

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT) RECURRENT 2009–10 (SUPPLEMENTARY) BILL 2010
APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT) CAPITAL 2009–10 (SUPPLEMENTARY) BILL 2010

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from 16 November.

DR A.D. BUTI (Armada) [2.47 pm]: I rise to continue the debate that commenced last night on the Appropriation (Consolidated Account) Recurrent 2009–10 (Supplementary) Bill 2010 and the Appropriation (Consolidated Account) Capital 2009–10 (Supplementary) Bill 2010.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! If members wish to communicate with one another, I suggest that they do so outside the chamber. Some members wish to listen to this part of today's proceedings. I suggest to those who have other business that they take it outside. I have given the call to the member for Armadale. I want to hear what he has to say.

Dr A.D. BUTI: My friend the member for Victoria Park commenced debate on this bill for the opposition last night. He stated quite well that the moneys that we are talking about relate to section 27 of the Financial Management Act and that they are for extraordinary and unforeseen matters. "Extraordinary" and "unforeseen" are key terms. I will come back to them later.

It is the opposition's job to hold this government to account financially. Indeed, we are talking about taxpayers' money. It is difficult to provide a forensic examination of the government's spending program if we have not been given detail about that spending program. As of last night—I am unclear about the situation today—the government had provided us with only a sketch of the breakdown of that funding. Basically, we were provided with a mud map. We are unable to scrutinise in detail the government's spending. The Treasurer argues that this funding is for extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances over and above the normal budgetary process. Last night, after prompting from the member for Victoria Park, the Treasurer promised that he would provide a further breakdown of that funding today. I have not seen that breakdown; in any case, it should have been provided days ago.

The member for Victoria Park was rather entertaining and informative last night as he relived events of March 2009 in which the Premier dismissed the former Treasurer and proceeded to answer opposition questions about the advancement process. I was not a member of the house at the time, but from the account provided last night by the member for Victoria Park, it seems that the Premier sent the former Treasurer on his bike and took over proceedings for the government. As was confirmed during the member for Cannington's contribution last night, this government is a one-man band. As was confirmed by the Premier last night, we do not need to write to ministers, as we should write to only the Premier himself if we want issues in our electorates to be taken seriously by this government. However, I am not sure whether the Premier therefore understands the Westminster system: his ministers actually do have portfolio responsibilities and it is reasonable for us as representatives of our electorates to write to the relevant ministers. But I am digressing.

Mr P.T. Miles interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Yes, I am. At least we will not have a situation whereby the Premier dismisses the Treasurer during this debate! I would think that the Premier probably does not dislike the Treasurer, although he could be dissatisfied with the Treasurer's performance; likewise, the current Treasurer could be dissatisfied with the Premier's performance. As we all know—it was confirmed last night by his silence when asked by the member for Cannington—this Premier does not like being Treasurer. There is no doubt that by the end of the year he will be replaced as Treasurer. Who will be the new Treasurer? Will it be the recycled member for Vasse? Will it be the Minister for Health? Will it be the Attorney General and Minister for Corrective Services, or the Minister for Planning and Culture and the Arts? The member for Cannington's tip is that it will be the Minister for Planning and Culture and the Arts. I must say that my tip is that it will be the Attorney General, but —

Mr D.A. Templeman: I notice you haven't got the member for Swan Hills in the mix!

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, I thought that might be too much of a jump, but anything is possible with this government!

Mr M.W. Sutherland: Give him a chance!

Mr F.A. Alban: You never know!

Dr A.D. BUTI: After that statement —

Mr B.S. Wyatt interjected.

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Mr D.A. Templeman: He'd be right in front of you, member for Mount Lawley!

The SPEAKER: Take a seat, member for Armadale. Member for Victoria Park, normally I enjoy your interjections, but you need to make them from your allocated seat in this place. I formally call you to order for the first time.

Dr A.D. BUTI: At least by Christmas we should know who the new Treasurer of Western Australia is. During last night's debate, the Premier by way of interjection said to the member for Victoria Park that expense growth had come down from 12 to seven per cent. When the member for Victoria Park queried how the Premier had arrived at this figure, the Premier said, "Read the media releases—public sector expenditure."

Mr B.S. Wyatt: He's never read the annual report, member.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Certainly, and the member for Victoria Park had to point out to him that the *2009–10 Annual Report on State Finances* showed that expense growth had gone from 13.5 per cent to 10.9 per cent. Is the Premier telling us that we should scrutinise government policy and government finances by just reading media releases?

Mr B.S. Wyatt: It says a lot, member.

Dr A.D. BUTI: It certainly does say a lot. We know the term in federal politics "Sloppy Joe". "Sloppy Col" does not actually rhyme but I think the analogy is quite correct and appropriate. It is no wonder that when Richard Court was Premier, he did not trust the current Premier. We know that when Richard Court was defeated by Geoff Gallop, he did what he could to prevent the current Premier from becoming the Leader of the Opposition in 2001. At least we are fortunate that we have been spared the nightmare of having in this chamber the current commonwealth shadow foreign minister and federal Deputy Leader of the Opposition, because, if members remember, either Richard Court or people close to Richard Court were advocating at the time that the current federal deputy opposition leader become the new shining light of the state opposition.

Also by way of interjection last night, although I notice that Hansard did not pick this up, I heard and many members on this side of the house heard —

Ms R. Saffioti: I heard it, too!

Dr A.D. BUTI: I thank the member very much.

Mr P.T. Miles: What did you hear?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Members opposite will be told; just wait and listen! The interjection from the Premier was quite amazing. He said that I—who have been in the job only two months, if I have been in the job two months—should be doing more for Armadale because Labor had rejected Armadale. The Premier had been to Armadale last week and was very disappointed with what he saw, and he said that Labor had neglected the area. That is an amazing comment by the Premier! I thought he would be happy with what he saw, so I was very, very surprised. In fact, I am very happy, though, that he wants me to do more for Armadale. I will be writing to him next week because, from my understanding of comments made last night, I should not write to his ministers.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Don't write to them!

Dr A.D. BUTI: I have to write to "One-man-band Colin".

Mr P. Papalia: Just walk into his office!

Dr A.D. BUTI: That might be the way to go, member for Warnbro.

