so badly executed, a similar lack of enthusiasm would be evidenced in this area also.

Last year I suggested to a senior parliamentary officer that there was a need for training to sharpen members' forensic skills and for framing and asking questions. These skills are useful not only within the confines of the

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

chamber but also are of great utility during committee hearings. A training session was organised in June 2023 with Paul Yovich, SC, and one of his barrister colleagues, whose name escapes me. A number of members attended. I found this session extremely useful, and I am sure that those present likewise picked up some valuable pointers. Alas, there were no opposition members in attendance—the very people who need to acquire more skills to better prosecute their arguments.

Our democracy deserves a competent and conscientious opposition. For the reasons I have outlined, the community has been short-changed. Although in its first few years the opposition was given some latitude, the honeymoon is well and truly over, and some would even say that divorce is imminent.

On a more positive note, I reflect upon the Cook government's fantastic budget initiative of the student assistance payment, which a number of members have already referred to. There is a \$250 grant for primary school students and \$500 for high school students. The rationale is obvious: to assist parents in defraying the expenses associated with supporting their children through school. It would be trite to say that access to quality education provides opportunities for future generations. That access means that students can reach, and capitalise on, their full potential.

I was personally fortunate to have parents who highly valued education, and I want that for all Western Australians who are currently at school. For that reason, I always support the excellent work done by schools in my electorate. The student assistance payment program is a tangible way of supporting parents during challenging times. To date, approximately \$193 000 has been paid out under this program to parents in the seat of Landsdale. I encourage those who are yet to apply for it, to do so.

Pursuant to standing order 86 I would like to incorporate into *Hansard* a table of the contributions and payouts in each school in my electorate.

[Leave granted for the following material to be incorporated.]

Schools	Total Claims	Total Eligible	Total \$ Claimed
ALINJARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL	181	325	27150
ASHDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL	459	676	70550
ASHDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE	1150	1867	287400
CARNABY RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL	399	659	59850
HOCKING PRIMARY SCHOOL	361	588	54150
KINGSWAY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE	779	1444	156250
LANDSDALE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	140	238	28700
LANDSDALE GARDENS PRIMARY SCHOOL	124	225	18600
LANDSDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL	466	772	69900
MADELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL	298	478	44700
PEARSALL PRIMARY SCHOOL	369	612	55350
ST ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL	136	237	20400

Ms M.M. QUIRK: For the purposes of *Hansard*, that standing order deals with tabular information when reading the information out is not very helpful for comprehension.

Finally, I take this opportunity to raise an issue that I would have raised in a grievance, but they are very hard to come by. I think it is relevant because it affects the newest school in my electorate—Landsdale Gardens Primary School in the suburb of Landsdale. I raise this in the context of the budget as a cautionary tale. Further expenditure will be required to satisfactorily remedy a series of ill-considered planning decisions. The issue also indicates the need for cooperation between three separate state government agencies, as well as local government. It relates to traffic issues that are causing legitimate road safety concerns.

At present, there is limited ability for pedestrians to safely cross Mirrabooka Avenue between the suburbs of Darch and Landsdale, particularly during peak traffic periods. Based on a request from the local primary school and feedback from the City of Wanneroo, I consider that a signalised pedestrian crossing at this location is warranted. This modification is needed on one of the busiest roads—a four-lane distributor with a speed limit of 70 kilometres an hour. As we all know, few people observe speed limits, so we are talking about speeds in excess of 70 kilometres an hour. This road connects with Landsdale industrial precinct and Ocean Reef Road. For that reason, Mirrabooka Avenue is used by a variety of vehicles, including heavy haulage trucks. The speed and volume of traffic activity has always presented a challenge for pedestrian safety on Mirrabooka Avenue. However, the issue has become even more serious after the Department of Education approved the construction of the primary school in 2021. The school is marvellous and was the envy of many other schools in the electorate when it was opened in 2023

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

by the Minister for Education, Dr Tony Buti. The problem is that the catchment area includes parts of Landsdale and Darch. Students from Darch on the western side of Mirrabooka Avenue must attempt to walk across the four lanes of traffic without assistance from a warden or infrastructure that deters speeding. The City of Wanneroo has installed U-rails and adjusted the footpath and kerbing to facilitate pedestrian crossing. However, this does not improve the safety experience for students.

Walking and riding to school is an initiative that the Cook Labor government has firmly endorsed, particularly through its support of the Your Move campaign in schools across WA. I note that last week was Walk to School Day, but in this particular situation, I would be delinquent to encourage it at Landsdale Gardens Primary School. Safe transport routes within the school's catchment zone with access to footpaths, traffic wardens or traffic calming measures are necessary to ensure the participation in the Your Move program and that it continues to increase. What is needed is sensible traffic treatment that recognises the unique circumstances for pedestrian activity across Mirrabooka Avenue.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.M. QUIRK: Regrettably, what we are faced with can best be described as a catch 22. The school's enrolment numbers are a mere 228 students. With that number, an application to the Western Australia Police Force for a staffed school crossing clearly cannot be justified. However, the student numbers from Darch's side of the catchment area are highly unlikely to increase without improved pedestrian crossing access.

In March, I received a letter from Landsdale Gardens Primary School co-signed by the school board chair, Priya Deval, and president of the school's parents and citizens association, Jackie McDermott. The principal, Natasha Doyle, has also spoken to me about safety concerns during my numerous pastoral visits to the school. The letter includes traffic data provided by the City of Wanneroo. It reads in part —

We are advised recent daily measurements indicate that between 7:30am–9:00am, the volume of traffic is 1088 vehicles northbound and 1398 vehicles southbound. Between 2:30pm–4:00pm, there are 1241 northbound and 1567 southbound. The operating speed of Mirrabooka Avenue is between 77-78km/h.

I repeat for emphasis that it is between 77 and 78 kilometres an hour. In that letter, the board chair and P&C president continues —

We consider that even if an illuminated school crossing sign were installed (without a crossing guard) given the nature of the site, this would be insufficient to mandate timely driver compliance. There needs to be the highest level of road safety infrastructure on this busy major road.

We note that in other similar sites, Hepburn Avenue, Kingsley; Canning Highway; and Cambridge Street, West Leederville with similar conditions red and white poles with flashing lights have been erected in addition to standard measures.

We have been made aware of “near miss” incidents. We feel duty bound to advocate for all appropriate measures to be implemented to avert the possibility of a tragic outcome.

The City of Wanneroo has repeatedly advised Main Roads that it is the responsible authority for approving and installing such traffic treatments. Given that the red and white poles were approved at other locations with similar or fewer problematical traffic conditions and road structures, I am perplexed to understand the relevant criteria warranting the installation of such infrastructure, nor can I discern the type of factors that Main Roads considers when it assesses requests for such traffic-calming measures.

