



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2023

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 30 November 2023

Legislative Assembly

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

LIVE EXPORT

Petition

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [9.02 am]: Today I have a petition that has been certified as conforming with the standing orders of the Assembly. It has 274 signatures. The petition relates to the live export sector, livestock transport sector, and farmers in Western Australia. It states —

To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled

We, the undersigned, express our support for the live export sector and our farmers who deal with livestock across Western Australia. Live sheep export alone was worth \$136 million in 2019 with key trade markets being Kuwait, Qatar and Jordan.

Live export is a vital part of the national economy and a pillar of many regional communities across Western Australia, which accounts for 97 per cent of national livestock exports.

We therefore ask the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Minister for Federal–State Relations, the Premier, to demand the Prime Minister and Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture reverse Federal Labor’s reckless plan to phase out the live sheep export industry.

And your petitioners as duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition 49.]

ESPERANCE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Petition

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [9.03 am]: I have a petition that has been certified as conforming with the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly. It has 173 signatures. It states —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, say the 50 plus year old Esperance Senior High School is substandard and not fit for modern 21st century learning.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to call on the Cook Government to prioritise a comprehensive upgrade to the Esperance Senior High School campus that meets the educational needs of the Esperance community.

[See petition 50.]

PAPERS TABLED

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

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT ANNUAL REPORT 2022–23

Correction — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [9.05 am]: Members, I have received a letter from the Minister for Transport requesting that an erratum be added to the Department of Transport 2022–23 *Annual Report*, tabled on 12 October 2023. The erratum corrects a typographical error on page 71 of the report with respect to the number of practical driving assessments conducted across WA in 2022 and 2023. Under the provisions of standing order 156, I authorise the correction to be attached as an erratum to the tabled paper.

[See paper [2566](#).]

HALL OF CHAMPIONS

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [9.05 am]: I take a moment to acknowledge the inductees into the WA Hall of Champions. On 13 November, I attended the WA Hall of Champions event, where Tony Adamson, Elizabeth Smylie, Damon Diletti and the 1992 West Coast Eagles team were inducted into the WA Hall of Champions.

Tony Adamson, the first baseball player to be inducted into the Hall of Champions, was a regular representative for Australia over a decade-long international career. The culmination of his career came when he represented Australia at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

Elizabeth Smylie won 28 Women's Tennis Association doubles titles and three singles titles on the international stage. She represented Australia at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, winning a bronze medal in the women's doubles event. Smylie won four grand slam doubles titles between 1983 and 1993. Between 1984 and 1994, Smylie consistently represented Australia in the Federation Cup, the most prestigious team competition in women's tennis.

Damon Diletti, a hockey goalie, won an Olympic medal in three consecutive Olympic Games. He won silver in Barcelona in 1992, bronze in Atlanta in 1996, and bronze again in Sydney in 2000. Apart from the three Olympics, he played in two World Cups and six Hockey Champions Trophy tournaments from 1993 until 2000. In 1994, he was selected in a World 11 after the Champions Trophy that year.

Five years after joining the Australian Football League in 1987, the West Coast Eagles won its first premiership with a convincing win over Geelong. This historic win changed the sport itself and heralded years of prominence and dominance in Australia's most popular sport. Additionally, the victory gave impetus to the credibility of Western Australian sport at a wider level and struck a blow to the tyranny-of-distance factor which mitigates against sport in our state.

Tony Adamson, Elizabeth Smylie, Damon Diletti and the 1992 West Coast Eagles team each accomplished outstanding sporting achievements at the highest level of competition and are worthy inductees into the WA Hall of Champions.

Additionally, Priya Cooper was elevated to Hall of Champions Legends status. Priya won nine Paralympic gold medals and set multiple world records. In the Paralympics and World Championships, she won 11 gold, five silver and four bronze medals. Priya was twice co-captain of the Australian Paralympic team and carried our national flag in closing ceremonies at the 1992 and 1996 summer Paralympics. Priya's career was simply outstanding and deserving of legend status.

The Herb Elliott Medal was also awarded at the event. Baseball player Liam Hendriks and pole vaulter Nina Kennedy shared the award for the most inspiring sporting performance by a Western Australian in the past year.

Of behalf of all us in in Parliament, I congratulate these sportsmen and sportswomen.

PERTH FESTIVAL AND FRINGE WORLD FESTIVAL

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [9.08 am]: The 2024 summer festival season promises an incredible line-up of local, national and international acts in the Fringe World Festival and Perth Festival programs.

The Fringe World Festival will return from 19 January to 18 February 2024, with a significant funding boost. It will deliver more than 500 events across this summer and it is expected that hundreds of thousands of people will take the opportunity to enjoy comedy, cabaret, dance, circus and theatre performances. It includes a brand new show, *Fruits de la Passion*, by the Briefs Factory, and *Only Bones v1.9*, which is a soundscape, acrobatics, clown and kung fu show not to be missed. It also includes the Fringe Sunday Funday, a free community event that will bring families together for a fun-filled day with live entertainment, and families will also be able to enjoy the Dinosaur Time Machine, which will give them a chance to get up close and personal to a life-size T-rex.

The state government has provided more than \$15 million for the delivery of Fringe World Festival since 1994. In 2023, more than 2 000 artists performed across 115 events in Fringe World venues and 51 per cent of the artists were Western Australian. The festival had an overall attendance of more than 615 000 people, achieving box office revenue of more than \$8.7 million.

The Perth Festival's program runs from 9 February to 3 March 2024 and is a celebration of our shared humanity and ngaangk's—or mother sun's—effect on earth. It commences with *Wundig wer Wilura*, a Noongar opera by Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse, and this is bookended by a free concert at the Supreme Court Gardens named *Under the Same Sun* that sees leading Aboriginal musicians and international greats come together to perform songs of nature and nurture—of mothers and the sun. The offerings in between include an array of theatre performances, an expansive contemporary and fine music program, two major site-specific commissions, the Perth Festival Writers Weekend and the much-anticipated Lotterywest Films festival. The state government has been the principal funding partner of the Perth Festival for over 30 years.

In 2023, the Perth Festival sold more than 100 000 tickets, with a record box office revenue of over \$7 million. It featured 964 artists, with 55 per cent from Western Australia, and has attracted more than 3 000 visitors to our state. Both festivals deliver significant social, cultural and economic benefits for Western Australia, and I encourage all members, their families and neighbours to participate in the season that has something for everyone.

YOUTH TRAINING — JOHN ALEXANDER KAARTIJIN MAYA*Statement by Minister for Heritage*

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [9.11 am]: On Thursday, 23 November, I really was delighted to attend the official opening of the John Alexander Kaartijin Maya, or learning centre, which is named after former Fairbridge chair and my good friend John Alexander. The learning centre is the latest development in Fairbridge's long association with youth and training. Since 1912, Fairbridge Farm Schools have helped to provide young people with a brighter future. Over time, Fairbridge's role has evolved from taking in children migrating from the United Kingdom and hosting Dutch child refugees during World War II to working with juvenile detainees and supporting kids who are disengaged and at-risk by providing practical and vocational education and training.

The John Alexander Kaartijin Maya is named in recognition of John's tremendous work to progress youth education and rehabilitation. John was central to the establishment of the Carey Bindjareb program that gave young Aboriginal men in detention the opportunity to come to Fairbridge to train and develop vocational skills. Fairbridge continued this journey with the establishment of a curriculum and re-engagement—CARE—school. The school re-engages students into education in partnership with external employers and TAFE. As an organisation, Fairbridge works to transform the lives of its young participants and give them the best opportunity for a positive future.

As a custodian of one of WA's remarkable heritage places, Fairbridge also works to transform historic buildings into places that both retain their heritage values and feature as part of the education program. The John Alexander Kaartijin Maya learning centre has been, amongst other things, the village post office. In fact, one can still see the original counter tops that have been retained and repurposed. The building will now house Fairbridge's training coordinator and provide students with space for training, workshops and meetings. The work undertaken to repair and refurbish the building has given some of the trainees a taste of their first heritage project. I hope this might spark their interest in joining the trades and professions so needed to support the heritage conservation industry. I congratulate everyone involved in making the John Alexander Kaartijin Maya learning centre possible and for the continued investment in our young people at Fairbridge.

To my friend John Alexander, I thank you for your long and enduring belief in our young people and for always looking for ways to ensure that their interests and opportunities for them are given priority. Your legacy is that more young men and women are finding pathways to employment and positive, fulfilling lives. Congratulations and sincere thanks to you, John, for your commitment.

HOUSING — REGIONS*Statement by Minister for Housing*

The SPEAKER: I call the Minister for Housing.

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [9.14 am]: My apologies, Acting Speaker.

The SPEAKER: For calling me "Acting"?

Mr D.A.E. Scaife: Ha-ha!

Mr J.N. CAREY: I rise to update the house on the Cook government's substantial efforts to increase housing supply in our state's north west. That was a very loud laugh, member for Cockburn! I am pleased to share progress on a transformational project that reflects our commitment to provide stable and supportive housing for Aboriginal apprentices and low-income trade employees in Roebourne. Construction is well underway on the Ganalili Accommodation and Training Facility, a \$10.5 million project funded through the Cook government's \$200 million north west Aboriginal housing fund. Led by the Wirru-Murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation, this initiative is an integral part of the Ganalili centre rejuvenation. The facility comprises three two-bedroom and six one-bedroom grouped dwellings, designed to house Aboriginal apprentices and trainees, including those re-entering the community from the corrections system. This project not only provides stable and affordable long-term accommodation, but also offers essential wraparound support services to ensure the sustained success and wellbeing of the residents.

I had the pleasure of visiting the site in Roebourne last week and witnessed the progress firsthand. The construction process has contributed to workforce development by supporting the work of two Aboriginal apprentices, three Aboriginal trade workers and eight Aboriginal trade assistants. Some of these workers may also be eligible to live in the accommodation. I am also pleased to announce that a Lotterywest grant of \$557 875 was provided and will facilitate the fit-out of common areas, training rooms and kitchens in the facility. This significant investment aligns with our commitment to growing Aboriginal-led housing initiatives, as outlined in the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy and Closing the Gap targets.

The Ganalili project is a critical effort to create positive and sustainable change in the lives of Aboriginal people in the Pilbara. In particular, I acknowledge the Wirru-Murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation, which has done an outstanding job on this project. In addition, the Cook government has announced nearly \$47 million to provide

funding for new affordable rent-to-buy homes in the Pilbara. This funding includes \$30.6 million for 28 affordable rental homes through the Pilbara Aboriginal home ownership program and \$15.9 million for Kimberley and Pilbara-based Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to provide housing for their employees.

LAND RELEASE — REGIONS

Statement by Minister for Lands

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Lands) [9.17 am]: I rise to inform the house of two significant developments that underscore our government's dedication to enhancing the lives of regional communities in Western Australia. Firstly, the state government has taken a substantial step to breathe new life into South Hedland by transferring two lots in Kennedy Street over to the Town of Port Hedland —

Mr K.J.J. Michel: Hear, hear!

Mr J.N. CAREY: On cue, the member says, "Hear, hear!"

These lots were previously leased to the Town of Port Hedland for the Marquee waterpark development, and now they will be repurposed for a new play space precinct and a dog recreation area. This transformation reflects community need and will revitalise the area. We are committed to unlocking government land for developments that truly benefit regional communities, and this transfer is an exciting development. I want to recognise the local member for his advocacy for the area.

Secondly, we have approved a 1 012 square metre land transfer to support an early childhood learning centre on McNeill Street, Dalwallinu. This purpose-built facility that co-locates the town's early learning centre, toy library and playgroup has significantly increased its operations. It now offers more places for children, which means more parents can re-enter the local workforce, thereby bolstering the local economy. We believe that supporting early childhood education and care centres is a critical step toward improving education and social outcomes for young children and their families in regional communities. These developments reflect our genuine and serious commitment to collaborating with regional local governments and making government land available for projects that truly make a difference in the lives of Western Australians. As Minister for Lands, I will always work to enhance our regional communities.

DAN DJURDJEVIC — RETIREMENT

Statement by Leader of the House

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [9.19 am]: I rise on behalf of the Attorney General to acknowledge the contribution to the state of Western Australia by Mr Dan Djurdjevic, who retires as senior parliamentary counsel at the end of this year. During a public service career of more than 30 years, Dan has made an outstanding contribution to the Western Australian statute book. Dan completed a Bachelor of Jurisprudence in 1988 and a Bachelor of Laws in 1989, both at the University of Western Australia. After completing his articles at the Office of the Public Trustee in 1989, Dan joined what was then known as the Crown Law Department, now the State Solicitor's Office. He worked as a general counsel and solicitor and as a prosecutor, appearing in all WA courts, including the full court of the Supreme Court.

Dan began working in the Parliamentary Counsel's Office in November 1995 as an assistant parliamentary counsel. He was promoted to a senior parliamentary counsel level 1 position in 2019 and a senior parliamentary counsel level 2 position in December 2022. During his career, Dan drafted many important and complex items of legislation across a wide range of portfolios, including the Domestic Violence Orders (National Recognition) Bill 2017, the Criminal Law Amendment (Uncertain Dates) Bill 2019, the Criminal Law (Unlawful Consorting and Prohibited Insignia) Bill 2021 and the Charitable Trusts Bill 2022. Dan has also drafted hundreds of items of subsidiary legislation. He most recently led a team drafting the regulations required to bring the Work Health and Safety Act 2020 into operation. That was a massive exercise, which resulted in over 1 500 pages of regulations; Dan drafted a substantial proportion of those.

Dan's experience as a prosecutor has meant that he has been an invaluable source of knowledge for his colleagues in PCO in relation to criminal law and procedure. He is acknowledged by his colleagues as a guru on WA criminal law, and has trained and mentored many junior drafters, participated in training sessions for instructors and presented papers to national drafting conferences. On behalf of the government of Western Australia and the Attorney General, I thank Dan for his outstanding service to the state and wish him well and all the best in his retirement.

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS — GPS MONITORING

Statement by Leader of the House

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [9.22 am]: I rise on behalf of the Attorney General to present the following brief ministerial statement. In 2020, the government passed legislation to enhance the powers of courts to order electronic monitoring as part of the most comprehensive family violence law reform package ever seen in Western Australia. As a result of these reforms, the number of people subject to electronic

monitoring has increased dramatically, going up by between 19 to 23 per cent every year. I will table figures outlining the number of people subject to electronic monitoring over the last five years. We also launched a two-year trial to evaluate the use of electronic monitoring on a limited cohort of family violence perpetrators, to inform decisions about its effectiveness in preventing family violence.

[See paper [2567](#).]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: During the two-year trial period, the number of offenders monitored increased by 42 per cent, including 152 family violence offenders. The trial itself looked at only a specific cohort of family violence perpetrators, in circumstances in which they had breached a family violence order and committed a further act of family violence. Only 19 offenders were monitored as part of the trial. Of those identified by police for inclusion, 40 per cent were not suitable because they were sentenced to jail, another third received lesser penalties and in some instances victims did not want GPS monitoring imposed. The researchers evaluated family violence offenders outside of the initial cohort, due to the low numbers. I will table the evaluation report, which found that electronic monitoring appears to reduce violent offending, both generally and in a family violence context, while an offender is being tracked. It increased the level of detection and breaching of offenders for noncompliance with the conditions of their supervision order.

[See paper [2568](#).]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: After receiving the preliminary trial findings, the government acted to address the issues raised, committing to making electronic monitoring mandatory for family violence offenders in a range of circumstances, including for the target cohort from the trial and serial family violence offenders. Our 2020 reforms have had a huge impact and the government's latest reforms will ensure that even more offenders are subject to GPS monitoring. Fewer than five months into the current financial year, 433 people have been subjected to electronic monitoring, including 105 accused or convicted of family violence offences. Today the Attorney General will introduce legislation to increase the penalty for removing monitoring equipment, including a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment, to reflect the seriousness of this offence.

ESPERANCE PORT — INFRASTRUCTURE

Statement by Minister for Ports

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Ports) [9.25 am]: I am pleased to provide an update to the house on recent investments by the Cook government in our ports. There was a recent \$12.2 million commitment by the Cook government to a suite of road access improvements at the port of Esperance. Stage 1 of the works are already underway with a \$7.4 million upgrade to the sole heavy vehicle access road into the port. This work is vital to the safe and efficient operation of road transport, which has been growing in recent years. There are more than 300 000 truck movements per year, in and out of the port, carrying about 44 per cent of total trade, with the remainder being handled by rail. In all, about six million tonnes is delivered to the port by road each year, highlighting the importance of investment in roads within and around the port. The port of Esperance is a crucial port for the region's iron ore, minerals and grain export trades, as well as the emerging spodumene trade. Western Australia's lithium trade will expand rapidly in coming years, and Esperance is already likely to be the third-largest spodumene export port in the world.

Esperance is the only deepwater port in the southern region and one of only two ports equipped with container cranes in the state, the other being Fremantle. Stages 2 and 3 of the port roads improvement program will deliver further improvements to roads within the port, worth an additional \$12.2 million, staged over three years. These works will include the reconstruction of degraded areas of road pavement on existing heavy vehicle roads within the port, as well as changes to the existing port access intersection layout to accommodate the significant growth in triple road trains accessing it. When the work is complete, heavy vehicles will have easier port access with a more streamlined route that avoids unsafe interactions and challenging turning circles.

As the port continues to diversify beyond its traditional iron ore base, the delivery of quality road infrastructure is essential. So too is the prioritisation of the safety of our road users and port workers, while also positioning the port of Esperance to accommodate trade growth. As the region's second largest employer with almost 300 people across the south west, the Southern Ports Authority continues to be a crucial economic driver, providing jobs, security and stability for families throughout the region. Ongoing investment in all our regional ports is vital to the state's economy and consolidates the Cook government's standing as a model for economic management across the country.

DOG AMENDMENT (STOP PUPPY FARMING) ACT — IMPLEMENTATION

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Local Government) [9.27 am]: I am pleased to provide an update to the house on the state government's progress with new dog and cat regulations to end puppy farming in Western Australia. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries recently held a three-month public consultation, seeking input on new regulations to implement the reforms made in the Dog Amendment

(Stop Puppy Farming) Act 2021. A discussion paper was released to seek feedback on topics including: the sterilisation of dogs, pet shop approvals, approvals to breed, microchipping, cat and dog registrations and the new centralised registration system for dogs and cats.

I am pleased to inform the house that a total of 273 responses were received from 122 individual respondents including 51 local community members, 31 local government administrations, 20 breeders or breeders' associations, 10 animal refuge or welfare organisations, five interest groups—including the Australian Veterinary Association—and three pet shops. The consultation was promoted by the department via its website, social media, the local government alert mailing list and the stop puppy farming mailing list. The department also undertook targeted engagement during the consultation period. This included meetings with local governments, state government agencies, the WA Rangers Association and a breeder association, a public information stall at the City of Stirling's Pawsome Day Out event in October and direct emails to stakeholders encouraging them to participate in the consultation. I would also like to thank the member for Maylands who hosted an event, bringing together a number of interested stakeholders to review the discussion paper and have their questions answered.

Submissions will inform the development of new regulations; associated training and information resources, including guidance for local governments; and the establishment of the new centralised registration system for all pet cats and dogs across our state. Delivering a new, online CRS is a huge undertaking. The CRS will replace all the cat and dog registers currently maintained by each local government. I can confirm that we have had a very successful tender process for the development of the CRS with a preferred respondent now in the discovery and design phase. It is expected that a proposed model for the CRS will be presented to government for consideration in early 2024. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries continues to hold outreach and engagement workshops on the CRS across metropolitan and regional Western Australia to help local governments and key stakeholder groups prepare for its implementation. There is overwhelming support to stamp out puppy farming in Western Australia, and to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs in our community. We are getting on with the job, while making sure that these changes are implemented with proper care and consultation.

AUSTRALIAN ACCESS AWARDS — CENTRE FOR ACCESSIBILITY AUSTRALIA

Statement by Minister for Disability Services

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services) [9.30 am]: I am delighted to rise today to inform the house of the Australian Access Awards I attended in celebration of the achievements of organisations and individuals who are demonstrating best practice in digital accessibility, both nationally and here in Western Australia. The Australian Access Awards have continued to grow in strength since 2019 and, as Minister for Disability Services, I am proud to see the passion, commitment and progressive approach to inclusiveness that these awards demonstrate. Digital accessibility is at the heart of inclusion. These awards are a fantastic channel for showcasing outstanding digital accessibility initiatives and highlighting best practice for the greater participation of people with disability. As a fellow Western Australian, I must add that I was thrilled to see individuals, organisations and government agencies from WA among the finalists, as well as representation and sponsorship by the state government's Office of Digital Government on the night. Our country is extremely lucky to have innovative organisations that are dedicated to creating positive change for the 4.4 million people in Australia who have a disability, ensuring they can maximise their potential and participate as equal citizens in society.

This work supports the Cook government's work and vision laid out in the *State Disability Strategy 2020–2030*. This strategy sets the direction over the next 10 years for a more inclusive Western Australia that acknowledges and responds to the value of diversity in our community. Although there are many great initiatives underway across Australia to improve accessibility, the reality is that too much of the digital world is still inaccessible for too many people. The Global Accessibility Awareness Day Foundation's mission is to disrupt the culture of technology and digital product development to include accessibility as a core requirement. The awards show us that accessibility can be achieved without sacrificing design or usability and they demonstrate best practice examples for many organisations to learn from.

I would like to commend the Centre for Accessibility for continuing to ensure that digital accessibility remains at the forefront of conversation and supports the inclusion of people with disability. I pay thanks once again to the finalists and winners for their innovative work in developing leading resources that are accessible to everyone.

THANK A VOLUNTEER DAY

Statement by Minister for Volunteering

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Volunteering) [9.33 am]: I am pleased to remind the house that next week, on Tuesday, 5 December, it is International Volunteer Day, which will be celebrated across the world. In Western Australia, it is fondly known as Thank a Volunteer Day. On behalf of the Cook Labor government, I want to take this last sitting day as an opportunity to say a big thankyou to volunteers across Western Australia who make our community a better place. It is so important that we take the time to acknowledge the contributions of volunteers who give selflessly in service of their community. They are the glue that keep many communities together and it is fantastic to come together at the end of the year and celebrate all that they have achieved. Across Western Australia,

72 community organisations and local government authorities have received \$70 000 from the Cook government to assist with Thank a Volunteer Day celebrations. The Thank a Volunteer Day grants program enables organisations across Western Australia to celebrate their volunteers through events or activities such as award ceremonies, workshops, seminars, morning or afternoon teas, and excursions.

In celebration of next week's special day, the Cook government is calling for nominations for the WA Volunteer Service Awards, to recognise volunteers across Western Australia for their years of service. The nomination categories have expanded this year to better capture the diverse volunteering activity across the state, including contributions by younger volunteers. The changes also include a more streamlined nomination process and the opportunity to self-nominate. I strongly encourage people to nominate someone they know or to nominate themselves for the WA Volunteer Service Awards so that their outstanding efforts can be recognised and celebrated. These awards are a key initiative by the state government to demonstrate its support and recognition of volunteers. To date, 2 331 Western Australian volunteers have been honoured through the awards program.

The awards will be presented during National Volunteer Week, which takes place between Monday, 20 May, and Sunday, 26 May 2024. Nominations for the 2024 WA Volunteer Service Awards will open on 5 December until 5.00 pm Thursday, 29 February 2024. For more information about how to get involved in an event near you, visit: <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/thank-volunteer-day>.

ABORIGINAL HEALING FRAMEWORK

Statement by Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence) [9.36 am]: I am pleased to update the house on the development of the Aboriginal healing framework project. We know that Aboriginal women are disproportionately impacted by family and domestic violence. Aboriginal women are six times more likely to be victims of homicide due to domestic violence than non-Indigenous women. They are also 33 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of domestic violence. Western Australia's *Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy 2022–2032* sets out a whole-of-community, Aboriginal-led and collaborative approach to prevent, reduce and respond to family violence. This strategy is critical in Western Australia's response to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, outcome 13—that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and households are safe. The strategy has four focus areas, the first of which is healing. Although Liberal Senator Jacinta Price might argue colonisation has had, to paraphrase, no negative impacts, the Aboriginal family safety strategy does acknowledge colonisation as a key driver of intergenerational trauma that has led to family violence and the importance of local and place-based healing practices to achieving family safety and community wellbeing.

The Aboriginal healing framework will provide clear and practical guidance for how healing work can be supported and operationalised as part of Western Australia's response to family violence. I am pleased to advise that Tjallara Consulting, an Aboriginal business, has been engaged to work on this project with the Department of Communities. Dr Victoria Hovane, a respected psychologist, consultant and practitioner, is the managing director of Tjallara. Over many years, her work has focused on understanding intergenerational trauma, including family violence and its impacts on Aboriginal people. Dr Hovane and her team will develop the Aboriginal healing framework over 2024 and this will be informed by drawing on relevant evidence and community engagement and consultations. The work on the framework will complement the Premier's announcement earlier this week of a package worth over \$70 million for family and domestic violence, which importantly includes \$6 million for Aboriginal-led responses to family and domestic violence.

ESPERANCE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Grievance

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [9.38 am]: My grievance today is in relation to Esperance Senior High School. I thank the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education for taking my grievance. It is in relation to the failure of the Cook Labor government to address significant issues at Esperance Senior High School, therefore compromising the ability to deliver learning capability that is comparable to contemporary schools in the metropolitan area. As the parliamentary secretary knows, I read another petition—one of many—in today with 173 signatures.

Esperance is a remote town situated 700 kilometres from Perth. Although the town was established in the 1890s as a port to serve the goldfields, the town rapidly increased in size as a result of large-scale agriculture being introduced to the Esperance sand plain by an American syndicate in partnership with the state government in the 1960s. Because of this growth, much of the town's public infrastructure, including Esperance Senior High School, was constructed in the 1960s, based on its then population of approximately 2 000 to 3 000 people. The population of Esperance is now five times greater, with approximately 14 000 people. Within the town, there are three government primary schools, a senior high school, a secondary education support centre and also private facilities. Esperance Residential College sits alongside the secondary school campus and provides a home to as many as 100 students from within the local shire and beyond, including the northern goldfields, the Pilbara and the Kimberley. The nearest government

senior high schools for students in years 7 to 12 are in Kalgoorlie, 400 kilometres away, and Albany, 500 kilometres away, which makes Esperance Senior High School the only realistic choice of government secondary school for young people in Esperance.

Esperance Senior High School was founded in 1966 and was built for 400 students. Over time, ad hoc additions were made to the school to provide capacity for up to 1 000 students. Currently, the constant student population sits at 800 students. Early in my first term as member for Roe, I was contacted by the Esperance Senior High School board and the parents and citizens association seeking support in their efforts to secure improved learning conditions for both staff and students at Esperance Senior High School. Representations to me outlined very significant issues of compromised structural integrity, degraded concrete, leaking windows and roofs, poor sanitary conditions in dilapidated ablutions, a plethora of trip hazards, non-existent coverage from the elements, poor student and staff amenity and, most importantly, a school design not equipped to deliver contemporary education outcomes. In fact, back in 2001, a building condition assessment report clearly stated that the school's south wing was slated for demolition. This section of the school continues to be in use, with small classrooms, stairwells suffering from concrete cancer, railings compromised by rust, windows that cannot safely or easily open, and poor natural lighting, grimy with years of wear and tear. The situation is so dire at the school that the south wing, which has been slated for demolition, even houses a designated education support room on the upper floor, which is only accessible via stairs.

Another example of the condition of the school is its performing arts centre, which is currently housed in the school's original library building. Students rehearse in the thoroughfare and on wet days are surrounded by buckets to catch water from the leaking roof. These students can only dream of the facilities that students in the metropolitan area take for granted. The inequity for Esperance students is stark. It should not be a surprise to anyone that the disgraceful condition of the school brings with it serious work health and safety issues and a physical environment that is not fit for contemporary inclusive education purposes. It certainly falls well short of the stimulating place to unlock learning potential so keenly espoused in the department's teaching for impact strategy. All credit must be given to the staff who endure these dilapidated, antiquated facilities and who must make do every single day to deliver their high quality teaching and learning programs. According to local information provided by the State School Teachers' Union of WA, some staff make the choice to leave, stating that the substandard facilities is a contributing factor to their departure from the school.

After I instigated a bipartisan community Esperance Senior High School upgrade committee, the Shire of Esperance identified ESHS as its number one priority of government infrastructure in the town requiring upgrades. It must be said that much of the town's infrastructure, such as the hospital, Esperance Primary School, the TAFE facilities, residential college and indoor sporting facility have been addressed during the previous Liberal–National Party's eight years of government, with Esperance Senior High School next on the list. I subsequently met with the director general of Education and members of the Department of Finance and presented the case to both the previous and current education ministers on behalf of the Esperance community. The Esperance community has waited patiently in good faith for the review to be completed and for some news that Esperance Senior High School has been prioritised for funding. Members can imagine, given the extensive engagement with government ministers, Department of Education and Department of Finance officials and Labor state members of Parliament, as well as the dire circumstances of the school, how the Esperance community felt when the 2023–24 state budget announcement was made, and Esperance Senior High School again failed to attract funding for a serious refurbishment, while other 1970s schools did. I personally fielded phone calls from distraught members of the Esperance community asking how Esperance Senior High School had once again been overlooked. I understand that a small delegation from the upgrade community have met with Minister Buti online and was requested to subsequently prepare a submission to outline the significance of the school's infrastructure to the whole Esperance community and the region's economy, which it has done.

As a community, Esperance is relying on this minister to deliver its young people a twenty-first century school—a school that will provide an inspiring amenity for students and staff that will bring the school to contemporary standards. I look forward to a positive response.

MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka — Parliamentary Secretary) [9.45 am]: I thank the member for his grievance today and for presenting that to the Minister for Education. I have been informed that the minister is, unfortunately, not available, so he has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Cook government is investing heavily in upgrading schools to ensure they are fit for purpose and can deliver a modern curriculum. As the member knows, there are more than 800 public schools across Western Australia that range in age, and, as we all know, ageing school infrastructure is a challenge for any government that requires a concerted effort over time to progressively tackle. That is why our government has been investing heavily in infrastructure upgrades to schools across the state, with a \$1.5 billion capital works program to deliver new and improved public education facilities across WA, including new spending in several regional schools. That includes an additional \$20.4 million to progress the redevelopment of Roebourne District High School, bringing that to a total of \$72.4 million, with a contract recently awarded. We are investing \$9 million for new school education support facilities in Waggrakine Primary School in Geraldton, and \$6.8 million on maintenance works in agricultural colleges.

The Cook government's asset investment program for 2023–24 is the largest investment of its kind in over a decade. This government is committed to regional education and will continue to invest in schools throughout the state. Regional primary and secondary schools across WA will benefit from the 2023–24 budget, with \$333 million being delivered over the next four financial years for refurbishments, upgrades and new builds.

The maintenance blitz program was announced in September 2019. It invested \$200 million for the benefit of all public schools and was largely delivered within 18 months. From that program, almost \$2 million was provided to Esperance Senior High School for upgrades that were delivered to the school.