Point of Order

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I know that the member for Armadale is a very new boy in this house, but he should learn standing orders, which say that we do not refer to another member by their Christian name or their surname but by their seat or their title.

The SPEAKER: I accept the point of order.

Debate Resumed

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Dr A.D. BUTI: As I said, I was —

Several members interjected.

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The SPEAKER: I want to hear the member for Armadale; I do not want to hear interjections from the member for Mindarie or the member for Bassendean or anybody else in this chamber. I have given the call to the member for Armadale.

Point of Order

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order, member for Mindarie.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: There is a man poking his tongue out at me! I find it offensive.

Mr R.F. Johnson: I find you offensive!

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I take that as a point of order.

Several members interjected.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: It is an ugly tongue! It is a tongue that should be on a lizard.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mindarie, I formally call you to order for the first time and the second time today.

Mr M.P. Whitely: It goes with the scales!

The SPEAKER: I call you to order for the first time, member for Bassendean.

Member for Mindarie, if you are going to make a point of order, I do not expect it to be a frivolous one. I expect you to be able to quote from the book of standing orders with reference to what you might be making a point of order about. There is no point of order.

Debate Resumed

Dr A.D. BUTI: The Minister for Police is very right: I am the new boy on the block and I was surprised that the Premier expected that I should have done more for Armadale in the two months that I have been in this place.

Several members interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I would think that the Minister for Planning and Culture and the Arts would not agree with the Premier's statement that Armadale has been neglected. Last Monday I was with the Minister for Planning at the formal opening of the Aboriginal interpretive centre at Champion Lakes. I note that the Minister for Planning and Culture and the Arts was very impressed with that facility, as is the member for Vasse who thinks that it is a great rowing facility. Who was the person who instigated the development of Champion Lakes?

Ms R. Saffioti: Was it the Premier?

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, it was not the Premier. I am not sure whether the Premier knows where Champion Lakes is, but it was —

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Did you know the Premier used to paint the harbour bridge?

Dr A.D. BUTI: But it actually was the former member for Armadale and former Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Hon Alannah MacTiernan.

I must say that I nearly fell off my seat last night when the Premier said that Labor had neglected Armadale. Let us look at the facts. I would even think that the member for Darling Range who should, of course, be in the ministry if there is any reshuffle —

Ms R. Saffioti: Serpentine–Jarrahdale.

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, he is the member for Darling Range.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: For heaven's sake, member—I have been offered a job in the ministry before you have!

Dr A.D. BUTI: Yes, that is right. The member for Darling Range would be impressed with what has happened in Armadale because his seat borders my seat. He would be impressed with the Tonkin Highway extension to Byford. He would be impressed with Champion Lakes; in fact, the member for Darling Range was at the same opening on Monday as I was with the Minister for Planning and Culture and the Arts.

When I said "let us look at the facts", let us go back to the Richard Court days.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Do we have to?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Unfortunately, I think that we do, member for Victoria Park. If we look at that period of office, Armadale was completely neglected by the tories. It seemed that the Court government thought that the outer

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metropolitan limit was Cannington, because any government services that we had at the time—there were not many—were moved to Cannington. Nothing existed in Armadale. But then, thankfully, in 2001, the Gallop government came to power, and for the next seven or so years the Armadale region was transformed and that transformation was led by Hon Alannah MacTiernan. There was belief; Armadale has always been a high priority of the Labor Party. The Labor Party; the minister, who was also the local member; the City of Armadale; and the Armadale Redevelopment Authority, which was another great initiative of the Labor government, transformed the region of Armadale. It is a shame that the Premier is not here to hear my speech.

Mr M. McGowan: He will be listening.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I hope he is, because I wish I had met him when he came to Armadale. We could have had a coffee at the Dome cafe in Armadale.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: The Premier likes to have a coffee, especially if there is a justice issue to ignore.

Dr A.D. BUTI: That is right. If we had had lattes or cappuccinos at the Dome cafe, which I believe is the biggest Dome cafe in the state, we could then have taken a stroll through the revitalised CBD of Armadale. I could have taken him to the new train station at Armadale. I could have taken him to the rejuvenated and renovated train station at Kelmscott, although one would probably think that the Premier is not interested in train stations. It seems that the Tories have a DNA-imprinted prejudice against rail. Which government closed the Fremantle–Perth railway line? It was the Sir Charles Court government. I wonder whether the Premier would be game enough now to close that line. I wonder how his constituents in Cottesloe would feel about that.

We could have popped over to the Wungong urban waters project, which is creating Perth's most sustainable energy and water efficient community. We could have then gone to the Forrestdale Business Park. We could have gone to the Champion Lakes Regatta Centre. I am sure that if the Premier had spoken to some of his constituents, he would find that they were impressed because many of them go to the Champion Lakes rowing regattas, because many of them are rowers, and the Head of the River regatta is held at the Champion Lakes aquatic facility. It is a fantastic facility, the building of which was instigated, and the initial stages of building and the stages that allow rowing to take place completed, under a Labor government.

I cannot understand how the Premier can say that Labor has neglected Armadale. After we had a row or canoe at Champion Lakes, we could have driven on the Tonkin Highway extension to Armadale and then to the Armadale–Kelmscott Memorial Hospital.

Mr P. Papalia: He probably would have needed it by then.

Dr A.D. BUTI: He probably would have.

Several members interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: His interjection was not worth commenting on.

Several members interjected.

THE ACTING SPEAKER (Mr J.M. Francis): Members! I have just taken the chair. I want to hear the member for Armadale.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Of course, the Armadale–Kelmscott Memorial Hospital has been subject to incredible pressure under the responsibility of the current Minister for Health, but under the Labor government it had a \$10 million upgrade. I presume that the member for Wanneroo thinks it is pork-barrelling when money is put into hospitals. It is amazing that when money is put into a hospital it is pork-barrelling. Where is a government to put money, member for Wanneroo? His silence tells it all.