The school does not have the resources to voluntarily staff a pedestrian crossing. I reiterate that the number of current enrolments is not sufficient to enable traffic crossing wardens supported by Western Australia Police.

This unfortunate situation is compounded by the Western Australia Police Force, Main Roads and the Department of Education failing to work collaboratively in the first place. Added to that is the unhelpful involvement of the City of Wanneroo, which has rejected any responsibility. I suspect that the underlying resistance to making the necessary improvements is based on an unwillingness to invest resources when the buck can literally be passed to someone else. In the interests of maximising our investment of \$24.7 million in Landsdale Gardens Primary School, we need to ensure there is no impediment or deterrent to students enrolling in the school, especially when neighbouring schools have little excess capacity.

Happily, with sound and prudent financial management, the Cook Labor government should be in a financial position to remedy this perilous situation. No-one wants to be in the position of action taken only after a tragedy occurs, prematurely cutting short a young life.

It only remains for me to congratulate the Treasurer, Rita Saffioti, on her first budget. Balancing the WA budget is fraught with uncertainty because there are so many international factors outside of our control, not least of which

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

is the potential price volatility of our natural resources. Accommodating for this uncertainty whilst at the same time delivering quality services to an expanding and widely dispersed population requires a deft hand. I commend the bills to the house.

DR K. STRATTON (Nedlands) [7.28 pm]: I rise in support of the Appropriation (Recurrent 2024–25) Bill 2024, the Appropriation (Capital 2024–25) Bill 2024 and the 2024–25 state budget. As many other members have, I would like to start by congratulating the Treasurer, Hon Rita Saffioti, on a budget that delivers for both the immediate and long-term needs of the Western Australian community. It addresses some of the urgent felt needs around the cost of living, health and housing for the WA community, while also investing strongly in our future through quality jobs, free and expanded training programs, economic diversification and Western Australia's transition to cleaner and affordable green energy.

For those who have not yet seen it, I draw their attention to this morning's Alston cartoon, which shows our Treasurer, the Treasurer of Western Australia, as being the best on field. I note as well that she is the only woman on the Treasurer playing field. She has a green and gold jersey. I think purple would have been the preference of the Treasurer, but it is a great cartoon nonetheless. I think it demonstrates what we all felt in this place as we heard the budget being delivered last week. It is certainly a budget that we can be very proud of. With 30 years in the community services sector, I am also really delighted and proud to see investment into and delivering for some of the most vulnerable members of our community—those experiencing homelessness and family and domestic violence, and young people who are leaving care. Those sentiments are not just my own but the assessment of the peak body, the Western Australian Council of Social Service, which stated it is —

... one of the most promising and hopeful budgets in recent years.

...

While there is no silver bullet to solving the compounding crises that Western Australians have faced over the ... years, it is clear that the State Government has made addressing rental affordability, homelessness, domestic violence support and ... high cost of living key priorities.

As we have heard, cost-of-living relief is really at the heart of this budget. Cost-of-living pressures are at the heart for many families and households, so it is really responding to the daily experienced needs of the Western Australian community. I was out doorknocking on the weekend with one of my fantastic volunteers, Jules. Before we could start the conversation, people were actually telling us about the \$400 electricity credit. It is something that was really gratefully received. With the federal budget being handed down last night, we now know that Western Australians will receive a total of \$700 in electricity bill relief. Further, we are supporting families who, like mine, have school-aged children with the school assistance payment and free public transport on school days as well. With the assistance payment, families will receive \$150 per primary school student and \$250 per high school student. That means hundreds of dollars of funds being directly deposited into bank accounts. It gives people the flexibility to choose where to spend it, but also the dignity of choosing where to target that spending. It can be used for the range of school costs, which is uniforms, laptops, fees and the various other ongoing expenses of schooling. With a growing year 10 student, I certainly seem to pour a lot of money into the canteen at Shenton College. With a white shirt being part of the school uniform, we tend to have a fair bit of turnover in the school uniform space as well. Free public transport on school days not only provides cost-of-living relief but, certainly in our house, as I am sure in many others, alleviates the angst of keeping the SmartRider in credit, particularly, as I said, when money is whittled away at the school canteen.

Many families in my electorate move to the area for the excellent public education opportunities available for our community from our primary schools in Jolimont, Subiaco, Nedlands and Hollywood, and the award-winning Shenton College and Bob Hawke College, the first ever inner-city high school, of course delivered by a Labor government. To deal with climbing enrolments, a modular build for Shenton College was committed to by this government in November 2022. It is a new \$15 million double-storey modular building, locally manufactured in Kwinana. It is not only creating additional teaching and learning spaces for Shenton students, including my own daughter, but creating local manufacturing jobs for Western Australians. Again, it is all part of a broader strategy to grow and diversify the state's economy. A few months ago, I drove from where I live just a few kilometres from Shenton College to Kwinana to see the modular building that was going to be installed at Shenton College. The modular build meant that it could happen quickly but being offsite also minimised the impact on student learning during the construction phase. The building is now in situ at Shenton College. I look forward to seeing it there next week with the Minister for Education. Students will be walking the halls at the commencement of term 3. The modular build will accommodate an additional 300 students, with 11 general learning classrooms, a science classroom, staff areas and toilet facilities. I understand that the school will be using it as its year 9 hub.

As the member for Mirrabooka outlined, we have also expanded the provision of free period products from beyond high schools and TAFEs to primary schools. This is not only a cost-of-living relief, but it is also a really important

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

signal, if you like, that menstruation is a normal part of life. I started my period when I was in primary school. It was a pretty isolating experience. Period products were certainly not readily available. They may have been available at the school office, but I do not know. If they had been readily available, it would have been a signal that menstruation is a normal part of life. In high school, girls had to go to the school nurse if they had not brought pads and tampons to school. That kind of indicated that having a period was a medical issue. It is really not; it is a normal part of life. As the member for Mirrabooka outlined, it is also a school engagement strategy. It helps young people who are menstruating to keep up their attendance and participation in schools. As I said, it is not only a really important cost-of-living measure, but also a really important signal to young people that periods are just a normal part of life.

Investing now and into the future, we have seen a lot of commitments to education and training in this budget. As well as working in community services, I taught social work at university for nearly 20 years. I know that education and training changes people's lives. It also changes our workforce, our industries and our economies. We will maintain our commitment to free TAFE courses in over 130 qualifications and skill sets, a \$22.2 million apprenticeship support program and a \$16 million apprentice tool allowance.