Under the Barnett government, approximately \$10 million was spent at Esperance from the start of 2008 through to the end of 2017 on maintenance and capital works. That figure also includes capital works relating to the federal Labor government's Building the Education Revolution program, which the member might recall. Compare that with the previous state Labor government, under which more than \$13 million was spent on delivering upgrades and maintenance to buildings across Esperance Senior High School. This includes design and technology upgrades, installation of solar panels and new shade structures and playgrounds, as well as general maintenance. As part of our government's election commitments, Esperance Senior High School is also receiving \$1.5 million for a science, technology, engineering and mathematics upgrade, with four classrooms to be upgraded as part of this STEM project, in addition to the almost \$2 million already mentioned as part of the maintenance blitz program.

The minister can report that the construction of the STEM classroom upgrades commenced in August this year and is anticipated to be completed by early next year. This will deliver for the school community an upgrade to four classrooms. These facilities will become a well-utilised addition to motivate and inspire local students to pursue STEM careers.

The Cook Labor government is providing upgrades to the school, but we share an understanding that Esperance Senior High School, like some other schools in Western Australia, has ageing facilities that would benefit from refurbishment and upgrades. The minister has committed to advocating for funding for Esperance Senior High School through the budget and has met with the school and prominent members of the community. In August this year, the minister met with the president of the Shire of Esperance, the chair of the Esperance Senior High School board, as well as the president of the Esperance Senior High School P&C, to discuss the situation. He has also recently written to them to provide an update, along with several community members that the school had organised to advocate to the minister, including the local chamber of commerce. In his letter, the minister advised that the building condition assessment for Esperance Senior High School has been completed by the department, with infrastructure considerations currently being assessed. The minister also advised that the three highest priority defects were remediated at the minister's request as a matter of priority. These identified defects were loose ceilings and roof fixtures within the media computing laboratory, science laboratory and sports hall, and other maintenance requirements.

Additional planning for potential upgrades are to be considered when the department puts programs together and as funding becomes available. Resolution of the next lot of priority defects will be addressed through the department's usual maintenance processes and planning to determine costs and time frames are processing accordingly. Representatives from the department also visited the school this month to discuss the concerns, maintenance issues and potential requirements with the school. Along with competing priorities at other secondary schools, improving functionality by replacing or improving assets at the high school and the education support centre is to be considered as part of the government's ongoing planning process for ageing infrastructure.

In addition to the department's existing planning for refurbishment or upgrades across all Western Australian public schools, the minister has recently drawn the school's attention to the Australian government schools upgrade fund, for which round 2 applications recently opened. We encourage Esperance Senior High School, along with other schools looking for upgrades across the state, to consider the eligibility criteria and other information that is available on the department's intranet. More information can also be found about the school upgrade fund on the Australian government website. I assure the member that the minister recognises and appreciates his passion and advocacy for Esperance Senior High School. He thanks the member for this grievance and I reiterate that the Cook government will continue to strongly invest in our schools and assist schools and staff to provide the resources and facilities that they need to deliver exceptional education to our kids. Thank you for the grievance.

KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK

Grievance

MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara) [9.52 am]: My grievance today to the Minister for Environment is about the road and lookout upgrades to Karijini National Park. As the member for Pilbara, I see the high traffic of visitors that visit our Pilbara towns as well as visiting Karijini National Park along the way. Karijini National Park is a popular tourist destination when visiting the Pilbara, attracting visitors from all over Western Australia and beyond. Karijini's breathtaking gorges, towering cliffs, rich native fauna and flora and unique natural landscapes are worth protecting and deserve our attention and investment.

In 2022 alone, Karijini National Park welcomed an impressive 650 000 visitors, the majority of whom were first-time tourists and families. Karijini National Park is one of WA's most internationally recognised destinations.

Karijini is a place of deep cultural importance to the local Indigenous communities, home of the Banyjima, Kurrama and Innawonga people. Karijini is rich with ancient stories and traditions and its very existence is a reminder of the lasting connection between land and its traditional owners.

Since becoming the member for Pilbara in 2017, and as a long-term residence of Karratha since 2002, I have had the privilege of witnessing the yearly influx of tourists to our beautiful region with Karijini National Park remaining a beloved destination among both locals and many members of Parliament, including me. However, the growing number of visitors, particularly those travelling with caravans and heavy vehicles, has taken a toll on the region's roads, making accessing some of the national parks impossible. Over the past couple of years, weather conditions have substantially deteriorated road quality, resulting in dangerous cracks and potholes that risk the safety of both tourists and local visitors. This is a pressing concern among locals in my electorate as well as travellers from the metropolitan and Kimberley areas. Could the minister for the benefit of this house and Pilbara residents outline how this government is investing in roads and lookout upgrades at Karijini National Park?

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldvis — Minister for Environment) [9.54 am]: I thank the member for the Kimberley.

Ms D.G. D'Anna: Pilbara.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: Sorry, Pilbara!

This is one that is close to my heart as well having taken my children there. Before the advent of COVID, we got away and hit the road. I have taken my children to other mainstream holiday destinations, but they thought Karijini was amazing. They had the best holiday. We borrowed a friend's pop-up and took the Prado. They still talk about going up to Karijini as their favourite holiday. I acknowledge the member for Pilbara for his great interest and advocacy for his electorate and encouraging tourism and indeed safer roads in this case.

I agree with the member that enhancing the park's infrastructure will provide greater access to the Pilbara and ensure the region and the state remains a top tourism destination and continues to grow. As I said, having travelled across a range of national parks, many with unsealed roads, I know that the nature of this travel sometimes makes it daunting for a lot of visitors who are not used to that sort of terrain. Karijini National Park is one of WA's most internationally recognised destinations. It is stunning. Last year, it attracted more than 650 000 visits. During the 2021 election, this government committed \$16 million to a new deck at Fern Pool and safer stairs at Hancock Gorge. In the coming year, a new lookout at Knox Gorge will be built and Weano Road, Banjima Drive north and the entry road into the Karijini Eco Resort will be sealed. The 41 kilometres of road to be sealed in Karijini will transform the national park and change the way visitors move between Weano Gorge, Karijini Eco Retreat and Dales Gorge, where we stayed.

Sealing key access roads within Karijini National Park will provide a smoother journey for park visitors, enabling cars and coaches to travel safely to and from the most popular gorge sites. The benefits of these upgrades will also extend beyond park boundaries, with flow-on effects expected for the regional economy, creating jobs and attracting more visitors and business opportunities for the local community. I am pleased to advise the member that under this government's leadership, national parks across his electorate have seen a range of upgrades over the past six years. Since 2017, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' asset investment program has invested \$4.5 million to improve visitor access and facilities in Karijini, Millstream-Chichester and Murujuga National Parks. A total of \$20.7 million has been invested through the government's infrastructure stimulus package, including \$1.2 million in Karijini to upgrade Dales campground—so I will have to go back and see the improvements—improve Karijini Visitors Centre, which is already amazing, and construct a new path to the Fortescue Falls lookout.

In the coming years, \$19.3 million will allow for the construction of a new access road into Murujuga National Park. This government is committed to providing \$5 million to establish two new day-use areas in Conzinc Bay in Murujuga National Park. That is a big ambitious step forward for the Murujuga Aboriginal community, as the member knows, and their aspirations to set up their own entrepreneurial tourism businesses and increase visitation and cultural appreciation of that very important part of the world.

A further \$6.8 million is being invested to establish a DBCA regional office and associated infrastructure and services in Karratha. We know the role of DBCA and the workload continues to grow, as it should, in a very environmentally significant part of our state, so we are providing a good base camp in beautiful Karratha for our officers to operate from. In total, the McGowan and Cook governments have invested a significant amount, \$53 million, to improve visitor access in Karijini, Millstream-Chichester and Murujuga National Parks in the Pilbara region. I thank the member for Pilbara for his grievance and I commit to continuing to see that Labor will protect and invest in our national parks in his electorate.

COCKBURN CEMENT LTD — MUNSTER — ODOURS

Grievance

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [9.59 am]: My grievance today is to the Minister for Environment. I thank the minister for taking my grievance. In his valedictory speech, my predecessor, Hon Fran Logan, spoke about the

various odours that used to plague the residents of Cockburn. Thanks to Fran's work, most of those odours have been eliminated. However, one odour remains a problem, and that is the odour from Cockburn Cement's Munster facility that is caused by its lime manufacturing operations. As a former resident of Yangebup and a current resident of Beeliar who lives less than two kilometres from the facility, I am all too familiar with the smell. On many days over spring and summer and even some days in the winter when a south westerly is blowing, I smell it inside and outside my own home. It is a strong and unpleasant sulphurous odour. I liken it to having 10 000 matches struck in my house. It prevents people from using their outdoor areas, it can permeate homes and clothes, and it lowers the amenity of what are otherwise great suburbs to live in.

I would like to give the Minister for Environment an idea of what it is like living with the smell by quoting from some of the complaints that have been sent to my office, and I get many complaints on this issue. One resident says —

“The odour from Cockburn Cement is so strong this afternoon. I have stepped outside just now and for the first time ever had a coughing fit from the air. The air filter inside our home has auto tuned to the highest processing level.”

Another resident says —

“I currently can't sit outside my home as the smell of the cement works is extreme, it's the worst I have smelt in years. I sat out there for 15 minutes and have a burning sensation in the back of my throat”.

Yet another resident says —

“Another afternoon ruined by —

Cockburn Cement —

... with your toxic stench in the air ... we need change and change now not tomorrow!”

My office is often inundated with calls and emails in similar terms to these examples, many of which also complain about dust. As the minister can tell, there is anger and frustration with Cockburn Cement within my community. Residents have had more than enough. The reason that the residents have had enough is that Cockburn Cement has had more than enough time to clean up its act. The odour is not a new issue. Residents have been lodging complaints directly with Cockburn Cement and the Western Australian government about odour and dust for many, many years. Thanks to the work of Fran, my predecessor, a community campaign was undertaken just over 10 years ago that resulted in bag filters being applied to that facility. That certainly improved, particularly the dust issue, and had some impact the odour issue, but, unfortunately, it has not been enough. We know that steps can be taken by Cockburn Cement to improve this issue, because it has done it before.

The view of many residents in my electorate is that the Munster facility is no longer an appropriate location for lime manufacturing. Although Cockburn Cement has been operating at the Munster site for many years, residential developments have now encroached on its doorstep, including my own home, and community expectations have also changed. In saying all this, I want to be clear that I have no gripe with Cockburn Cement maintaining its lime manufacturing operations in Western Australia. Lime is essential to many of our industries, including gold and alumina. My objection is not to lime manufacturing in Western Australia; it is to lime manufacturing at that Munster facility. Equally, and perhaps most importantly, I want to be very clear that I have no gripe with any of the workers at Cockburn Cement. They are just trying to do their jobs and they want fair pay and conditions for the important work they do. I certainly want to see jobs preserved. My gripe is not with the workers; it is with the senior management and the directors of Cockburn Cement and its owner, Adbri, who have refused to do the right thing either by moving the lime manufacturing operations to its Kwinana facility or at least making the investments necessary to eliminate the odour coming from the Munster facility.

We know that it is possible for Cockburn Cement to move its operations because just earlier this year the company completed an upgrade of its Kwinana facility. That upgrade enabled cement production that once took place at Munster to move to Kwinana. Cockburn Cement can do the same for its lime manufacturing operations. In fact, the Munster facility, which was once used for all stages of the cement manufacturing process, whether that was cement grinding or lime manufacturing, is now solely used for lime manufacturing in kiln 6 and occasionally kiln 5.

Since being elected in March 2021, I have raised this issue with the minister and his office on an almost monthly basis and sometimes on a weekly basis. I see that the former Minister for Environment is also in the chamber and I did the same to her. I do not apologise for being dogged on this issue and I appreciate the understanding of the current minister and the former minister, both of whom have been forthcoming in recognising that this issue is of serious concern to the residents in my community and a concern to hundreds, if not thousands, of people across a couple of suburbs in my community. I know also that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation takes very seriously the concerns that my constituents have about Cockburn Cement and I am grateful for their efforts to date. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the many residents who have led the advocacy on this issue in our community. I particularly acknowledge Greg Hocking, who has run the Cockburn Pollution Stoppers group for several years and has been a steadfast voice for change in our community. He, along with many other residents,

put themselves and their complaints forward and have called for change. I would also like to acknowledge the officers in the department and the minister's office, particularly Sherrie Wilson, Klasey Hirst, Magdalena Celeski and Marina Juesten for their ongoing attention to this issue, which is greatly appreciated.

In closing, I again thank the minister for taking my grievance and look forward to hearing from him on the measures being taken to hold Cockburn Cement to account and to address the odours experienced by the residents of Yangebup and Beeliar.

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Environment) [10.06 am]: I thank the member for Cockburn for raising this issue. I am very aware—all too aware!—that it is an enormous issue for him and his constituents and that has been for some time. The member is right; we do hear from him a lot because the member is like a dog with a bone on this issue. Indeed, one of my officers the member mentioned is in the gallery today. I think there is a permanent hotline between the member's office and her desk. I know that will continue. I know that the former member, Hon Fran Logan, was also dedicated to addressing this issue. The member brings a personal insight to it, obviously, being a local resident of Beeliar. He is within the sniff zone, if I can put it that way.

Mr D.A.E. Scaife: Well and truly.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: Well and truly.

As I said, I have met the member too many times! That is something I embrace. It is part of the member's responsibility and it is mine to respond. Cockburn Cement has had a long history of complaints relating to odour, and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has expended significant resources over many years. In July 2020, the department commenced a prosecution of Cockburn Cement in relation to 13 charges of causing an unreasonable emission during 2019, and on 1 December 2022, Cockburn Cement was found guilty of six of those 13 charges and fined \$290 000. Cockburn Cement initiated appeal proceedings in the Supreme Court against both the conviction and the sentence imposed, and the appeal decision was handed down on 8 September this year. The conviction stood but the fine was reduced from \$290 000 to \$245 000. Cockburn Cement has confirmed since then that it will not appeal that decision. This is the first successful prosecution of Cockburn Cement on this matter.

In July 2022, the department commenced a second prosecution of Cockburn Cement on a further six charges of causing an unreasonable emission, and that matter remains before the courts. Regardless of the legal action, the department's objective remains focused on ensuring that Cockburn Cement appropriately manages its emissions and that residents in the area are not impacted by unreasonable emissions. In August 2021, the department granted Cockburn Cement a works approval to undertake an alternative shell sand feed trial for kiln 6, which was proposed to reduce odour emissions. Cockburn Cement completed the trial over the summer of 2022–23, and undertook surveys during the trial to determine its effectiveness. On 30 May this year, Cockburn Cement submitted a commissioning report to the department, which included trial and survey results and data obtained during the trial. The data that was provided is very complex. It is so complex, in fact, that to ensure the data and the odour survey results are accurate and reliable, the department engaged an international expert in cement and lime manufacturing to review and report on the data. This is an example of how far the department is prepared to go to get this right. The department received advice from the international expert on 9 November, and is currently considering this advice. Although Cockburn Cement has publicly stated that it considers the trial to have been successful, both the department and the international expert have identified areas of concern about the reliability of some data and whether the results of the trial are representative of what would happen under normal operating conditions.

The department requires time to fully consider the advice and data provided, to ensure appropriate processes and consultation are undertaken and to allow for procedural fairness. Most importantly, this includes ensuring that the interests of the community and environment are appropriately considered and protected. But the issue of odour continues. The department has received complaints related to odour from the surrounding areas. During the 2023–24 summer period, which is upon us, the department will be undertaking both proactive and reactive odour patrols when complaints traditionally increase. Cockburn Cement has indicated that it will phase out the use of coal by the end of 2024. Although the burning of coal at the site is not considered a significant contributor to odour, we certainly welcome the fact that Cockburn Cement is working towards improving its emissions and its impact on the local community from burning that coal.

I want to acknowledge the work of the department in making substantial progress on the issue of odour emissions. It remains absolutely focused on implementing a long-term regulatory solution that will resolve the ongoing and unacceptable emission of odour. This includes a wide range of options that are under active consideration. The outcomes of the recent odour trial are being given fair and reasonable consideration as part of that decision-making process. As someone who also represents an outer southern suburb community down in Baldivis, I understand the importance of ensuring that we have the right regulatory settings to make sure —

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): There is a bit of chitchat there. I am interested in what the minister has to say.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: I am very keen to ensure that communities nearby industry are looked after and that they have high-quality amenity and comfortable conditions. What is going on in Cockburn is unacceptable. It has been

a long battle. As I have said, we are working towards finding a solution. The member can rest assured that I will personally be keeping an eye on developments in this matter. I look forward to coming to Cockburn in the new year to meet with the member and residents in Yangebup and Beeliar to hear directly about their concerns. I again thank the member for raising this grievance and for his tireless advocacy on this issue.

FIREARMS ACT — REFORM

Grievance

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [10.12 am]: My grievance today is directed to the Minister for Police, addressing the urgent matter of the rushed firearms reforms. This issue, deeply impactful and contentious, resonates across Western Australia, highlighting the need for careful consideration to ensure community safety and to protect the rights of law-abiding firearms owners.

I begin by sharing the words of Evan Rutherford, a concerned farmer and business owner, who joins us in the chamber today. His situation exemplifies the distress and uncertainty these reforms have caused for law-abiding firearm owners across Western Australia. Evan's concerns represent a broader apprehension felt by many in regional Western Australia. As a responsible firearm owner and a steward of his land, Evan relies on firearms not only as part of his business operations, but also as an essential tool in managing pests on his West Binu farm near Kalbarri. Under the proposed reforms, Evan faces several challenges. The new property letter system, which aims to restrict the number of shooters on private property, poses a direct threat to his business model. He operates a lawful enterprise under which licensed shooters are allowed to use their firearms on his property. Only one group at a time are allowed on the property, and many families and friends have enjoyed their time together, shooting targets and vermin pest. The proposed restrictions will lead to a significant reduction in his business's capacity to host these activities. This change does not just signify a reduction in numbers; it threatens the viability of businesses like his. Evan currently shoots on over 50 properties. If he needs to obtain and reobtain a letter for each property, it will be an undue burden to the farmer, to Evan and, with current police resourcing stretched, to the police force as well.

The reforms introduce a maximum cap on the number of firearms a person can own, a policy that does not account for the diverse needs of rural business owners. Different types of firearms are necessary for various aspects of pest control and management, as well as for recreation. Limiting these tools hampers Evan's ability to effectively manage his land and manage his business.

The potential changes to ammunition purchase also raises concerns for Evan. As someone who purchases in bulk to maintain cost efficiency, any new limitations could significantly increase his operating costs. The practicality and necessity of such changes are questionable, especially when they impact law-abiding citizens who have always complied with existing regulations. Evan's predicament is a clear example of how these reforms, in their current state, fail to consider the practical implications for rural business owners and the broader agricultural community.

Moving beyond Evan's individual circumstances, we face a statewide concern that these reforms have been rushed through without sufficient consultation with those who will be most impacted. This approach has led to widespread anxiety among tens of thousands of firearm owners across our state. The concerns extend beyond individual inconveniences; they touch on the essential aspects of rural life and industry. Farmers, sports shooters and recreational hunters all play a part in our state's cultural and economic fabric. The proposed reforms, with their restrictive and seemingly arbitrary policies, could significantly alter the landscape of firearm ownership and use in Western Australia.

One of the most critical aspects of these reforms is the proposed implementation of mental health checks. The current proposal overlooks the significant shortage of mental health practitioners in rural areas. Our regional communities, which are already grappling limited access to healthcare services under this Labor government, may find themselves disproportionately disadvantaged by these new requirements. This will lead to situations in which firearm owners, particularly those in remote areas, are unable to comply with the new regulations simply due to the paucity of available services directly impacting their business. This is not just a matter of compliance; it is about equity and access to essential health services.

The rushed nature of these reforms is a cause for significant concern. Despite over 12 673 petitioners calling for a more measured approach, the government has chosen to ignore these voices, undermining the trust between the government and the people of Western Australia. The lack of a comprehensive and inclusive consultation process, demonstrated by the government's refusal to extend the consultation period, has led to a policy that is disconnected from the realities of those it aims to regulate.

The potential impacts of these changes on rural economies and the use of firearms in Western Australia cannot be overstated. The introduction of restrictive measures on firearm ownership and usage could inadvertently lead to a rise in the use of unlicensed and unregulated firearms. The impact on rural businesses, many of which rely on firearms for essential activities such as pest control and land management, is also significant. This rushed approach to policymaking without proper consideration of these various factors is not in the best interests of the state. Any reform in this area must be grounded in evidence, balance the needs and rights of all stakeholders and contribute

positively to public safety without undermining the rights of firearm owners in Western Australia. I urge the Minister for Police and this government to reconsider the current firearm reforms. We must commit to a process that is transparent, inclusive and responsive to the needs of all Western Australians.

Evan's situation is unique to him. It is a situation that may not be typical of all firearm owners but it is one of many different stories across Western Australia. The voices of individuals like Evan Rutherford and the concerns of tens of thousands of law-abiding firearm owners across the state deserve to be heard and addressed. I thank the minister for taking the grievance.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Police) [10.18 am]: I thank the member for his grievance and for bringing this matter to the attention of the house. I appreciate the opportunity to address the concerns of Evan, which are largely unfounded. Hopefully, we can provide him with some comfort that his concerns are perhaps in excess of the impact of what is proposed. That aside, I have to address some of the member's claims about this process. For the benefit of others in the house who may not be as focused on the matter as the Leader of the Opposition, the reform and rewriting of the Firearms Act 1973 is the latest in a long and extensive process—almost 10 years long. It began back in 2014, when the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's government initiated a review by the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia into the Firearms Act 1973. That process took two years and resulted in something like 1 244 written submissions. The commission held lots of hearings and meetings with many individuals, peak bodies and interested parties. In October 2016, the commission delivered the *Review of the Firearms Act 1973 (WA)* to the then government. That report had some key recommendations. The first recommendation was that if a new act were to be drafted, to make it subject to a five-year statutory review. The second recommendation was that the firearms legislation should be redrafted from the ground up and re-enacted. We are going to do that. The third recommendation, which is the key recommendation to keep in mind at all times because it impacts directly on all subsequent actions, states —

The *Firearms Act 1973 (WA)* should contain a statement as to the purpose of the Firearms Legislation that confirms:

- a. the primary principle is the need to ensure public safety;
- b. the possession and use of firearms is a privilege that is always conditional on that need to ensure public safety; and
- c. public safety can be improved by requiring strict controls on the possession, use, dealing and manufacturing of firearms and requiring the safe and secure storage and carriage of firearms.

A lot of the report went on to find that those things were not assured by the current act. I am interested to know whether this is the position of the opposition in its entirety on this, including the two members sitting to the member's rear. If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is suggesting that there is some right to the possession of a firearm as opposed to it being a privilege, which was the finding of the Law Reform Commission, I would like to know. It would be concerning if the member believed there is some right that cannot be impinged upon. That is not the case. The primary principle is public safety, but let me address Evan's concerns because they are not really based on the intent of what is going on.

The new property letter system is not like the old property letter system. We are not talking about a physical letter but a complete upgrade to the system. It will be digitised and enable real-time, immediate authority to be extended by a landowner. This came to us from the Primary Producers Firearms Advisory Board, which consists of representatives from the Western Australian Farmers Federation, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia, the Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association, vegetablesWA and Wines of Western Australia. All those representatives of landowners, primary producers and farmers wanted control over who shoots on their property. The review will deliver that. The member was concerned about how it might be difficult to get a physical letter and to renew it and all those things, but we are not talking about the current system. It will be a new system. Tens of millions of dollars will be spent on upgrading the system. Concerns around how onerous that task might be are unfounded.

Beyond that, the member mentioned that Evan shoots on 50 properties or whatever. Essentially, that process will be made easier. The primary producers advisory board asked that the landowner be given back the power to control who shoots on their land and to not rely on some historic letter that some previous owner may have issued decades ago. Under the new system, a landowner will be able to issue and immediately rescind an authority. If someone is coming to visit their farm on the weekend, and a different person is visiting the next weekend, the authority might be given for this weekend but rescinded on Monday, and then issued to another person subsequently. The concern around that impact is unfounded.

With regard to the maximum cap, Evan wants to have an unlimited number of firearms. I have a different view and so do most Western Australians. The vast majority of Western Australians do not believe gun owners should have unlimited guns. Primary producers and farmers have a reasonable need to use a firearm as part of their job. The primary producers advisory board has worked with us and set the limit to 10 firearms for competitive shooters, who can seek to have more if they are in competitions, and five for recreational shooters.

With regard to ammunition, we are not going to limit ammunition, but we are going to monitor its sale. For the first time, we will know what people are buying and where.

If the member gives me Evan's contact details, I will give them to the licensing enforcement division—the guys who are doing this review—and they will meet personally with Evan to assure him that his concerns are unfounded.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

Fifth Report — Seeking justice: Improving options for survivors of institutional child abuse:

Volume 1: Legislative and high-level administrative matters — Tabling

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [10.25 am]: I present for tabling the fifth report of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee titled *Seeking justice: Improving options for survivors of institutional child abuse: Volume 1: Legislative and high-level administrative matters*.

[See paper [2569](#).]

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Minister for Police, if you are having a conversation, I would go outside.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Before I start, I recognise the many survivors and also advocates from Tuart Place and the organisation Survivors of Child Abuse in the gallery today. Thank you very much for coming and being present for this report tabling.

After exploring several potential inquiry topics, in June this year the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee resolved to commence an inquiry into the options available to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse in Western Australia who are seeking justice. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was a five-year inquiry and it submitted its final report on 15 December 2017. Across the reports from the royal commission, 409 recommendations were made that required action by commonwealth, state and territory governments as well as non-government institutions. Of those recommendations, 310 were relevant to the Western Australian government and ranged across a number of areas, looking back to help right past wrongs as well as looking forward to prevent future harm. One of the royal commission's key measures was the removal of the statute of limitations for claims relating to child sexual abuse that had prevented many survivors from undertaking civil legal actions, seeking compensation from offenders and/or their institutions.

Five years has passed since the initial response by the Western Australian government. The committee decided that it was timely to review the outcomes of that response and to determine whether improvements could be made to better serve justice for abuse survivors. Whilst there is further work to do, it is already very clear that reasonable changes can be made that will further improve the outcomes for survivors. Many abuse survivors are elderly and many have significant health issues that resulted from their abuse. Any unnecessary delay in implementing the identified changes could deny survivors and their families the justice they deserve.

To allow the government sufficient time to develop a response to our recommendations during this Parliament and to avoid unnecessary delay, the committee will present two reports. This is the first report, which focuses on the critical legislative forms that will improve the timely resolution of claims for compensation due to alleged historic child abuse. Other changes to improve the delivery of justice have also been identified.

Western Australia was one of the first states to enact legislative changes to deliver justice to historic sexual abuse survivors in response to the royal commission. Other states made similar changes but have also gone further than WA. In particular, other states have acknowledged that extreme physical abuse, so often entwined with sexual abuse, must also be considered when providing justice to victims. Although many of the reforms recommended in this report are already in effect in other Australian jurisdictions, some of the recommended reforms go beyond what exists elsewhere. We hope that the Western Australian government will build on the work of those other states and further improve the approach to delivering justice to abuse survivors as recommended in this report.

The committee received 50 submissions from, among others, abuse survivors; advocacy groups; state departments, including the State Solicitor's Office; lawyers; and respondent organisations. The committee also engaged an eminent lawyer in this field, Mr Tim Hammond, SC, to assist in developing and testing recommendations. The committee is very grateful that Mr Hammond made himself available at short notice to assist us in this important task.

The current volume includes six chapters. Chapter 1 covers reforms to limitation periods in WA. It traces how statutes of limitation have been removed for certain types of abuse in WA and how that experience differs from other Australian jurisdictions. It makes two recommendations: for legislative change to bring WA into line with the rest of the country by removing limitations on a broader range of abuse and to monitor the impact of that recommendation.

The committee recognised that limiting the scope for historic redress to sexual abuse did not take cognisance of the complexity of many abuse cases. In many cases, sexual abuse is often inextricably intertwined with psychological and physical abuse. The WA legislation removed the limitation period only for sexual abuse and not these other

forms of abuse. The committee heard that, in some cases, respondents argued that the extent of compensation for admitted sexual abuse should exclude compensation for any harm caused by physical and psychological abuse. This is manifestly unjust for abuse survivors. It is very clear that the limitations period should also be removed for these other forms of abuse suffered by children in institutional care. Evidence received by the committee indicated that making this change would not place an unmanageable burden on the justice system.

Chapter 2 deals with some ongoing challenges in the setting aside of previously agreed deeds of settlement. Most abuse cases do not go to trial. They are most often settled before any trial, and the agreed outcomes are formalised in a deed of settlement. The deed of settlement can include an undertaking on the part of the abuse victim not to pursue any further legal action once the respondent has paid agreed compensation. Unless it is set aside by agreement or by a court, an abuse victim cannot pursue further legal action to obtain redress. The committee heard that, in some cases, settlement deeds were affected by factors outside the facts of the case and sometimes extended to cover issues well outside the scope of the sexual abuse that occurred. An abuse victim may have settled for less compensation than they could obtain now because the statute of limitations that existed at the time of the agreement has been removed. The report looks at the process of setting deeds aside and recommends that this should happen concurrently with any new civil claim. It also looks at the breadth of what might be included in any new deed and recommends that some limitations be imposed.

Chapter 3 recommends that changes be made to legislation to reverse the onus of proof for civil claims of child abuse when organisations cannot establish that they took reasonable precautions to prevent the abuse. This recommendation recognises that there is often a significant asymmetry of power in civil cases between an abuse survivor and a respondent organisation. It reflects the approach taken in workers compensation claims in which a respondent organisation needs to demonstrate that appropriate steps were taken to prevent injuries in a workplace to defend a claim for compensation.

Chapter 4 examines what happens in civil claims of child abuse when plaintiffs die before their case has concluded. It looks at the difference between the National Redress Scheme and civil litigation in WA and recommends that legislation be amended so that existing civil claims can be continued by the estate of the plaintiff should they die. It also recommends that WA adopt a system similar to that in Victoria where family members can also make claims in civil courts. It is often the case that the families of an abuse victim are also victims of the trauma experienced by the victims themselves. It seems very unjust that families should be denied compensation when a case ceases due to the death of an abuse victim during the trial. More broadly, in Western Australia, only the original victim of abuse can make a civil claim. Even if family members have suffered in their own right and families have become estranged as a result of the impact of abuse, family members cannot make a claim. The committee believes that there should be some way for people who have been affected by such abuse to seek compensation. The report notes a recent court judgement that means that Victorian family members now have the right to attempt such a claim and the committee recommends that the government make legislative changes to allow these people the opportunity to have their claims heard by the courts.

Chapter 5 looks at the issue of permanent stays whereby defendants can apply to have a case ended if they cannot reasonably receive a fair trial. It notes the recent High Court of Australia majority decision that found that this process must be handled differently for child abuse cases. Typically, an abuse case cannot be heard by a court until the question of whether to allow a permanent stay is resolved. Dealing with the issue of the permanent stay before the trial commences can significantly extend the time taken to resolve a case. Many of the facts needed to determine if a permanent stay is justified are the same facts required to determine the extent of any compensation due to an abuse victim. Recognising that many abuse survivors are elderly and often unwell, it is unfair to unnecessarily extend the time taken to resolve their cases. Hearing the matters in parallel avoids unnecessary duplication of presenting facts and will reduce the time it takes for victims to receive appropriate compensation. The chapter recommends amending legislation so that stay applications can only be made at the conclusion of the trial of the matter. It also recommends that people who have made a claim in good faith should not be liable for costs for successful permanent stay applications and that legislation should be introduced to allow any existing stays to be reviewed in light of the recent High Court majority decision.