I could then have taken the Premier to all the education facilities. I could have showed him the great work that Labor did with the various educational institutions in the Armadale region. For instance, Labor, with some federal funding, spent \$3 million upgrading the Cecil Andrews Senior High School. To be fair, I should let members on both sides know that the Court family has a close connection to the Cecil Andrews Senior High School that I am very impressed with. Sir Charles Court opened the Cecil Andrews Senior High School in the mid-1970s, if I am right, although I cannot exactly remember when it was. The Court family has every year since that day donated a scholarship to that school, which is very impressive. Labor also put nearly \$200 000 into the upgrade of the Gwynne Park Primary School special educational centre. It put \$2.3 million into the construction of the science block and agricultural facility at Kelmscott Senior High School, which, I must also let members know, is where the member for West Swan and I graduated from, so it must be an outstanding high school. The Labor government funded many other school projects in the area.

The Labor government also provided low-interest loans to private schools in the area; funding for sewerage infill; \$46.5 million for water infrastructure at Wungong; funding for river restoration of the Canning River in

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the Kelmscott region; not to mention the \$21 million for power upgrades to the area; funding for quality, low-cost housing in the Seville Grove area and other housing support. That is just the state funding by Labor. I will not get onto the federal funding because I will not have enough time.

[Member's time extended.]

Several members interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Pork-barrelling? The funding of education and hospitals is pork-barrelling! That is amazing. One must wonder what one is supposed to spend money on when in government. This debate is about money spent by this government over and above the normal budgetary process, so presumably it has spent the money on something. I am wondering what pork-barrelling has occurred under the current government.

The Premier and I could have had a coffee at the Dome cafe in Armadale. When the Premier and I went for a stroll along Jull Street, the Premier could have found out what the constituents of the area think that Labor has done. They could have also told the Premier what he has done for them. What the Premier has done for them is massive hikes in electricity and utility charges. That is what his government has done for the electors and constituents of the Armadale region. In 2008 Labor placed \$780 million in the budget so that electricity price hikes would not be any greater than 10 per cent a year. What did the Barnett government do? It stripped that money out of the budget so that it could fund the royalties for regions agreement with the National Party, leaving families, sporting clubs and associations in my area, and other areas, with hikes of 26 per cent last year and 18.25 per cent this year, compounding to a 48 per cent hike. That is the Premier's contribution to Armadale. Labor has contributed to Armadale in many areas. The Premier's contribution has been increased electricity and household costs.

I am surprised that the Premier, who has just now walked in, has such a negative view of Armadale. Last night he said he was very disappointed in what he saw in Armadale. That is very different from what he said when he visited Armadale at the invitation of the City of Armadale. At the conclusion of that visit there was a small function. Do members know what the Premier said to that audience? He said that he was mightily impressed with what he saw in Armadale. He also said, and I do agree with him on this point, that Armadale needs a high-quality TAFE facility and a very much improved Armadale Senior High School. I am totally in agreement with him on that. I look forward to working with him to achieve that. The Premier is saying that we need much more for Armadale. He is now in government, so I hope that he will fund the Kelmscott Davis Road underpass, and that he will help fund a year-round heated swimming pool, an arts centre and much more, including the Justice School Link program. It is a shame that the Minister for Corrective Services is not here, because I am sure he will be interested in this, as I hope the Minister for Education would be. The Justice School Link program is being piloted at one of my local schools, Neerigen Brook Primary School, which is very fortunate to have at its helm a very dynamic and innovative principal, whose name is Megan Barnett. I am not sure whether she is related to the Premier. I do not think she is, but we never know. Anyhow, under this program, the school has formed a partnership with a number of prisons in Western Australia. The way the program works is that funding is provided to prisoners. Prisoners work in the prison, and they receive a payment over and above what they normally would receive for working in the prison. That money is then utilised by their children in the education system. Their kids can use that money to buy educational products at the school. It is an innovative program that links the child with the imprisoned parent, and the linkage is education and work. Some very modest funding is required of \$1 300 per prisoner. So I hope the Premier and the Minister for Corrective Services, and also the Minister for Education, will see this as a worthwhile project and will fund it.

Last night, the Premier lambasted the member for Cannington. He said that the member for Cannington had not written to the Premier. Although the member for Cannington had written to ministers, apparently we should not write to ministers; we should write only to the Premier if we want something done. Do not worry. Next week I will write to the Premier to invite him to Armadale, because I want to work closely with the Premier to further improve on the great work that was commenced by the Labor government and hopefully —

Mr C.J. Barnett: I will be spending a lot of time in Armadale over the next couple of years.

Dr A.D. BUTI: That will be fantastic, Premier. I would love to see the Premier there. We could work together. That is what it is all about, is it not, Premier? Is that not what it is all about—that we work together to achieve great things? Therefore, we can go on our own magical mystery tour of Armadale. I am looking forward to that.

Mr C.J. Barnett: I am, but not with you; I can tell you that right now!

Dr A.D. BUTI: The Premier would not know. One would wonder how much the Premier really knows about Armadale.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Not a lot!

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Dr A.D. BUTI: I am sure he will get lost if he is not guided. Did members hear that? The Premier will not deal with the local member! The Premier was given an invitation from the local member to come to his area to help him improve the local area, and he will not do it! He rejects that invitation! That will bring great headlines in the local newspaper next week, I can assure members. That just shows us that this Premier lives in the western suburbs. He does not care about Armadale. The Attorney General, in his inaugural speech, talked about the imaginary Mason–Dixon line bisecting the Narrows Bridge. It is not imaginary under the Tories. Under the Tories, Armadale does not exist. They could not even run a candidate; that is how much they care about Armadale. What a joke, Premier! The Premier will not meet with the elected representative of Armadale. What a joke! I thought the Premier actually had greater character than that—that he actually does care about all Western Australians. But the Premier only cares about Western Australians who are in non-Labor seats. We have it on record—I hope Hansard has picked it up—that the Premier will not agree to meet with the local member in Armadale.

Several members interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Let us get back to the meanings of “extraordinary” and “unforeseen”. *Webster’s Online Dictionary* defines “extraordinary” as beyond or out of the common order or method; not usual, customary, regular, or ordinary. It defines “unforeseen” as unexpected; something that we did not think about; something that was not realised beforehand.

Let us turn to the recurrent appropriation figures provided by the government. Has the member for Victoria Park received the updated detailed breakdown that the Treasurer promised us we would receive today?

Mr B.S. Wyatt: No; I am still waiting for that.