Other cost-of-living measures include the WA rent relief program—a \$24.4 million package to provide a one-off rent relief payment to help eligible tenants who are at risk of eviction due to rent arrears. This is one of many measures that the Cook Labor government has taken to look after renters. Again, it is looking at the immediate urgent felt needs as well as the longer term outlook. Our residency tenancy reforms are some of the many measures taken by the government, which includes banning rent bidding; limiting rent increases to once a year; allowing pets, with the landlord's permission; allowing tenants to make minor modifications; and streamlining bond returns. These are examples of how we are addressing immediate needs while also creating longer term reforms and improving accessibility to the housing market.

We are doing a lot across the diversity of housing experiences for renters. We are also improving housing supply, improving housing affordability, introducing mechanisms to make first home ownership more accessible and bolstering support services for those most vulnerable in our community, including those who are rough sleeping and experiencing homelessness. I really welcome the investment and the significant boost to homelessness services in this budget. In fact, it is the largest increase in funding to baseline homelessness services by any Western Australian government. Over 120 services will benefit, meaning that they can provide ongoing services to those experiencing homelessness in our community. Those services include accommodation services, engagement hubs, outreach services and specialist support services. The diversity of those services also responds to the diversity of people's experiences of homelessness. This funding includes \$15.7 million to expand Housing First support services, a key initiative in the Labor government's 10-year strategy on homelessness. Recognising the complexity of the issue of lived experience of homelessness, it is only a Labor government that has created not only this evidence-informed whole-of-community 10-year strategy, but also established a new ministerial homelessness portfolio in early 2022, alongside the creation of the Office of Homelessness.

Further, the state budget provides an additional \$843 million for social and affordable housing initiatives, bringing our total new investment in housing and homelessness measures since 2021–22 to a record \$3.2 billion. This budget's allocation will support the delivery and refurbishment of social housing stock across the state and fund new social housing. I congratulate the Minister for Housing on the innovative approaches that have been taken to accelerate housing delivery, including timber frame, modular—again—and prefab construction, spot purchasing and the establishment of statewide builder panels for pre-approved works. I note that these initiatives have been welcomed by the sector, including by Shelter WA and the chair of the Western Australian Council of Social Service and the CEO of Anglicare, Mark Glasson.

In a very different housing experience, as starry-eyed and probably fairly naive 24-year-olds, my partner and I bought our very first house—what could most kindly have been called a fixer-upper—on a quarter-acre block in Bayswater. The purchase of one's very first home is a really significant and meaningful time in the life of an individual, couple or family. That remains as true now as it did for us all that time ago—I will not say how long ago it was that we were 24-year-olds. Another remaining truth is the significant expense of stamp duty. We had diligently saved for our deposit and various fees, but, even at that time, the stamp duty expense was a bit of a shock. In what we all now refer to as the bank of mum and dad, Mum and Dad kindly paid our stamp duty at that time, instead of for a wedding. It was a pretty good investment, I would say. To ensure that every Western Australian has the opportunity to have that really important life experience of buying their first home, we are increasing the stamp duty concession thresholds. People buying their first home will pay no stamp duty on purchases up to \$450 000 and will receive a concessional stamp duty rate on properties valued up to \$600 000.

A significant proportion of the community that I represent in the seat of Nedlands are people aged over 65. We recently held an advance care planning workshop. We rang many people in my electorate aged over 65 and discovered that many of them still work full-time, many in hospitals and other medical settings—excuse me. Many others are

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

engaged as active volunteers in the not-for-profit organisations in my community. Many of those people attend my monthly mobile offices; they are a really engaged and educated part of the community.

Sorry; my asthma has been very bad this afternoon. The cough is my asthma.

Mr D.T. Punch: I can sympathise with that.

Dr K. STRATTON: It is also why I will get my flu vaccine on Friday.

I am pleased to see a number of initiatives in this state budget in the form of pensioner concession increases, rebates and other forms of assistance. In addition to the electricity credit, seniors will be able to access a \$334 energy assistance payment, a \$107 seniors cost-of-living rebate and concessions for things such as local government rates, water service charges and vehicle licences.

Nedlands is a real hub for health care and medical research, providing statewide adult, paediatric and maternal tertiary health services. We are home to three public hospitals and two private hospitals, as well as over 20 medical research centres and institutes.

Of course, my puffer is upstairs in my office, which is not a great place to keep it when I am in the chamber!

Ms L. Dalton: Do you want someone to go and get it?

Dr K. STRATTON: It is all right; I do not have long to go. It is ironic to be talking about health while I have an asthma attack!

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs L.A. Munday): We do not want that, thanks, member for Nedlands.

Dr K. STRATTON: It also means that many in my community work in health care and in hospitals, including doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. Along with Churchlands, we are home to more physiotherapists and dentists than anywhere else in Australia. They will be pleased to see a record investment in health and mental health with a further \$3.2 billion to boost the capacity of our hospitals, investment in more nurses and doctors, and improved access to quality care. This includes a number of primary public health interventions, including a \$10.8 million boost for vaccinations against respiratory syncytial virus for babies. I will be lining up for my free flu vaccination on Friday. Flu vaccinations are free during the months of May and June. I might not necessarily need the cost-of-living relief that the free vaccination program provides, but it certainly is an excellent prompt to go and get it done. As an asthmatic, that vaccine is important for my health. There will also be \$39.1 million available to expand child development services. I know how important early intervention is for better outcomes for children as they progress through their schooling.

[Member's time extended.]

Dr K. STRATTON: I would also like to take this opportunity to put on the record my support for the women's and babies' hospital being built in Murdoch. There is a fair bit of misrepresentation of the views of people in my electorate on the location of the women's and babies' hospital. We have already lived through the construction of a new tertiary hospital in our backyard. People have lived with the impact of traffic and parking during the construction phase and through the operation phase. They welcome that the decision to build it in Murdoch will not impact on their quality of life and access to their driveways. They also understand that Fiona Stanley Hospital has the expertise and the skills to deliver those services. I feel compelled to put that on the record because of the fearmongering that has been generated, particularly by the Liberal Party, about what this move will mean. With great respect for the doctors, nurses and other specialist care that will be provided on the Murdoch site, many people in my community just want to see the best possible services delivered for women and babies, and they appreciate that the Murdoch site is more accessible, particularly for regional and remote women and families.

In finishing, I want to put on my social worker hat for a few minutes and outline some of the important investments that are happening in our social and community services, which are responsible for protecting and serving some of the most vulnerable people in our community. We are seeing an additional \$88 million for child protection initiatives, including \$46.3 million to continue the very successful Home Stretch WA program, which was initially delivered as a pilot by the Labor government and will now be continued to support young people who leave out-of-home care. That will allow them the opportunity to stay in care, effectively, and to continue to receive support until the age of 21 years. It will provide them the opportunity to transition into adulthood with the supports and structures that most young people in our community enjoy. I have worked in child protection in both the government setting and in the not-for-profit sector. I want to acknowledge the minister's support for child protection workers. We filmed a shout-out to social workers on World Social Work Day in March. I appreciate how much she respects the important and complex work that child protection workers and social workers do. They have a champion in the minister.