Chapter 6 looks at the high-level operation of the District Court in child abuse cases. Based on broad agreement from witnesses, it recommends that a specialised court list be put in place for child abuse claims. It also recommends that trial dates be set as quickly as possible in child abuse cases in line with Victorian practice. These recommendations recognise that, similar to mesothelioma victims, reducing the time taken to resolve civil claims for compensation for child abuse by an institution is critical. These improvements do not require any legislative change.

I thank my fellow committee members for sharing their extensive collective experience related to the topic of the inquiry. This has greatly facilitated our ability to focus on key issues and identify appropriate witnesses. I note that the member for Nedlands, Dr Katrina Stratton, gained extensive experience prior to entering Parliament from her involvement with Tuart Place. The member for Burns Beach, Mr Mark Folkard, was formerly a police officer who in many cases had to deal with situations involving survivors of child abuse, and also has extensive knowledge of court processes. The member for Churchlands, Ms Christine Tonkin, has extensive experience in public advocacy

and was a major contributor to our inquiry. I am particularly grateful for the input of the member for Bassendean, Hon Dave Kelly, who has considerable knowledge on the inquiry topic through a long period of advocacy for survivors of institutional child abuse.

I also wish to thank the many witnesses who presented to the inquiry, especially survivors and advocacy groups. The trauma that survivors have experienced leaves lifelong physical and mental scars that severely impact them and their families. It is only by survivors and advocacy groups having the courage and tenacity to continue to speak out that we can understand these impacts and seek further improvements in outcomes.

On behalf of the committee, I especially thank our hardworking staff, Dr Alan Charlton and Dr Sam Hutchinson, for their excellent guidance, research and facilitation of the inquiry. They have been exemplary in their handling of a very complex inquiry topic against a very tight deadline for the first report. I commend the report to the house.

MR M.J. FOLKARD (Burns Beach) [10.39 am]: I, too, rise to speak to the tabling of this report. My speech will not be particularly long. Before I begin, I would like to thank the chair for his work, the member for Bassendean for his input, and the members for Nedlands and Churchlands. Before I go any further, I would like to recognise the survivors and the courage it took for them to come forward and tell their stories. Some of their stories were horrific, to say the least, but their experience within our judicial system shocked me even more. Basically, the system that has been produced effectively re-traumatises survivors. That is wrong. The 12 recommendations in the report are simple and straightforward, and I hope all of them will be empowered as soon as possible. We saw institutions ducking and diving trying to avoid answering questions, but what stood out for me was the courage of our survivors. Telling their stories and coming forward is, to me, why it is so important that we have to get this right. I will say no more and leave it at that, thank you.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): It was brief, member for Burns Beach; I got a surprise.

DR K. STRATTON (Nedlands) [10.41 am]: I rise to add my voice to recognise not only the recommendations contained in this report, but also the survivors and advocates who have got us to this point today. I, too, acknowledge in the public gallery the staff and participants of Tuart Place. I had the honour of serving on the board of Tuart Place for many years. They know that for me it was not only a professional, but also a deeply personal honour. My partner had a lived experience of out-of-home care; therefore, I, too, have lived the impact that a care experience, even one that was ostensibly free from abuse, has on all aspects of a person's life. I acknowledge and welcome today Dr Pip White, the director of Tuart Place; board chair John Ryall; and deputy chair Dale Lynch; as well as the many other board members and survivors who are present. I also welcome and acknowledge Kirsty Pratt, OAM, a long-term advocate for survivors of childhood sexual abuse and whose efforts have created much clearer justice pathways for survivors.

I sat in the public gallery with you all in 2018 as then Premier Mark McGowan delivered his apology on behalf of the Western Australian state government to those who had been sexually abused while in institutional care. At that time, WA also joined the National Redress Scheme. That experience was meaningful and powerful. This inquiry and the first volume of the report and its recommendations build on the work that began not only after that apology, but also as a result of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that preceded it. I highlight one particular recommendation. It is an issue that was often discussed around the board table at Tuart Place. I am really delighted that you are all here to see this recommendation come to light. Recommendation 1 is to remove limitation periods for personal injury claims relating to physical or serious physical abuse and associated psychological or emotional abuse. The limitation periods for sexual abuse were lifted in 2018. The expansion in this recommendation reflects people's lived experience, that different types of abuse happen but to one body, to one heart, to one mind, to one soul. Any separation is academic only. The recommendation also acknowledges the experiences we have heard from survivors, whereby siblings in the same family had different types of abuse perpetrated against them. Although one sibling might not have experienced sexual abuse, they may have been physically abused, with the shared experience with their siblings therefore of the trauma and harm of childhood abuse. This recommendation would see all those siblings able to seek justice in the same way as well as acknowledging the often sad coexistence of sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

The other recommendations aim to make the justice pathway clearer and more timely, changes I would argue are of benefit to both claimants and defendants, but particularly for survivors to have greater certainty and expediency in the resolution of their claims. This is a much more trauma-informed response—acknowledgement, recognition, certainty and timeliness. I would therefore anticipate that the many defendant institutions that told us they too work to be trauma-informed and survivor centric will also welcome these recommendations.

I would like to finish my brief contribution with some acknowledgements. Like the chair, I acknowledge the committee staff who brought this report together under tight time frames, and with a key eye to ensuring our recommendations are actionable and achievable. I thank Tim Hammond, SC, whose expert review also ensured our recommendations were both just and actionable. I thank again all the survivors who shared with us their stories of survival and their experiences seeking justice—experiences made very challenging by not just the justice system, but also some of the institutions that were supposed to provide children with care and protection, and who perpetuated

their trauma with their so-called justice responses. I therefore thank the institutions that had the courage to appear before the committee. Not all engaged in the opportunity. I also thank the many legal firms and advocates who made submissions representing both defendants and complainants and for giving us an understanding of the complex and sensitive legal processes. As I did at the tabling of my annual report, I acknowledge the chair, the member for Cottesloe, Dr David Honey, for his robust and sensitive leadership on a complex issue, with a clear outcome to deliver greater justice for survivors. I also acknowledge my colleague the member for Bassendean, Hon Dave Kelly, who has also been a long-term advocate for survivors, and to our other committee members, Mark Folkard, member for Burns Beach, and the member for Churchlands, Christine Tonkin, who brought her expertise, lived experience and forensic analysis to our proceedings.

I finish by saying that I am very proud to have been part of this committee inquiry. The report tabled here today is not only survivor-centric, but also informed by the best evidence presented to us. That makes both my social work and my research heart very happy. I proudly stand in this place in full support of both the process and outcomes in the recommendations of this report. It is of course our great hope that this first volume of our findings and recommendations, if implemented, will indeed see a clearer path to justice for survivors. It will recognise their resilience, their right to seek justice and their ongoing courage and advocacy in the face of ongoing injustices. I look forward to continuing to work alongside them to right the wrongs of the past as we move to the second phase of this important inquiry.

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean) [10.47 am]: I rise to speak on this very important report tabled today, which contains some important recommendations to assist survivors of child abuse to achieve justice. I begin by acknowledging the staff from Tuart Place and Survivors of Child Abuse represented in the gallery today, who have come along to see this report being tabled. I also give a shout-out to SAMSN, the Survivors and Mates Support Network, a New South Wales organisation that made a submission; CLAN, the Care Leavers Australasia Network based largely on the east coast that made a submission; and Beyond Abuse: Advocacy Support Justice, which is a group of survivors in Tasmania. I want to recognise all those groups as well.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was a major bit of work by the federal government. It produced its final report five years ago. Many members of the community were shocked at the stories that were told. The community wants survivors to have options to seek justice. In 2018, the state government passed legislation to implement one of the key recommendations of that royal commission. As a member of this chamber, I was proud to be here at the time. That reform removed the statute of limitations that had prevented victims of child sexual abuse from seeking common-law compensation. Many people hoped that would open a simple and speedy pathway for victims. In fact, hundreds of victims have come forward and have navigated the legal process and received significant amounts in compensation. I thank the Attorney General for the work he did in passing that legislation in 2018 and for the interest he has shown in this area.

Five years down the track, the committee has identified some further important reforms that can be made to make the pathway for justice clearer and, importantly, less time consuming. The first recommendation of this report is that victims of physical abuse and not just sexual abuse be able to seek compensation. We heard about the quite—I will not say bizarre—disturbing circumstance in Western Australia in which an institution can recognise that a person has been a victim of abuse but then tries to minimise the compensation it will have to pay by saying that the trauma was caused not just by the sexual abuse the victim had suffered but at least in part by the physical abuse inflicted upon them in that institution, possibly by someone else. An institution might say, “Brother so and so physically abused you and that is the source of your trauma, not the sexual abuse that you suffered at the hands of Brother so and so, also at the same institution.” Institutions have a legal opportunity to put evidence before the court to say that the trauma is real, but that the compensation should be split in half or apportioned differently. That is absolutely bizarre. The first recommendation is that physical abuse, as well as sexual abuse, should be made part of claims. That is the situation in every other state in Australia. That would be an important reform.

The second thing is that the process is still very slow. Victims who get the courage to come forward with a claim are often presented with a delay of three, four or even five years before their case gets to trial. That is simply too long. We have suggested a number of reforms to speed up claims. The first concerns the process of setting aside old deeds that were entered into before the statute of limitations was removed. That should be dealt with concurrently with the substantive claim, rather than having a two-step process. That would enable claims to be dealt with more quickly.

Permanent stays have become a key feature of the defence that institutions now put before the courts to impede survivors seeking justice. Permanent stays should not be dealt with as a separate application; they should be dealt with only at the end of the trial and not at the beginning. At present, when survivors try to negotiate a settlement, the threat of a permanent stay hangs over them like a sword. They live with the fear that they could go through all this work and then have an application for a permanent stay granted, even before they get a chance to go to court. Currently, there is the perverse situation in which if a permanent stay is granted, the survivor may have to pay the costs of the institution. How can that be just? When a survivor comes forward and makes a claim, they often do not know whether the perpetrator is still alive or the state of the evidence that the institution will be able to bring. They have none of that knowledge. The recommendation we are making is that permanent stays be heard only at the conclusion of the evidence and not as a first step before a trial has begun.

I will briefly mention a couple of other points. Claims should continue if the survivor sadly passes away. Institutions currently have a rather perverse incentive to drag out a claim if a survivor is elderly. If they pass away, the claim dies with them under the current interpretation of the law. That should end. The committee also recommends having a separate list so that courts deal with these cases quickly and expeditiously. The chair of the committee has also mentioned that.

I will mention the case of one survivor to highlight some of the issues that we have dealt with in this report. The case between RJS and Perth Diocesan Trustees—the Anglican Church—was settled this week, two days before the claim was to go to trial. The survivor in that case, a fabulous bloke, began his journey in 2018 and his case was only going to go to court this week. That is way too long. It was only this week, with a trial date staring the Anglican Church in the face, that it settled for \$1.7 million. The recommendations we have made will hopefully mean that those settlements can be entered into much earlier, rather than putting survivors through a long and traumatic process in order to get justice, as the survivor in this case received today. I acknowledge the effort to which he went to achieve justice, not just for him, mind you, but also other members of the survivor community.

Finally, I thank the chair, the member for Cottesloe, for the leadership he has shown on this committee. It has been absolutely fantastic to have him as chair of the committee for this report. The knowledge of the member for Nedlands has been absolutely fantastic, and the passion of the members for Churchlands and Burns Beach has been absolutely brilliant as well. I thank them. The staff, Dr Alan Charlton and Dr Sam Hutchinson, were of great assistance to the committee as well.

I look forward to the Attorney General giving this report due consideration and to him applying the same commitment and vigour that he applied to the 2018 reforms to the next raft of reforms that we seek through this report. Thank you very much.

MS C.M. TONKIN (Churchlands) [10.57 am]: I also rise to make a short contribution to the presentation of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee’s report *Seeking justice: Improving options for survivors of institutional child abuse: Volume 1: Legislative and high-level administrative matters*, which I believe is very important. Hopefully, the adoption of its recommendations will ease the distress of the many people who are seeking justice. I also acknowledge and thank the survivors and advocates who have come here today to witness our presentation of the report. I thank all those who gave generously of their time and effort to help the work of the committee through making submissions and giving evidence.

I would like to read a short article from the *Post* newspaper of 25 November. I certainly picked up on this article, given the timing of the presentation of this report. The article encapsulates many of the issues that we were dealing with. It is headed “Priest witnesses sought” and states —

A man who wrote a detailed letter about sexual abuse of boys by a priest in the 1960s and 1970s could hold crucial information for a court case against the Anglican Church.

A legal firm is calling for witnesses for the civil action, which is being taken by a victim of deceased priest Michael Painter, who was in Nedlands parish in 1963–66 and at St Andrew in East Claremont in 1970–74.

I believe this is the same person about whom my good colleague the member for Bassendean spoke. It continues —

Rightside Legal is seeking anyone with knowledge of Painter’s activities with teenage boys around the time.

The letter claiming he had abused boys in the western suburbs was addressed to police investigating him in March 1994, just prior to his plea of guilty in June 1994 to abusing a teenage boy.

Painter committed suicide after his guilty plea was reported on the front page of The Sunday Times newspaper under the headline “Sex Priest Cover-up”.

The letter claims Painter groomed boys during social evenings at church and invited them to a room he rented in Tareena Street, Nedlands, in the 1960s.

He also organised excursions and other activities for teenagers in the Nedlands–Churchlands area.

Michael Painter was a prolific abuser. We heard evidence that he was implicated in the abuse of at least 18 young people. I was introduced to Michael Painter in the mid-1980s when I worked at Anglicare. He was a homesharer under the program through which vulnerable young people were supported in accommodation at private homes. I do not know whether he was active as an abuser at that time. I did not work under that program. However, it seems his career as an abuser likely spanned decades, and the fact that he was allowed to be a homesharer speaks volumes about the blindness to the abuse that people suffered.

Like so many victims of child abuse, the person referred to in the *Post* article concerning abuse by Michael Painter has waited a long time for justice. The removal of the statute of limitations under the Civil Liability Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Act 2018 allowed victims, such as those of Michael Painter, to seek redress through civil actions. However, they often face problems in obtaining evidence in support of their claims simply because of the passage of time and possibly because of the death of the perpetrator and the availability of witnesses, some of whom have long disappeared into the woodwork or are deceased.

However, a High Court majority decision on 1 November 2023 found that the removal of limitations on civil actions in these cases fundamentally changed their nature. I quote from the committee report —

Parliament ensured that no claim for damages for death or personal injury resulting from child abuse can be characterised as ‘historical’. Just as there is no ‘historical murder’ while a person is alive to mourn the victim, there is no ‘historical child sexual abuse’ while there is someone alive claiming to have suffered harm from the abuse.

The path to justice for those who suffered harm from child abuse is often long and uncertain. It is my hope, and that of the members of our committee, that actions on our 12 recommendations—thank you, Attorney General—will result in easing that path and along with it the considerable stress that victims experience.

Members: Hear, hear!

THE ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife) [11.03 am]: Thank you, member. Before I call the next speaker, I just want to, in concluding that section, acknowledge the survivors and their advocates in the public gallery during those speeches and, on behalf of the Parliament, acknowledge your patience and your courage and your pain over many years.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

Eleventh Report — What happens next? Beyond a finding of serious misconduct: Examining the responses to a finding of serious misconduct and building integrity in public agencies — Tabling

MR M. HUGHES (Kalamunda) [11.04 am]: I present for tabling the eleventh report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission titled *What happens next? Beyond a finding of serious misconduct: Examining the responses to a finding of serious misconduct and building integrity in public agencies*.

[See paper [2570](#).]

Mr M. HUGHES: The eleventh report of the joint standing committee deals with a wide range of matters relevant to what happens after a public officer has been found to have engaged in serious misconduct. In this 175-page report, the committee has made 49 findings and 34 recommendations.

The Corruption and Crime Commission is the primary agency responsible for dealing with serious misconduct, which includes corruption and fraud by public officers in Western Australia. If the commission determines that a matter should be investigated, it can execute search warrants, apply for telecommunications service warrants and surveillance device warrants, conduct controlled operations and compel persons to produce documents and other things. In 2003, the then Attorney General, Hon Jim McGinty, MLA, on introducing the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Bill into Parliament, said —

Western Australians deserve a Police Service and a public sector that are free from the scourge of corruption.

The commission would be “one of the most powerful crime and corruption ... bodies in Australia.”

I believe that since its establishment in 2004 the commission has lived up to promises made by the Hon Jim McGinty, MLA, having turned its attention to a diverse range of allegations of misconduct and, more recently, unexplained wealth allegations. The remit of the commission covers members of Parliament and public agencies including departments, the police, local governments, government trading enterprises and universities. Although the commission deals with allegations of serious misconduct and exposes corruption, its central purpose is to build the sector’s resilience to resist misconduct.

Twenty years on from the introduction in this place of the legislation establishing the commission, the inquiry of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission of the forty-first Parliament arose from the observation that what happens after a public officer is found to have engaged in serious misconduct—that is, to the public officer and systemically at the relevant agency and sector wide—is largely unknown. The committee wanted to examine whether the integrity work of the commission and other agencies was building a more resilient public sector.

Since its inception, the work of the commission has exposed significant corruption and fraud by a few public officers. The most scandalous, as we are all aware, in recent years includes the conduct of Paul Whyte, the former assistant director general at the Department of Communities. The scale and audacity of Mr Whyte’s criminal deception, his theft of \$22 million of public money and his obtaining \$5 million in bribes, shocked the Western Australian public and significantly tarnished the reputation of the Department of Communities and with it that of the public sector. Serious misconduct in the public sector is insidious. It erodes public trust and confidence in public administration.

When the commission tables a report in Parliament, or significant serious misconduct by a public officer is exposed, the media tends to have a limited focus on the individual’s conduct and possible prosecution. The committee went wider and examined the range of outcomes that follow a finding of serious misconduct and whether lessons are being learnt from investigations, what is being done to build integrity and minimise misconduct risks in the sector

and whether there is appropriate transparency and agency accountability. The report's findings and recommendations provide an effective summary of the committee's views regarding these matters. The committee considers that many recommendations are relevant to the current reform of the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003 and the Local Government Act 1995. The committee is strongly of the view that although the commission has had a few additional functions assigned to it by legislative amendment, no function is more important than its serious misconduct function.

Some members may not be aware that the commission receives and assesses thousands of allegations of serious misconduct each year; indeed, 5 895 allegations were brought to the attention of the commission in 2022–23. However, as I said at the beginning of my tabling statement, corruption and fraud are insidious and continuous vigilance is required to protect public money and prevent serious misconduct. I note, however, that most public officers in Western Australia are above reproach in the exercise of their duties.

It is a practical necessity, but also appropriate, that the commission refers most allegations requiring further action to the employing agency to investigate. In 2022–23, 836 allegations, 14 per cent, were referred to agencies. The agencies then reported back to the commission after finalising these matters in a closure report. Employing agencies have an absolute responsibility to ensure that they have adequate policy and procedures in place to identify and safeguard against misconduct risks, as well as ensuring a robust speak-up culture in which employees who are suspicious of a work colleague whose work practices raise concern, regardless of that person's authority, speak up. Responsibility for integrity within an organisation and imposing a sanction on an employee, of course, lies with the employing agency. However, the commission oversees referred matters. This report examines why and how referrals occur and the commission's oversight. The commission will only comment on the sanction imposed by an agency if it is grossly inconsistent with the outcome. The commission actively oversees some referred matters and continues to rely heavily on overlooking internal police investigations into police misconduct. It is important to note that under the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act, all police misconduct is considered to be serious misconduct. We think the oversight of referred matters can be improved. We have recommended measures to enhance the commission's oversight of outcomes, including creating a template closure report with minimum requirements. Among other improvements, the committee recommends that an agency dealing with a referred matter must provide a summary to the commission of why it considered the sanction or other outcome an appropriate outcome in all the circumstances. This is particularly important given that a local management or improvement action outcome, which includes verbal guidance, is commonly imposed for serious misconduct. In 2021–22, local management/improvement action was the outcome for 70 per cent of outcomes for police misconduct and 44 per cent of outcomes for serious misconduct in the rest of the public sector in matters recorded by the commission.

The consequences for public officers who abuse the trust placed in them is quite rightly of concern and interest to the public. The public expects consequences for the wrongdoer to be proportionate in response to the nature and extent of the serious misconduct. However, data on what follows a finding, including sanctions and prosecutions, is not readily available to the public. Tables 4.1 and 4.3 of the committee's report reveal the sanctions of local management/improvement actions imposed on public officers after a finding of serious misconduct over the last few years as recorded by the commission. In our view, these tables, and the prosecution table at appendix 6 of the report, must be published and easily accessible to the public. The committee also recommends that the government directs agencies to recover financial losses arising from serious misconduct wherever feasible and possible and that the Public Sector Commissioner clarifies and strengthens its advice to agencies about paying voluntary severance when there is an allegation of serious misconduct. As noted in chapter 4 of the report, voluntary severance payments have been made in these circumstances but no action was taken to recover any payment, even after officers were imprisoned for their conduct.

There is understandable public interest in whether and when a prosecution follows a finding of serious misconduct. It is important to emphasise, however, that the commission is an investigative agency, not a prosecution agency. This distinction is not necessarily well understood by the public. During a misconduct investigation, the commission seeks to ascertain how the misconduct came about, why it was not prevented or detected, whether it extends beyond the individual agency, whether it is the result of systemic shortcomings and what agency policy or procedural changes are necessary to prevent or deal with such conduct in the future. Although it is positive that the Director of Public Prosecutions reported in 2022 that there were no significant issues in prosecutions arising from commission investigations, one prominent discontinued case in 2023 highlighted the very real risks and challenges in prosecuting matters arising from commission investigations. Prosecutions arising from commission investigations must be adequately resourced. We recommend that the police, the DPP and the commission enter into arrangements to ensure the effective prosecution of matters to avoid cases being discontinued for avoidable reasons.

The committee is firm in its view that, ultimately, public agencies are responsible for their own integrity and that they need to be vigilant and proactive, not reactive, in preventing misconduct. Identified instances of serious misconduct must be used to shine a light on the action needed at an agency level or sector-wide to prevent serious misconduct and minimise misconduct risks. It is an absolute imperative that our agencies learn from serious misconduct by officers and change their policies and procedures to mitigate against the opportunity of similar serious misconduct reoccurring.

It may surprise members to learn that the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act does not provide the commission with a clear misconduct prevention and education function for public authorities. This was not always the situation. Since 2015, the commission has only had this function for police. It has a capacity development function and supports the Public Sector Commissioner in undertaking its misconduct and prevention function. The commission's capacity development function and supporting role are muddy. The result is that the current arrangement is a real impediment to the role of the commission. Plainly, it is in the public interest for the commission to have a clear misconduct prevention and education function for all agencies within its remit, as is the case in other jurisdictions. This function will give the commission the power, flexibility and confidence to respond to integrity priority areas on an as-needs basis. This will give the commission a clear power to report and recommend action to minimise misconduct risks in all agencies.

I turn now to the matter of the commission making specific recommendations versus making observations. In its reports, the commission often comments on risk rather than formally recommending action. Although the committee understands the stated position of the commission, it also recommends that as standard practice, and whenever possible, commission reports tabled in Parliament formally recommend required agency action to minimise misconduct risks when the commission identifies misconduct risks. An agency's response could then be published, providing transparency and accountability. This happens in other jurisdictions.

Over the last few years, the Public Sector Commission and the Office of the Auditor General have published resources and proactively worked with agencies to build integrity in the sector. Agencies are implementing integrity frameworks, many for the first time, that outline governance systems, mechanisms and controls to minimise misconduct risks. Public Sector Commission resources and tools, including its integrity framework maturity self-assessment tool, are designed to shift focus from the rather ad hoc integrity policy and education of the past to coordinated, context-dependent risk-based approaches that emphasise a culture built on integrity. The above is consistent with the desire of Corruption and Crime Commissioner McKechnie that there be greater recognition in the public sector of the risk of corruption and that this risk must be treated like any other risk, such as work health and safety. I wholeheartedly agree. Integrity must be embedded into all aspects of the work of public agencies.

The committee recommends measures to further enhance integrity. In particular, the committee is strongly of the view that the government should establish a centralised public employment register that records public officers who have been dismissed on the grounds of misconduct or have resigned during a misconduct investigation. Commissioner McKechnie supports a register, as does the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. In addition to robust employment practices, a register is the best way to inform prospective employers of a prospective employee's misconduct history and avoid a recycling of names that causes the commission to say, in its words, "We've seen that one before". As they say, the best defence is a good offence. There is a precedent for this approach. In the United Kingdom, the government's Public Sector Fraud Authority manages the internal fraud hub, which is a database of civil servants dismissed for fraud or dishonesty, including those who would have been dismissed had they not resigned. The committee believes a central public employment register is particularly important in local government. The committee deals with concerns particular to local government in chapter 8. We recommend laws to stop local governments entering into termination or resignation agreements with confidentiality clauses and/or payments that are above entitlements if the chief executive officer or employee is the subject of a serious misconduct allegation or finding. The committee also recommends that legislation be proposed to establish a local government inspector and monitors, and to include robust powers to intervene and proactively work with local governments to achieve better misconduct outcomes.

As the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act is being reformed, in the future, findings and recommendations in our report may need to be read in the context of new legislation. I note that people employed under contract by government agencies do not currently fall within the remit of the commission. It is clear to me that, given the prevalence and extent of contracting out government services, this anomaly must be rectified.

In closing, since the committee commenced this inquiry on 23 March 2022, we have progressed this inquiry while undertaking our oversight and monitoring role. The committee was very dependent on the experience and expertise of the committee's secretariat for managing and processing the information sought from agencies and submissions from other interested parties. In that regard the committee was very ably and conscientiously supported by principal research officer Ms Suzanne Veletta and research officer Ms Jovita Hogan. On behalf of the committee, I wish to record the committee's sincere appreciation for their work. I also want to sincerely thank my fellow committee members, Deputy Chair Hon Dr Steve Thomas, MLC; Hon Klara Andric, MLC; and Hon Mia Davies, MLA, for their commitment to this inquiry. Hon Mia Davies, MLA, has been a welcome addition since February 2023, and I thank Mr Shane Love, MLA, for his contribution prior to that date. The collegiate, bipartisan and collaborative approach of committee members in the forty-first parliament has enabled us to make a range of recommendations that we believe will contribute to real change and better integrity outcomes for the state of Western Australia.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt) [11.23 am]: I rise very briefly to make a couple of comments on the report that has just been tabled by the member for Kalamunda and to offer my thanks and appreciation. I came onto this committee halfway through the inquiry, and it was already substantially underway. A significant amount of work had been done, so I also offer thanks to the member for Moore, Shane Love, who began as part of that committee

and then passed the baton on to me. I also thank our colleagues in the Legislative Council, Hon Dr Steve Thomas and Hon Klara Andric, and Suzanne and Jovita, who are in the Speaker's gallery. This is the first time I have been on a committee for many years. It was a shock to go back into one as weighty as the oversight committee and the role that this particular committee has, and to re-familiarise myself with the process. Undoubtedly important work is done by the Corruption and Crime Commission and its operations, and also by the parliamentary inspector. From the interactions that we have, having now sat with the committee for a year, we can tell that there is a genuine desire to make sure that this is the best that we can offer in Western Australia for the integrity of our public service, particularly those on the frontline who have regular interactions with the public. The effect of what happens when you are engaged with the CCC can be quite devastating for any member of the public service who is required to participate. Post that event, particularly if there has been significant or serious misconduct, there naturally needs to be justice and always a view to improving outcomes for our public service because it reflects on everyone when these very few individuals behave in a way that no-one would condone or endorse. The work of the CCC is challenging and we have seen that. We have reviewed evidence, and further evidence and information provided by other jurisdictions indicates that I do not think we are orphans when it comes to grappling with how best to deal with the outcomes of some of these investigations. The work that has been done and the report that has been tabled today offer some very good guidance for everyone who is involved. That means the departments, because they are ultimately responsible for the integrity of those who work within them, the CCC itself, and those who take a keen interest in making sure that we have a public service of the highest integrity because that is what Western Australian taxpayers deserve.

Thank you for the privilege of being involved in this committee. I found it very enjoyable. I thank the chair for, as he said, the collegial approach in which this committee brings the report to Parliament. Again, I say thank you very much to those who have supported us behind the scenes in what has been a mammoth task, and I have only been involved in half of that. With that, I conclude my remarks.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Tenth Report — Review of selected Auditor General reports 2018–2023 — Tabling

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [11.27 am]: I present for tabling the tenth report of the Public Accounts Committee titled *Review of selected Auditor General reports 2018–2023*.

[See paper [2571](#).]

Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY: This report, *Review of selected Auditor General reports 2018–2023*, summarises the work the Public Accounts Committee has undertaken over the previous 12 months in relation to its response to reports tabled by the Auditor General of Western Australia. The Auditor General has limited capacity to ensure that the responsible agencies implement the recommendations included in her reports. The remit of the committee allows us to undertake this follow-up role, confirming what actions agencies have taken to implement the recommendations. This committee, not unlike ones before it, has adopted an approach to its Auditor General follow-up work that allows us to provide efficient oversight while carrying out our other committee work. Traditionally, our focus has been on the Auditor General's performance audits with recommendations made to specific entities. However, in this report we have included our consideration of other audit reports, and we adopted an alternative approach to consider the Auditor General's reports related to local government entities and the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report includes a summary of the committee's consideration of 39 Auditor General reports tabled between October 2018 and March 2023. Of these, 17 reports were considered and concluded without information being sought from the responsible agencies. This figure includes eight COVID-19-related reports. For 11 of these reports, the committee concluded its consideration after receiving information from the responsible agencies it followed up with. Short summaries of the committee's actions and the agency's responses in relation to 10 of these 11 reports are included in chapter 2. To conduct follow-up of 11 of the Auditor General's local government performance audits, the committee opted to hold a hearing with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to confirm its role in supporting local governments to address the sector-wide Auditor General's recommendations.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the collaborative work of my fellow committee members: Libby Mettam, deputy chair and member for Vasse; Hugh Jones, member for Darling Range; Lara Dalton, member for Geraldton; and Kim Giddens, member for Bateman. Further, I thank the Auditor General for her commitment to improving the quality of public administration in the state. Finally, I would like to thank the secretariat, Michele Chiasson and Rachael Wilkins, for their assistance and hard work. Thank you.

CRIMINAL AGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Nonconforming Petition

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [11.30 am]: I have a nonconforming petition that the clerks have given to me in a manner in which it can be tabled.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife): I understand.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I would like to inform the chamber that I have a petition with 15 231 signatures of Western Australians praying that the age of criminal responsibility in Western Australia be raised from 10 years of age to at least 14 years of age.

The petition is now in a manner in which it can be tabled, and I hand it to the clerks for that to happen. I thank the petitioners for their efforts.

[See paper 2572.]

SENTENCE ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT (MONITORING EQUIPMENT) BILL 2023

Introduction and First Reading

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

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Attorney General.