Dr A.D. BUTI: But, anyhow, we can only go by what we can go by. Under the flimsy details that we did receive yesterday, nearly every ministerial portfolio seems to have extraordinary and unforeseen matters that need funding. Let us be fair. Of course that is going to happen in certain circumstances. In health, for instance, or even in corrective services, there will be extraordinary and unforeseen matters. But in education? In the education portfolio, we have nearly \$67 million of extraordinary and unforeseen matters that need to be funded. As members would know from my inaugural speech, I have a special interest in education. It is crucial to the national development and the national economic benefit of this nation. But education is not a national emergency portfolio. There has not been a major influx of students that could not have been catered for in the normal budgetary process. The Minister for Education has not made a decision about the movement of year 7 students from primary school to high school, which of course will have a major effect on the budget. None of that has happened. What we do know is that the minister has failed to meet the three per cent efficiency dividend, which comes to nearly \$52 million. The question is: why has the minister failed to realise that three per cent efficiency budgetary target? Is she a weak minister? Is she not competent? Is she not on top of her portfolio? It is actually very hard for us to know. We have a lack of detail—detail that was going to be provided by the Treasurer today.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Do you support independent public schools? As a deep thinker on education, do you support independent public schools?

Dr A.D. BUTI: I am about to get onto that, Premier.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Do you—yes or no?

Dr A.D. BUTI: I am about to get onto that. With regard to independent public schools, which I was going to get onto in any case, the jury is out. There are many advocates for them, and there are many knockers of them. I have actually had a meeting with every principal in my area; some are supportive and some are not supportive. I can see some benefits, Premier, but I can also see some negatives.

Mr F.A. Alban: Such as?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Does the member know what one of the negatives is? It is a two-tiered system. That is what one of the negatives is. If the member spoke to some of the principals, he might find out. We need to do a cost–benefit analysis. Has the minister done a cost–benefit analysis with regard to the educational benefit, with regard to the community benefit and with regard to the financial benefit of independent public schools? Has the minister done that or has she not done that? Where are the details of that policy? No justifications have been provided for the \$67 million additional funding for education. There is no data that justifies that \$67 million over and above the normal budgetary process. There may be justifications for that, but where are those justifications? We have not seen them.

In any case, my invitation to the Premier remains open. I would hope that he is big enough to realise that he made a mistake by refusing to meet the local member in Armadale. I would hope that the Premier would come to Armadale, where I have lived for 40 of my 49 years; I might actually have some idea of the area. I would hope

that, regardless of politics, regardless of whether we are Liberal or Labor, the Premier, as the Premier of this state, and as the person who has the responsibility for the welfare and the wellbeing of every citizen of this state, whether they live in Cottesloe or Armadale, would be prepared to meet the local member. It is an absolute disgrace when the Premier of the day refuses to meet the local member at the invitation of the local member.

MS A.R. MITCHELL (Kingsley) [3.18 pm]: I rise to support the Appropriation (Consolidated Account) Recurrent 2009–10 (Supplementary) Bill 2010 and the Appropriation (Consolidated Account) Capital 2009–10 (Supplementary) Bill 2010, and I am very proud to do so. I say that because, for me, there is a great deal of evidence in my community of the benefits and the support and the positive outcomes from this Liberal–National government. We are producing results and we are getting very good outcomes. My comments are not going to be theoretical. My comments are going to be very practical, because that is what I believe the debate on these bills needs to be. I am a very practical person.

I will start with law and order. I am very pleased to say that over the past two years, I am one of the persons who have been very concerned about law and order standards in our community. But I now have some great facts that demonstrate that what we have been doing, the legislation that we have introduced and the expenditure that we have allocated, is producing outcomes. I have three suburbs in my electorate, and I will go through each of them. In Greenwood, assaults are down 18 per cent; burglary, other than dwellings and motor theft, down 30 per cent; graffiti, down 30 per cent; and motor vehicle theft is also down slightly, but not to that extent. In Kingsley, assaults are down 23 per cent and motor vehicle theft is down 50 per cent. There has also been a reduction in burglary. In Woodvale, assaults are down 20 per cent and graffiti is down 15 per cent. Overall, that means that across the three suburbs, I can provide demonstrated percentages that assaults are down 21 per cent; graffiti, 15 per cent; theft of motor vehicles, 17 per cent; and burglary, other than motor vehicles and dwellings, 38 per cent. That is pretty clear. These figures are the result of the very strong law and order stance this government has acted upon.

I move now to transport. Stage 2 car parks at Whitfords and Greenwood train stations have been completed. There are now an additional 210 car parks at Whitfords and 176 bays at Greenwood. This has certainly alleviated the parking congestion at these train stations.

Mr C.J. Barnett: You promised that in your campaign.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: I certainly did. It was very easy to deliver that because we want to make sure we provide support for the people in these electorates. The extra car parks have been very well received and they have certainly made parking a lot easier. It has lessened the parking in the side streets and stopped those other situations from occurring. I am looking forward —

Mr M.P. Whitely interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr J.M. Francis): Member for Bassendean!

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: As I said, I am looking forward to the next phase of improvements to the public transport options within my electorate because, unfortunately, it is possible to get to the Greenwood train station only by car, bicycle or on foot. I am working hard towards getting the introduction of a bus service. I am sure this government will be very conscious of delivering those outcomes because it supports the public transport initiative.

I must also say that many seniors in my electorate love the ability to travel free on public transport during off-peak times. It has been a very well received policy and is of benefit to the senior members of our community. I get very positive comments on a regular basis that seniors appreciate it. We have remembered our seniors, shown consideration for them and given them something tangible to access.

I will speak now about education. I am sorry the member for Armadale has left because I am a very big advocate for the independent public school process. I have said before, and I will say again, that it has rejuvenated and reinvigorated public education in Western Australia, albeit I was disappointed that none of my schools was selected in the first intake. It is important that we make sure we do not go silly and just toss it out in the first year. We are making sure the schools are ready and will be successful in their operations and that the people, the teachers and the school community are ready to take on some extra responsibility and embrace the empowerment that comes with the independent public school process. There is no doubt that schools want the ability to take control, to initiate and to be responsible for their operations and not be told what they can do. I think this independent public schools initiative is a very important part of the education process for students in Western Australia.