There is also a crucial \$26.4 million investment for programs and initiatives to address family and domestic violence. With 32 dead women in Australia so far this year as a result of men's violence, that is an important

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

investment for all of our community. All of us are impacted by these acts of violence and the many acts of violence that occur in households that precede a murder. Again, I would like to thank the minister and the Premier for their leadership in forming the Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce to help guide our efforts with evidence and expertise that comes from researchers, service providers and, most importantly, from women with lived experience in our efforts to address this complex but wicked issue, recognising that an integrated strategic and coordinated response is required.

I will finish on something of an anecdote, because Metronet has come up quite a few times as the opposition has responded to this budget. I would like to tell a little story from a trip I made to Melbourne at the beginning of the year. I paid \$24 to catch the SkyBus to the central train station before I could get out to where I was staying, because there is no train to and from the Melbourne airport. That was pointed out to me as I waited outside my hotel for a \$57 Uber to the airport that actually got caught in traffic, and I missed my flight. The concierge, who was waiting outside the hotel with me, asked where I was going. I said, "I'm going home to Perth." He said, "Oh, Perth! You guys have a train to the airport." For all that Melbourne is often lauded as being the home of the best public transport in Australia, I think as we have the best Treasurer on-field, we also have the best public transport on-field. With that, I commend the bills to the house.

MR S.J. PRICE (Forrestfield — Deputy Speaker) [7.51 pm]: It gives me pleasure to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2024–25) Bill 2024 and the Appropriation (Capital 2024–25) Bill 2024. Picking up on the member for Nedlands' final comments, not only do we have one of the best train systems in the world to our airport, but it only costs two zones, which is currently around \$5. That has to be the cheapest in the country. It is an amazing piece of infrastructure that I will touch on a little later when I talk about some of the wonderful things happening in my electorate.

I, too, will echo a lot of comments from members on this side of the chamber about what a wonderful budget it is and I congratulate the Deputy Premier; Treasurer on bringing down her first state budget. If any members were at the post-budget breakfast the other morning at the casino, they would have heard that it was probably about the Treasurer's thirtieth budget that she has been involved in; however, it is the first one that she has brought down by herself. There is a lot contained in the budget and a lot of benefits for all our constituents. Certainly, my constituents in the electorate of Forrestfield have done extremely well with some of the line items contained in it. I will run through a few of those to make sure that everyone is aware of some of the great work that we are doing.

As has been previously mentioned, our communities are made up of many different types of organisations and people playing many different roles. One of the most important things or pieces of infrastructure that we have within the electorate of Forrestfield are our sporting clubs and facilities. Since I was elected, there has been a big focus to ensure that the government continually invests in upgrading and providing appropriate sporting facilities in my electorate, which has become even more important recently through the wonderful increase in the number of female participants in sports that were previously purely male dominated. It is extremely important to ensure that we have adequate facilities such as change rooms, spaces and places and that everything is appropriate for females to participate in our sporting activities. As a result, a lot of my electorate's sporting facilities had to undergo upgrades to ensure that everything is suitable.

Contained in the budget is \$2 million, which was a previous election commitment, to upgrade the Scott Reserve pavilion. As a result of some cost escalations over time, we were able to top up the requirement to do that upgrade with some community sporting and recreation facilities funding. Scott Reserve is home to the High Wycombe Cricket Club and the mighty Bulldogs, the High Wycombe Amateur Football Club and the High Wycombe Junior Football Club. That piece of infrastructure is certainly due for an upgrade. Some of the change rooms there are proper not even suitable for the men, let alone the women. It is something we would have expected to see when I was playing footy about 30-odd years ago.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Back in the day!

Mr S.J. PRICE: Back in the day! Once again, as a result of consultation with local clubs, our government and our sports minister, we were able to ensure that there was adequate funding to improve these facilities at Scott Reserve. There is also funding mentioned in the budget for Maida Vale Reserve. Once again, the Norm Sadler Pavilion there is a very outdated piece of sporting infrastructure. It has done a great job until now, but once again there has been a huge increase in the number of people, males and females, adults and young children, who play sport in that precinct. As a result, the clubrooms, the change rooms and everything need to be upgraded and expanded. High Wycombe is footy and cricket; Maida Vale is baseball, T-ball and soccer, or football, so different sporting codes. According to the AusPlay survey, football, at least what soccer players call "football", is the most popular sport to play in Australia today. That is quite evident for anyone who goes to Maida Vale over the winter season and sees the amount of soccer games going on at all levels and grades, both male and female, which is wonderful to see. During the summer, Maida Vale is home to the Kalamunda Rangers, which is a family-focused T-ball, softball and baseball club, and it continues to improve year after year. It certainly has capacity pressures based on the facilities in that

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

area as well. I forgot to mention that the soccer club that plays at Maida Vale is the Kalamunda City Football Club, which used to be called Kalamunda United Football Club, but it amalgamated with the Maddington Whitecaps City Football Club recently and became Kalamunda City. That gives the club the opportunity to get into the state league, which is a really good growth opportunity for it, so that is wonderful.

One of the biggest election commitments we made in 2021 is the new Forrestfield police station, and that is under development now and certainly still has funding line items in the budget is. It is great to see that the works are underway there. I look forward to hopefully opening that sometime later this year with the Minister for Police. That was a \$22 million investment to build a new police station in Forrestfield, which will do a number of things. The old station that we currently have was, I think, built in the mid-1980s, and was meant to have a capacity of 20-odd officers working out of it. There are currently around close to 40 officers working there, and it is certainly not fit for purpose. The previous Minister for Police, and now Madam Speaker, Hon Michelle Roberts, paid some attention to my request for her to come and see whether we could update and replace the facility. This will deal with a couple of concerns that some of my constituents in the area had. The new station will have an increased capacity. I think it will be the same as the one being built in Baldivis. They will both have a maximum capacity of around 100 officers, but I think they are first being built, established and set up to accommodate a resource of around 70-odd officers, which will increase the resourcing for the area. The subdistricts of Forrestfield form quite a big area and take in a lot of the area up the hill—Kalamunda out the back, Bickley, Carmel and some of those places. It will lock in Forrestfield as a subdistrict, with Midland of course being the main district, and will put a lot more police resources in the vicinity of where people would like to see them. That is well and truly underway. We have a new officer in charge there, Brad Robinson, who is extremely keen for the new facility to be completed and looks forward to moving in as well.