Second Reading

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [11.32 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

On 26 October 2023, the government announced that it would introduce legislation to mandate the use of global positioning system monitoring in certain family violence cases. The government has a longstanding commitment to the use of electronic monitoring as a tool to protect victims and improve community safety. This has been demonstrated through investing in improved monitoring devices that use GPS to provide real-time monitoring and locational tracking; enabling conditions to be imposed that restrict the wearer to particular areas; enhancing the powers of courts to order electronic monitoring as part of bail and sentencing, as a part of the most comprehensive family violence law reform package ever seen in Western Australia; introducing serial family violence offender declarations, with a requirement that courts and the Prisoners Review Board must consider imposing monitoring whenever these offenders are subject to community supervision; and increasing the penalty for interfering with the operation of an electronic monitoring device imposed under the high-risk serious offenders legislation.

The purpose of GPS monitoring devices is to enable the location of the accused or offender to be monitored when they present a high risk to a person, a group of persons or the community more generally. Given this important purpose, it is critical that the actions that undermine the operation of the monitoring equipment, whether through damage, removal or other interference, attract significant criminal penalties.

To this end, the government's announcement on 26 October included a commitment to increasing the relevant penalties for family and domestic violence and other offenders not covered by the High Risk Serious Offenders Act 2020, both by increasing the maximum penalty and introducing a minimum penalty of six months' imprisonment. The bill before us gives effect to this commitment.

Although the bill is short in length, its impact will be significant. It will provide greater comfort and protection to the community and victims of crime, and send a clear and strong message that removing a GPS monitoring device or rendering a GPS monitoring device inoperable is unacceptable. These impacts will be amplified by the next stage of reform to be progressed next year, which will significantly increase the number of offenders who are monitored.

I now turn to the specifics of this bill. The bill will amend section 118 of the Sentence Administration Act 2003, which creates requirements and offences in relation to monitoring equipment. Section 118 applies broadly to monitoring that is required under the Bail Act 1982, the Sentencing Act 1995 and the Sentence Administration Act. This includes monitoring ordered under bail orders, pre-sentence orders, community-based orders, intensive supervision orders, conditional suspended imprisonment orders, parole orders, re-entry release orders and post-sentence supervision orders.

The relevant provisions within section 118 are subsection (6), which makes it an offence to remove or otherwise interfere with monitoring equipment, and subsection (7), which makes it an offence to wilfully and unlawfully destroy or damage monitoring equipment.

The bill will amend these provisions in three ways. First, it will consolidate them into a single offence provision. This will be achieved by inserting a reference to damage in section 118(6) and deleting section 118(7). A consequence of these amendments is that damage to monitoring equipment will be an offence under section 118 only if it is done in such a way that it prevents or impedes location monitoring. Damage that does not affect the operation of the monitoring equipment will, of course, continue to be prescribed under the Criminal Code. For example, a person who draws tags on their device could be charged under section 444, "Criminal damage", which already carries a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment and a fine of \$36 000.

Second, the bill will treble the maximum penalty for section 118(6), as amended, from \$12 000 or 12 months' imprisonment, to \$36 000 and three years' imprisonment. This new penalty will better reflect the seriousness of the conduct.

Finally, the bill will create a minimum penalty for the amended offence of imprisonment for a term of at least six months in the new section 118(7). The minimum penalty will apply to only adult offenders and will be subject to an exception when it would be clearly unjust, given the circumstances of the offence and the offender. This is broadly modelled on equivalent provisions of the High Risk Serious Offenders Act 2020.

The bill demonstrates the government's commitment to protecting the community and victims, and builds on the government's strong track record of delivering legislative and other reforms in this area. That record includes the introduction of the High Risk Serious Offenders Act 2020, which enables high-risk serious offenders to be detained and supervised beyond the duration of their sentence; landmark anti-consorting legislation to disrupt the activities of criminal gangs; new offences and measures targeting perpetrators of family violence; over \$200 million of investments into family violence initiatives; and, relevant to the bill at hand, amendments to expand the use of GPS monitoring at all touchpoints with the criminal justice system.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.

CLIMATE CHANGE BILL 2023

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr R.R. Whitby (Minister for Climate Action)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Climate Action) [11.40 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The introduction of climate change legislation is a significant milestone in the Cook government's response to climate change. The Climate Change Bill delivers on this government's announcement in January to legislate Western Australia's target of net zero emissions and underscores our commitment to enduring action on one of the most significant challenges of our lifetime. Let me be clear: the net zero transition presents unique challenges for Western Australia. Our state has the largest share of heavy industries of any Australian jurisdiction. Indeed, more than half of Western Australia's emissions are contributed by heavy industry facilities regulated under the Australian government's safeguard mechanism. These industries are the backbone of our regions and underpin our state's economic resilience and this nation's prosperity. The Pilbara region alone contributes 19.2 per cent of gross state product, 3.4 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product and one-third of national exports. The Pilbara also accounts for around 40 per cent of Western Australia's carbon emissions and almost one-quarter of emissions covered by the national safeguard mechanism.

This government does not resile from these stark realities. We are working with heavy industry to transition to net zero emissions because we recognise the need to contribute to global efforts to combat climate change. We recognise that decarbonising these critical industries is necessary to deliver state and national commitments for emissions reduction, while ensuring this economic powerhouse can continue to prosper. We also emphasise the important role our resources sector plays in supporting decarbonisation of our region. Western Australia's battery and critical minerals will underpin the transition to net zero emissions, with demand for lithium projected to grow twentyfold by 2030 and almost fiftyfold by 2050 in the International Energy Agency's net zero emissions scenario.

The Climate Council has estimated that an Australian green steel industry exporting to China could reduce global emissions by around two per cent, almost twice as much as Australia eliminating its own emissions. Furthermore, an established green metals industry exporting to Asia could help to cut global emissions by eight per cent—extraordinary figures.

While our state's mining companies are energy intensive, they are facing considerable pressures from stakeholders on environmental, social and corporate governance and climate action, and are highly motivated to transition to low-carbon business models and to realise the commercial opportunities presented by decarbonisation. Most of the state's mining and energy companies have set targets for net zero emissions by 2050 or earlier. These companies are well positioned to execute on the low-carbon transition with large balance sheets and significant capacity to mobilise the investment and deploy low-carbon technologies. In the Pilbara region alone, private sector investment to decarbonise industry over the next decade will be in the tens of billions of dollars.

While the technical challenges and scale of investment required for the net zero transition are enormous, so are the opportunities for our state. The transition represents a multi-decade investment boom, and an opportunity to invest in a secure and sustainable energy system and carbon-competitive industries that will deliver more jobs and growth in a climate-resilient future. This government recognises that legislated targets, along with credible and predictable policy settings, are the best way to mobilise the capital required for the net zero transition. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the leading global scientific body on climate, has emphasised the importance of climate legislation in setting out overarching goals for emissions reduction and attracting international finance.

My federal counterpart, Hon Chris Bowen, MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, has also stressed the role of climate legislation in delivering policy stability and certainty, and attracting the skills and investment this country needs. In introducing this landmark legislation, the government has also listened to ongoing calls from the community for legislative backing for the state's climate response. The legislation builds on significant action this government has already taken on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Indeed, provisions in the Climate Change Bill reflect many of the foundational initiatives this government has progressed in recent years, including the *Climate adaptation strategy: Building WA's climate resilient future* and sectoral emissions reduction strategies. Although these initiatives are critically important, no single strategy or action plan can address the many complex issues and policy challenges presented by our changing climate and the imperative of achieving net zero emissions. What is needed is an ongoing, unwavering commitment to action. This legislation will deliver that commitment. It will formalise and build on the government's important achievements to date. It will ensure that action and accountability on climate change extends beyond me and beyond this government. It will ensure Western Australia's goal of net zero emissions, announced in August 2019, is enshrined in law, with robust provisions to ensure that targets are met and that the Western Australian Parliament and the community are regularly informed on progress.

I turn now to the specific provisions of the Climate Change Bill. First, to the purpose. This legislation will ensure that Western Australia contributes to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the setting of targets and the reduction of Western Australia's emissions, consistent with those targets and the mitigation hierarchy. The explicit inclusion of the mitigation hierarchy in the bill's purpose will ensure that there is not an over-reliance on carbon offsets at the expense of state-based action. The bill will promote transparency and accountability, encourage investment in critical industries, infrastructure, technologies and skills, and support an orderly transition to net zero emissions. The bill will ensure that our state takes steps to identify and manage the impacts of climate change on our community, the environment and the economy. The bill will also ensure that the Parliament and the community are informed about progress in achieving targets and responding to the impacts of climate change.

Clause 6 of the bill sets out the minister's functions. These are additional to specific actions the minister is required to take to set targets, develop strategies and plans, and report annually to Parliament, which I will get to shortly. This part of the bill requires the minister to promote action to meet emissions reduction targets; to assess the impacts of climate change; to develop, adopt and promote policies to reduce emissions and support adaptation; to regularly review issues related to climate change; and to promote the state's involvement in important climate change forums, including those at the national and international level.

Clause 7 sets out the 2050 target of zero net emissions. This clause requires the target to be achieved no later than 2050, but it does not prevent this target from being achieved at an earlier date.

Clause 8 requires the setting of economy-wide interim emissions reduction targets by notice in the *Government Gazette*. Targets must be set at five-yearly intervals, commencing from 2035, as both point targets and emissions budgets by reference to a baseline year of 2005. Emissions budgets will ensure emissions for every target period count, not just emissions in the target year. Targets must be set as soon as practicable after the Australian government sets its national target, known as nationally determined contributions under article 4.9 of the Paris Agreement. This links target setting to established national and international processes, and ensures that Western Australia's targets are informed by Australia's commitments under international treaty. The bill provides for carbon offsets to contribute to targets subject to those prescribed in regulation. The bill contains important safeguards to avoid over-reliance on carbon offsets, including a requirement for limits to be set on offsets and for the minister, in setting targets, to have regard to the mitigation hierarchy.

In this regard, Western Australia's legislation goes beyond that of some other jurisdictions and ensures an appropriate focus on state-based action. Clause 9 will allow for interim targets to be amended. This can only occur if the minister is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist that require an amendment to the target. Clause 10 requires interim targets to be set for the state government, which currently contributes around 10 per cent of Western Australia's emissions. These provisions mirror those for the whole of the economy, delivering state government leadership on climate change through action to reduce emissions from its own operations. This clause also requires the government's 2030 target, announced in June 2022, to be set by notice as soon as practicable.

Clause 11 requires the determination of net emissions for Western Australia and the state government. This is necessary to facilitate other important provisions of the legislation. The bill requires the minister to develop an emissions reduction strategy to enable the achievement of targets. The provisions set out in part 4 will support a holistic and strategic response to emissions reduction, public consultation on development of the strategy, clear implementation pathways for policies and measures, and requirements for regular review to ensure that the strategy is effective.

Although the first strategy must be developed within three years, this government is not waiting three years for its first statewide emissions reduction strategy. I spoke earlier today about the sectoral emissions reduction strategies, or SERS, that were announced by this government in late 2021 and will be finalised for release in coming months. The SERS will set out decarbonisation pathways and new actions developed through significant analysis and

consultation with industry stakeholders. We know, however, that the pace of policy and technological change is accelerating, requiring ongoing consideration of appropriate policies, programs and measures in response to national and international developments. The provisions of this bill will ensure that important milestones such as the SERS are part of a transparent cycle of policy development and review.

Part 5 of the bill contains similar provisions for development of a climate adaptation strategy, providing a holistic response to climate impacts, public consultation, clear implementation pathways and requirements for regular review.

Part 6 of the bill requires the development of sector adaptation plans for the sectors of health and human services; emergency management; primary production; infrastructure and built environment; small and medium enterprises; natural environment; and water security. These are priority sectors in which the government has a key role in bringing stakeholders together and coordinating adaptation actions. It is our expectation that other stakeholders and economic sectors will also develop plans to enhance climate resilience that will be complementary to the plans developed by government. Sector adaptation plans will be prepared by ministers, nominated in consultation with the Premier, to ensure that responsibility for adaptation planning is appropriately aligned to portfolio responsibilities.

Finally, part 7 of the bill will deliver transparency and accountability for the government of the day, requiring the tabling in Parliament of an annual climate change report. Reports must be tabled as soon as practicable following the end of the financial year, and no later than 31 December. Annual reporting will commence from 2025 and will ensure that the Parliament and the community of Western Australia are informed about Western Australia's progress in achieving its emissions reduction targets.

I close by acknowledging the challenge that climate change poses to current and future generations of Western Australians. This bill sends a signal not just to business and investors seeking certainty for critical investments, but to young people who are looking to their leaders for courage and conviction. Grappling with the challenges and forging the solutions to climate change will span many generations and require an abiding commitment to action. This legislation lays the foundation for that action.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Dr D.J. Honey**.

INSURANCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MOTOR VEHICLE CLAIMS HARVESTING) BILL 2023

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Ms D.G. D'Anna (Parliamentary Secretary)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the parliamentary secretary.

Second Reading

MS D.G. D'ANNA (Kimberley — Parliamentary Secretary) [11.55 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Insurance Legislation Amendment (Motor Vehicle Claims Harvesting) Bill 2023, which seeks to stamp out predatory claims harvesting practices in motor vehicle injury insurance claims in Western Australia. Many members will be aware of unsolicited calls, emails or social media contact made to themselves or to family or friends fishing for information about whether they, or anyone they know, has been injured in a motor vehicle accident. This practice is known as “claims harvesting”, in which parties employ various tactics to identify people to make a claim under the state's compulsory third-party insurance scheme or CTP.

These claims harvesters, as they are known, might be law firms specialising in these claims, or third parties, who then onsell a potential claimant's personal information to a law firm. Claims harvesters will often mislead people about their entitlements and exaggerate the amount of compensation that they are likely to receive, creating unreasonable and unrealistic expectations that more often than not are not met. There are plenty of examples when at the end of what a claimant initially considered to have been a successful claim, they are left with very little after the lawyer takes their fees and disbursements due to terms hidden deep within a long and complicated costs agreement.

One example is when a person was contacted by a claims harvester and told that their claim had a value of \$150 000. This person then signed a no-win, no-fee agreement with a lawyer based in Sydney. Eventually, the lawyer recommended the claimant accept \$5 000 for their pain and suffering. After settlement, the lawyer kept the \$5 000 in compensation on top of the \$3 000 in fees and disbursements from the Insurance Commission of Western Australia, and then told the claimant they could be pursued for the balance of the claimed costs. Disturbingly, more and more people have been the subject of targeted calls after their personal information has been sold to a claims harvester or law firm by a tow truck company, accident repair service or hire car company. A person involved in a motor vehicle accident advised the Insurance Commission that after taking her car to a smash repairer, she received three text messages and two emails from a claims harvester, four phone calls and two text messages from a physiotherapist and two emails from a law firm. The claimant had not had any previous contact with these organisations.

The Insurance Commission has also received reports of tow truck operators recommending particular law firms to crash victims, and those victims subsequently being contacted by said law firm after their details were passed on by the tow truck operator in exchange for a referral fee. Claims harvesting can be lucrative for all involved, and as other states have successfully tackled claims harvesting, claims harvesters have shifted their sights to Western Australia, to the detriment of our community. This is shown by the simple fact that the number of motor injury insurance claims in Western Australia has grown over recent years, despite the number of crashes declining. Harvested claim frequency in WA has grown substantially over the last few years, from almost no harvested claims in 2014–15 to now making up to 28 per cent of all claims reports for the most recent accident year.

During the pandemic, accident rates and claim rates fell in all Australian jurisdictions except WA, where accident rates declined and claim numbers increased. This activity has contributed to an increase in CTP premiums, with the estimated cost of claims harvesting in Western Australia having risen from \$3 to \$14 per vehicle premium paid since 2016–17. For all these reasons, it is important that these predatory practices are stamped out, and that is addressed in the bill introduced today.

This bill is primarily informed by the reforms introduced by Queensland in 2019 that have curtailed claims harvesting practices. Referral fees and claims harvesting are inseparable. This new bill will remove the underlying financial motives that enable claims harvesting by making it an offence to pay or receive referral fees. Further, it will be an offence to approach or contact a potential claimant for the purposes of soliciting or inducing them to make a claim or referring them to a third party to provide a claim-related service. To further disincentivise claims harvesting, law practices whose representatives breach the claims harvesting offences included in this bill will be precluded from charging or recovering legal costs in relation to the claim and required to refund legal costs already received to the person from whom they were received. The bill will require the supervising principal of a law practice representing a motor injury insurance claimant to certify via statutory declaration that they and each associate of the law practice have not breached the claims harvesting offences for that claim. These compliance certificates will be required once when the law practice is retained and then again within seven days after judgement or settlement of the claim.

The bill will introduce a requirement for claimants and the Insurance Commission to engage in a pre-action conference in an attempt to settle a claim before an action for damages can be commenced in court. That is expected to reduce the number of writs issued, reducing legal costs for both claimants and the Insurance Commission, and speed up claims resolution, reducing stress and anxiety associated with litigation for claimants. This reform will have the added benefit of reducing burden on the court system and allow priority to be given to the resolution of claims that genuinely require it. The parties must exchange offers of settlement before a writ can be issued, in a streamlining of provisions recently introduced in South Australia to address the same problems.

The bill will add information-sharing and enforcement provisions into the Insurance Commission of Western Australia Act 1986, facilitating the sharing of information on suspected claims harvesting between the Insurance Commission and the Legal Practice Board, the Commissioner for Consumer Protection and the Department of Transport. Provisions will also be made for the investigation of persons regulated by those entities. Further, the Insurance Commission, when necessary, may appoint an appropriately qualified person to assist in investigating suspected breaches of claims harvesting offences. The bill will introduce an offence for providing false or misleading information to the Insurance Commission. There is currently a similar provision in the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act 1943, but it does not enable the Insurance Commission to refer for prosecution in all circumstances in which false or misleading information is provided. This new provision will remedy this situation. Although provisions contained in the Civil Liability Act 2022 may appear to prohibit claims harvesting activities, claims harvesters have carefully tailored their techniques to fall outside the scope of these provisions. As such, a more targeted approach is required and that is what this bill will do.

Finally, in drafting this legislation, we have also taken the opportunity to further disincentivise driving while under the influence of drugs. The bill will extend the warranty provided by the vehicle owner under the statutory CTP insurance policy to include that the vehicle will not be driven by a person who is impaired by drugs, improving consistency in the treatment of alcohol and drugs, and reflecting community expectations and the approach under road traffic laws.

This bill is a crucial step to limit claims harvesting activity and to protect vulnerable members of our community from the predatory and detrimental effects of claims harvesting.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms M.J. Davies**.

**LAND TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION EXEMPTIONS)
BILL 2023**

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Dr J. Krishnan (Parliamentary Secretary)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the parliamentary secretary.

Second Reading

DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.07 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Land Tax Assessment Amendment (Residential Construction Exemptions) Bill 2023 seeks to amend the Land Tax Assessment Act 2002 to temporarily extend the land tax residential construction exemptions for owners who commenced construction between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2023. Under the Land Tax Assessment Act, an owner can receive an exemption for up to two financial years for land on which they are building or refurbishing a home if they do not receive a residential exemption on another property they own. They must live in the house when it has been completed. A person receiving a residential exemption for their current home can also receive a separate exemption for up to two years for other land on which they are building or refurbishing a second residence. The owner must complete construction, move into the new home and sell the old home within two years. The residential construction market has faced several constraints in recent years with labour and material shortages limiting the industry's ability to respond to the demand for new housing. This has led to significant delays in construction. These delays may cause some home owners to be charged land tax because their new home was not finished within two years. To alleviate these issues, this bill will introduce two temporary land tax exemptions for owners who commenced construction or refurbishment of their residence between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2023. These temporary exemptions will support home owners who are building or renovating their future home by ensuring that they are not charged land tax due to construction delays that are outside their control.

The first temporary exemption will be a three-year exemption for newly constructed or refurbished homes when the owner is not receiving a residential exemption for another property they own. This will provide owners with an additional year to complete construction or refurbishment, compared with the existing exemption. The temporary exemption can also be extended for a further year to four years in exceptional circumstances, such as delays caused by the builder going into liquidation.

The second temporary exemption will be a two-year exemption for a home that is being built or refurbished while the owner lives in their existing home. This will allow the owner to receive two land tax exemptions for two different properties they own. This is more generous than in other jurisdictions, which provide only one-year exemptions for two homes in these circumstances. The temporary exemption will not be revoked if construction or refurbishment is not completed within two financial years. This will ensure that owners will not be required to repay land tax if their construction work is delayed beyond two years. This exemption can also be extended for a further year to a total of three years in exceptional circumstances, including building material or labour shortages.

The Minister for Finance will use the pre-enactment provisions in the Taxation Administration Act 2003 to allow the temporary exemptions to be administered as soon as possible, before the legislation is passed. Home owners who have already paid land tax and are eligible for a temporary exemption will be eligible for a refund. Further details about the amendments are provided in the associated explanatory memorandum.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms M.J. Davies**.

LEGAL DEPOSIT AMENDMENT BILL 2023

Second Reading

Resumed from 21 September.

MS L. DALTON (Geraldton) [12.11 pm]: I rise to speak on the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023. I, like many members, absolutely adore libraries. Many of us will have childhood memories of visiting a library. I support this amendment bill as it will improve library operations and unlock resources for libraries to improve programming, develop and promote their local cultural industries, become more sustainable through collaboration, improve deposit processes and streamline the complex tasks of cataloguing, indexing, recording, managing and providing access to deposited publications.

The bill will delete section 12 of the Legal Deposit Act 2012, making it possible to make regulations for the depositing of Western Australian internet publications with the State Library of Western Australia using NED, the National edeposit service, to collect, preserve and make available online publications. This will minimise compliance costs and efforts required by publishers to satisfy their legal deposit obligations and maximise efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the State Library.

NED is a collaboration between Australia's nine national, state and territory libraries. For more than 100 years, Australian librarians have captured literary works, academic publications, novels, music and news articles by documenting them for public access and the preservation of our cultural heritage, supported by legal deposit laws. This ensures that a comprehensive collection of our country's published works is preserved for future generations. With the great disrupter of the internet and proliferation of self-publishing, it is important that we support libraries to continue to capture new media forms of our cultural expression and research output.

Journalist Peter Greste was present at the launch of NED in 2019 and said —

In this age of information disorder, libraries have never been more crucial. Collecting, organising and making Australian publications available to people is not just fundamental to our freedoms, it is fundamental to our ability to make sense of the world.

I have many fond memories of my local library, Geraldton Regional Library. It used to be situated straight across the road from my high school, Stella Maris College, so it was the natural place for us to hang out after 3.00 pm, while waiting for either the bus or our parents to pick us up after school if we did not feel like walking, which was often the case for me. I was supposed to do my homework there, but instead I used this time to catch up with friends, grab the latest *Dolly* magazine, which I was never able to purchase myself but had the opportunity to read there, and feign being studious. I remember that I would take all my schoolbooks across the road to the library, unpack them on a table and then pack them back into my bag to take back home.

Mr D.A.E. Scaife: Member, did you conceal *Dolly* inside one of those books?

Ms L. DALTON: The member is onto me!

Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski interjected.

Ms L. DALTON: Exactly! God; I have a feeling that I was not alone.

These days, our fabulous library has relocated to Marine Terrace, right in the middle of town. The wonderful staff do an absolutely tremendous job in fulfilling the core duties of the library by providing a large range of fiction and non-fiction publications and running the types of programs that community members enjoy, from early childhood programs through to an outreach service for seniors and those in assisted living who have limited mobility. One of my favourite services provided by Geraldton Regional Library—this might come as a shock to some members after I have disclosed my passion for *Dolly* magazine—is its local history collection, a collection of newspapers, photographs, books, sketches, maps, newsletters, annual reports, oral history interviews, local newspapers and genealogical references. I love the opportunity to go through and discover, particularly in the microfiche indexes et cetera, the history of Geraldton and what people were talking about and what was news of interest 30, 40, 50 or 60 years ago. The fact that we are able to go through ephemera that focuses on the midwest is an absolute treat.

The local history collection also boasts an extensive Randolph Stow collection. Julian Randolph Stow was an award-winning novelist and poet who was born in Geraldton in November 1935. His works include *To the Islands* and *The Merry-Go-Round in the Sea*, which is my favourite book of all time. I remember first studying it during my year 12 English literature class and then reading it again later in life as an adult. Randolph truly captured the feeling of living in regional Western Australia through his descriptive use of words about sounds and feelings, and especially about life in Geraldton, a town by the sea. I particularly remember his description of the leaning trees in Greenough. If anyone has made their way along Brand Highway from Perth to Geraldton, they will have gone past the wonderful leaning trees along the road. I particularly loved his way of describing the leaning trees as reminding him of his old grandmother, who had long grey hair. He described the way she leant forward and washed her hair in the basin, and likened that to the leaning trees. I always loved that description. A lot of people talk about the leaning trees, but I always think about how Randolph Stow described how they reminded him of seeing his grandmother, as a little boy, washing her hair in the basin. His legacy is preserved and celebrated by Geraldton Regional Library through the annual Randolph Stow Young Writers Awards. More than 540 entries for the awards were received from young writers across the midwest this year. I absolutely do not envy the work of the judges. Somehow, they were able to narrow it down to award 33 entrants, including two recipients of the annual Hon Sandra Carr MLC Emerging Young Writers Scholarship.

Another great event coordinated by Geraldton Regional Library is the Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival that some members may have heard of. That festival has been running for 18 years. In previous years, Hon Sandra Carr, a member for the Agricultural Region, and I were sponsors of this four-day event. I am pleased to learn that the library received a grant of \$22 525 this year from the regional and remote festival funds. The City of Greater Geraldton stated that it allocated a portion of its \$81 000 Lotterywest grant for cultural experiences to assist in the presentation of this year's festival, which was held over four days from late September to early October. The program was absolutely jam-packed with both large and intimate events, and was a showcase of Geraldton's love of literature, with local and visiting authors and illustrators presenting panels, workshops and readings. It is interesting that a lot of local writers, novelists and authors from past writers' festivals return to Geraldton to present on the panels.

Geraldton is quite well placed in that it has cultured artists such as the famous Geraldton author Holden Sheppard. Members may have heard the recent story that he discovered that some of his work was among 27 000 books that were scraped and analysed by a website called Prosecraft, for which the outputs effectively trained another program called Shaxpir to teach others how to manage their writing process. This potentially means that new works could be created in Holden Sheppard's writing style, in his voice, but without the consent of, or payment to, the original author. It is a real concern and cements the importance of this amendment to improve the collection of original published Australian works through the National edeposit service, to streamline collections and centralise access for Australians all over the country.

Libraries will always have my support for the crucial function they play by providing access to information to regional, remote and low-resourced communities; in their role of preserving our cultural heritage; and in their endeavour to create a thriving creative ecosystem through development opportunities and exposure for emerging local authors, artists and content creators. Libraries also have the capacity, creativity and flexibility to adapt to change. During the COVID-19 pandemic, libraries across Western Australia continued to improve and provide services through mobile libraries, contactless book exchanges and the provision of web-based magazines, newspapers, books and other media. I am glad that library membership is free, because I could not possibly put a value on a monthly subscription.

Libraries have also adopted new technologies. They are the research and development specialists of information collection, cataloguing, indexing and access. It is great to see libraries strengthen our social infrastructure by being the hub for our community to learn new technologies by providing internet access and printing and scanning services. I have learnt that people can access 3D-printing machines at the Beechboro, Bullsbrook, Ellenbrook and Midland libraries in the City of Swan, as well as sewing machines and overlockers—which I think is fabulous!—at the MakerSpace at Canning libraries. This initiative is really important because it contributes to a less wasteful society, and we now have access and options for making and mending clothing, designing and creating 3D-printed items and even laser-cutting tools. It is a space where a member of a library can tinker without having to invest in an expensive piece of equipment.

One of the strategic initiatives of NED is to integrate First Nations collection description guidelines and Indigenous cultural and intellectual property protocols into the NED policy framework and software. This has been demonstrated through the culturally safe libraries professional development program, wherein participating libraries implement practices to sustain and insist upon culturally informed and respectful ways of working with First Nations colleagues, communities and collections. A demonstration of this in real-life application is the State Library of Western Australia's Storylines online archive, which has played a pivotal role in providing a safe and responsive keeping place for Aboriginal people to access its heritage collections. Material identified as sensitive, secret or sacred can be restricted or removed in a flexible and responsive way to allow for Aboriginal knowledge and terminology to be added to the library's collections.

Another example of a culturally safe library is the Geraldton Regional Library, which supports Yamatji people to collect, archive and promote the culture and language of the traditional owners of our regions. Last year's *Wilunyu Words of Wisdom Language Exhibition* was coordinated by the Geraldton Regional Library in partnership with local Aboriginal artist Nicole Dickerson, whereby words that were culturally approved for use were interpreted by local school children into works of art, which were then displayed in Geraldton's CBD at the open-air Post Office Lane Lightbox Gallery. I was absolutely thrilled to attend the launch of the exhibition that day.

Before I close, I would like to take this opportunity to relay my condolences to Mary Moore, the Snell family and friends of Professor Edgar William "Ted" Snell. Born in Geraldton in 1949, Ted's long career in arts and literature made him very well known in the Perth arts scene and internationally. He championed local artists across his many leadership roles, including those at John Curtin Gallery at Curtin University as Professor of Contemporary Art and Dean of Art; Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at the University of Western Australia as director and chief cultural officer; and, finally, at Edith Cowan University, where he became an honorary professor at the School of Arts and Humanities in 2021.

I thank members for the opportunity to speak to the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023. It is always fabulous to talk about the great work of libraries. I commend the bill to the house.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [12.26 pm]: I rise to speak on the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023. The member for Geraldton is quite a hard act to follow! I was never one to read *Dolly*, I will confess. What was the one other than *Dolly*?

A government member: *Cosmo*.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: It was *Cosmopolitan*. I was more of a *Cosmopolitan* kind of guy than *Dolly* guy.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: This has got off to a very bad start already!

I will make a confession that, other than being an avid reader of *Cosmopolitan*—which is not really true!—I am actually not much of a reader at all, and that will come as a surprise to some people. People assume that with my background as a lawyer and whatever else that I must be a pretty voracious reader. My whole family are readers. My father was when he was alive and my mother and my sister just read and read, but I was the member of the family who would complain to them to put their books down and please do something interesting. I am just not a reader. I can go years without reading a book; it is a shameful confession for me to say that. I cannot even remember the last book that I read. I do not read for pleasure; I read for work and that is it. However, today I want to focus on the importance of libraries because, even though I am not a reader, I have always found libraries to be those kinds of sacred places in our communities for a variety of reasons. I want to talk a little bit about the evolution of libraries

over time because this bill, although technical and somewhat minor and dry in nature, speaks to the evolving nature of libraries, particularly in relation to depositing electronic copies of materials that have been published with the State Library of Western Australia.

I first want to touch on the nature of public libraries. The member for Geraldton talked about libraries being part of the community and providing all different services, but I note that it was not always the case that libraries were publicly accessible facilities; in fact, the concept of a public library is a relatively new idea. If we go back thousands of years, human civilisation has had some magnificent libraries. Thousands of years ago, the Library of Alexandria in Egypt apparently held 500 000 manuscripts and scrolls of the ancient Egyptian culture. The library burnt down, of course, and is lost to us, but it is known, from records from that time, for being quite a sight. We have the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford, which is the second largest library in the United Kingdom. It has been around for hundreds of years and is considered to have been a centre of research, discovery and scholarship for many, many years. Over history, libraries were only ever available to a select few people. Libraries like the Library of Alexandria were available only to the royalty of the time. For most of its existence, the Bodleian Library was available only to students and researchers at the University of Oxford—an extremely exclusive university that was much more exclusive a few hundred years ago than it is even now. Those libraries, although fantastic, were not available to ordinary people. For much of history, ordinary people did not even necessarily have the literacy to be able to engage with public libraries.