I also want to talk about the official opening of the new Greenwood Primary School last Friday. I have to say that the construction of this school was a source of controversy under the previous government and prior to the

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last election. It was very advantageous for me, and it was very pleasing to see the new \$12.25 million fantastic set-up officially opened last week. It is a very, very positive learning environment for the students in the Greenwood area. It is an amalgamation of two schools.

Mr M. McGowan: Are you saying that I made the right decision?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: We went through some controversy to get there, but in amalgamating the schools, yes.

Mr M. McGowan: Was it the right decision or not?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: The amalgamation was a good decision. The process through the other issues was difficult, as the member for Rockingham will remember. The amalgamation was a refreshing initiative because there has not been a new school in that area for a long time. To see what is now available in the new school is great.

Mr M. McGowan: Exactly. I think I said that at the public meeting you were at.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: The member did; I recall that.

Mr M. McGowan: That was when everyone was screaming at me and being encouraged by people.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Once again, I am sorry the member for Armadale has gone because he tackled the Premier on the increased costs of energy usage. None of us like it, but some of us admit that we had to make a stand and do something so that we had some money to do other things. I will not speak about that because I think that has not been put properly, but I want to congratulate the government on the net feed-in tariff program. That has been welcomed strongly by people in my electorate. I understand now that more than 22 000 homes have taken the opportunity to put photovoltaic systems on their roofs. It works out at about 1 000 systems a month. I have to say that I am one of those people. I have done it, and I am looking forward to a reduced energy account coming in on a regular basis.

The other thing I am very pleased about is seeing in my electorate—the Minister for Energy was out there the other week—a number of over-55 lifestyle complexes. They do not consider themselves outside the system. They have taken the initiative themselves to collectively apply for grants and to negotiate to get a better deal from suppliers. One place, Timberside Villas, which comprises 140 villas, has placed PV cells on 109 of its villas. It now has a total of 663 PV cells on its roofs. This group was very smart and installed the PV cells when they could get a grant, so they were installed for no cost. Because they had more than 100 cells, a further 54 cells were installed on the roof of the community centre. That means the levies from the residents for the community centre will be less. Some people could not apply for the cells because their units are ground-floor units. Nonetheless, that is a tremendous achievement by a group of people who want to make a difference. They saw that there was a good scheme in operation and did something about it. I applaud them greatly.

The other issue I want to quickly mention is the development of the Joondalup Health Campus. This facility is important for people in my electorate. Other members and their constituents use the Joondalup Health Campus. It is fantastic that this government has been instrumental in initiating the construction of the additions and, more importantly, that they are ahead of schedule.

I have outlined a few of the very clear examples of the success of the Liberal–National government to this stage. I am very proud to be part of this government and I look forward to the next two years and the next term of government.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan) [3.27 pm]: I rise to speak on the appropriation bills before the house. Of course, this is the usual debate on the Treasurer's advance when the government seeks retrospective approval for the expenditure of public money. Members on this side are disappointed that we have yet to see the details of this mass of expenditure. Those appropriation bills provide for more than \$900 million of additional expenditure, but we do not have the details. I will give one thing to the member for Vasse on one thing: at least he used to provide the information. It was slightly wrong—about \$200 million out —

Mr B.S. Wyatt interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Yes; it was not always right but at least we got it.

Mr M. McGowan: He had a crack anyway.

Mr M.P. Whitely: One thing you could always say about the member for Vasse is that he had a go.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: At least we had the information. I find it disappointing and again contemptuous of Parliament and the process that we do not have that information.

Dr A.D. Buti: It was promised last night, I think.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It was promised last night that it would be delivered this morning.

Mr C.J. Barnett: If you want to stop for a minute, I will table it.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I am on my feet. If the Premier provides it now, I cannot analyse it.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: I asked you at question time and you said no.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Premier had ample opportunity from 12 o'clock.

Mr C.J. Barnett: If you want to hesitate for a moment, I will table it.

Tabling of Papers

Mr M.P. WHITELY: If there is any way we can facilitate the Premier's tabling it without the member for West Swan's time running down, that would be wonderful. Are we able to do that?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr J.M. Francis): Thank you for your point of order. I am happy for the member for West Swan to stand up again. I will take it by interjection. If the Premier by way of interjection is offering to —

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I am very disappointed that the document has not been tabled.

Mr C.J. Barnett: I just offered to table it. I was waiting for an opportunity.

The ACTING SPEAKER: The Premier, by way of interjection, is seeking —

Mr C.J. Barnett: It is tabled. There you go.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Premier cannot table it like that.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I understand that the Treasurer, by way of interjection, is offering to table some documents. If the member for West Swan is happy for the Premier to do that by way of interjection, the document is tabled.

[See paper 2865 and 2866.]

Debate Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We have been sitting since 12 noon. The Treasurer could have had the decency to table those documents earlier. He could have given them to the shadow Treasurer. That would have been the decent thing to do. Yesterday the Treasurer said that there is no legislative requirement to table those documents. That is correct. There is no legislative requirement to table the budget papers either but the budget papers are tabled because they provide the information underpinning government expenditure.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Well, there it is.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The papers should be tabled during the second reading speech.

Mr C.J. Barnett: I did not have them last night. I have tabled them now that I have them.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: I asked you to table them half an hour ago and you said, "No, bad luck."

Mr C.J. Barnett: Because you behaved like a rabbit during question time.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Are you the Premier or a 15-year-old?

Mr C.J. Barnett: The member for Armadale would not shut up and give me a chance to table it.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Are you the Premier or a 15-year-old? Start behaving like the Premier.

Mr C.J. Barnett: They have been tabled. You have the documents. We are only up to about the fourth speech.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Start behaving like the Premier, not the 15-year-old member for Vasse.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Premier tabled the documents after the shadow Treasurer provided his response. The Treasurer should have tabled the documents during the second reading speech. That is what is done at budget time and that is what the Premier should do with the documents relating to the Treasurer's advance. The Treasurer is right that there is no legislative requirement to do that, but there is no legislative requirement to table the budget papers either, but they are tabled because they provide the information necessary for Parliament to scrutinise the budget documents. This is contemptuous of Parliament and the opposition. It is another sign that the government does not want to be held accountable for the expenditure it is undertaking. The shadow Treasurer asked for the documents today and the Premier brushed him off.