Earlier, I touched on the airport link, which is one of the major developments to have happened in the electorate of Forrestfield for a little while. To take people back, the \$1.86 billion development was originally started under the previous government, but when we came to government, we made some improvements, and it was finally opened on 9 October 2022, which is a year and a half ago. It is crazy to think how fast time goes. That piece of infrastructure is generational, life-changing infrastructure for the electorate of Forrestfield and the suburbs of High Wycombe, Forrestfield and Maida Vale. The increase in availability of public transport in the area to get people to take advantage of the train station has been very well received. As a consequence, after the previous federal election, the Albanese government committed \$30 million, with a matching \$30 million from the Cook government, to developing a local community hub with aquatic and recreation centres as a key activation development for the area around the train station. That is well underway at the moment. I am looking forward to when the planning stops and a little bit of dirt starts to get turned and we can get some activity started there. It is an amazing opportunity to have some transit-oriented development around the train station.

Unfortunately, a lot of landowners have been caught in the middle of the transition. A lot of the current landowners moved there with the thought that the land was going to be rezoned for industrial use, which at the time was the plan, but when the previous government decided to put the train station there, the land was not rezoned as industrial; it was rezoned for housing. There is now an opportunity for that land to be developed for housing, but we also have the problem that the development contribution for the area is pretty high, which is limiting the interest of some developers. I think there is an opportunity for the government to step in and help activate the land and relieve some of the pressure, which will allow some of the people who want to move out and move on with their lives to do so. It would also create some opportunities for new housing very close to a Metronet development.

We have continued to invest in the local schools, which is once again reflected in the budget. My only public secondary school, Darling Range Sports College, was the recipient of some investment in both 2017 and 2021. However, due to cost escalations, which everyone is aware of when anything needs to be done within a school, there had to be some reallocation of the spending priorities of that money. I will continue to work with Darling Range and all my schools to ensure that we continue to improve and that they have the best available facilities for educating our young children, because they are our future. As we all know, education is key to the transitions in life.

One of my other commitments is really taking place, and the final funding for it is in the budget. It is an all-abilities playground that is being constructed at the moment in Forrestfield at the back of the shopping centre. It was a \$1 million commitment and investment that the Cook government made in 2021. We used \$50 000 of that money to complete another park in High Wycombe near the Karingal Green Health and Aged Care Community, and the park has turned out beautifully. The all-abilities playground was the result of doorknocking and feedback I got from some of my constituents. I also received an email from a year 6 student from Edney Primary School who told me her personal story. It was something that I had always considered, but this email made me more determined to fund it. I will refer to some of the words contained in her email. She said —

I have a Disabled sister and I am sick and tired of when we go to the park my sister can not play with me.

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

I have spent all my life watching my sister that was born with a physical disability unable to play at the park, this makes me very sad and now I am noticing that there are many children around just like my sister. I feel this is such a shame as all these kids want to be just like us healthy kid, they want to climb, slide, swing and laugh with Joy just the way I was able to as I could use the equipment at parks.

I would like to see playgrounds and fitness structures that inspire and educate people of all abilities, to provide opportunity's for physical, social and sensory development, for both children with disabilities and children who develop typically. I would like to see structures so those in wheelchairs and other medical equipment can be safe and happy to play.

I am proud to say that the new all-abilities playground will fit her brief.

One of the other budget items is the upgrade to the Tonkin Highway corridor. A \$366 million allocation in the budget deals with a section from Hale Road and Tonkin Highway in Forrestfield all the way through to the Tonkin Highway extension that goes out through Byford. It will be great to see that get underway. Three intersections in my electorate will be part of that, and they are Tonkin Highway intersections at Hale Road, Welshpool Road East and Kelvin Road. They will all make a huge difference to the traffic congestion and flow in that area as Tonkin Highway is one of the major arterial roads in the east, and it is used by thousands and thousands of people each day.

We all know that the cost of living is a huge issue in all of our areas, and it is no different in my area. The 2024–25 budget will provide a mix of measures to tackle this problem. The announcement of a further \$400 electricity credit, being applied in two instalments, is welcome news to everyone in my electorate, and people are extremely happy to receive that again. The other payment that the government announced prior to the budget, which was the WA student payment of \$150 for primary school students and \$250 for secondary school students, is certainly welcome relief for families in my electorate. So far, my community has benefited to the point that 57 per cent of all eligible payment claims have been made in my local schools. Quite a number of people still have not claimed it yet, and I strongly encourage them to do so.

The increase in the stamp duty threshold for first home buyers is certainly a welcome relief, particularly for me. I am the father of four, and the eldest is looking keen to get into the property market somehow. It certainly is a benefit, and I think that the Treasurer mentioned that it will benefit up to 5 000 people. Let me get this right. The stamp duty concession threshold for established homes will be raised from \$530 000 to \$600 000 and the exemption threshold from \$430 000 to \$450 000. That will be of huge benefit to people. The sad part about that is the price of the properties that these people are purchasing as their first home. The member for Nedlands spoke about her first property purchase, many years ago, and I think about mine, too. It was certainly a lot less than what people have to consider these days. That is a challenge going forward. Of course, we know what is causing it, and we have to do what we can to manage that and assist people. Improvements such as this exemption for the stamp duty is one of the things that does it.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs L.A. Munday): Member for Forrestfield, do you want an extension?

Mr S.J. PRICE: Yes. Can I have a short extension, please?

[Member's time extended.]

Mr S.J. PRICE: Or an extension. There is no such thing as a short one!

I would also like to do a general shout-out to all the volunteers in my electorate, whether it be through the sporting clubs, the school parents and citizens associations or parents and friends groups, and some of my seniors groups and support groups, such as Make it Special. Everyone knows how important volunteers are to the organisations that we have, but it is also important for people to be involved in their communities. We talk about people needing to act, belong, commit to things. It is a great way for people to develop new connections and friendship groups and get out of their house and get involved and be part of the community and help. As we all know, if we go to a sporting event or something, whether it be to Little Athletics or down to the football club in the afternoon, things are just happening. Does it happen by magic? No; it does not. There are people who actually do these things and they are the ones who get there at seven o'clock in the morning and put stuff out and at five o'clock in the afternoon when it is all finished and pack it all away. Volunteers are an extremely important part of our community, and I really want to say thank you to all our volunteers who do such a wonderful job in making our local communities what they are.

All in all, this budget is very sensible. It has been mentioned a few times that the only reason we can deal with some of the economic and financial challenges at the moment is because of our good fiscal management. It goes back to when we first came into government in 2017 and some tough decisions had to be made by then Treasurer Hon Ben Wyatt, who had to deal with a significant debt and deficit situation that we inherited from the previous government. A lot of significant financial and budgetary measures were brought in to try to turn the budget around.