In fact, the concept of a public library came about only in the 1800s, so they are only a couple of hundred years old. The person we have to thank for that, largely, is the American industrialist Andrew Carnegie. Members might know of Carnegie Hall in the United States, which is named after Andrew Carnegie. He was a steel industry magnate of the time. Rather than building a library to house his private collection and show off all his antiquities, Andrew Carnegie set up a program to give grant funding to communities to build public libraries. He established something like 2 500 public libraries around the United States. He said he would give towns something like \$2 500 to establish a library, and it would be just a simple building to house books and records. He said they had to maintain it but he would establish it. The concept of a simple, practical building that everybody can access to do research, read and learn is a very recent invention. Over the next couple of hundred years, we saw an explosion in the number of public libraries.

In representing a metropolitan area, I am very fortunate to have three public libraries in and around my electorate that the City of Cockburn maintains in Spearwood, Coolbellup and Success, which is right near my office. I also think about my colleagues in this chamber who represent regional electorates. I am sure they would say that, in addition to buildings like churches or council chambers, small community libraries, which have been dying in recent years, were often a centre of the community. I wanted to make the point that they are relatively new.

Melbourne Public Library, which is now known as the State Library of Victoria, was the first public library established in Australia in 1854. A few decades later, the first public library was established in Western Australia—the State Library of Western Australia. It was established through a £5 000 grant from the Legislative Council. Of course, at that time in 1886, the Legislative Assembly did not exist because the Swan River Colony had not been granted “responsible government”, which I believe is the constitutional phrase. We had only the Legislative Council at that stage in Western Australia. We did not have the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Council granted £5 000 to celebrate the jubilee of Queen Victoria to establish the State Library Western Australia.

That gives members a little bit of a history of public libraries around the world and here in Australia and Western Australia. We have had the State Library of Western Australia for only about 150 years. Over that time, it has become a repository for the history of this state, whether that is our increasing focus on recognising and appreciating the history of our First Nations people, who were here for so many tens of thousands of years before white settlers were, or recording the more modern history of Western Australia over the last 150 or so years. Things have changed dramatically in that time. As society has changed and as our approach to record keeping has changed as digitisation has taken off in the last several decades, obviously the demands on libraries have changed as well. Libraries now are so different from what they used to be. Libraries like the Bodleian Library were available only to a very exclusive number of people and were not available to ordinary people, as I said. They were really just places with dusty books and reading rooms compared with libraries these days, which have to be less about written text and more about other things that bring people in, like online resources. I love that libraries are places where someone who might not have a computer at home can go to access the computer to do simple things in their life like paying bills or just exploring and researching the world.

During the COVID pandemic, the City of Cockburn partnered with an organisation called Youngster.co. It is an organisation that provides “youngsters” to assist people who are having difficulties with technology—to mentor that person and guide them on the use of technology. I have made the point that although I am not really a youngster, there is an assumption that millennials like the member for Hillarys and myself must be proficient with technology, but I reckon I could benefit from Youngster.co half the time, and I am getting nods of agreement from the member for Hillarys. I wanted to acknowledge that was a great program, particularly during the COVID pandemic when we were setting up the ServiceWA app and people were putting it on their phones. They were also grappling with

the disaster that is or was the myGov app. I had a lot of people coming into my office asking for assistance. I am very lucky to have had a series of generation Z-ers working in my office who are much more proficient in these things than I am. They helped a lot of people. I also want to acknowledge that the City of Cockburn Libraries, through the Youngster.co program, did a great job assisting people.

Libraries do even more things than that. Of course, one of the things that has now entered my life, which I am going to start to appreciate Cockburn Libraries for, is Pram Jam. The City of Cockburn Libraries runs Pram Jam three times a week. I have not been yet but my wife went a couple of weeks ago. She said it was pretty eye-opening. She said the babies all seemed pretty confused by what was going on but that the parents seemed to enjoy it. We reckon, being biased, that is what really matters. I am looking forward to my future participation in Pram Jam.

Something that is hopefully not on my horizon is that the City of Cockburn Libraries is putting on ukulele holiday sessions. In fact, I think some have already been held. I reckon that could be in my distant, although not-as-distant-as-it-used-to-be future. My mother is an avid ukulele player. I was going to say that I cannot think of much worse, but I think a recorder would be considered worse—or the trombone. The suggestion from the clerk's table was a trumpet session. I take that suggestion. I am an obscure oboe player and I think that can be worse in the wrong hands as well! Ukulele holiday sessions are coming up and there is Pram Jam. There are so many things happening at local libraries right around the state. I want to pay tribute to libraries, librarians, and the staff at those facilities for the wonderful work that they do bringing our communities together and providing that suite of services that go so far beyond just books that we can take home. While wandering through sections of a City of Cockburn library the other day, I must have got a little lost because I realised that all the books were large print. I thought that was great. There was a whole section of the library for large print books for people who might have vision impairments. Talking about things in my future, that is probably in my future too, but I thought that was great. I was not even aware that that was available.

Ms M.J. Davies: Audiobooks, member. I do audiobooks. There is a lot to read when you are at work.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I will take that interjection because when I have been successful engaging in books in my adult life, it has been mainly through audiobooks in the car or on my phone. I do not have it anymore, but I used to have Audible on my phone and listened to some great books. That is another example of the how type of content that we are consuming is changing. I think it is changing for a variety of reasons. For members in this chamber, and particularly the members for Central Wheatbelt, Pilbara and Geraldton who travel long distances, I suspect that audiobooks and podcasts and the like are a welcome respite from the rigours of the road. I sometimes do long journeys in the car but it is just being stuck on the freeway for an hour when coming in in the morning, which does not compare with the tens of hours that members of the regional areas sometimes have to travel. I recently signed up as a member of the City of Cockburn library. I did that mainly because I wanted to access its audiobook collection. I want to pay tribute to the libraries, the librarians and all the staff who provide all those services.

In closing, I pay tribute to a couple of writers in Cockburn. People often say that everyone has a book in them. I think that is a saying.

Ms C.M. Rowe: It is not true, though.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I do not think it is true, either. I reckon everyone has a book in them but the difference is I have a book in me but it is not one that anyone would want to read. Not everyone has a book in them that everyone would want to read but I think everyone has a book in them. My memoir will be a collection of my second reading contributions, like this one.

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: It will be a big book, but not a big seller, member for Maylands. It will be an annotated collection of my second reading contributions. I might have to do several volumes, depending on how long I last here.

I want to reflect on two Cockburn locals I know who had books in them and have produced those books. The first person I acknowledge is Doreen Moulds. Doreen is a good friend of mine who wrote a book called *Sifting the Pieces* that is part memoir of her life and part family history reflecting on her family's history all the way back to the United Kingdom and their experiences of being part of group settlement 79 Linfarn just north of Manjimup when her family came from the UK and settled there. Thank you, Doreen. Doreen is also a poet and is always actively engaged with my office on social justice issues, so she is a great advocate for the community.

The second person I want to acknowledge is Richard Dunbar. Richard is also a good friend and supporter of mine. Richard shared with me a copy of his book titled *'Oh, Richard.' You Are Not My Son*. It is a memoir of his life and particularly reflects on the revelation that came to him very late in life, in his middle age, that he was adopted. That was a particular shock to Richard not only because he had no idea about that, but also he had worked his whole life in child protection as a social worker and had worked with children who had been put up for adoption and with their families. I want to say how brave Richard is for telling that story and sharing it with the world, given how personal it is and how important it is that we tell our local and personal stories about things like adoption. I note in that regard that the Legislative Council is conducting an inquiry into forced adoption practices.

In closing, obviously the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023, as the member for Geraldton said, will delete section 12, which essentially would have duplicated the process for depositing a published text with the State Library. It is a minor thing, but it makes it easier for us to collect the cultural history of Western Australia and indeed of the whole country. I confess that I am a little bit unsure about when I will be interrupted given the two minutes on the clock, but I look to Acting Speaker (Mrs L.A. Munday) for guidance because I think this is a very good bill.

Ms M.J. Davies: What was the last audiobook you listened to?

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: It was a little while ago. I think it was about housing and the rental crisis in the United States. It was pretty heavy, but it was a great book! On that note, I commend the bill to the house.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 6920.]

SMALL BUSINESS

Statement by Member for North West Central

MS M. BEARD (North West Central) [12.45 pm]: Today I take the opportunity to acknowledge, celebrate and congratulate the many small businesses in our state that represent a significant portion of all businesses in WA and are the backbone of our communities. Small business operators and owners demonstrate enormous levels of dedication, resilience, innovation and commitment to both their businesses and their communities, and this is commendable.

I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable role that regional chambers of commerce and industry play in providing small businesses with advocacy and support to assist with ongoing growth and development. Without the support of these voluntary organisations, many small businesses would not reach their full potential. I would like to particularly acknowledge and thank the Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry WA CEO, Kitty Prodonovich, and her team, who hosted regional chamber members and a number of guest speakers at a successful forum in Perth this week, which provided important networking opportunities. I would also like to offer congratulations to Jo Fabling, the CEO of the Mid West Chamber of Commerce and Industry and her dedicated team on hosting the very successful Mid West Business Excellence Awards 2023. The stars of this event were the finalists and award winners, who are to be congratulated and celebrated. I thank them for their commitment and dedication to excellence.

Kalbarri businesses shone at the awards with Finlay's Kalbarri winning multiple awards, including the Excellence in Tourism (Business) Award, the Best Medium-Business Award and the Business of the Year Award, with D'Guy Charters Kalbarri Tours taking out the People's Choice Award, which are remarkable achievements to be celebrated by both businesses. Big congratulations to both these fantastic, dedicated Kalbarri businesses, which have travelled a long and difficult journey over the last two years. Congratulations and thank you to all small businesses, award winners, finalists, sponsors and the Mid West Chamber of Commerce and Industry for hosting these awards. I hope our tourism and small business sector continues to be supported by local communities so that they can continue to grow and prosper in every part of our incredible state in 2024.

WASTE AUTHORITY — WASTESORTED AWARDS

Statement by Member for Cockburn

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [12.47 pm]: In September, the Waste Authority held the annual WasteSorted Awards, which was attended by the Minister for Environment. The WasteSorted Awards celebrate people and organisations working toward a low-waste and circular economy future through improved waste practices and innovative waste solutions. I am proud to say that this year's winner of the Schools Award was South Coogee Primary School, which is in my electorate. South Coogee Primary School was recognised for its whole-school approach to waste management, which includes developing a sustainable action plan that aims to decrease the waste the school sends to landfill, increasing the recycling of paper and carbon products and incorporating waste avoidance and correct disposal procedures into everyday teaching.

This South Coogee Primary School's STEM program was based on the global sustainable development goals. Each year group's teaching program was based on one of the 17 goals, which includes land care, improving ocean health and reducing single-use plastics, which is something the Cook Labor government is leading the nation on.

Last year, I took the Minister for Environment to South Coogee Primary School to tour its various sustainability initiatives, which include a worm farm and a butterfly garden. Its win for the Schools Award at the WasteSorted Awards is well deserved. I acknowledge principal Lyn Beard, teacher Rochelle Anderson and all staff and students at the school for their collective commitment to sustainability. Congratulations on your win. I am particularly proud of this achievement because it means that Cockburn schools are back-to-back winners of the Schools Award at the 2022 and 2023 WasteSorted Awards. Last year, Beeliar Primary School won the same award in recognition of its waste-reduction programs, which have successfully diverted 50 tonnes of waste from landfill since 2017. I also congratulate principal John Gillett, teacher Tim Mangano and all the staff and students at Beeliar Primary School on that win. Members will see that I have the WasteSorted trophies awarded to both schools in front of me today. They are tangible, incontrovertible proof that the best schools in WA are in my electorate of Cockburn!

ADHD WA — HALDANE HOUSE*Statement by Member for Cottesloe*

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [12.49 pm]: I recently attended a sundowner at ADHD WA's brand new support hub located at Haldane House in my electorate. ADHD WA is a not-for-profit research-based support and information agency that assists and empowers people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and associated conditions. ADHD is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterised by patterns of inattentive, impulsive and sometimes hyperactive behaviour, and is frequently accompanied by emotional regulation challenges. It affects one in 20 Australians; that is over 144 000 Western Australians. Disturbingly, it is estimated that around one in three people in prison has ADHD. If it is untreated, ADHD can negatively affect almost every aspect of a person's life, from personal relationships through to their ability to succeed in education and gain employment.

There is considerable public misunderstanding about ADHD and this often leads to highly pejorative personal criticisms of people who have the condition and ill-informed disparagement of the proven drug treatments, Concerta and Vyvanse. The principal clinically proven drug treatments for ADHD are not administered in prisons and that is a direct cause of many behavioural issues that we often see in prisons. Administering ADHD medication in prisons would be the single greatest change we could make to reduce the prison population.

The new premises will allow ADHD WA to more than double its assessments, increase therapy sessions by more than 30 per cent and provide new health and wellness programs, as well as increase its phone support services. I especially thank the City of Nedlands and Mayor Fiona Argyle for agreeing to reduce the rent on the premises by 50 per cent, which enabled this move. I thank also the many dedicated staff and volunteers at ADHD WA and wish them every success in their new premises. I recognise Senator Jordon Steele-John, who is a passionate supporter of ADHD WA and who also attended the event.

BASKETBALL — NATIONAL LEAGUE FINALS*Statement by Member for Kingsley*

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.51 pm]: Basketball is one of the fastest-growing participation sports in Australia, especially among girls and women. This popularity was on full display over the weekend of 18 to 20 August this year when the NBL1 national finals were held at HBF Arena in Joondalup. The men's and women's championship teams from each of the NBL1 conferences—north, east, south, central and, of course, west—along with the 2022 defending champions, the women's Warwick Senators and the men's Rockingham Flames, competed to take out the NBL1 national title. Congratulations to Dean Anglin from NBL1 and the Basketball WA team led by acting the chief executive officer, Evan Stewart, and the chief operating officer, Jonelle Morley, for organising and putting on a spectacular show. Over 5 000 attendees visited the event over three days to watch a total of 16 games and enjoy the festival atmosphere off court with shooting competitions, food trucks and plenty of merch and supporters' gear available to win or purchase.

Our WA teams performed admirably with the Warwick Senators and Cockburn Cougars women finishing third and fourth respectively. The men's Geraldton Buccaneers were unlucky to miss out on the finals, coming third, with the men's Rockingham Flames playing in the final but ultimately falling heartbreakingly short in the final few minutes of an exciting game. The event partners ensured this massive event was able to go ahead and thanks should be given to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Lotterywest, Sullivan Logistics and the City Joondalup.

For all those with mini ballers in their lives, this amazing event was a rare opportunity to watch some of the most talented upcoming and established basketball players in Australia play in their own backyard, on courts they often play on for domestic or Western Australian Basketball League competitions. Basketball WA should be commended for securing this inspiring event for WA, for our basketball kids and the basketball community and, of course, for the tourism and economic impact an event such as this has on the local economy.

MARJORIE GREEN — TRIBUTE*Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt*

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt) [12.53 pm]: I rise to pay tribute to Mrs Marjorie Green, who at the age of 100 years and a handful of days passed away on 23 November. I came to know Marjorie when I first joined the party as a Young National. At that time, Marjorie was in her 80s, but still a regular attendee at our party's state council and annual conference.

Born in 1923 in Perth, Marjorie married a farmer from Trayning, Mr Harold Green. References to her time in this small wheatbelt community show her to have been actively involved in the Country Women's Association, as captain of the golf club, and as a member of the tennis club, the repertory club and the junior farmers club. Harold and Marjorie were also busy raising their family of three—Rosemary, Doug and Alan. Later moving to East Fremantle, where their son Doug was a handy footballer of some note for the mighty Sharks, Marjorie made history when she became the first female elected councillor to the Town of East Fremantle, serving from 1974 to 1985, acting as deputy mayor during this time. She served on council committees such as town planning, health and general purpose

and finance. Although she gave “home duties” as her occupation, Marjorie had worked in the community at the local kindergarten and was a life member of the East Fremantle kindergarten centre. Marjorie also served as a justice of the peace for over 25 years and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the general division in 1982. She even has a park named after her, the Marjorie Green Park, at the entrance to Richmond Raceway.

Marjorie’s heart remained in the country and she was a strong contributor to the National Party through thick and thin, having first joined in the 1940s. Never one to shy away from a debate, she had a quick wit and keen mind, approaching issues with a forthright and commonsense manner. Hon Martin Aldridge, MLC, and I, along with many other Young Nationals, admired her greatly and appreciated her support of us in the party as we started our journey. She had great passion and commitment and turned up to every meeting ready to contribute on policy, always armed with a batch of fresh warm scones to feed us all. Hers was a life well lived. On behalf of the Nationals WA, we send our condolences to the family.

Vale, Marjorie.

PARKINSON’S WESTERN AUSTRALIA — NURSE SPECIALIST SERVICE

Statement by Member for Nedlands

DR K. STRATTON (Nedlands) [12.55 pm]: I had the pleasure last week of attending Parkinson’s Western Australia’s silver high tea with the Minister for Health, Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson, celebrating 25 years of its Parkinson’s nurse specialist service. In 1998, with the advocacy of the Neurological Council of WA and others, Parkinson’s WA secured funding for what at that time was a 12-month trial of one nursing position. Twenty-five years later, the original nurse, Janet McLeod, OAM, is clinical nurse manager, leading a team of eight nurses—namely, Rachel Marshall, Liz Bickley, Jo Chadwick, Amanda Coultous, Kayleigh Rawle, Fiona Roscoe, Donna Mallaby and Lena Divito. Janet has dedicated her life and career to the cause and to growing the service in size and capacity. In her words, “We are not nurses in what we do; it is who we are.” The service itself embodies that.

Parkinson’s nurse specialists are with people and their families and carers on every step of their Parkinson’s experience. They are a connection between the person and their medical and multidisciplinary team, helping manage everything from medication to exercise to the ongoing experiences of grief and loss. They work within a capacity-building model with the person living with Parkinson’s, but also other care providers, including nursing homes, general practitioner practices, public outpatient clinics and university schools of nursing and medicine. They all have an understanding of the needs of people living with Parkinson’s. They are nurses, educators and advocates across individuals, families and systems.

We heard powerful stories at the high tea from people living with Parkinson’s and their carers. Australia-wide, there are approximately 150 000 people living with Parkinson’s, with 10 000 in Western Australia. The changes that Parkinson’s has caused to people’s lives—the ongoing changes and associated grief, the medical and physical challenges, but also the joys and life lessons—as well as the systems change that has been created through their advocacy, were all told that day. Congratulations to Parkinson’s WA CEO Adjunct Professor Yasmin Naglazas and all the team for a fantastic event.

MID WEST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY — BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Statement by Member for Moore

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [12.57 pm]: I rise today to commend the organisers and sponsors of the twenty-seventh Mid West Chamber of Commerce and Industry’s Business Excellence Awards that I attended in Geraldton last Saturday, 25 November. I and other attendees enjoyed a perfect evening at the Geraldton Turf Club, with local drinks on offer and superb local food and catering.

Those businesses showcased at the sold-out capacity event of 300 were a fitting demonstration of local innovation, determination and hard work. The 15 judges had a tough job with entries well up on past years, with 110 submissions received and all award categories well represented. Nominating for awards such as these involves a significant amount of work, but as Mid West Chamber of Commerce and Industry CEO Jo Fabling said, it is a rigorous process allowing business to celebrate their progress, contemplate their future and consider any weaknesses. Joanne also said that small business continues with meeting the challenges of rising costs, skills and housing shortages; however, there is a strong and great business vibe in the midwest, as evidenced at the awards. It is a rigorous process, and many local businesses do not make it through the submission process unless they can substantiate their success.

The top gong—the business of the year award—went to Finlay’s Brewing Co in Kalbarri, which also won the excellence in tourism (business) award. Finlay’s has had a huge year and recently took out the community service award at the Australian Hotels Association awards. I also mention the Illegal Tender Distilling Co from Dongara, which won the excellence in food and beverage manufacturing category, and was a finalist in three other categories. D’Guy Charters, also from Kalbarri, won the people’s choice award with over 1 900 votes. In an exciting development, those who took out the awards at the midwest CCI function last week will become immediate finalists in a new statewide regional awards night to be held on 18 April 2024. Congratulations and thanks to all involved.

**16 DAYS IN WA TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN —
SILENT MARCH — KUNUNURRA**

Statement by Member for Kimberley

MS D.G. D'ANNA (Kimberley — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.59 pm]: I had the pleasure last Friday to attend the silent march in Kununurra to mark the beginning of the 16 Days in WA Campaign to Stop Violence Against Women led by the Gawooleng Yawoodeng Aboriginal Corporation. I am grateful to those people who passionately shared their lived experiences and bravely told their stories in the hope of creating better understanding and changing attitudes. It was a very moving and emotional experience. A family movie night was held that evening highlighting the effect domestic violence has on children and families with the screening launch of locally created music videos and other videos, including young people's own stories. Boss Arts Creative worked with GY—Gawooleng Yawoodeng—to videorecord the words of children and women to get the message out to adults and perpetrators that kids are hurting. They want change and they want to be safe.

The men's and women's teams from local footy clubs Waringarri Crows and Kununurra Demons screened a video detailing the impact that domestic violence has on families, relationships and children. They conveyed a strong message: family and domestic violence is not part of our culture, it has no place in our community, speak up and speak out, and we all need to play our part.

I acknowledge the amazing community organisations that supported the events, not only on the day, but also during the year. The East Kimberley has many supportive wraparound organisations and services that are very important to the people of the region, and I say thank you. I especially acknowledge the team at GY, who work tirelessly to support and advocate for the community. In addition to running the Kununurra crisis accommodation to keep women and children safe, it also runs a playgroup, a school readiness program, a strong women's group and a work readiness program, and facilitates a holistic FDV family support program. GY has an awesome board and team, and I would like to make special mention of their manager, Petina Pitt-Lancaster—what an absolute legend! She was also awarded volunteer of the year at GY's sports awards for her work with young people. Thank you, Petina, for your dedication to improve outcomes for our young people and women living in Kununurra.

Sitting suspended from 1.02 to 2.00 pm

**VISITORS — REBEKAH ROCHE, ZOE AND LIAM JOHNSTON
KALAMUNDA PRIMARY SCHOOL AND MATTHEW PERCH**

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [2.00 pm]: Members, all the guests are very welcome in the Speaker's gallery, but I would particularly like to acknowledge Rebekah, Zoe and Liam Johnston in the Speaker's gallery. Welcome, on what is a very important day for your family. I add my congratulations to your father for his illustrious and legendary career. Congratulations to the member for Cannington.

Other guests, particularly school students: you are also welcome. On behalf of the member for Kalamunda, I welcome the Kalamunda Primary School year 6 leadership group, who are visiting with their teacher Mr Matthew Perch. Welcome to Parliament.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE AREAS — LANCELIN

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

Before I ask my question, I would just like to put on the record my congratulations to the member for Cannington on his announcement today, and wish him all the best.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr R.S. LOVE: I refer to the Premier's commitment to visit Lancelin made as a result of a grievance in February, in which he committed to meet with business and community representatives concerned about the growing impact of sand mining on the Lancelin sand dunes. I note that this issue is relevant to the Minister for Tourism, the Minister for Agriculture and Food, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum and the Minister for Regional Development.

- (1) Will the Premier set up a meeting with those ministers to consider the situation and provide a solution for all impacted sectors?
- (2) Will the Premier make good on his commitment to visit Lancelin to ensure that he has a firsthand understanding of the issues?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question and join the Leader of the Opposition in acknowledging the member for Cannington, Minister Johnston, for his great service to the people of Western Australia.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr R.H. COOK: I thank the member for the question, of which some notice has been given.

- (1)–(2) The Lancelin sand dunes are an iconic Western Australian landmark that provide significant recreational and tourism value, as well as an essential lime sand resource for local farmers. The Shire of Gingin has responsibility for the management of the designated Lancelin off-road vehicle area, and the state government supports the shire in the management of this via annual financial assistance grants of \$80 000 and funding from the off-road vehicle account. The state government is committed to ensuring the coexistence of recreational use and lime sand mining can continue into the future.

Lime sand mining has occurred at Lancelin for decades, with lime sand used by the local agricultural industry to reduce soil acidity in order to maintain crop and pasture yields. Aglime is currently operating under an approved mining proposal that has been subject to rigorous environmental assessment, including of potential impacts on water resources and other land users. Importantly, no mining is permitted to occur within the designated Lancelin off-road vehicle area or in the wellhead protection zone. We have urged the lime sand operators at Lancelin to continue working with the community to ensure a social licence to operate in the Lancelin sand dunes.

I committed to visiting Lancelin in my former role as Minister for Tourism—something has changed! Since making that commitment, I met with Pinnacle Travel Group in May to hear its concerns. Although I am no longer Minister for Tourism, I love Lancelin; it is a beautiful part of the world, and I will be happy to visit to further discuss the issue and hear directly from the community early in the new year.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE AREAS — LANCELIN

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

I have a supplementary question. I thank the Premier for that answer. I take it that I can contact the Premier's office and we can set up a time for that visit?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Bingo!

YOUTH DETENTION — INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW

930. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Premier:

On behalf of the member for Bicton, I acknowledge that she has visitors in the public gallery—the deputy principal and year 6 students from Attadale Primary School.

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to addressing Western Australia's long-term youth detention needs.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house what steps are being taken to improve safety, security and welfare for juveniles in detention?
- (2) Can the Premier outline to the house how else this government is delivering for Western Australians?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question. Before I start, I pay tribute to our great friend and colleague. Earlier today Minister Johnston announced his retirement from cabinet. It is an opportunity to note and place on the record our gratitude for his service to the people of Western Australia and the Labor movement. This will be his last question time on the front bench, and I would just like to extend my personal gratitude to him. Today, of course, also marks the final sitting day of 2023 for the Legislative Assembly. It has been a big year, with many changes. All three parties in the Assembly have a different leader from when they started the year, which is an extraordinary fact to contemplate! From a Labor government perspective, we have been extremely busy.

- (1)–(2) When I started as Premier in June, I made a commitment to significantly reform and provide a reset at the Banksia Hill juvenile justice centre. I want to put the centre on a better pathway. This included a review of infrastructure needs in Western Australia's youth justice system and measures to increase staffing. The recently completed review confirmed that Banksia Hill Detention Centre cannot currently safely and securely accommodate our most challenging young offenders. In response, we have confirmed that we are building a new high-security therapeutic youth detention facility. This will be built next to the existing centre. The proposed two-site model will see the most challenging young people provided with high levels of support in the new facility. That will allow the current facility to focus on giving stable therapeutic interventions and education to more settled detainees. Importantly, the new facility will allow for the closure of unit 18 in a sensible and safe manner.

Before that happens, we will spend \$169 million on enhancing the facilities and services available at unit 18 and Banksia Hill Detention Centre. That means that more staff, more support and better safety measures will be in place. There is no doubt that it has been a challenging year for youth justice, but we are committed to turning our youth justice system around. I want to commend the Minister for Corrective Services for

the work that he and his team are doing. This year, 2023, has been a year of progress, and we have made great progress at Banksia Hill, with those young detainees now experiencing many out-of-room hours each day, undertaking schooling, health, cultural and recreational activities as part of their rehabilitation process.

In addition to the juvenile justice reset, my Labor government has continued to fix the financial mess we inherited. We returned to a AAA credit rating this year, after eight long years. Following the pandemic, we are seeing green shoots from our investment in the health system. There has been a reduction in ambulance ramping and an increase in the number of elective surgeries being undertaken. We have reinvigorated the training sector, signed a new national skills agreement, invested more in TAFE and offered fee-free courses to more than 30 000 people.

Then there is infrastructure. Members will be aware that we started the year with huge floods in the Kimberley, destroying structures like the Fitzroy River Bridge. In an incredible feat, a new and improved bridge has already been built and will be open to traffic before Christmas. That is nine months ahead of the scheduled completion and represents an outstanding opportunity for the region. Meanwhile, Metronet is absolutely steaming ahead, with level crossings on the Armadale line gone, Bayswater station reopened and construction on other rail lines well underway. There has been extensive cost-of-living support for all Western Australians who are doing it tough.

Madam Speaker, thank you for all your efforts this year; 2024 will present more challenges and opportunities, and I look forward to working with you to build on the achievements of 2023.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II MEDICAL CENTRE — SATELLITE BIRTHING FACILITY

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

I refer to the minister's thought bubble for a proposed satellite maternity facility, together with an expanded Osborne Park Hospital, to support the minister's disastrous decision to relocate the new women's and babies' hospital to the Murdoch site. How can the minister possibly staff three different facilities, given the neonatal unit at Osborne Park Hospital, which opened in 2020, is still not able to operate as intended due to an inability to attract suitably qualified staff?

Distinguished Visitor — Hon Bob Kucera

The SPEAKER: I might just welcome former minister Bob Kucera to the public gallery.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I think the Leader of the Liberal Party finds herself in a very difficult position with this hospital. Essentially, the government was faced with a series of irrefutable facts and unmitigatable risk. Any sensible and responsible government would not accept those risks, which could not be mitigated, on behalf of the community. We absolutely made the sensible and appropriate decision to relocate the acute services part of the tertiary hospital down to Murdoch and expand Osborne Park Hospital.

The question that the Leader of the Liberal Party asks ignores the fact that Osborne Park Hospital will have a doubling of activity under the plan and, therefore, a doubling of its requirement for staff and a doubling of its requirement for specialty staff because King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women will not be operating. She assumes that we will still be maintaining King Edward. Many of those staff will relocate to Osborne Park Hospital and some of those staff will relocate down to Murdoch, and the Fiona Stanley Hospital staff will relocate. We are not tripling the staffing profile of the maternity system.

I have been very frustrated with the Leader of the Liberal Party's unwillingness to address or understand the facts of the case. I thought that, surely, anyone faced with the business case that this government was faced with would just need to read it and accept that it was a difficult but necessary decision, so we released the business case. Knowing all those risks, she still dug in and said, "No. I will still build it there." Okay, I said I would organise for her to meet with clinicians, go to the site and make the offer. I organised those meetings. The Leader of the Liberal Party went down to Fiona Stanley. We would assume that she would ask the question about the relocation, but she did not ask a single question about the relocation of those clinicians. She did not ask a single question! Again, I said, "Go down to Osborne Park. I will make it available. I will make the executive and the director general available. We will brief you and give you the information because this should be in the interests of everyone." She did not ask a single question.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! I am guessing that you might like the opportunity for a supplementary.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Again, she did not ask a reasonable question at all. She does not ask the questions because she does not want the answers. She does not want the answers when she gets out and talks to those clinicians at those sites—Fiona Stanley, the Child and Adolescent Health Service, many in King Edward and the midwifery staff. Did she talk to the midwifery staff? No! I bet she has not. The midwifery staff and the Osborne Park staff will say that this is the sensible and responsible decision.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II MEDICAL CENTRE — SATELLITE BIRTHING FACILITY

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

I have a supplementary question.