Dr Tony Buti; Mr Rob Johnson; Speaker; Mr John Quigley; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Ms Rita Saffioti; Acting Speaker

Mr C.J. Barnett: I have given them to him. He has them.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Premier is being arrogant and contemptuous of Parliament. The shadow Treasurer did not have the information before he made his response and nor did the member for Cannington.

Mr C.J. Barnett: He did not even talk about the budget.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: They could not talk about the budget because they did not know what was in it. It is hard to know what is in it without the documents. I would like to go through each item.

Mr C.J. Barnett: You have the documents. Get on with it.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I am on my feet. The Premier knows that I cannot go through those documents now. This is another sign of the arrogance of the Treasurer and the contempt he has for this place. The Premier should have provided those documents. This is \$1 billion of additional expenditure. The budget papers that provide for \$22 billion in expenditure contain thousands of pages. All we were asking for was for the Premier to table just four or five pages for this \$1 billion of additional expenditure. The Premier just has to concede that he got it wrong and that he should have tabled the document when he gave the second reading speech. It is a ridiculous situation, but we will go through it later tonight during the consideration in detail stage.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Very late tonight.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We are not afraid of sitting late, Treasurer. We do not descend after dinner time. We are not afraid of sitting late.

As I said, there is \$1 billion of additional expenditure in these appropriation bills. Again, without having been given the information, we can only speculate what the expenditure is for. These bills show the lack of financial management and control of this government. The government is not spending money in the suburbs, and particularly not in the suburbs that I represent. We have seen enormous government expenditure this year and last year, but again nothing has been spent on the north east corridor. People in my electorate are becoming increasingly concerned about the expenditure that is occurring in other people's electorates, such as those of the Premier and the Leader of the National Party.

Mr F.A. Alban: There is plenty of expenditure in Swan Hills.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We will go through some of the issues relating to the member for Swan Hills in a second.

Mr F.A. Alban: There are new buses. There are enough buses to make you dizzy.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: "Enough buses to make you dizzy"? That is a good line! The member is easily bought.

Mr F.A. Alban: There are so many new buses that they are making the roads dangerous. There are so many buses now that there is a transport problem.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Is the member saying that the roads are dangerous?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Swan Hills!

Mr F.A. Alban interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No, the member said it just then.

Mr F.A. Alban: No, you said it.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member said there were so many buses that they are making the roads dangerous. I am glad that the member for Swan Hills raised that because I want to talk about the dangerous roads in my electorate. The government is making decisions on the run because it wants to cover up its inability to deliver its key election commitment to build the Ellenbrook railway line. That is a fail.

Mr F.A. Alban: Let's see what you're going to do. What are you going to do?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Is the government going to build the Ellenbrook railway line?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for West Swan!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Swan Hills.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Sorry. Thank you. Member for Swan Hills, I have called your name a number of times —

Mr F.A. Alban: I make your life exciting.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I call you for the first time. While I am on my feet, I will call the next member that I hear refer to another member by the member's first name.

Dr Tony Buti; Mr Rob Johnson; Speaker; Mr John Quigley; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Ms Rita Saffioti; Acting Speaker

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The day the member for Swan Hills makes my life exciting is the day I give it up!

Back to the appropriation bills, the member for Kingsley raised the issue of law and order, which we are all grappling with in our electorates. Unfortunately, the government closed Ballajura Police Station in my electorate to save \$400 000. That money has not been reinvested in Ballajura. I asked the Minister for Police for the police statistics on crime in Ballajura since the closure of that station. Although the member for Kingsley showed that there had been a decrease in some of the crime statistics in her electorate, I am sorry to say that I cannot provide similar results. I asked the minister about the impact of crime in my electorate since the closure of Ballajura Police Station. The figures that I received are from the Minister for Police's answer to a question asked in the Legislative Council. There was a 9.7 per cent increase in assault, a 29.7 per cent increase in burglary of dwellings, a 157 per cent increase in robbery and a 40 per cent increase in motor vehicle theft. Over the course of the year during which the Ballajura Police Station was closed we have seen an increase in crime throughout Ballajura. I believe that is a direct result of the closure of the police station. The \$400 000 saved by closing Ballajura Police Station has not been reinvested in Ballajura. That is a very significant failure of the government.

I will move on to the enormous pressures on and need for infrastructure throughout the north east corridor. Although these appropriation bills contain \$1 billion of additional expenditure, I cannot see—I do not have all the information—anything for the north east corridor. I understand that the information provided is not similar to the information provided last year, which gave details of what was being spent. As I said, no money is being spent in the north east corridor. A key issue, of course, is the Ellenbrook railway line and the government's failure to deliver its election commitment. The people of Ellenbrook want the railway line. At a recent transport forum that was attended by the shadow transport spokesperson, Hon Ken Travers, the issue was raised constantly. This is a huge issue for the electorate of Swan Hills.

Mr F.A. Alban: Apparently you had five people there.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: How does the member know?

Mr F.A. Alban: One of my constituents came to see me and said that I should go along to help you.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member is so good. He is such a hero.

Mr F.A. Alban: I must be. You are taking a lot of interest in my electorate. Over the last two years you have spoken about nothing other than my electorate.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Ellenbrook train line affects my electorate too.

Mr F.A. Alban: You have so many buses that the roads are dangerous.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I know. The roads are dangerous.

Mr P. Papalia: I blame the government!

Mr F.A. Alban: Nice shot, by the way.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: He is a bit upset!

Mr F.A. Alban: I just thought it was a bit of a joke.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Anyway, we can get distracted.

The people of Ellenbrook and people throughout the north east corridor want to know where is the commitment to build the Ellenbrook rail line.

Mr P. Papalia: Where is the train?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Where is the train? That was a key election commitment by the member for Swan Hills and the Premier during the 2008 state election. Where is it? Right now there are homes being built through the new north east corridor, along Lord Street.

Mr F.A. Alban: That is why we have sent the buses there.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The St Leonards Estate is moving along, with houses being built. Of course we have Brookleigh Estate, just south of Reid Highway. The whole issue is trying to get the infrastructure to match the housing development. We want transport infrastructure in place to serve not only Ellenbrook, but also the 33 000 new people who will be moving into that corridor. The member for Swan Hills might sit there and think he is quite smart because there are a few buses, but he has to be really passionate about his electorate —

Mr F.A. Alban: There is a bus every 10 minutes.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: He has to really fight for the Ellenbrook rail line.