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

That strong and forthright approach to managing the finances from the very first day that we came into government is certainly what put us in the position we are in today where we have announced another surplus as well as surpluses into the forward estimates. Without the work that was originally done by Hon Ben Wyatt and followed up by Hon Mark McGowan, Premier; Treasurer, we would not be able to deal with some of the challenges we have faced. We would not have the amount of money we have to invest into areas such as social housing and affordable housing, to deal with homelessness and continue to invest in infrastructure projects. The opposition certainly does not like Metronet, but Metronet is building for now and for the future. We have the opportunity to do it. We have the capacity to do it, and it is the right thing to invest in for our future.

On that, I would like to say thank you once again to the Treasurer and her department for their great work on this budget. I commend the bills to the house.

MS E.L. HAMILTON (Joondalup) [8.15 pm]: I rise to make a contribution on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2024–25) Bill 2024 and Appropriation (Capital 2024–25) Bill 2024—the first budget delivered by Premier Roger Cook and Treasurer Rita Saffioti.

The Cook Labor government is making every effort to provide real cost-of-living relief while investing in the long-term economic future of our state, which continues to power our nation. This budget makes record investments in infrastructure to support our expanding economy, the growing population and the jobs and homes of the future. I am proud that the Cook Labor government is backing in its record of helping WA families with the cost of living. We are delivering our fourth household electricity credit, with \$400 of assistance to all households and more than 90 000 small businesses. That is on top of the recent federal budget announcement just yesterday of an additional amount that will bring the savings for Western Australian households to \$700. From a WA perspective, the household electricity credit has delivered over \$1 800 to families over recent years.

On top of this, we are providing additional energy bill relief to those most in need, with \$734 of support for pensioners and at least \$1 086 for eligible families. For those with kids in school, we are delivering the new WA student assistance payments to support families, with \$250 available for each high school student and \$150 for each kindy and primary school student. I know how important this program is to our community. There are still many families in the Joondalup electorate and across the state who are yet to claim the student assistance payment, and I encourage all families to get onto that before 28 June.

This support is something that I am really proud to see delivered. I have been doing a lot of work with Dandelions WA, which was founded by a lovely woman named Jan in my electorate of Joondalup. For many years, it has provided back-to-school support for students in need with a backpack so that they have the tools that they need to begin their education at the start of the year. This builds on the need that was highlighted through its support. I wanted to commend the work of the organisation and give a huge shout-out to all the volunteers involved in providing that support.

We are also providing cost-of-living support for all public transport users. We have implemented free public transport for school-aged students, saving a family with two children up to \$560 a year. We are providing free public transport for everyone on Sundays and had the summer of free public transport in early 2024. That saw record patronage on the Transperth network, including on the bus and train routes connecting the northern suburbs. That is on top of our capped fares, which will save around \$800 a year for someone travelling from Joondalup and nearly \$3 000 for those further north.

We are continuing to deliver on the expanded KidSport voucher program, the seniors cost-of-living rebate, the WA seniors safety and security rebate—which was previously axed by the Liberals—as well as creating the new WA rent relief program to give tenants at risk of eviction direct rental support. Additionally, we supported foster carers, grandparent carers and other carers with extra financial support. That is an issue that I completely support and I am proud to be a part of a government that is investing in that and providing additional support. Another local constituent Jan Standen has been a very strong advocate. I wanted to acknowledge the work of what was formerly known as Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren. It is now known as Grandcarers WA. This organisation was at the fore of advocating for that additional support.

Responsible financial management has ensured that our Labor government can continue to invest in essential services that Western Australians rely on, including in health. WA has the best funded hospital system in the country, and this budget continues the record investment in health and mental health with a further \$3.2 billion boost to the capacity of our hospitals. We are investing in more doctors and nurses and improving access to quality care. Our record investment means that WA has the highest per capita health funding in the nation. We have delivered 709 new beds in the past three years, which is the equivalent of a new Fiona Stanley Hospital, including beds in the Joondalup Health Campus. I joined Premier Roger Cook and Minister Sanderson on site at the Joondalup Health Campus last August, when we opened our state-of-the-art mental health unit—a unit that I talk about quite regularly, not only in my community, but also here in this house. I am so proud to see that new world-class facility doubling

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

the capacity of the previous unit and, most importantly, now supporting our young people aged 16 to 24 as well as older adult patients. Later that month, our Minister for Health, the federal Minister for Health, Hon Mark Butler, and Senator Fatima Payman toured the new mental health unit, which really has set a new benchmark in WA. We also saw that work is now commencing on the five-storey, 112-bed public ward block, which includes a host of additional specialist care—notably, the 16-bed cardiac care unit. A host of additional services will be provided through this investment.

On top of the Cook Labor government-led \$269 million upgrade and expansion of the public health services in Joondalup there is also an expansion, from \$109 million to \$190 million, of private health services at the Joondalup Health Campus. There will be a new operating theatre complex and a 55 per cent increase in bed capacity. All of this investment has been made locally in Joondalup to service our rapidly growing northern corridor. It will transform Joondalup Health Campus into one of the largest health campuses in WA and significantly expand the clinical capacity on site. As I mentioned, it is located in one of the fastest growing regions in WA. This investment is absolutely needed now and into the future to make sure we can manage and continue to service demand.

The 2024–25 budget furthers our government's record investment in education, with an additional \$1.3 billion for education and training initiatives that will train and upskill Western Australians for the jobs of the future. There is an investment of \$391 million to meet student enrolment growth in schools and to support students with disabilities and those who speak English as a second language. More locally, in Joondalup, I am proud of our Joondalup schools. There is a wonderful primary school where the school community has worked really hard to integrate the Joondalup Education Support Centre and the Joondalup Primary School. They share a site, a parents and citizens association and a board, and all decisions are made to best support students at both those schools. Heathridge Primary School is host to a well-regarded autism support program that is helping to close outcome gaps in education. There is also Eddystone Primary School, which has a significant cohort from across the northern suburbs enrolled in its intensive English centre. These IECs are so important for engaging and integrating the newest Western Australians into our school community.

This year, the government is delivering \$410 million to build new schools, expand capacity and upgrade and maintain existing schools. In previous years, our government has delivered the new Burns Beach Primary School and that school has a wonderful and growing community. Most recently, I have supported all our school P&Cs and their fundraising efforts by providing Containers for Change tags for school P&Cs to distribute to their families. The tags have the Containers for Change barcode and, when scanned, provide donated funds directly to the P&C or school. That is a welcome initiative and one that I happened to hear about when our Minister for Environment visited our Connolly Primary School. Thank you very much to Minister Whitby for that idea. It has now been taken up by schools across the Joondalup electorate, including Beaumaris Primary School, Connolly Primary School, Heathridge Primary School, Poseidon Primary School and Joondalup Primary School. I want to give a shout-out to the hardworking and dedicated P&Cs, boards and families that support the school communities, and a massive thank you to Katy from PromoMate Australia, a local small business, for producing these tags. It is really doing some great work in our area.