The SPEAKER: Sorry. Just before that, Member for Landsdale, it is really good to see you here. I would like to be able to hear the question in silence.

Ms L. METTAM: When will the minister secure the specialist staff required for Osborne Park Hospital's neonatal unit, which was opened in 2020?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

As has been explained many times, North Metropolitan Health Service's women's and newborns' unit continues to recruit. It continues to do that. It does get used. The member knows that it gets used because she went there and they told her that it gets used.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — YOUTH DETENTION

933. Mr T.J. HEALY to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to continuing to improve our state's youth justice system.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house what steps this government is taking to address the needs of young offenders while keeping the public and detainees safe?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether he is aware of any alternative approaches to managing young offenders?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

Thank you, member, for the question. I did myself an injury standing up then. It has been a long year.

- (1)–(2) I just confirm to the house that the Premier and I today announced some significant measures in response to improving juvenile detention. Also, we were able to confirm that significant progress has been made. Banksia Hill Detention Centre detainees over the last month have averaged nine hours out of cell. Probably even more significantly, we are also able to report that assaults on staff are down 39 per cent and critical incidents are down 21 per cent compared with the first half of the year. That is a really big advance. We all know that part of the reason for the staffing challenges until recently was the outrageous rate of staff assaults and the fear they felt going to work. That has been addressed significantly.

I also confirm to the house that young people at Banksia Hill and in unit 18 are now supported by a multidisciplinary team from Health, including child health specialists and an eight-person Aboriginal services unit, with the Telethon Kids Institute, the Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service and additional Aboriginal mentors set to provide further support in coming months. We are making a lot of progress.

Unit 18, too, has seen improvements in out-of-cell hours, which averaged four and a half hours over the last month. That sounds low, but I can tell members that is improving. When dealing with a significantly complex, challenging and very often violent and dangerous cohort, that is real progress. In achieving that, the new commissioner has employed a new operational model in unit 18 that effectively separates juveniles in that cohort into three different groups.

One group, the most challenging, is in one entire wing to themselves. A small number of around two or three has an entire allocation of staff dedicated to them. Another wing is a transition wing, and a third wing is where they need the least supervision. Each of those has independent teams. If something kicks off in one wing, it will not impact the others and we will not lock everybody down, which was a sad consequence of what used to happen in the past. The hours out of cell are increasing overall, but I can tell members that the group that requires the least supervision is now out of their cells most of the day and make themselves breakfast in the morning, which is an extraordinary leap forward in their supervision and their behaviour. Obviously, they will then transition back to Banksia Hill, if not into the community, as they leave.

Today, we also announced a substantial increase in funding for juvenile detention of \$77.1 million, \$1 million of which I will talk about in a moment. Of that, \$76 million is dedicated to increasing and improving services and support to juveniles in Banksia Hill and unit 18 right now, with \$34.2 million to boost staffing levels at Banksia Hill and unit 18. It will be for youth custodial officers, Aboriginal health and services officers, plus other nonoperational staff. On top of that, \$8.2 million will fund upgrades to programs and services such as cultural enrichment, support offerings, Aboriginal health services and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder training. Banksia Hill Detention Centre continues to be improved, with \$20.7 million for the planned construction of a crisis care unit to improve its capacity.

All that is happening, and we have announced \$1 million dedicated to the rapid development of a business case for a specialist facility to house the very specific cohort that we confront in unit 18 at the moment. That means that there will be a building designed from the ground up, adjacent to Banksia Hill, to enable the use of the staff and services in both facilities. The site will be designed from the ground up to house the really challenging cohort that we can only house in unit 18 at the moment because they cannot be housed anywhere else safely. I know that the member asked whether there is an alternative. Yes, there is. The alternative being offered by the opposition is to put them in a demountable at Banksia Hill. Needless to say, we will not do that. That would jeopardise all the advances that have been made in both facilities and really threaten the safety of the community, so we will not take the advice from the opposition on this occasion. We will push on to improve things right across the board in juvenile detention.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT — GYMNASTICS PROGRAM

Mr S.A. Millman: Madam Speaker.

Mr P.J. Rundle: Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I give the call to the member for Roe.

Mr R.H. Cook: There are no prizes for second, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Come on; have a bit of Christmas spirit!

934. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I appreciate that, Madam Speaker.

Given that a new board is in place for the Western Australian Institute of Sport, can the minister provide an update to the house on the progress of the restorative and reconciliatory process for the former gymnasts who attended WAIS?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I thank the member for Roe for the question. As he is aware, we have in place a very effective WAIS board that is involved with and engaged in some important work, both now and into the future. I acknowledge Dr Neale Fong, the chair of the board. The member will also be aware of the other members of the board—Fabian Ross, Gary Dreibergs, Darren Foster, Kaylene Gulich, Peta Slocombe and Jen McGrath, an officer from the department. Dr Fong has quickly embarked upon a number of reforms and, indeed, work with regard to WAIS, including issues around the restorative justice process that had previously paused. Work continues in terms of engagement with the gymnasts who were part of the women's artistic program between 1987 and 2016. The department continues to work with WAIS to facilitate the restorative and reconciliatory process. The Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime is playing an important advisory role in this process as well. Some complaints may require referral to the Western Australia Police Force if they are of a nature that requires investigation.

I can inform the member that the board met earlier this month to finalise the key framework for the restorative process. It is anticipated that the gymnasts will already have been engaged in that process as we roll it out. Obviously, we are dealing with people whose health and wellbeing is a primary concern. The process will be as efficient and effective as possible, but mindful of the important considerations for the gymnasts involved. I am very confident that the board that we now have in place will deliver not only the requirements and outcomes that we want from the restorative process, but also other important matters that relate to the operation of WAIS going forward.

Of course, the Paris Olympics will be held next year and a number of Western Australians have already been announced as being selected for a number of the competition teams and/or games activities. I am very confident that WAIS will continue to deliver very high-quality outcomes, and we will make sure that it is well resourced going forward.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT — GYMNASTICS PROGRAM

935. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I have a supplementary question. I thank the minister for that response.

Given that the former gymnasts were promised some action by Christmas this year, which is only three weeks away, will the minister and the board deliver on this promise?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

The clear commitment that we made was that we would, essentially, restart a process that had faltered under the previous board. That has now been achieved. I assure the member that Dr Fong and the other members of the board who have specific skills in this area, including Mr Gary Dreibergs, who has extensive experience in restorative justice matters, are well placed to deliver. As I have said, we need to be very mindful that we are dealing with people whose mental health and wellbeing need to be considered. We will do that through a process that is consultative and understanding of that importance.

HOME SAFE PROGRAM

936. Mr S.A. MILLMAN to the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's Home Safe program, which aims to keep unaccompanied minors off the streets of Northbridge at night.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the outcome of the program's trial, including how it is keeping young people safe?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this government plans to support the continuation of this successful program?

Ms S.E. WINTON replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Mount Lawley for the question. I wholeheartedly agree that Northbridge is no place for children at night. That is why the Cook Labor government is investing \$935 000 to continue our Home Safe initiative to June 2025. It is a really important initiative that has had great outcomes in keeping children safe in Northbridge. All members would know that Home Safe was started by our government in the summer of 2022, when we introduced this program to get unaccompanied kids off the streets of Northbridge at night and, importantly, by doing so, potentially divert them from the justice system. Home Safe provides transport for those young people to their home, a safe place or the youth at-risk facility, YouthBeat, in Northbridge. Back in February, I had the opportunity to spend a night in Northbridge. I do not get out to Northbridge much anymore! In all seriousness, I attended on that Friday night back in February to see the program at work. It was quite incredible to see the police, Communities, Mission Australia and Nyoongar Outreach Services working collaboratively to support those young kids who should not be on the streets at night in Northbridge. This announcement was a really positive step forward. Since that positive diversion program was implemented, we have seen over 800 young people engaged and taken off the streets of Northbridge. There have been nearly 3 000 interactions with young people to get them off the streets and back to a safe place and connected back home. The average age of children involved was 14 and a half, with the youngest just nine years old. Members can see how important this program is in supporting the various agencies, including police, to get young people away from Northbridge and back home and safe.

Our government is committed to giving children and young people every opportunity to be the best that they can be. In addition to supporting children and young people to get to a safe and secure place at night, the program importantly also helps to identify at-risk children and young people and ensure that they have the wraparound support that they need. It is not just about getting children out of Northbridge and putting them somewhere else. Through that process, we identify the risk for those children and we can then put wraparound services in place. Through that partnership, at-risk Aboriginal children and young people and their families receive multiagency case management and support led by Nyoongar Outreach Services, an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation. This initiative complements an extraordinarily wide range of early intervention, prevention and diversionary measures that have been implemented since we came to government in 2017 to divert at-risk young people from the criminal justice system. We know that investing in at-risk youth means that we are investing in their future and, ultimately, our community.

WESTPORT

937. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I note the announcement yesterday of a preferred site for the Westport outer harbour.

- (1) When will the government be open with the Western Australian public about the true cost of the new harbour and associated infrastructure?
- (2) Will the new harbour be operational in 2032, as originally promised; and, if not, when will the new harbour be operational?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) We will obviously be in a position to finalise the overall costs and construction time lines once we have completed the business case. It is interesting that the member raised the issue of the business case, because this is the second time today that we have seen signals coming from those opposite about their attitude towards the responsible planning, development and funding of public infrastructure. We heard from the member for Vasse earlier today, who said, "Just build a new detention centre. Just build it. Just get on with these sorts of things." But I think I disagree with the member there. If I may, Madam Speaker, the member for Vasse in a tweet earlier today said —

... the best it can come up with is \$1m to create a plan ... to deliver a plan on how to shut Unit18!
We don't even have a delivery date.

Clearly, what the member is saying is that there should be no such thing as a business plan; there should be no such thing as the development of a case; there should be no such thing as the development of the

time lines. We have this now from the member for Cottesloe, as well. We look back at their sorry time in government and think: How did they get it so wrong? How were they so bad in government? How was it that they completely trashed the state's finances? How is it that we ended up in a position of debt and deficit, literally borrowing to pay the bills and the expenses of that year? How did we get here? I think now we know why. We have this slight little insight here today. Members opposite have no respect for proper planning, no respect for proper business cases, and no respect for financial insight. All they do is go ahead and just commit themselves to all kinds of expenditure, all kinds of ridiculous ideas, and that is why they are so bad in government, and that is why the idea of a Liberal–National government of Western Australia is the biggest risk to Western Australians today. If these people get back into government, they will ruin the state's finances again. My evidence is the comments from the member for Vasse, and now the comments from the member for Cottesloe. We can see writ large here the complete disrespect and disregard for taxpayers' funds, and we know what would happen, perish the thought, if they ever got back into government again.

We will continue to work through with careful planning the arrangements in relation to Westport. We made an important announcement yesterday about understanding the exact location and configuration for Westport. It will be to the south end of the Kwinana industrial strip. It will involve a sea breakwater to protect the wharf and an integration of the Kwinana Bulk Terminal jetty. Those are important next steps of what is a long-term program for Western Australia. We are a trading state. We are a significant trading state in the economic engine room of the country. We have to get this right. This will be a decision in the development of infrastructure that has to stand the test of time. We have to make sure that it is fit for purpose and can continue to help our Western Australian economy grow and continue to create great Western Australian jobs.

I think that the indicative date for the development of this is about the mid-2030s, and we will continue to plan to make sure we have a clear pathway forward, but it will be on the basis of the proper planning and deliberate and careful consideration of the engineering and other aspects. Nothing of that sort took place when the member was in government.

WESTPORT

938. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given the Premier now apparently does not have a business case for the outer harbour where it is, why is he continuing to make a commitment to that project?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I want the Parliament to acknowledge and take note that the imputation of the member's question was that they will continue to privatise Fremantle port and will continue to develop Roe 8 and all those problems. That includes I think at one point the member's party was going to have a tunnel under the Swan River and a four-lane highway at Curtin Avenue. I would love to see him explain that to the good people of the electorate of Cottesloe.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: What we announced yesterday was the outcome of the scoping and planning in relation to the position, and the multi-criteria that are required to decide on the site and configuration of the port. We did not say that there was a business case.

Ms L. Mettam: You didn't say much!

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! The Premier has the call.

Mr R.H. COOK: The Minister for Transport and I and the Minister for Ports yesterday outlined the site, the configuration and the outcomes of the study into the multi-criteria assessment that was undertaken in understanding the position of the port, and will now go through the planning and so on.

Because the member for Vasse continues to raise her presence in this debate, I want the Parliament and the people of Western Australia to note that this mob wants to privatise Fremantle port. They want to privatise Fremantle port. When they were in government, they opened up a data room so that proponents could come in and assess their bids for the Fremantle port. Does the member deny that there was a data room for proponents to come in and assess the value of the port?

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: There is none. We also know that at some point into the future, Fremantle port will become congested and constrained by its size, so we need to have a government that is capable of a vision and a government that is capable of developing —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: — world-class transport infrastructure to ensure that we can continue to supercharge our economy, to continue to make sure that we can create great Western Australian jobs and to make sure that Western Australia remains the engine room of the nation's economy.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MARINE AMENDMENT BILL 2023

939. **Mrs L.A. MUNDAY to the Minister assisting the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's long-awaited reforms of the Western Australian Marine Act. Can the minister please advise the house how these reforms will help to keep people safe on our waterways this summer, and can the minister also advise what message the reforms send to those considering skippering a vessel under the influence of drugs or alcohol?

Mr D.R. MICHAEL replied:

I would like to thank the member for the question. Like the good people of Dawesville, there will be lots of Western Australians who, with the weather we have had, are probably already out on the water and are looking forward to having fun on the water this summer. I also acknowledge my former boss, Hon Bob Kucera, who is up there, who is a former Commodore of the Fremantle Sailing Club and, importantly, a former Assistant Commissioner of Police, who knows the damage that cars and vehicles and bad driving can do on our roads. I also acknowledge the incredible work that the water police and the Department of Transport staff do on our water to keep people safe.

I am pleased to advise members that earlier this week, the Western Australian Marine Amendment Bill 2023 passed the Legislative Council. As we know from when it went through this house, the bill provides for stronger penalties for skippers under the influence of drugs or alcohol, as well as much stronger penalties for dangerous navigation. The Western Australian Marine Act offences were essentially unchanged since they were first introduced in the early 1980s and definitely did not reflect community expectations. The changes brought in by the Western Australian Marine Amendment Bill 2023 will see laws that mirror those in place on our roads and send a clear message that dangerous navigation or skippering under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be tolerated. The enhanced financial penalties better reflect the seriousness of the offences and for the first time include the possibility of imprisonment for a dangerous navigation offence. For example, the offence of dangerous navigation will now have penalties, including fines of up to \$36 000, three years' imprisonment and two years' minimum disqualification from holding or obtaining a recreational skipper's ticket, compared with a previous fine of only \$1 000. This is a significant milestone in the strengthening of boating safety laws.

I take the opportunity to thank the staff of the Department of Transport and the Western Australia Police Force, including the relevant ministers here, as well, for their efforts in bringing this legislation together. It was a mammoth task and took many hours of work. I thank them. I know that the Department of Transport has been waiting a long time to do it.

I thank this house for passing the legislation, including the opposition. With the Leader of the Opposition, we had our consideration in detail on this legislation. Thanks for allowing us to pass the legislation as quickly as we were able to in both houses, to make sure the new penalties are in place for summer. This is another example of some great legislation this government has done with the support of the opposition, when the former government got this completely wrong. An article from ABC News from back in 2015 says —

WA Water Police say they have no choice but to work within legislation which does not allow officers to breath test skippers of boats, as they gear up for one of the state's biggest annual boating —

Seasons. The then Minister for Police and member for Scarborough said —

... drafting and passing legislation, and then establishing an effective compliance regime was an expensive process.

... in the absence of evidence that alcohol-affected boat skippers were a significant problem, she was not planning to make changes.

“We've had a large high-profile crash, if you recall, a few years ago and I'm a bit reluctant to change the entire laws of the state around one issue,” ...

The then Premier Colin Barnett —

... does not favour breath tests of skippers on the water.

Nor does he want to see authorities waiting at boat ramps to breathalyse boaties ...

“I would much prefer to have faith in people to be responsible on the water, particularly in charge of larger boats, for boating organisations and yacht clubs to take a leadership role in that,” Mr Barnett said.

I am glad the opposition's position has changed and I thank it for helping us to pass that legislation.

I am proud that the Cook government has given water safety the priority it deserves. I acknowledge that most people out there do the right thing on our waterways, but the laws were out of touch with community expectations and these laws also build upon major changes to the safety equipment requirements for recreational vehicles that came into effect in September this year.

Before I sit down, I again thank all those hardworking staff at the Department of Transport and the Western Australia Police Force who will be out on the water and enforcing laws. I thank all those volunteers at sailing and yacht clubs and in marine safety and all those other organisations who will do their job in helping us with enforcing this legislation. I thank the overwhelming majority of Western Australians who are going to do the right thing over summer and I hope they have great fun on the water.

COUNTRY AGE PENSION FUEL CARD

940. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to the Country Age Pension Fuel Card introduced by the former Liberal–National government to support eligible regional pensioners with the cost of travel.

- (1) Given the significant rise in fuel and other cost-of-living pressures experienced by those on fixed incomes, will the government increase the value of the card?
- (2) Will the government reinstate indexation to preserve the real value of these cards by those who require it to attend essential medical appointments, stay connected with family and friends and be mobile in their own communities where there is no or little public transport?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. We regard assisting Western Australians with the cost of living as one of our key priorities. When I became Premier, I said we will keep the economy strong, keep Western Australian jobs growing and look after those doing it tough. That is why we have taken important measures in relation to the cost of living, particularly with our \$400 household electricity credit and our \$300 KidSport grants and other measures that go to assisting Western Australians with the cost of living.

One of the policies that we are particularly proud of is the regional airfare caps. That allows people in regional Western Australia to stay connected. We know that because many Western Australians live at such great distances apart and away from Perth, they often have great expenses for airfares within the state. Our regional airfare cap scheme is an incredibly important gesture to assist regional Western Australians deal with the cost of living.

Of course, we have continued the fuel card subsidy arrangements. It is an important part of the work that the Minister for Regional Development does to continue to keep Western Australians connected. We have also increased assistance under the patient assisted travel scheme, which was recommended by a parliamentary committee prior to the Liberal and National Parties' departure from the government benches in 2017 but which the previous government completely ignored. I share the member's passion for assisting regional Western Australians deal with the cost of living and quality of life, and we will continue to put in place measures to assist everyone, particularly those doing it tough at the moment.

COUNTRY AGE PENSION FUEL CARD

941. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. There were lots of words there. I am not sure I heard, "Yes, we will increase the value of the Country Age Pension Fuel Card" or when, if that was the case.

The SPEAKER: Just the question.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Will the Premier request that the Treasurer and the Minister for Transport review the decision of the government to flatline the Country Age Pension Fuel Card value for six years and deliver a much-needed boost at the upcoming midyear review?

A government member: What did you do?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: We put it up and linked it to indexation—that is what we did!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

The member draws the attention to the other side of the house when it comes to the cost of living and helping people deal with such important expenses such as electricity bills. Under her government, the previous government put up electricity bills by over 97 per cent. The former government put up the fees for some TAFE courses by as much as 500 per cent.

Dr A.D. Buti: The former Premier said, “Get a blanket if you’re cold if you’re an old person.” That’s what he said, the former Premier.

Mr R.H. COOK: I think the former Premier said if people could not afford to run their air conditioner, they should wait for the Fremantle doctor to come in. We all know how good that is for those people who live in Kalgoorlie! We will not be lectured by those opposite when it comes to assisting people in Western Australia with the cost of living. We will continue to make sure that we put in place measures that cushion the blows and make sure that we can assist those who are doing it tough. There is a reason we can do that. It is because we have looked after the state’s finances, got the budget and spending under control, and now we are in a position to invest. We are in a position to invest and help those who are dealing with the cost of living and help those who are doing it tough the most.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY — SUMMER

942. Ms C.M. TONKIN to the Minister for Energy:

I have been given the extraordinary privilege today of asking our awesome Minister for Energy his last question from our side in this place. I refer to the Cook Labor government’s commitment to delivering clean, reliable and affordable power to all Western Australians.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the ongoing work to bolster Western Australia’s electricity system over summer?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how our power system performed during last week’s unseasonably warm weather?

The SPEAKER: Minister for Energy.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

- (1)–(2) Thank you very much for the call, Madam Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. I know she has a deep interest in the energy transition. If I can just have a moment of indulgence, I want to thank my kids in the back of the chamber—Rebekah Roche, Zoe Johnston and Liam Johnston—and again say how proud I am of them and acknowledge what they missed out on.

[Applause.]

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: It is hard for all of us here. I just let people know that my kids were aged three, six and nine when Kate was elected to the upper house and at the same time I was elected as state secretary of the Labor Party, so they suffered a lot.

Mr P.C. Tinley: So did we!

Several members interjected.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I am looking forward to sitting next to the member for Willagee.

Mr P.C. Tinley: Can you arrange that?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Like the guys in *The Muppets*! The good news for everybody in the chamber is that I might be moving to the back bench, but I will still remember everything about the Liberals and the National Parties’ performance in government and I will be able to speak on every bill that comes to the house.

The SPEAKER: That was an appropriate indulgence and now you may answer the question.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: The dynamic nature of the sector here in Western Australia is best set out by the fact that we had a record system low on 25 September this year, when the total amount of electricity generated by the central system was only 595 megawatts. To put that in context, when I became minister, I was told the system could not function under 900 megawatts. The hard work of the people in the sector implementing new policies, new rules, new procedures and new ways of doing business means we can now get that down to that very small number. In fact, over the last 13 months, we have had the 10 lowest ever demand days. Just six weeks later, on 23 November, we had a record system high. I was originally advised 4 037 megawatts; now I am advised 4 041.

We have to understand that massive difference between trough and peak, and we have to have a system that can handle both sides. What we know in Western Australia is that we have a system that can handle that. The south west interconnected system is continuing to deliver the reliable, affordable and increasingly low carbon energy that we all want. Kwinana battery energy storage system 1, which is a 100 megawatt and 200 megawatt hour battery, is giving more flexibility to the system. KBESS 2 will be available from 1 October next year, with 200 megawatts and 800 megawatt hours. We are building one of the largest batteries anywhere—the Collie BESS, which will have a 500-megawatt capacity and 2 000 megawatt hours of storage. These are the investments that are needed to see the transition of the grid.

I also want to acknowledge the private sector investment that is going into the system. We have had the Shepherd report look at the challenges for Western Power, and I congratulate the hardworking people at Western Power who

are taking the actions needed to make our Western Power distribution network more reliable. For example, we are seeing upgraded feeders in Byford, Southern River, Beechboro, Mandurah and Meadow Springs. When that work is completed, 26 feeders will have been ungraded since the 2021 outages. The Australian Energy Market Operator is using its powers under the supplementary reserve capacity process to make sure that the system has every support that it needs.

I want to finish by pointing out that we get criticised from those on the other side of politics about our energy system, but I will just refer to four media releases on the home page of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy's website. The first one congratulates the government on the introduction of carbon capture and storage legislation, which, as Minister for Mines and Petroleum, I am proud to have brought to the chamber. In the second media release on the website, it congratulates Premier Cook's announcement of the transmission upgrades and it says that the transmission upgrades are a welcome step towards energy transition capability. The next one is headlined "Government funding boost a step on the journey to net zero". Again, it is welcoming what we are doing. Finally, the fourth media release says, "Gas at the centre of a secure, reliable energy transition". It welcomed Premier Cook's comments at the energy transition summit.

Everybody who has invested in the system is acknowledging the hard work that is being done. I am proud of the part that I have played, but the broader energy transition is being done by thousands of people, particularly public sector employees, public sector engineers at Western Power, the bright energy nerds down at Energy Policy WA, the hardworking people at Synergy and, of course, the people in the member for Collie–Preston's electorate who are being directly impacted by the transition. I met with them at the Mining Emergency Response Competition dinner on Sunday night and they asked me what is the next step. They are being directly impacted, but they know that this Labor government supports them. There are also the private investors who are taking advantage of the opportunities that the government is creating.

This is an energy transition system that I know the hardworking people in this government will be able to take forward without me. Thank you all very much.

Members: Hear, hear!

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: The member for North West Central with the last question.

HAMELIN POOL STROMATOLITES

943. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Environment:

Sorry, minister. Congratulations. I am sorry that you are not the last.

I refer to previous questions about the closure of the world-famous Hamelin Pool stromatolites and the urgent need for remediation of the boardwalk and associated impacts on both the stromatolites and tourism in the Gascoyne region.

- (1) Has the minister received advice or direction from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization about the impacts that the ongoing closure will have on the site's UNESCO World Heritage status?
- (2) Has a business case been completed for the replacement of the boardwalk?
- (3) Given the significant importance of the site, will temporary remediation measures be taken to protect the stromatolites and when will this occur?

Mr R.R. WHITBY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) As the member knows, there were dual issues facing the infrastructure in that particular part of the world. We had an ageing boardwalk that needed work and then we had cyclone Seroja, which caused extensive damage to the structure. A report was forwarded to us that suggested that we could embark on some remediation but the life span of that work would be limited. Indeed, rather than fix up some part of it and come back later on and make further improvements, it was more advisable to consider a whole approach to the structure and to make a replacement rather than a repair as the effort that we made there. As the member can imagine, we have a very good Minister for Tourism these days whom I have made representations to about the requirements to improve that facility. I am very hopeful that we will be able to make an announcement soon about funding for the future of that facility.

HAMELIN POOL STROMATOLITES

944. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Environment:

I have a supplementary question. Given that no time commitment has been given to this, will the government undertake temporary remediation of this significant site as a matter of urgency until the major works take place?

Mr R.R. WHITBY replied:

I am aware of the issues with the closure of the boardwalk because people are attracted to the location and are still eager to have a closer look. That indeed causes a risk to the features of that natural environment, so I am very mindful of the urgency. As I have just explained to the member, I am hopeful that our wonderful Treasurer and tourism minister will be able to give me some good news soon and we will make the announcement accordingly.

The SPEAKER: That concludes question time.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE COMMISSIONER
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

*Inquiry into support for children and young people who have been directly or indirectly exposed to trauma associated with migration to Australia due to humanitarian crises — Terms of Reference —
Statement by Speaker*

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [2.56 pm]: Members, I advise that the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People has resolved to inquire into support for children and young people who have been directly or indirectly exposed to trauma associated with migration to Australia due to humanitarian crises.

The inquiry will consider, firstly, the prevalence of migration-related trauma among children and young people in WA; secondly, existing resources designed to provide support to this cohort of children and young people; thirdly, potential adverse impacts of any inability to access support resources; and, fourthly, models and strategies the state government could consider to mitigate the risk of adverse impacts of migration-related trauma in children and young people. The committee will report to both houses of the Parliament by 15 August 2024.

LEGAL DEPOSIT AMENDMENT BILL 2023

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [2.57 pm]: I rise to make a contribution on the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023. As other members have touched on, this bill will bring about critical changes to the existing legal deposit framework. The bill brings to attention the significance of the preservation of our cultural heritage and the evolving landscape of legal deposit in the digital age. At the heart of this discussion lies the imperative to safeguard our state's published documentary heritage for both present and future generations. The Legal Deposit Act 2012, in essence, mandates the deposition of certain published materials within the State Library of Western Australia, ensuring the perpetual preservation of our state's history.

As other members have discussed in their contributions, it really highlights for me the important role played by not just libraries in our local electorates, but also, of course, the State Library. I want to use this opportunity to talk a little bit about the State Library and some of the important things that the State Library does on literacy and the programs it runs. As part of my research, it was interesting to discover that the State Library was established in 1886 as a free public library that would be open to everybody, which is a wonderful concept. As we heard from the member for Cockburn, that was not necessarily the case for all libraries when they first came to fruition, so it is a great sentiment. It is really interesting and exciting to learn that they still hold relevance in the modern and digital era. That is evidenced by the fact that last year more than 1 million people visited the library in person or online. That is fantastic.

One program I want to use my contribution to highlight is the Better Beginnings family literacy program. This is a multi-award winning program that has been run by the State Library since 2004. The State Library partners with other agencies as well. The program has delivered 1 million reading packs to Western Australian families, supporting them through stories, playing, talking and singing to children right from birth. This program was brought to my attention by one of my constituents, Mrs Michelle Campbell, who is a local in Ascot. She works for the State Library and is one of the main proponents rolling out this program across the state, so I acknowledge her work in advocating for this great program because it came to my attention. Since then, I have had a keen interest in watching it grow and flourish. There have been some further developments. This program is now being rolled out in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions. There are community-led grants programs as well, so communities can apply for grants to have these programs, which is fantastic.

The State Library also has a role in acquiring materials for Western Australian heritage purposes, so collections and general reference materials. I find the collection of heritage items really interesting. When I was studying for my diploma of screenwriting, for example, I was able to go to the State Library and access a huge amount of historical information that was preserved on microfilm. People can look at old newspaper articles, which are really fascinating. It is so important to have access to archival materials and to see them firsthand. Interestingly, the library holds magazines and newspapers, as I have just mentioned, but also music recordings, music scores, motion pictures and unpublished material such as manuscripts, original artwork, photographs, diaries, journals and private papers. They

are truly fascinating. It is important that we preserve those documents in perpetuity for future reference, but they have to be preserved in the correct fashion and the State Library is the ideal place to do that and manage the appropriate climate and conditions to ensure the longevity of those materials.

Another way to ensure that we preserve materials and that they are readily accessible is to digitise them and make them available online. To support this our state government is providing nearly \$4.5 million over the next five years for the library to do just that and digitise its most at-risk materials so they do not deteriorate sooner than necessary.

Since its inception in 2013, the State Library's Storylines online archive has played a pivotal role in providing a safe and responsive keeping place for Aboriginal people to access heritage collections. This is particularly important. The State Library plays a really pivotal role in this because it has become a place to contain and collect material identified as sensitive or sacred, so it can be restricted or removed in flexible and responsive way, and it allows for Aboriginal knowledge and terminology to be added to some of the library's collections. That is especially interesting to me because I was previously a long-term member of the board of the Film and Television Institute of WA, and for a time its chairperson as well. At that time the Film and Television Institute ran a fantastic program collecting Aboriginal stories on country, so there was a relationship between the Film and Television Institute and the National Archives of Australia, I think in Sydney. These stories were often collected orally. Filmmakers would be sent on country to speak with elders. Sometimes they collected the stories in traditional language and they were kept. I think we ended up collecting near on 100 stories, maybe even more. There was also the opportunity coinciding with that to teach young kids on country in really remote communities how to make films. These film educators got all the kids involved in making short films and they would show them. It was a really, really great program. I am really sad that the Film and Television and Institute no longer exists and that program no longer exists. It again speaks to the important role that libraries continue to play not only in being the keepers of knowledge, with books and archives and all the rest, but preserving culture, really importantly, for our First Nations people.