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Dr Tony Buti; Mr Rob Johnson; Speaker; Mr John Quigley; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Ms Rita Saffioti; Acting Speaker

Mr F.A. Alban: There is a bus every 10 minutes! How much more does the member want? They go past the member's electorate at Lord Street.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: So is the member walking away from the Ellenbrook rail line commitment?

Mr F.A. Alban: I just told the member that she has more buses in her electorate than she can deal with!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Is the member walking away from the Ellenbrook rail line commitment?

Mr F.A. Alban: She should be happy; she asked for that! The member complained there were not enough buses for people on Lord Street; then she said there were so many buses it was dangerous. She should get her story together!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Is the member walking away from the Ellenbrook rail line commitment?

Mr R.F. Johnson: We never walk away!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: So is the government building the rail line? The people of Ellenbrook are not stupid; the people throughout the north east corridor are not stupid. They know the difference between a bus and a railcar.

Mr R.F. Johnson: I would hope so, too!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: They know the existing road infrastructure is insufficient —

Mr F.A. Alban: We have had to shift a couple of ice-cream vans to get the buses, by the way!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member does not want to go there because the freedom of information requests —

Mr F.A. Alban: Some more FOIs into my rubbish bin! I have cleaned it for use!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Swan Hills really does not want to go there!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr J.M. Francis): For three minutes I have heard nothing except lousy bickering. Member for Swan Hills, I am going to call you for the second time today. Member for West Swan, I suggest you stop seeking interjections. Member for Mandurah, I suggest you read standing order 42 on three strikes.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Swan Hills is obviously walking away from his commitment to build the Ellenbrook rail line. As I said, the people are not stupid. Ellenbrook is a growing community in the north east corridor with 33 000 new people moving into that area. We need proper infrastructure. The rail line was a clear commitment from the Liberal government. There is absolutely no sign of activity on this front. In late 2008 the government committed to a route definition study. In April 2009 the government abandoned that, saying there would be a transport master plan that would pick up things like the route definition and the time frame. We still have not seen that major transport master plan. It still has not arrived. Is this government still committed to the Ellenbrook rail line? I think the answer, as shown today by the member for Swan Hills, is no.

Mr R.F. Johnson: It's a rhetorical question!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I am not talking to the Minister for Police!

Mr R.F. Johnson: I'm not talking to you!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Is the Acting Speaker going to call him to order for the interjection?

The ACTING SPEAKER: That will do, Leader of the House.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: There is no commitment to the Ellenbrook rail line.

Mr F.A. Alban: I can't talk; I'm on two calls! Sorry.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Seriously, it is beyond comprehension!

Mr P. Papalia: When was the last time the member for Swan Hills actually made a speech in this place?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I cannot remember. He has gone—afternoon tea is served!

Of course, we need to know where the government is sitting in relation to the rail line. It is abandoning it. It is trying to cover it up by increasing some bus services. The road infrastructure is not coping with the additional buses, plus the heavy residential traffic, plus all the trucks servicing the housing development. It is an enormous issue for the people in the area.

The other issue relates to the proposal for a light rail system down Alexander Drive. This again is something that is at the stage of a feasibility study. We need a commitment from this government on public transport in this area. This government is walking away from expanding our public transport system. Western Australia, and

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Perth in particular, has a growing metropolitan area. We do not want to face the same issues as other states; that is, trying to retrofit heavy and light rail lines through the suburbs. A rich state like Western Australia can do better, and we must do better to avoid the congestion issues of other states. The north east corridor is poorly serviced by public transport. We seriously need to improve it. We need to create a mass transit system in the north east corridor. As I said, 33 000 new people are moving into the Lord Street corridor, together with the ever-expanding Ellenbrook.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Mr Acting Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

[Quorum formed.]

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As I said, the north east corridor is poorly serviced by public transport. There is an urgent need for a mass transit system through that corridor.

I want to speak briefly about the need to improve roads throughout that corridor. There are major road problems throughout the area. I want to speak specifically about issues relating to road safety. I seek an extension.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: In relation to roads, Reid Highway is a major east–west connecting highway. In a couple of areas it is down to a single lane. In my electorate, through Beechboro and West Swan Road, it is down to a single lane. That has created bottlenecks and significant safety concerns. We believe that needs to be a priority. I know it is also a priority for the City of Swan to get the duplication done. It is a major issue and needs to be addressed urgently.

Together with the Reid Highway duplication, there are a number of dangerous intersections throughout the area. I speak specifically about the Reid Highway – Malaga Drive intersection. Another dangerous intersection—not in my electorate but in the member for Nollamara's electorate—is the Reid Highway – Mirrabooka Avenue intersection. These intersections now rate quite highly in the list of black and red spots. Main Roads Western Australia has a black spot list; the RAC has a red spot list. They are major intersections creating major road safety issues. An overpass is being built at Reid Highway and Alexander Drive, but to really finish off the Reid Highway section or the transport infrastructure in the area, we need either overpasses or very much improved intersections, in particular at Malaga Drive. An increasing number of trucks are using that intersection, which also creates enormous traffic issues on Reid Highway. The Gnangara Road issue affects not only my electorate, but the member for Wanneroo's electorate, the wider area and the member for Swan Hills' electorate. Gnangara Road is a local government single-lane road that needs to be duplicated. My suggestion, accepted by the Cities of Wanneroo and Swan, is that we make Gnangara Road a state government road because it is a major interconnecting road similar to Reid Highway, and traffic on Gnangara Road is increasing as more homes are being built to the north and north east of the metropolitan area.