There is also a \$195 million investment in training, including \$26 million for the year 9 career taster program and the TAFE return to industry initiatives. There is \$13 million to extend the heavy vehicle driver training program in the south west, and the skilled migrant job connect program. We are also delivering a further \$8 million to continue fee-free TAFE courses, something I know that our community has really embraced. North Metropolitan TAFE in Joondalup is taking a leading role in delivering these fee-free TAFE courses in the northern suburbs. The North Metro TAFE campus is an integral part of our Joondalup learning precinct and is helping to train the future workforce of WA. This includes training in cyber, nursing and allied health, early childhood education, youth work, education support and hospitality. Qualifications in all these areas are being delivered fee-free because of our government's investment in skills and training. We are also seeing an expansion of facilities onsite, including a new light automotive workshop and upgrades to the horticulture facilities at the new Kendrew Crescent campus. Edith Cowan University and the Western Australia Police Academy are also part of our Joondalup learning precinct. The police academy is delivering the new generation of WA's police cadets. It was a pleasure to tour the facility, including the new high-tech equipment on site, with Premier Cook earlier this year. ECU is training our future healthcare workforce. It is the largest school of nursing in the state, with around 3 000 students studying nursing across ECU's two campuses in Joondalup and Bunbury. Notably, ECU also features WA's only nursing and midwifery dual degree.

WA's economy is the powerhouse of the nation yet again, fuelled by the strongest business investment in more than a decade and record investment by our Labor government. This has meant that WA now accounts for nearly half of all national exports, generating almost \$260 billion in wealth for the nation. Our government understands the long-term future for WA, and we have a plan to enable our kids to experience the same opportunities as we have. We have committed \$1.8 billion to diversify WA's economy through investments in strategic industrial areas

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

such as ports and roads and tourism infrastructure, slash red tape for businesses, reform our approval system and invest in water and power infrastructure to ensure that we position WA as a global clean energy powerhouse. In the northern suburbs, we are also seeing an investment of \$2.8 billion to build the Alkimos desalination plant, which will help secure the water supply for decades to come.

We are also delivering a \$352 million boost for tourism, including \$165 million for a new major outdoor adventure tourism package and to upgrade tourism facilities around the state and support regional businesses. I love getting out and about across the state with my family, as do many members of my community, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to grow our investment in these areas to make sure that we are providing every opportunity for locals to engage with our stunning environment.

We are also delivering \$13 million to fund a screen industry workforce development plan and encourage digital games production, bringing investment under the WA screen industry strategy to \$32 million. This is alongside \$233 million to progress construction of WA's new screen facility in Malaga. The reason I raise this is I have met with a number of young creatives over the last 12 months or so from the Joondalup electorate who have shared their passion for making films locally. Last year, I had the wonderful opportunity to join Tayla Burton, James Garces and Sanjay Stephen for the premiere screening of their short film *Nothing Special*—a superhero film shot right here in WA. The film has received a wide array of commendations and awards, including the Best Adventure/Superhero Film award at the World Film Festival in Cannes, France, and they are currently working on a new film. They are set to commence production in July and the film will be shot locally in Joondalup.

Coincidentally, in the same period, a little more recently, I met with a young gentleman from Edgewater, Kris Conquilla, at a recent mobile office. Kris is a stunt performer and shared his wish for more productions to take advantage of the local talent we have here in WA. Our government has acknowledged the depth of creative talent in our state and this investment will enable more locals to unlock and showcase their talents to an international audience.

Locally in Joondalup, as I have mentioned many times in this place, I am so proud to see the Ocean Reef Marina, a landmark development, really come into its own. Premier Roger Cook, Minister for Lands John Carey and the City of Joondalup were recently on site at the end of last year to announce that further land-based works were underway. We are now seeing the foundations for the new Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club and Marine Rescue Whitfords facilities, and the facilities for the Joondalup City Returned and Services League, particularly the reallocation of its Anzac memorial arch, that are really setting the stage for what will be a landmark tourism destination located in the heart of the northern suburbs. One thing that a lot of locals ask me is when Perth's first ocean pool will be open and available for people to enjoy. We are currently planning for that to occur in 2026.

The marina is set to be a thriving coastal hub and a landmark coastal attraction for the local community. It will be a world-class development that, most notably, will provide a \$3 billion injection into our local economy.

Our government is delivering a massive investment in transport infrastructure, which is driving jobs, boosting the economy and connecting our community. Through Metronet, we have extended the Joondalup rail line by 14.5 kilometres north of Butler, building three new train stations in Yanchep, Alkimos and Eglinton. This will unlock so much potential across the northern corridor. This extension will connect the entire northern corridor with the Joondalup city centre. I look forward to operations commencing in July. The extension will connect more than 150 000 future Yanchep and Two Rocks residents to the Joondalup CBD with a 24-minute train journey. This is in line with my expectation that Joondalup will become Perth's second CBD, with those living north of Joondalup being able to access our city centre without the need to go further south. A total of 10 Metronet projects are expected to be completed by the end of 2024, including the previously mentioned Yanchep rail extension and, of course, the Morley–Ellenbrook line. Similar to when the Joondalup line was opened more than 30 years ago in 1992 by Premier Carmen Lawrence, the operation of these new rail lines will connect Perth's growing suburbs with opportunities across the city.

In addition to the rail line extension as part of Metronet, the Cook government is also delivering a series of cutting-edge rail cars to service the Joondalup–Mandurah line. I recently attended the open day at which we saw a locally manufactured train on the line. It was fitted out with about 400 seats and passenger comforts, such as USB ports. We are making sure that we are investing in the first locally built trains in more than 30 years since the Liberal government shut down that manufacturing in this state.

Moving on to buses, WA's next generation of electric CAT buses is undergoing a trial on the Joondalup CAT route, as well as suburban routes in Joondalup. So far, the CAT buses in the trial have carried more than 250 000 passengers in the first year of service, preventing the release of 230 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. I am so proud that following the success of the Joondalup electric bus trial, we are seeing further investment to deliver quality infrastructure in the northern suburbs on suburban bus routes.

[Member's time extended.]

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

Ms E.L. HAMILTON: There are so many additional things I want to say about this budget, but at this time of the evening, I will keep the rest of my contribution relatively concise.

We have seen a huge investment in our housing and homelessness strategies, with \$1.1 billion delivered in this budget. During their contributions in the house this evening, many members reflected on their experience as a young person purchasing their first home. Gee, it was a different climate back then. I, like many others, have children who will be looking to the housing market moving forward. We have to make sure that we provide every opportunity for young people to aspire to the next step in their journey. We have to do our part to make home ownership a possibility for young people. This budget definitely delivers in important areas. We are expanding the capacity of the residential construction workforce through TAFE and training. We have provided direct funding for new social and affordable housing and, importantly, funding for homelessness services and a boost to the supply of regional land. We have seen a \$24 million contribution to the WA rent relief program to help families and women at risk of eviction and experiencing rental stress to stay in their rental properties.