I also thought it would be really pertinent to use this opportunity to talk about the fantastic local library in Belmont. We have the Belmont Hub, which is an amazing building. It is brand new and a really beautiful space. Any time of the day there are always groups of young people meeting in the communal spaces there. Some are there to study, but a lot of are not. They are just there to hang out and catch up with friends. There is a library at the Belmont Hub and there is also a section just for children. There is a whole suite of family events rolled out around the library. There is story time for really young kids. Of course, they are education based, and they are an opportunity for parents to engage with other parents. Obviously, the focal point is early literacy. There are also some other fantastic programs. There is a program called Curious Kids, which is a hands-on workshop to explore science and engineering. Yes, the space is a library, but it also runs really fantastic events that are not technically based around books. There are courses for parents. There is also learning English through story time. In Belmont there is a significant population of new migrants, so it is fantastic to see that reflected in the programs provided at our local library at the Belmont Hub. There is also a program called Historia. As someone who is little bit of a history nerd, it is nice to see a history session for kids aged from eight to 13 years. I think I would have Buckley's chance of getting my kids along to this, but it is great that the library offers it. It looks at mysteries, wonders and maybe even some spooky stories—I do not know. But it looks fun. There is a Lego club, a coding club and a steam lab. There are school holiday programs and a whole bunch of things.

The library also does great programs for adults. It does e-smart workshops to help, generally, older people with their computer literacy. These programs are all free to the community, so it is pretty amazing. The library also does board game days. There are craft sessions. There are also writing and creative sessions. In the most recent *Belmont Bulletin* I saw that the library was doing an interview with a local author. The author was coming to the library to speak to community members. It is a way to encourage budding novelists. We heard from the member for Cockburn that he thinks everybody has a book in them. I am not sure about that, but some people in my community think that they do, which is wonderful, and they can come along and hear from a published author. As I said, there are speaking series, interest groups, parenting clubs and a book club, which is great. Sadly, I do not seem to find time to do any of these things myself, but it is great that the library provides these wonderful resources to the community. It also does inclusive programs that are available for people of all abilities, which is just terrific.

I take this opportunity to do a shout-out to the City of Belmont because they have really made Belmont Hub, as the name implies, a hub. The library has become a real focal point for our community and the community celebrates it. It is a beautiful building that provides an anchor point for people to meet and participate in activities. I love that the activities are centred around literacy because that is a terrific thing for our community. On that, I congratulate the Minister for Culture and the Arts for bringing this bill to the house and conclude my remarks.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [3.10 pm] — in reply: I am very pleased to respond, in my second reading reply, to a number of queries and, indeed, congratulate and thank those members who have contributed to the vote on the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023. Everyone understands the importance of the bill; it is very much a modernisation of the existing legislation that will ensure that in the collection of much enhanced information, much of it in the social media and other digital mediums, the legislation, as updated, will enable our collecting agencies, particularly, of course, the State Library of Western Australia, to continue to

do the work they do. I acknowledge the State Librarian and all the staff at the State Library for their tremendous work. I also acknowledge the Library Board of Western Australia for the work that it does and the way that it supports the ongoing importance of libraries in Western Australia.

I thank the members who spoke today—the members for Belmont, Geraldton and Cockburn. I also thank the member for Joondalup for her contribution in which she talked about a number of important things regarding libraries and the role they play, particularly the role they played during COVID. I thank the member for Vasse, the Leader of the Liberal Party, for her contribution and support of this bill I also acknowledge the member for Southern River, who gave an extensive contribution—it was very extensive because it goes on for pages—and it is still going on, Mr Healy! I thank the parliamentary secretary, the member for Mirrabooka, who made an excellent contribution. She acknowledged the work of libraries and highlighted the importance of libraries for migrants and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. There is a great example of that in Mirrabooka. The member for Bicton made a contribution, which was outstanding as always. The member for Collie–Preston highlighted a range of matters, particularly given that she, of course, was a teacher. I also thank the Leader of the Opposition for his contribution as the lead speaker. I want to give some reassurance to the Leader of the Opposition, who raised an issue about Toodyay Public Library and the changes that were made to enhance the interlibrary loan service. The Leader of the Opposition said he received a letter in June, from memory. I want to assure the Leader of the Opposition of a couple things. First, the interlibrary loan service is still available to all public libraries.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: No. Can you just wait?

The only change that has been made is to the delivery method. The old way of delivery, whereby requested books were sent long distances, had become financially inefficient. The new system essentially gives three choices. The first is to provide the literature that is sought online to those who wish to access it online. Secondly, if that is not the case, books are requested through the interlibrary loan service because it works out cheaper for libraries to purchase a requested book if they do not already have it as part of their stock list. Thirdly, if a library book needs to be delivered, it is delivered—a lot of books are sent this way—by Australia Post. The old system of couriering books became inefficient and expensive. The only change has been in the delivery method and the community continues to access the materials it needs and wants. The preferred method of the delivery of physical materials, like books and audiobooks, is now postage. I have some statistics that relate to Toodyay Public Library, particularly for the latter half of this year, that the Leader of the Opposition may be interested in. Toodyay Public Library is a very well utilised library; it is very popular. Traditionally, a large number of people utilise that library, which is tremendous. Toodyay library is one of the largest users of the interlibrary loan service, with the next closest being Denmark Public Library. Of the 76 libraries that have received interlibrary loans, the average is about 95 books a month. The statistics show that many of the titles requested by Toodyay library, particularly since June, have been purchased. The requested books have been purchased by the library and that means, of course, that not only is a hard copy available to the person who requested it, but also it goes back into the library and can be used by other people in the community. The number of downloads of online e-sources, digital access, has also increased and the average seems to be 300 or just over 300 a month for the months of June, July, August and September. There has been no restriction to the three choices of methods of accessing information for the people of Toodyay. In fact, they certainly utilise the digital method, and when they request a hard copy, the library is mainly purchasing those books. There are still some interlibrary loans; in other words, some copies of books are posted through Australia Post, with the average number sent to Toodyay library being about 42 a month. There is no decline in the public's usage of Toodyay library; in fact, it has very robust numbers. I wanted to reassure the Leader of the Opposition that the modernisation of the system has by no means seen a decline in services. We want to continue to ensure that no matter where a person might live in Western Australia, they will continue to have access to high quality library resources.

Turning to the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023, the second reading debate has given all members an opportunity to put on record their strong support and admiration for those who are involved in the delivery of library services throughout the state. Whenever I go to a community, I try to visit the local library to acknowledge the work of the staff. A number of members have highlighted that local libraries have adapted to changes in the community and society more broadly. Libraries are not only very much the repositories of hardcopy books, but also they are in the digital space. A lot of information is available digitally. We are very aware that people of all ages have preferences. I will never read an ebook; I like to read from a hardcopy book. Ebooks are not my thing but, for others, they are a great innovation. This Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023 respects the adaptations and changes that have occurred in society to ensure that one of the key roles of the State Library is as a collector and archiver of information that is created and produced. The bill will allow us to do that in an efficient way, particularly for digital and other technological advances that may take place in the future.

That is essentially what the bill will do. As members know, our State Library is the custodian of a remarkable collection of all sorts of materials. It has done a lot of work in the Noongar language area, for example. There is a wonderful unit at the State Library that I know many, many Noongar people have utilised to reconnect with and, indeed, research their own family history and the history of their Noongar heritage.

It is really important that we continue to support the State Library in its role in a newly enhanced Perth Cultural Centre Precinct. As members will be aware, the government is spending some \$35 million to upgrade the Cultural Centre Precinct, which will allow our major cultural institutions—the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip, the State Library and other entities within the Cultural Centre—to be better connected. There are great days to come for the State Library.

It is really important that we continue to collect film, maps, music and oral histories. I do not know whether members have utilised this, but it comes up and is shared quite regularly: the State Library's regular social media uploads about various aspects of Western Australian lifestyle and heritage. Quite often it will feature a town or regional city in Western Australia, or a particular event that might have occurred decades ago, reliving and re-sharing experiences of an historical nature. That is really important, because in time to come we will look to collection agencies like our State Library to remind us of things that have occurred in our history. A good example this year was the fortieth anniversary of the America's Cup win in 1983. When we look at the media footage and newspaper articles, we see that most of the capturing of that significant event—an event that I consider to be the most significant team sporting achievement in Australian history to this point—was through traditional methods: newspaper articles, journal articles and television, but even the television footage is very much inferior to the technology of today. However, it is those means and mechanisms that capture moments in history, and in years to come there will be reflection back on the last few years that we have experienced, in this state and around the world, with regard to the COVID situation. I know the State Library ensured that all sorts of materials were collected relating to that very strange and challenging period in Western Australian history.

The State Library's collection of information on early Aboriginal history is remarkable and continues to build. It also holds materials on early colonial life; the development of cities; the development of the railway systems in WA; the development of major public infrastructure, like our water pipeline to the goldfields; and the social phenomena and world events that affected Western Australians, including conflicts such as World War I and World War II, the Vietnam War, the Korean War and other conflicts. These are all part of the history of this great state, the living history and the memories of so many Western Australians who have made a contribution to the state's story in the way that they played out of their own individual stories.

Although this legislation may seem fairly straightforward, it is really important. It means that we will be able to continue, with authority, to collect the materials, digital or otherwise, that will continue to reflect on the enduring history of Western Australia. I thank all members for their contributions. I understand that we will not be going into consideration in detail, so I will seek to proceed forthwith to the third reading. Again, I thank all members very much for their support of the passing of the Legal Deposit Amendment Bill 2023 and I commend it to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

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

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AMENDMENT (PROTECTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ANIMALS) BILL 2023

Second Reading

Resumed from 29 November.

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands) [3.26 pm]: I would like to pick up on the second half of my speech; I started yesterday. This is the Criminal Investigation Amendment (Protection of Law Enforcement Animals) Bill 2023. I congratulated the Minister for Police for getting this bill to the house. It is a small but important development in animal welfare for this state. I also reflected on the fact that a number of mentions of the Animal Welfare Act 2002 are contained within this bill. I draw the house's attention to where the review of the Animal Welfare Act is up to at the moment, and what we are looking forward to debating early next year, I hope.

The government response to the review that was conducted quite a number of years ago contains the following background —

Animals are living beings and science tells us that they experience some of the same feelings that humans do. Western Australians care about the treatment of animals and are calling for a modern animal welfare law to protect and promote their welfare.

We are looking at drafting a modern animal welfare act that reflects science-based concepts and appropriate relevance to animal welfare.

How does that play out in the recommendations that the government is supporting? I will run through a few of them, because they interact with the bill we are discussing today. Firstly, there is a recommendation—which the

government has supported—around recognising that we have a duty of care obligation and that it should be an offence to breach that duty of care obligation. Something that makes me think about the meaning of this is the recent decision to not proceed with the live export case against Emanuel Exports. One of the reasons cited for not continuing with that case was that it was not possible to prove whether the sheep actually died in Australian waters or international waters. My thinking is that we should have a duty of care to the animals, and I am sure that farmers in this country would think the same thing. I know that once they relinquish their ownership of the animals to the exporter—in this case, Emanuel Exports—they probably feel that their duty of care has been met, but I am sure many of them are aching over the vision they saw of what happened to their animals when they put them on that ship.

Animals are living beings, and the act needs to be amended to expressly recognise that animals can perceive, feel and have positive and negative experiences. Along with that, we need a proper definition of animal welfare that expressly recognises that good animal welfare requires a satisfaction of not just the animal's physiological and behavioural needs, but also its general wellbeing. It is not just about whether it is fed and watered, but also about whether it has a life worth living, and the provision of positive experiences is part of that. The definition should be amended to include all this.

The panel recommended, and the government supported, amending section 5(1) and the definition of “harm”, paragraph (c), in the Animal Welfare Act to take account of the fact that an animal may be experiencing distress before its observable physiological or behavioural reactions to such distress become severe. Again, I am thinking of cases in which animals, dogs in particular, in the security industry have been found locked in small tin sheds when the external temperature has risen to 40 degrees. I have been told that it has been impossible to pursue action because a dog was given water. That is not an acceptable way of looking after an animal in the modern country that we live in, and in my view, it is certainly not something that the public would support.

The creation of indictable offences is a particular point that I want to raise. It is fully supported by the Cook Labor government. The recommendation stated —

... the Animal Welfare Act 2002 be amended to include indictable aggravated cruelty offences for acts of cruelty that:

- (a) If committed by an individual, are committed intentionally and which do in fact result in, or which are capable of resulting in, serious harm to, or death of, the animal.
- (b) If —

Those acts of cruelty are —

committed by a corporation, are committed intentionally or recklessly and which do in fact result in, or which are capable of resulting in, serious harm to, or death of, the animal.

- (c) Impact adversely upon a large number of animals, even where the resultant harm to each individual animal may not be individually described as ‘serious harm’.

Aggravated or indictable offences for aggregated cruelty are something the sector has been calling on for quite some time.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms L.L. BAKER: I would now like to move on to another clause, which is permanent prohibition orders. I mentioned yesterday that the state of affairs at the moment under our existing Animal Welfare Act, which is, of course, 21 years old, is that someone cannot be banned entirely from having animals, so we constantly see offences and cruelty against animals being repeated by people who have been convicted.

The community has been waiting patiently for about sixteen years to see all these issues come through in an updated, modern Animal Welfare Act. The many thousands of Western Australians who stand alongside me, many members of this house—in fact, probably all members of this house—and I look forward to seeing the animal welfare amendment bill come into this Parliament as early as humanly possible. I stress the word “humanly” because it is not we who will suffer; it is the millions of animals. My heart goes out to the sheep that are currently being loaded to be transported to the Middle East in December on Emanuel Exports' live export ships, because I am well aware that even the vet reports and scientific experts are on board. During the new transitional arrangements that have been put in place, which some people claim have worked, the mortality rate on live export ships is relatively unaffected, even though amendments and what the industry claims are improvements have been made. Those animals will suffer, and many will die. The heat on board those ships is unbearable. We have seen video footage of that. Do not think for one moment that it will not happen again. It will.

One of the other issues that I should mention about both the animal welfare amendment bill and this bill is the need to improve the way we treat animals. I do not think it is necessary for me to say too much more about that, but I was amazed this morning when my research officer sent me a story from the *Broome Advertiser* dated 30 November 2023, which is today. The news story is about Yeeda, a pastoral company, facing a Department of Water and Environmental Regulation probe.

It states —

The pastoral company that owns northern WA's only major abattoir has been accused of negligence leading to the deaths of more than 400 cattle ...

Yeeda Pastoral Company is at the centre of the shock allegations, which have prompted an investigation by WA's environmental regulator.

I was particularly horrified about this. It should not really have surprised me. I do not know why I sound horrified. This is not the first time that we have seen this pastoral company in the news for animal cruelty. I go back five years to 2019, when ABC news in the Kimberley reported "Major Kimberley pastoral company investigating animal cruelty allegations aired on Israeli television". It was not shown on Australian television until after the Israelis broke the story. The article states —

- The WA Department of Primary Industries is investigating after an Israeli national news program aired footage depicting animal cruelty on four Kimberley cattle stations
- The footage, shot by activist group Sentient, depicted cattle being hit in the face by workers, dehorned without painkillers, and shot multiple times without being killed
- Yeeda Pastoral Company has condemned the acts of cruelty carried out on its lease and has appointed independent investigators to identify the culprits

They might have identified the culprits five years ago, but clearly things are still grim. It does not appear that much has changed. A really interesting point came to light when I was comparing the two reports. I am only going on newspaper reports, by the way; I have no external research or supporting evidence, but I cite these two newspaper articles: one from ABC news and the other from today's *Broome Advertiser*. The Broome-based vet Dave Morrell, who said he has been in the Kimberley for 42 years, mostly involved in the cattle industry, also decried the cruelty that he saw. Five years ago, he said that the footage brought certain issues to light and he welcomed the footage that was shown to try to get the industry to smarten up. I refer to Dr Morrell's comments because, interestingly, in today's story about cruelty, Dr Morrell was cited again as having worked with Kimberley cattle for decades. He said that it was a common practice to process scrub bulls as quickly as possible as the stress and injuries associated with yarding those animals for long periods could be fatal. He went on to say —

... the "continuous stress" of being packed together in a yard could also lead to secondary diseases including pneumonia, among other health issues.

Remember that we were talking about respiratory infections like pneumonia being a direct result of cattle being yarded or feedlotted the way these cattle are. I want to take members back five years ago, when it appears that the same thing was happening. Station manager and Kimberley cattle producer at the time, Jack Burton—by the way, he is no longer involved in the Yeeda Pastoral Company; I just point that out—said that it was disappointing to see that this type of footage is carefully crafted to make them all look like barbarians. He then went on to say —

"We were in the middle of a disease outbreak at the feed yard where our animal losses were very high.

"We had several visits by ... vets and it was deemed that we had a ... Bovine Respiratory Disease ... outbreak."

Why did Dr Morrell say that we get bovine disease outbreaks? Basically, it is because animals are put in unsustainable conditions. It seems pretty clear to me that the welfare of animals is still not taken seriously in many places in this country.

I refer members once again to the urgent need to see the animal welfare amendment bill presented to this house and passed into legislation. This level of abuse will simply not be accepted by the public any longer. If farmers want to improve their reputation and get through the reputational risk that they are all exposed to at the moment, they will want this to happen as well. We pulled the animal welfare groups together, including those involved in live export, about a year ago, and they wholeheartedly agreed. In fact, they signed a letter to the Premier asking for the animal welfare amendment bill to be prioritised by this government. Along with my colleagues in this house, I am looking forward to the new year when we will see an amendment bill come into this place to improve conditions for animals, in the same fashion that we have seen the Minister for Police bring in an animal welfare bill to address the welfare of police animals.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [3.40 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the second reading debate on this very important bill.

Mr R.H. Cook: Are you sure about that?

Ms C.M. ROWE: I really am. I will hopefully make a very short contribution on the Criminal Investigation Amendment (Protection of Law Enforcement Animals) Bill 2023. This is a fantastic bill that will enable the trained dogs and horses of the Western Australia Police Force to be protected by law. The bill will ensure that the very well trained and excellent animals that are used to keep our community safe will be protected by law, so that when

people are violent towards these animals and injure them, they will face criminal prosecution. I put on the record my support for this very important bill. I acknowledge that it is always important to support any bill that enshrines the protection of animals in our community. I reiterate my support for everything the member for Maylands put on the record today. She always does a huge amount of work, both publicly and privately, to ensure that animal welfare is promoted in our community.

On that note, it is the last sitting day. I would like to conclude my comments so that we can hear the wonderful adjournment speeches. I acknowledge the great work of the Minister for Police in bringing this really important bill to the house and thank him and all his staff for their great work.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.

VISITORS — NATASHA PUTLAND AND APRIL LITTERICK

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [3.43 pm]: I would like to acknowledge a couple of people in the public gallery—the returning officer for Collie–Preston, Natasha Putland, on behalf of the member for Collie–Preston; and Department of Fire and Emergency Services station officer April Litterick. Welcome to Parliament today.

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Consideration

Resumed from 15 August on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [3.44 pm] — without notice: I move —

That the house at its rising adjourn until a date and time to be fixed by the Speaker.

Today, we bid farewell to another eventful year—the third year of the forty-first Parliament. I am very pleased to reflect on the triumphs, challenges and experiences of 2023. In moving the motion, just so members are aware, the reason I have not put a date on our return is that we might have a vote with regard to a vacancy in the Senate. That is why a date has not been highlighted in the motion.

In speaking to the motion, as I said, I am very pleased to make some reflective comments on the 2023 year and, indeed, the third year of the forty-first Parliament. As we know, a range of issues and natural disasters have affected people around the world, causing much sadness and devastation. We have also had anguish in our state because of cyclones, bushfires and other emergencies that have impacted communities throughout Western Australia. In reflecting on those events, it is also important that we are reminded of the robustness and strength of the population of this magnificent state. The communities of Western Australia always demonstrate their capacity to rally together. We saw that recently with the bushfires in the northern part of the metropolitan area and also in other places throughout the state. We also see the remarkable compassion and unwavering generosity of Western Australians. I reflect on the record amount, for example, raised by Telethon this year—a record \$77.5 million. As we move towards Christmas and into the new year, I acknowledge our first responders throughout the state for the work that they do for the people of Western Australia. They respond remarkably when required, when emergencies befall communities.

This year, the green and gold was waved very strongly throughout the state of Western Australia. We saw the green and gold in our stadium and across other venues in Perth when the FIFA Women's World Cup came to Perth as a host city. The efforts of the Matildas and all visiting teams were quite remarkable. That competition highlighted for all people the importance of sport to the Western Australian lifestyle and has seen numerous girls and young women take up sport in record numbers, including in AFL and other sporting codes.

On 29 May this year, the then Premier of Western Australia and member for Rockingham, Hon Mark McGowan, announced his resignation and retirement from politics and left this place. We were very proud and pleased to welcome the new member for Rockingham, who was elected in Hon Mark McGowan's place and will carry on the great legacy that he left his community. I acknowledge the legacy of the former Premier.

Today, just prior to question time, we had the announcement from my good friend and colleague the member for Cannington, Minister Bill Johnston, of his retirement from the Cook ministry. We acknowledge the service of Minister Johnston to the people of Western Australia both as a minister and in his representative role as the member for Cannington.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: All of the events of 2023 have made for a unique year's work for the house and a rollercoaster of progress, setbacks and remarkable achievements. The first day of Parliament this year was Tuesday, 14 February—Valentine's Day. Today marks the sixtieth sitting day of the year, which included three days of budget sittings. That equates to 19 regular sitting weeks plus one week of budget estimates. During 2023, 45 government bills have been introduced into the house and 37 of those bills have passed. A number of those bills were particularly significant and will play an important role in the lives of Western Australians. We have enhanced community safety with legislative reforms to disrupt the supply of illicit drugs into Western Australia and to target serious and organised crime. The Local Government Amendment Act 2023 was passed to improve the transparency, accountability and efficiency of local governments across the state. We passed tougher casino laws to enhance accountability and transparency at the state's only casino, and legislated to improve the governance of government trading enterprises. Abortion care is a critical component of women's health care, and that is why we modernised our state's abortion laws to make safety, privacy and dignity an absolute right. We overhauled the workers compensation legislation and our ever busy—extremely busy—Attorney General delivered on our commitment to reform WA's mentally impaired accused laws. The Attorney General's portfolios also saw significant reform to the Electoral Act with the Electoral Amendment Bill 2023, which of course will strengthen disclosure requirements for political donations and introduce caps on campaign expenditure.

Statistically, this year, around 289 questions on notice have been asked, and more than 327 questions without notice have been asked and answered, to varying degrees. There have been 18 matters of public notice debated and 378 brief ministerial statements. I am not sure who topped that this year. I think it may have been me; I do not know. That is one statistic I do not have. There have been 18 committee reports tabled this year—including about a hundred today!—and 827 papers have been tabled. Of course, that highlights the work of the Legislative Assembly.

Speaker, I acknowledge you and the tremendous stewardship of this house for which you are now renowned. You have never rejected anybody from the chamber so far in this term.

The SPEAKER: I am trying!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Despite some members testing your mettle!

Mr R.H. Cook: I think the member for Cannington will push it next year!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The way you deal with that is with firmness but fairness, as a Speaker should.

The SPEAKER: I do remember what the member for Cannington was like as a backbencher!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes! I also want to acknowledge your reforms, which I think all of us enjoy, including the sitting time changes. You have modernised the sitting times in the Parliament, and we will continue those timings next year. As arts minister, I also acknowledge the bringing of artworks from outside in the community into the Parliament, which I think has been a tremendous achievement, and indeed very good for those both working in the building and visiting.

I commend and thank the Deputy Speaker, of course, the member for Forrestfield, and also the Acting Speakers, the members for Kalgoorlie, Carine, Dawesville, Landsdale, Cockburn and Albany. I thank the Clerk and your marvellous staff. Thank you to Kirsten and Scott Nalder, Liz Kerr, Isla Macphail, Thomas Moorhead, Rachel Wells, Denis Hippolyte, Lachlan Gregory, Lisa Bellano, Nikolas Carbone, Darren Seet, Marie Martin, Jesceline Requero—I apologise if I have got that wrong; is that pretty good? Okay—Anne Day and Molly Rogers-Thomson. On my Facebook feed the other day, the infamous final sitting day of 2016 came up, when I was opposition Whip, when I closed the Parliament early. Some members might remember that, those of us who were around.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes, the red fox escaped! I also thank the committee staff, who have worked so tirelessly to produce the reports that I referred to a moment ago. Thanks are also most definitely due to the government Whip—a wonderful, wonderful member, who is behind me. I thank you Cassie, member for Belmont, for your wonderful stewardship and work as government Whip, ably assisted by your deputy Whip, the member for Joondalup. There have been a few acting Whips when I have been at an arts or sporting event. I also thank your assistant, Jason Timms, for the work he has done.

I thank the member for Roe, my sparring partner. I thank the manager of opposition business, Mr Peter Rundle, for the good working relationship we have—we do. I also thank the opposition Whips, the members for Central Wheatbelt and North West Central. Thank you for your roles as opposition Whips. I thank the Leader of the Liberal Party, as well.

We acknowledge and thank the Parliamentary Services team. They are headed by Rob Hunter, as we know, and his deputy, Patricia Traegde. The team includes Security and Reception Services, led by Tony Paterson and Stephanie Nguyen. I thank David Boag and all the gardeners; our cleaners; our Building Services team, headed by Hugh McCaffrey; and the welcoming reception team, as well. We also acknowledge the tremendous work of the Hansard reporters, Adrian Beattie and the remarkable team from Hansard, who record our utterances in this place.

Mr R.H. Cook: They make us sound meticulous.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I acknowledge the Parliamentary Education Office staff. Again, I think we all are very appreciative of the remarkable work they do. I thank Belinda Corey, Jordy Leavesley, Cherie Toovey, Ben Machowiak, Jacinta Spry, David Cox and Tina Beale. Wherever you are, thank you for the wonderful role that you play in educating and highlighting the role of democracy and the role of this place in our democracy to schoolchildren and visitors to our Parliament. I know that all the education team are very highly regarded.

Gratitude is also extended to Angelo Giaros and the IT team, Elma Ozich, Rachel Germano and the Finance team, Tina Hunter and the Human Resources team, Judy Ballantyne and the Library team, and Dave Embry and the audiovisual crew down there in the bowels of Parliament, a nice hello to you. Marvellous!

Mr J.N. Carey: Hello, Clarice!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes, “Hello, Clarice!” Yes!

The SPEAKER: He is getting your best side!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It is him! Ever since he sat next to me, things have changed.

Gratitude also goes to Enno Schijf, Mark Gabrielli and the wonderful staff in the lounges and the dining room, and they are wonderful. A number of them have been there for a long time and they do a fantastic job, so thank you to all those people in the dining and other services in the Parliament. I thank Kate Colleran, Julie Knight, Peter Kennon and Janice Shaw from the Parliamentary and Executive Government Services team. Thank you so much to all the staff, no matter what role you play. We are very thankful and very grateful for the role that you play and the support you give to all members, their families and guests to this place.

I am almost at the end. I also thank the staff in the Premier’s office for your wonderful support. I sincerely thank those in the Premier’s office because their role is very, very important.

I also acknowledge, on behalf of all of us, our magnificent electorate staff. I know we are all so appreciative of the work that our electorate staff do. To them and their families, we thank you very much for the tremendous work. In my case, I really want to thank Larissa, Shelley, Matt and Fran, who has been with me since I started in this place in 2001. She is a pensioner now, but she is still there with me. Thank you, Fran; I love you. I also acknowledge my ministerial staff, some of whom are here today. I thank and acknowledge Gary Hamley, who was my chief of staff for my first five years as minister. He retired from the public service after 50-plus years in the public service.

I want to acknowledge Gary for his contribution. He served ministers from both sides of the political fence, and I acknowledge the work of Gary. I thank my own ministerial staff, of course, and my wonderful parliamentary secretary, Samantha Rowe, and all parliamentary secretaries who support ministers. I thank Tarnya Widdicombe, who is here; Rebecca Neilson; Kym Coolhaas; Melissa Kelly; Megan MacLean; Caroline O’Neill; Danielle McKenzie; Bronte McCarthy; Demi-May Renfree—amazing appointments secretary; how she does it, I do not know—Greta Yapp; Heloise Bayao; and Amy Owen, who is on maternity leave and enjoying the birth of her second child.

That is the year. What we have done is have an interesting year. Some exciting things happened. People asked me, “What are you going to sing? What are you going to sing?” I have a little song. It is only short. This year I thought: what was the sort of thing that stuck out that attracted a bit of attention? It could have been the former Premier retiring. It could have been various things happening, but I channelled the Bee Gees for this one. Anyone born after 1980 would not know who they were. They had great attachments to Australia.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: But we just do not laugh; yes. Here we go. Then, of course, there was that great event at Optus Stadium only recently, which sort of finishes this. My voice is a bit croaky today so I will just try.

Mr J.N. Carey: Clarice!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I could have done that as Clarice. Here it is —

There’s a light.
It’s not another bloody traffic light.
We’re going to Ellenbrook today.
But soon there’ll be no more traffic pain,
‘Cause now we are building a train.
Rita is building them a train.

But there’s no way,
That I will get tickets to Coldplay.
I’m on my phone in the queue.
I’m customer 96 002.
And I’m still in the queue.
And I’m still in the queue.

And in my brain,
 This ticket system is insane.
 I just can't seem to progress and
 I'm in a state of distress.
 I'm in distress.
 I'm in distress.

I'm a fan.
 Can't you see what I am?
 I live and breathe for you.
 But what good does it do,
 If I can't see you?
 If I can't see you?

I tell you, you don't know what it's like,
 I tell you, you don't know what it's like,
 To buy a ticket,
 To score a ticket,
 A ticket to Coldplay.

The operator talked to me with some doubt
 She said in all likelihood tickets, they will sell out.
 Now for once in your life you're not alone.
 And my blood then ran cold.
 All the tickets were sold,

So I never got a ticket to you.
 Coldplay, Coldplay.
 Fourteen hours on the phone makes me spew.
 Coldplay, Coldplay.

Then it finishes with this —

Coldplay came to Perth
 Other states weren't chuffed,
 But we don't care.
 They can all get stuffed.
 The Matildas came too with our Sam Kerr.
 Our state of pride!

So, we've been through a year,
 Many highs, no regrets.
 But we live in a state that's as good as it gets.
 There is no other place that we'd all call home.
 The west is best.

Merry Christmas to you.
 Merry Christmas to you.
 Merry Christmas, Speaker, to you.

Merry Christmas, everybody.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: I see, member for Roe, the member for Moore has left you to speak after the hard act to follow.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.22 pm]: Absolutely right. Thanks, Madam Speaker. As you pointed out, the Leader of the House is definitely, as always, a hard act to follow. Well done again. People look forward to his contribution every year without doubt.

As the Leader of the House said, it is the finalisation of the third year of our forty-first Parliament. I want to acknowledge what the Leader of the House spoke about and the optimism of the green and gold in a year of turmoil around the world. I think it makes all of us appreciate living in WA. The Leader of the House said I was his sparring partner, but I think we generally get on pretty well. We have the occasional run-in, I suppose we could call it, but we make it work and I appreciate our relationship as far as making the chamber work and things running through the years. I think in general terms, it goes very well and I appreciate the work that Leader of the House does.

I also want to acknowledge the government Whip, the member for Belmont, and the work that she does in making the chamber run and making sure that everyone is here ready to speak on time.

Madam Speaker, I acknowledge your role. As the Leader of the House mentioned, you have not moved anyone on at this stage. In fact, I cannot even recall whether some people have been warned that often either, so you have done pretty well to contain yourself. I have heard a rumour that you might need the stopwatch next year given the copious answers that we receive from some of our government members.