Lord Street is another road that, because of the enormous activity through the corridor, is becoming a road nightmare for people who live along it. As the member for Swan Hills highlighted, I raised this issue in the local media last week. A local school principal who is very worried about the crashes and near crashes occurring around his school area has contacted me. Traffic travels at 70 or 80 kilometres an hour, if not a lot faster, on a road where parents want to drop off their kids at the local primary school. There is simply not enough room for cars to move around vehicles turning right into Harrow Road. As a result, there have been a number of crashes and near crashes on that road. The increased vehicle activity on Lord Street will only make the problem worse in the next one to five years. We are seeing increased residential traffic servicing Ellenbrook, and, as I have said, an enormous increase in truck traffic servicing residential development. Enormous vehicles are carrying building materials to the hundreds of new homes being built at the moment. This is causing a nightmare for the local community. The community has asked me to lobby the government to straightaway do something about Lord Street. We cannot wait for the highway plan; we need to do something straightaway to improve Lord Street. As I have said, it may just mean installing a few turning lanes and better road signage; it may mean installing the traffic lights used near schools to reduce vehicle speed in the morning and afternoon. We need action now to make that road safer before more accidents occur.

The enormous truck traffic is causing a major problem for people who live along Lord Street. I refer to people who are not quite willing to move yet, as they want to continue to live their lives without the impact of the major residential developments occurring along that street.

Mr F.A. Alban: Member, isn't Lord Street a local government road?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Member for Swan Hills, the state government is approving —

Mr F.A. Alban: It is a local government road. What are you doing knocking the state government?

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Mr P. Papalia: When was the last time you stood and made a real speech instead of asking dorothy dixers and interjecting?

Mr F.A. Alban: I was not talking to you, clever dick.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: What did the member for Swan Hills just call the member for Warnbro?

Mr D.A. Templeman: I would have thought that that would be out of order. You had better be careful or you will be kicked out.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr J.M. Francis): Yes. I do not need a point of order. I call the member for Swan Hills for the third time today.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Swan Hills may want to remember the important vote later today. Keep going!

As I have said, Lord Street is a major issue. Hepburn Avenue is a local road to which the state and federal governments have contributed. Local government roads can be contributed to by state governments. I ask the state government to contribute because it is part-owner of the Henley Brook or the Whiteman Edge development. A number of weeks ago we heard that the release of, I think, 3 000 lots had been brought forward at Whiteman Edge. Because the state government is a key land developer in the area, I believe it has an obligation to improve the roads in the area. As the state government is the body primarily responsible for road safety—in particular, addressing black spots—I urge the government to do something about Lord Street, and to do it now. We cannot wait for more accidents to occur on that road; we need action now.

I know the member for Swan Hills is very passionate about the Perth–Darwin highway. He has made massive promises to the people of Swan Hills, similar to those he made about the commitment to the Ellenbrook rail line. The Perth–Darwin highway that the member committed to was to happen overnight. The member told a group of ratepayers at a meeting earlier this year that the Swan Valley bypass would happen very, very soon. I hope the member for Swan Hills is right. I hope that we see in the next budget, next to the Ellenbrook rail line expenditure, a massive commitment by the state government to the Perth–Darwin highway. I hope the member is right. He struck out with the Ellenbrook rail line; he failed to deliver on that election commitment. He has already made a new commitment worth hundreds of millions of dollars on the Swan Valley bypass and the Perth–Darwin highway. I hope that the member is able to deliver; I hope this government delivers for him. The member struck out on the Ellenbrook rail line. If he strikes out on the Perth–Darwin highway, his credibility will be in tatters throughout the area—absolutely in tatters! I really hope that either in the midyear review released in December this year or in the budget released in May next year a significant commitment will be seen from the state government to the Perth–Darwin highway. This issue has to be addressed. We have increasing traffic movements up north. Just the other day, a person pointed out to me the number of roads that head to the south west out of Perth. How many key roads exit the northern part of the metropolitan area to the northern part of WA? It is pretty much the Great Northern Highway only. The people who live along that road are increasingly frustrated. I say again that it is a very, very dangerous road.

I hope that the member for Swan Hills is not let down by his government again, and I hope that he does not let down the people of Swan Hills again because he is unable to deliver on this commitment he has made to the people of his electorate.

An enormous number of planning issues in my electorate need to be addressed, many of which I have raised in this chamber or in correspondence to the Minister for Planning. Maybe the Minister for Planning will be the next Treasurer—I do not know—but we need someone more proactive in planning. We need someone who is willing to address problems. We need someone who is willing to sit down, spend time and solve the enormous problems in the planning portfolio. We do not need someone who goes through the bureaucratic process of receiving advice and signing a letter without absorbing the details of the problem that is in front of the minister. I believe that in a one-hour meeting with the Minister for Planning, we could probably sort out 10 major planning issues in my electorate.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: You were very positive about the Minister for Planning a little while ago.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It was not me; it must have been my twin sister!

Dr G.G. Jacobs: No!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It must have been my twin sister; she often comes into this place!

Dr G.G. Jacobs: It was you. I am sure it was you.

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Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I do not think it was me. It was not me. Maybe the Minister for Planning will become the Treasurer; it looks like he will have to be Treasurer because no-one else can even begin to be able to do the job—apart from the member for Swan Hills, who would make an excellent Treasurer!

Dr K.D. Hames: Except for you, of course; you are that skilled and you could do that.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As somebody who came up to me in the first few months of government to try to find out where Albany hospital appeared in the budget papers, I would not go there, Minister for Health!

Dr A.D. Buti: Maybe the Premier would offer you a ministerial position if you went over to the other side; you could be the Treasurer.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I do not think that the Premier likes me that much, member for Armadale. I do not get the vibe that he likes me that much. It must be the constant abuse that I get when I am in the chamber. It must be that!

Mr B.S. Wyatt: You are the wrong gender, member.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Maybe. Wrong party; wrong gender.

Dr K.D. Hames: Your mob pick on the two female Independent members; why is that?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: If the Minister for Health was so concerned about protecting women in this place, he would have said something when the Premier attacked me in this place while I was heavily pregnant. Maybe the minister should have said, “Maybe ease off, Premier; maybe ease off.” If the minister is so concerned, he should have done something about it.

Dr K.D. Hames: If you’re so bothered about it, why didn’t you have a go at the member for Midland for her unprecedented attack on the female Independent and for her constant attack on the Minister for Education?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Honestly! The Minister for Health cannot be serious.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr J.M. Francis): Order, members! One at a time.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As I said, there are number of planning issues in my electorate that the Minister for Planning must address. Those issues can be sorted out with a bit of concentration and effort, and without the minister taking bureaucratic advice. I refer, for example, to the mushroom farm buffer zone issue, which is holding up the construction of thousands of new homes.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

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