The government has also made sure that it is providing opportunities for people to convert their premises into rental accommodation. The government is also extending its support to first home buyers by increasing the stamp duty exemption threshold for first home buyers to \$450 000 and increasing the concession threshold to \$600 000. That will help almost 5 000 first homebuyers each year and increase savings just over \$15 000 for stamp duty on a first home. Like I said, I know that many young people, including my electorate officer, are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to be able to get into the housing market. I know this support will be welcomed.

As we discuss the budget, I think it is important that we take a moment to note that this is the first budget delivered by a woman in over 30 years. This Western Australian budget is supporting women across our community with a wide range of investments in a number of key areas. We are now supporting the provision of free period products from primary school, in secondary school and through to TAFE. Upon taking office many years ago, I got quite actively involved in Share the Dignity. It noticed there was a definite need in the community to be able to provide period products and a whole host of reasons that not having access to this fundamental support was having some really dire outcomes, particularly through our educational institutions. I could reflect on many a story I heard throughout that time, but I am really proud to see period products are going into our primary schools from term 3 this year.

We are delivering record funding for the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future program, with a \$1.4 million boost over 2023–24 and 2024–25. Locally in Joondalup, the Spiers Centre, Luma and Edith Cowan University received funds from that program. The Spiers Centre has been using these funds to deliver the Financial Empowerment for Women Overcoming Adversity project. Luma is progressing the Her Story project, which is seeking to empower and assist survivors of family and domestic violence. Edith Cowan University will be implementing projects to support and promote workplace gender equity in local government leadership through SheSpeaks: Amplifying Women's Voices for Wellbeing.

I recently joined Minister Sabine Winton on a visit to the Joondalup Early Learning Centre for the launch of its early intervention hub. The hub will provide comprehensive developmental screenings and therapy services for children aged zero to five years who attend the centre. These screenings will help kids at the earliest age by identifying potential barriers and addressing those issues. That is this spirit that is guiding our budget's \$16 million state investment into the Early Years Partnership, with a further \$19 million from the Minderoo Foundation, supporting initiatives that deliver better outcomes for children in the critical early stages of child development.

One of the most important aspects of this budget is our investment in the prevention of family and domestic violence. I am proud to be electorate neighbours—if that is the term we use—with Minister Winton, who represents the state seat of Wanneroo. In Joondalup, we refer to it as “the other side of the lake”. I know that she, too, is dedicated and working around the clock on this matter. Of late, there have been numerous tragic events that remind us that family and domestic violence remains an ongoing concern for too many women and children. It is non-discriminatory. Fear of, or trauma from, family and domestic violence is not something that anybody should have to endure. It is a priority for this government.

We are seeing a whole host of investments through this budget, including \$96 million of funding for prevention of family and domestic violence, bringing the total investment to \$422 million since 2021. We have seen \$54 million to expand operations of FDV response teams, including moving to operating seven days a week. That just makes sense. It is a bit like mental health issues and challenges; these things tend not to happen during conventional business hours. We have \$14 million for a new FDV one-stop hub in the CBD. There is \$6 million for workforce development and \$585 000 to develop legislative reforms to criminalise coercive control. Like I said, that is \$422 million invested by this Labor government since 2021. It just shows that the safety of women and children will always be a top priority for our government.

Mrs Lisa O'Malley; Mr Kevin Michel; Ms Meredith Hammat; Ms Margaret Quirk; Dr Katrina Stratton; Mr Stephen Price; Ms Emily Hamilton; Mr David Michael

On a different note, we are also supporting access to sport for women. There is \$36 million allocated through the community sport and recreation facilities fund for projects specifically supporting female participation.

Locally, we have seen the delivery of new lighting at Santiago Park, Iluka District Open Space and Windermere Park, which has enabled our local sporting clubs in Joondalup to expand their training schedules and continue along the path of growing women's teams. The local cricket clubs should be commended for that; they are really starting to make sure that they grow that pathway for young women.

I am also advocating separately for continued investment in our Heathridge Park redevelopment. I will continue to make sure that we progress this project. At the 2021 election, I secured \$2.5 million to support the redevelopment of Heathridge Park, and I am pleased that the City of Joondalup is working through a community consultation process on that redevelopment. I recently attended a council meeting to make sure that I conveyed my expectation and the expectation of the community, which I have spoken to on this issue for a very long time, that the consultation will be meaningful and involve all corners of our community—not only residents but also stakeholder and user groups at this site. I am really excited that with this redevelopment we will see increased support for women in sport, particularly with the change rooms. We really need to see that as there has been rapid growth of women in sport across not only the northern suburbs but also the whole state, as we have seen with the large games that have been played. That is really coming into its own and should continue to happen.

Recently, Premier Cook visited Joondalup city centre. It was a really great opportunity to show him around. As I have said, I wish I had a little more time to speak because I could talk about the substantial investments in the heart of the northern suburbs. One investment that I do want to mention is the Yalbunullup mountain bike trails at Yellagonga Regional Park. Work is now underway on the new seven kilometres long mountain bike trail network, which has been designed to provide accessible, family friendly mountain biking opportunities that will complement the surrounding bushland setting. It is anticipated that construction of the mountain bike trail will be completed in October this year. I know the community is very excited about this project. In any comments around these bike trails I must mention the strong advocacy of Chris and Mark at the Northern Beaches Cycling Club, who have been integral to the delivery of this project and seeing it come to life.

Premier Cook and I also stopped in at the Joondalup Wolves to shoot some hoops—the Premier did well—and meet some of the players. Again, we have seen huge growth in participation in basketball. We got to watch some of the school holiday programs when we were there. We also went to the Western Australia Police Academy to see the wonderful training happening there. Any visit to the northern suburbs has to include a walk through the Lakeside Joondalup Shopping Centre. While there, we stopped off at Puffin Fresh Donuts and the Premier had a nice coffee and a couple of doughnuts with some locals. Peppermint Green, another wonderful small business operating at the Winton Road business park, provided a lovely lunch. It was a great opportunity for the Premier to have conversations with residents, small business owners and members of the community about how people are feeling quite positive about the investment they are seeing in the northern suburbs.

As I come to the end of my contribution, I again want to make sure that I thank the Treasurer on a solid budget, as many others in this place have done. The budget delivers not only for my community but also the whole of Western Australia. Thank you.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.R. Michael (Minister for Mines and Petroleum)**.

House adjourned at 8.43 pm