Ms L. Mettam: They're not real answers.

The SPEAKER: Christmas spirit.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Nonetheless, it is good you handle question time the way that you do and we all appreciate it. Then, of course, there are examples like this morning, when you get called Acting Speaker and the like, but you take that on the chin. That leads me to the Deputy Speaker who also does a great job. We appreciate the working relationship that we have with him. I also want to mention Bec Neilson, who from my perspective makes the chamber run very well behind the scenes. Well done to Bec and her team.

Certainly, as the Leader of the House mentioned, I acknowledge our Acting Speakers, during the year: the member for Kalgoorlie, the member for Carine, the member for Dawesville, the member for Landsdale, the member for Cockburn and the member for Albany. Of course, the member for Hillarys was in action earlier in the year as well. Thank you to all those members who put in that extra effort to be our Acting Speakers.

I thank our Assembly staff led by Kirsten Robinson. The team does fantastic work to make things happen for us here. I thank Deputy Clerk Scott Nalder; Clerk Assistant Liz Kerr; Clerk Assistant Isla McPhail; and Sergeant-at-Arms Thomas Moorhead, with his authoritative way that he starts each session to make sure that we are up and about. I also thank the Assembly staff who are here day and night, and we really appreciate their work: Lachlan Gregory, Rachel Wells, Denis Hippolyte, Nikolas Carbone, Marie Martin, Lisa Bellano, Darren Seet and Jesceline Requero. We appreciate the behind-the-scenes work that they do.

As the Leader of the House explained, we have many facets of staff at Parliament House, and we have 210 in total. We have 15 Assembly committee staff, who provide great support to our many committees throughout the year; 11 building services staff; 37 catering services staff, who do a great job; and six education office staff. It is great when some of our school students come a long way and our education staff help them out and handle those students. We also have nine finance staff, five human resources staff, 13 IT staff, 10 library staff, 34 Hansard staff and 14 security staff. They all play a great role. I do not want to mention too many names, but I want to mention Rob Hunter, who I think is the glue that holds it all together. I want to acknowledge the job that Rob does for all of us. I think we have all come across him in one way or another, and he is certainly keeping it together at Parliament House.

On the retirements and additions, I want to acknowledge former Premier Hon Mark McGowan, the former member for Rockingham, and the role that he played for our state. I think most of us were as shocked as each other when he departed the scene, but I certainly want to acknowledge him from the opposition's perspective. He was a long-serving member and obviously served through difficult times over the last few years.

I also acknowledge the new member for Rockingham, Magenta Marshall. She has brought the total composition of the house to fifty-fifty male and female for the first time. For anyone who has not seen it, there is a great photo in the corridor outside the Speaker's gallery of all our female members in the Legislative Assembly chamber. I think that is a great milestone.

I also acknowledge Minister Johnston, who I think has departed with his family for the moment. I acknowledge the role that he has played as a cabinet minister in our government. He has certainly had many roles and he has a lot of knowledge. I will miss his contributions. He will probably miss the member for Moore talking about the power in Mullewa or Morawa or somewhere and of course me talking about the power in Ravensthorpe. His one phrase that I will not miss is "You don't understand." That is always the fallback position. I am sure that, as he pointed out, he will make many great contributions from the back bench, so I say well done to the Minister for Energy on his contribution.

I acknowledge the changes over the year and of course welcome our new Premier. Congratulations, Premier, on your new role and well done to you for stepping in. I am sure you will not miss my questions on live export or whatever it might be over the summer period. Congratulations to you on your appointment. Congratulations to the new Deputy Premier and Treasurer, with her large role, and also our new minister, Hon David Michael.

Of course, we have had many changes in all parties. I would like to congratulate our new Leader of the Opposition this year, Shane Love, the member for Moore, and thank him for his leadership of our team. I can assure members that he is a hard worker and does a great job not only representing his electorate, but leading the Nationals WA and the opposition, so well done to the member for Moore.

I also thank the former Leader of the Opposition, the member for Central Wheatbelt, who has now been appointed as Whip. Of course, she has covered nearly every role in this Parliament, having been a member of the Legislative Council, Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the Nationals WA and so on. She has certainly done well and I would like to acknowledge her role.

I also acknowledge another change of course—the Leader of the Liberal Party. I am sure that the Minister for Health will not mind the summer break coming up. Congratulations to the member for Vasse for her role in the leadership of the Liberal Party and also to the former leader, the member for Cottesloe, for the work he did in his role after the 2021 election. I also acknowledge the Whip for the year, the member for North West Central.

Obviously, it is great to see our new crop of leaders in local government in our communities, so this summer break will be an opportunity for many of us to get back to our electorates and catch up with our local government leaders.

I also thank the opposition staff: the staff of the Leader of the Opposition, led by the chief of staff, Heather York; and the executive officer of the Parliamentary Nationals WA, Lisa Logan. I would like to thank my electorate officers, Sally Haslam, Natalie Nicholson, Jill Fitzpatrick and Dorothy Henderson. I thank them for the work they have done over the year in supporting me. As the Leader of the House said, I do not think any of us in this Parliament underestimate the amount of work that our staff do in supporting us in our various roles.

In closing, I hope that all members enjoy their time back in their electorates with their families over the break and make sure that they are safe on the roads. I hope that everyone has their fire plan ready. Let us hope that we do not need to use our fire plans, but we all acknowledge the events of the last week or two. We acknowledge our volunteer staff, who do a great job protecting our communities right around the state, as they well and truly did in the Wanneroo area over the last couple of weeks.

I want to thank my wife, Andrea, for her support and our two sons, James and Sam, for their support. As we all know, this job takes a toll on our families, and we all really appreciate the support we get from our family members.

As all members set out to go to their school graduations, I hope they travel safely. I have 51 schools in my electorate, and of course I will be unable to get to all the graduations —

Several members interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: — but I will do my best! As always, I like to remind the member for Mount Lawley that my electorate is 5 912 times the size of the Mount Lawley electorate. Nonetheless, I am sure that every member in this chamber very much supports all their schools, so get out there and get to as many graduations as you can.

To all the members in this house, whether travelling many miles in the regions or in the metropolitan area, be safe. It is a great privilege to be a member of the Legislative Assembly and I very much look forward to being back here in February next year. I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas and new year.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Premier) [4.19 pm]: This is an important opportunity for us to reflect on the year, the year in which, once again, we have the very rare privilege of being in this place. I first of all start off by thanking the Leader of the House and the manager of opposition business who have done a great job in capturing the spirit of 2023. I have never understood why we spend so much time debating, for want of a better description, the adjournment motion when we know that just outside that door over there the press gallery is waiting to host us in drinks. I will keep my comments fairly short this year, and I beseech the member for Vasse and the member for Moore that all three of us could perhaps do much the same.

Mr R.S. Love: I am going to take a half-hour!

Mr R.H. COOK: We know that 2023 has been a year of extraordinary transition. Once again, we see the Western Australian economy and community adapting to life after the pandemic. As we welcome tourists and workers back to Western Australia, we see our economy continue to grow and transition to our renewable energy future. We should really take the opportunity to remind ourselves of how fortunate we are to live in this state. It is an extraordinary part of the world. I do not think a day goes by when I do not marvel at the privilege we have. But not everyone has that, so let us also take the opportunity to remind ourselves that just in 2023 there have been some really tough events such as the Fitzroy River floods, the recent bushfires in east Wanneroo and other events that have impacted people's lives. Let us continue to apply ourselves to creating an inclusive society and one in which we recognise that not everyone has the economic prosperity to which we all aspire and that we have the opportunity to reach back and bring them with us. There is no more important role for a member of Parliament in this place than to understand what is happening in our communities and to reflect it not only in our thoughts but our deeds.

We continue to be privileged to serve in this place, and this year we have seen quite a few changes. At the start of the year we saw a new Leader of the Opposition and a new Leader of the Liberal Party. Then, just a short time later, we saw a new Premier. This has been a period of some change. Ultimately, we see the passage of time as we look back on 2023, and once again reflect on the extraordinary service of the member for Cannington to the Western Australian public and acknowledge him. I also place on the record my admiration and thanks to the former member for Rockingham and the work he did both in this place and his public life, and I wish all the very best to him, Sarah and his family. I welcome with great delight the new member for Rockingham. I am sure she will do an amazing job in this place.

As the Leader of the House said, the Assembly has passed 35 bills this year, and I think it is important to reflect on the work of the chamber. The bills have included completely modernising completely outdated mentally impaired

accused laws, new requirements to transfer adults out of juvenile detention when they turn 18, the expansion and strengthening of the banned drinkers register and greatly expanded and increased transparency and accountability of political donations. We have removed abortion from the Criminal Code, reduced red tape to allow for the construction of more homes, and applied drug and alcohol testing for boat skippers, matching road laws.

We have also introduced some important bills, which will be debated next year. One bill will provide more rights for renters, including allowing them to have pets, limiting the frequency of rent increases and prohibiting rental bidding. Another bill will formalise the government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. Importantly, there will be a bill to increase penalties for the removal of GPS monitoring devices and further laws will expand the tracking of family and domestic violence offenders. We will also see laws in place to facilitate utilisation and storage of carbon dioxide and other important bills.

The government has had a range of achievements this year, and these achievements are examples of what my government stands for. But we are delivering so much more. In particular, I am proud of our cost-of-living relief for households, including rent relief, electricity credits, and capping public transport fares and regional airfares. In particular, I again thank the Minister for Energy for his work on electricity credits. There has been sensible management of the economy and the state's finances. We continue to diversify our economy and transform WA to be a renewable energy powerhouse. We are investing in roads and schools, making them the nation's best. We are building Metronet with local workers and manufacturing in Western Australia. We are strengthening our health system, delivering thousands of additional nurses and medical staff and hundreds of new beds, and we are delivering on the new women's and babies' hospital now. Importantly, we will always fight for Western Australia. We have protected our fair share of the GST and investment in WA, and we will do it again.

None of this would be possible without the work of our strong Labor caucus and cabinet. All ministers have worked incredibly hard to make a real difference to Western Australia. All Labor caucus members are dedicated to supporting their local communities. I thank the Leader of the House, Hon David Templeman, and the formidable Rebecca Nielson in his office. I also acknowledge the manager of opposition business in this place. We try desperately to create dignity in this place.

[Interruption.]

Mr R.H. COOK: But there is nothing less dignified than someone's mobile phone accidentally going off! On behalf of the member for Landsdale, I would like to point out that it was not her on this occasion! I will not draw attention to the fact that it was the member for Fremantle on this occasion!

I thank the government Whip, the member for Belmont, and her Whip assistant Jason Timms, and also the opposition Whip. I thank executive government services from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Kate Colleran and Julie Knight. I thank my ministerial staff and my electorate office staff who do a great job representing me both in government and in the community. I particularly want to thank my wife, Carly, and my family. They have had to adapt this year and they continue to provide me with extraordinary love and support.

I thank Geoff Lawn and Parliamentary Counsel's Office.

I thank parliamentary staff, particularly the Assembly clerks, and Kirsten Robinson in particular, and also security, reception staff, chefs, catering staff, the gardeners and everyone who makes Parliament operate. We see on the faces of not only young schoolkids when they come into this place but also those who are not frequent visitors to the Parliament that this place matters—not only for what we do here, but also for the way we conduct ourselves and the authority and respect of this place. People feel that the moment they step on the grounds, whether they are walking through the gardens or the security arrangements, whether they are accompanied by the guides or dealing with administration staff and the people who make them feel welcome, whether they come here for a meal, an educational experience or meetings with government or other members of Parliament. It is important work, and we need to continue to remind ourselves of that. Because we are here all the time, we often take this stuff for granted and we often forget just how important and impressive it is.

I acknowledge the members of the opposition, in particular the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party. There is no tougher gig than opposition, but it is a very important part of our democracy, and we thank you for continuing to put us under pressure and holding us to account.

I also thank all ministers and members for their contributions to this place. Never forget, this is a very rare privilege we have and we must always cherish it.

To you, Madam Speaker, as well as your trusty deputy and, of course, all your acting speakers, thank you very much for the work that you do. I think the words of the Leader of the House were absolutely apt in the relation to the way you conduct the debates in this place with authority and dignity. You have our utmost respect for the way you do that work.

I place on the record of Parliament our thanks to everyone, all our great public sector workers, whether they are frontline or emergency workers or people doing important policy or administrative work in our departments. We

value greatly the work of our public sector workers. They are integral to not only the passage and production of laws in this place, but also the work of the government once Parliament has authorised us with a budget to go about and do good things in the community. We should always thank them for their great work.

Finally, I thank the Deputy Premier, who is on her way to a Treasurer's meeting, for her support. She is newly minted, like myself, and I greatly appreciate the work she has done. On a personal note I would also like to thank the ministerial drivers and the dignitary protection unit that every day provide us with incredible service and an opportunity to go about our work. As I said at the beginning of my speech, this is an incredible opportunity to reflect now not on just 2023, but on our time in this place and give thanks for the opportunity to do it and pause for a moment—just for a moment—and wish each other a very merry Christmas.

[Applause.]

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [4.31 pm]: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be giving about a half-hour speech and after that the crayfish will be available!

The SPEAKER: I might just point out that there is unlimited time!

Several members interjected.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Well there we go! I always wanted to be in the other place and have that privilege of being able to filibuster for hours on end, and now I have the opportunity, so thank you very much for that, Madam Speaker! Thank you also for the way you have conducted the order of business in this house and provided the environment in which we work. I begin by thanking also the leaders of the house—the manager of opposition business and the Leader of the House for their efforts in ensuring that everything goes well and that all the chaos that ensues around this place is hidden underneath the surface. It all seems very smooth but we know that it is not that easy. I will not thank all the other staff here because I have been instructed, have I not, that I am not to waste time and that they would rather there was no thanks and that the crayfish was available. I will not go through the 210 people who I intended to read out and thank so that they can get on and enjoy the festivities.

I thank the Premier for his kind words and for his actions in this place. I also acknowledge his former colleague and former member for Rockingham who had been in this house for almost as long as the Speaker herself and who made a very long contribution for the people of Western Australia. I congratulate the new Deputy Premier, who is not here. It is always very entertaining when she has yet another hat that she seems to have found somewhere on the street, or a picture that she has snapped, but the highlight is probably when she finally finds a horoscope that is particularly awful for me and repeats it to me. One of the idiosyncrasies of this place is that sometimes in debate a lot of fun can occur, even though one might be getting hammered at the same time—and hammered sometimes we are. There are only half a dozen people on this side. Each member on the other side should try sitting here for a day and they would then realise why they do not want to be on this side of the house, and why in 2025 we hope to be over on that side of the house and for them to be on this side of the house! We will be working right through the summer, plotting and scheming, to ensure that happens.

I echo everyone's thanks to all the departments in this Parliament that provide for us—those in the gardens, Security, the Parliamentary Education Office, the Parliamentary Library, the Parliamentary Services Department, the dining room, the chamber staff and also those who organise the wonderful art in the building, because that is something people comment on when they come here. For those on the art committee who organise different pieces of art, thank you very much. It makes it a pleasure to work in such a unique building and one that has a sense of importance. As the Premier said, it is important and it highlights that the work that is done here is important.

I thank all members of the opposition here and in the other place for their efforts. There are not a lot of people to cover the various portfolios. Sometimes we must prioritise the bigger issues that we want to concentrate on. It is a different way of business for the opposition than perhaps in other years. I would especially like to thank my deputy for his role not only in this place, but in the opposition and in the management of what goes on. He is also the most highly ranked member of the National Party ever to have held the position of party secretary. Not only is he the manager of opposition business, Deputy Leader of the Nationals WA and member for Roe, he is also secretary to the Parliamentary National Party, so he keeps the notes at the meetings. He is a very hardworking man.

To my hardworking electorate officers, Shelly, Kylie, who is on maternity leave, Ali, Isabelle and Michelle, who is on secondment, thank you for your work as well. Thank you to the staff in the Leader of the Opposition's office—Heather York and the whole crew. To the member for Cannington, who is not here, every year in the summer the lights go out in the midwest far too frequently and I direct all the inquiries to the Minister for Energy, Bill Johnston. I am going to have to find out who the new person is so I can redirect the inquiries to them. There will be plenty flooding in because it is a perennial problem throughout summer.

Best wishes to all the staff who work for the ministers. I thank them for providing us with briefings and providing the information we are chasing about various portfolios. It is very important to have ministerial staff that we can communicate with and get a bit of an idea about what is going on. Of course, I thank the members of cabinet who organise that for their efforts. To all members of the government who are not in the cabinet who would like to be

in cabinet, have a very merry Christmas and spend your time thinking about how you can get into the ranks of power. There are a few there who look as though they might not be there for much longer—they are looking to retire—so you never know when the opportunity might arise! There is one person I want to mention in particular: I am going to make sure that tonight I get a selfie with Yaz Mubarakai. This man has had more photographs taken than anybody else in Western Australia. He could be a professional model. I have not seen a person have so many selfies taken, and I will be sure to have one tonight with Yaz.

If I have missed thanking anybody, I am sorry, but I wish everybody in the house and in Parliament a very happy, safe Christmas break. Enjoy the opportunity to get back into the electorates and enjoy the opportunity to spend some time with family. I wish you all the very best and I hope to see everybody back here in 2024.

[Applause.]

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party) [4.38 pm]: Madam Speaker, I appreciate that I am perhaps the last speaker and what is between yourself and crayfish, so I will be brief. As we approach the end of another year I would like to extend warm wishes to everybody in this place. As the manager of opposition business, the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have already stated, it is the parliamentary staff who keep this Parliament running. It is often easy to forget that this Parliament is the very heart of our democracy and that the critical work being done here is essential to the functioning of the government. Despite many robust debates, it is clear that each and every one of the members here are absolutely dedicated to their communities. I appreciate all the hard work that is undertaken in the best interests of Western Australia. We do not always agree, but your passion for your communities and for good outcomes certainly cannot be questioned. It is a goal that we all share.

I extend my best wishes to everyone involved in the operation and management of this institution of Parliament. Your work is absolutely essential in the functioning of our democracy and we are grateful for everything you do. Thanks to the Clerk, Kirsten Robinson; the Deputy Clerk, Scott Nalder; and the Clerk Assistants, Liz Kerr and Isla Macphail. Your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated and we could not do our job without you. I would also like to extend our gratitude to the parliamentary officers who also work tirelessly to support us in our duties. Their hard work and dedication are essential to the smooth running of this place. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Sergeant-at-Arms, Thomas Moorhead, and his deputy, Lachlan Gregory, for their unwavering commitment to ensuring that parliamentary business proceeds smoothly and without interruption.

I furthermore express our appreciation to the entire Parliamentary Services Department team. I would also like to extend a vote of thanks to Adrian Beattie, the Hansard Manager, and the entire Hansard team for their exceptional work in making our contributions sound intelligent. It is no secret that in opposition we find ourselves significantly under-resourced, so to that end I would also like to thank the Parliamentary Library staff and the expertise they put at our disposal.

As we celebrate another holiday season, I hope the Premier, his cabinet, their staff and families have a very merry Christmas, a well-deserved break and much-needed rest and relaxation. Likewise, I extend the same to government backbenchers. I also extend my gratitude to you, Madam Speaker, and to the Deputy Speaker and all the Acting Speakers for their patience. It is clear that, at times, boundaries may be pushed and we sincerely appreciate your fair and diplomatic approach to managing the affairs of the house.

I extend my thanks to the staff in my office and my electorate staff. We are certainly a small team, but we do a significant job and I extend my thanks for all their hard work. I also extend a special thanks to our partners in opposition, the Nationals WA, led by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Moore. I thank you for your contribution and your support. I also thank Heather York and your team. I thank my colleague David, the member for Cottesloe, and the member for North West Central, as members of the parliamentary Liberal team.

On behalf of the parliamentary Liberal team, to all of you and those you love, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

[Applause.]

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [4.43 pm]: Members, I thank all those who have contributed to this debate for their excellent contributions. Obviously, I would particularly like to thank the Leader of the House for his once again excellent contribution. As someone who is old enough to remember the Bee Gees, well done! That is not said lightly. People wait to hear the end-of-year contribution from you, and you did not let us down, so thank you, member for Mandurah. Hear, hear!

I would like to start by thanking people for the respect they have shown me. I would also like to thank you for the respect you show each other and our staff here in the building. I think we have just about mentioned every staff member by name by this point, so I am not going to go through the long list I have here, but I do want to thank each and every one of those staff members. I particularly want to thank our Clerk, Kirsten Robinson, and the Assembly staff. I will have the opportunity to thank them personally at an event in the near future, and all of you will have an opportunity to thank our staff or to be with our staff when we have an end-of-year celebration with the staff that you are all invited to. I understand that not everyone can make it; it is a busy time of year, with school

graduations and a lot of end-of-year events to go to, and many of you are country members, so it is difficult for you to get here to join in on those thank-you celebrations at the end of the year with our staff, but I know they appreciate it when they are treated so well and acknowledged by you. That is important, and I thank you for it.

I mention respect because just this morning, along with the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services, I was at the Midland March that Matters, which is in its tenth year and has gone from strength to strength. A focus on respectful relationships is certainly part of what we acknowledge when we march against domestic violence. The respect we show for each other is important. I want to underline that I could not be happier with the respect you have shown me as Speaker of this house. It is appreciated.

This is a time to reflect on the events of the year—for me in many senses, because I served with him for his full time in Parliament—and the resignation of the former member for Rockingham after 26 years was, I think, a very momentous occasion. I remember the quite unassuming young man who was elected as the new member for Rockingham. I think he got married maybe the week before and did not yet have any children. I served with him in this house right through to the time he left, many years later. He then had a beautiful wife, three children and an immensely successful career. He led our state as Premier through the most significant event we had faced for more than a century. The pandemic really had the potential to go very, very wrong for us in this state, particularly for some of our Indigenous communities, people who are health compromised and elderly people. Although it was tough on people, to have largely kept COVID out of this state for such an extended time was vastly better than the alternative. That is one of many things that Mark McGowan will be remembered for, and I congratulate him on his exemplary career in this house. I think few political careers will ever match the career of Mark McGowan.

That draws me to another thing I would like to dwell on in these final comments for the year: the fact that we have a majority of women in this house—that we actually have 30 out of 59! That was achieved with the election of Magenta Marshall to replace Mark McGowan. Of course, prior to that, Vince Catania was replaced by Merome Beard as the member for North West Central. That has brought us to this incredible situation. Every day, as I sit in the chair here, I stare at Edith Cowan and reflect on 1921 when she was the only woman in this place. She served only one term. However, at the subsequent election, May Holman was elected and she served for here for many more terms. But for most of that time, she was, again, the only woman in this place. It is one thing to say that women can do things, are permitted to do things or by law are allowed to do things; it is another to lead by example. It is often not until women take up certain roles in certain numbers that a proper example is set. I think that this has been a magnificent outcome and a magnificent example. Prior to Mark McGowan's resignation, we had the reverse. We were 29–30 instead of 30–29, and I often commented that we were half a woman short. Now we are half a woman in surplus, which I think is a momentous outcome. There is no guarantee that women will continue to have a majority in this place, but I think it is a fantastic outcome. As Edith Cowan looks down on us from that photograph up there, I think that she would be absolutely incredulous at this, but I think what she would be even more incredulous about is the women who are serving in senior roles in this chamber and the fact that we have a female Clerk and two female Clerk Assistants. Previously, we had a female Sergeant-at-Arms. I think that would have been beyond the comprehension of just about everyone 100 years ago. It has taken a long time to come this far, but I acknowledge the women in those roles, and I certainly acknowledge the election of the new member for Rockingham.

I want to thank the Premier and the Deputy Premier and congratulate them on their appointments by their parties. I also want to congratulate and thank the member for Moore; his deputy, the member for Roe; and the Leader of the Liberal Party, the member for Vasse. I feel a bit mean leaving two of them out by not mentioning them by name. I also want to particularly thank the Leader of the House. Do you realise that you are the only person who has remained stable in your leadership role?

Mr D.A. Templeman: I am a stable man.

The SPEAKER: Yes. Although I am saving a little time by not mentioning everyone by name, I think three people here have had a very special celebration this year. I am referring to the member for Cannington, our Clerk Assistant and our Sergeant-at-Arms. Collingwood won the grand final! For Thomas Moorhead, Liz Kerr and Bill Johnston, this is the pinnacle that they will need to celebrate for the next 100 years because Collingwood probably will not get another chance.

I also want to make a special mention of not just Rob Hunter, but also Patricia Traegde. They have been doing an amazing job this year getting the building opposite ready. When you get the opportunity to have a look through there, you will see what a phenomenal facility it will provide to our Parliament. It will mean that some staff here will have suitable office and accommodation space, which they really have not had previously. For our committee staff especially, and for others, this is a really welcome thing. Supervising and preparing this building to be ready to be occupied has certainly been a challenge, so I thank Patricia and Rob especially for that and for all the other work that they do on our behalf.

There are two staff who work more immediately with me. They are Molly Rogers-Thomson, who I would like to thank, and Anna Murphy, who is my attendant. Anna does a sensational job in looking after all our guests to the building. I especially thank those two people. Hopefully, I have not missed anyone.

In closing, I would like to say that you all work very, very hard. You have a difficult job. I know because I have been doing it for a long time. It is the role in here; it is the role in the electorate; it is the role of going to many different communities and organisations. It can be taxing on you, and it can be taxing on your families, so I urge each and every one of you to take some time out to spend some special time with those you hold dearest. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: With that, I put the question.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.54 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS — NEGATIVE NOTICES

913. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the Minister's media statement "Landmark changes to strengthen working with children law" on 17 August, 2022, and I ask:

- (a) how many negative notices have been issued as a direct result of the expanded number of criminal offences that automatically trigger a negative notice;
- (b) how many entry warrants to investigate suspected offences under the Act have been executed;
- (c) how many working with children check applications were received in 2022–2023; and
- (d) how many employees, volunteers, or organisations who have breached their obligations under the *Working with Children Act* have been prosecuted?

Ms S.E. Winton replied:

(a)–(d) The Department of Communities advises:

Amendments to the Western Australian (WA) Working with Children (WWC) legislation, now known as the *Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004*, came into effect on 1 July 2023. These changes make it harder for people who have committed certain offences, or engaged in certain conduct, to obtain a Working with Children Card.

Between 1 July 2023 and 23 October 2023, eight negative notices were issued. Investigations officers determine the investigative strategies of an investigation and the most appropriate and effective means of obtaining information. An entry warrant is not necessary for investigations undertaken by the Working with Children Screening Unit. There were 157,048 applications in 2022–23. Since 2008, 32 matters have been prosecuted before the courts.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS — FOSTER CARERS

916. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Child Protection:

With regards to Working with Children Checks, I refer to the former Minister's statement in the House on Wednesday, 27 May 2020 in response to a question from Ms L.L. Baker in which the Minister said: "Finally, I am proud also to say that no foster carer with children in their care is without a valid check." and I ask:

- (a) Can the Minister confirm there has been no foster carer with children in their care that has been without a valid check since that date?

Ms S.E. Winton replied:

Every effort is made to ensure that foster carers have a valid WWC card there are situations, such as emergency placements with interim family carers, where a WWC card is yet to be obtained. Working with Children compliance monitoring for foster carers with children in their care occurs daily using current data recorded in the child protection data base.

On 26 October 2023, the Department of Communities advises there was one Foster Carer with children in their care who did not have a valid WWC card. All other carers with children in their care had valid WWC cards or application in progress.

In 2015, it was reported that 110 foster carers with children placed did not have a valid WWC or an application in process.

FOSTER CARE — CASES OF NEGLECT

918. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Child Protection:

- (1) With regard to incidents of neglect of children in the care of registered foster carers or family carers I ask:
 - (a) In each of the following years how many cases of neglect were investigated by the Department of Communities and how many of those cases were substantiated:
 - (i) 2019;
 - (ii) 2020;
 - (iii) 2021;
 - (iv) 2022; and
 - (v) 2023 to date?

- (2) How many children, and how many family groups, were involved in each of the substantiated cases of neglect and what were the ages of those children:
- (a) of each substantiated case of neglect, how many involved:
- (i) a relative carer;
 - (ii) a registered foster carer; and
 - (iii) why were charges not brought against any carers where cases of neglect were substantiated?
- (3) What were the ages of the children involved in the substantiated cases of neglect?
- (4) Of each substantiated case of neglect, how many involved:
- (a) a relative carer; and
 - (b) a registered foster care?

Ms S.E. Winton replied:

The Department of Communities (Communities) advises:

- (1) (a) As at the 30 September 2023:
- (i) 2019 – 66 cases investigated, of which 35 substantiated
 - (ii) 2020 – 57 cases investigated, of which 23 substantiated
 - (iii) 2021– 46 cases investigated, of which 23 substantiated
 - (iv) 2022 – 28 cases investigated, of which 16 substantiated
 - (v) 2023 – 14 cases investigated, of which 7 substantiated
- (2)–(4) Of the 104 substantiated cases there was 72 family groups, and 102 children with the following age ranges:
- 37 were aged 0 to 4 years
 - 26 were aged 5 to 9 years
 - 35 were aged 10 to 14 years
 - 4 were aged 15 to 16 years

For each of the substantiated investigations of neglect, no foster or family carers were assessed as meeting the criteria for causing Actual Harm and Continuing Risk (ACHR).

Criminal matters are referred to the WA Police Force for investigation and any subsequent charges.

CHILDREN IN CARE — FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

920. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Child Protection:

- (1) Can the Minister outline what mechanisms and/or processes are in place for recording the number of children in the Department's care, either with family carers or foster carers, who have been diagnosed with Foetal alcohol Syndrome (FASD)?
- (2) If yes to (1), can the Minister please provide statistics for the number of children in the Department's care who have been diagnosed with FASD in each of the following years:
- (a) 2018–2019;
 - (b) 2019–2020;
 - (c) 2020–2021;
 - (d) 2021–2022; and
 - (e) 2022–2023?

Ms S.E. Winton replied:

- (1)–(2) The Department of Communities (Communities) advises:

Communities engages specialist assessment, diagnosis and intervention services for children in out-of-home care through both the public and private sectors. Health care planning is reviewed as part of the care planning process. Children in out-of-home care have an initial medical assessment followed by a more comprehensive health and development assessment, which is then carried out on an annual basis. Where children in out-of-home care have additional assessment needs, these are arranged as required.

If a child is diagnosed with FASD, the child's support needs are incorporated into their care planning, which includes relevant and appropriate actions required by carers, case managers and referrals to appropriate support services. This is recorded on the child's individual case file.

Significant resources would be required to manually review individual case files which is not considered a reasonable use of resources.

COMMUNITIES — CENTRELINK REFERRALS

923. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Community Services:

- (1) During the months of June, July and August 2023, by district, how many individuals did the Department of Communities refer to Centrelink for compulsory income management?
- (2) By district, how many individuals with children have presented seeking financial assistance on two or more occasions to the Department of Communities, for the period 1 June to 31 August 2023?

Ms S.E. Winton replied:

The Department of Communities (Communities) advises:

- (1) The data requested is not captured by Communities' internal reporting systems and would require a manual review of individual files. Given the level of agency resourcing required to provide this detailed information, it is not considered to be a reasonable use of resources.
- (2) Between 1 June 2023 and 31 August 2023, two individuals with children sought financial assistance on two or more occasions from Communities via Crisis Care.

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD ANNUAL REPORT — CHAIRPERSON'S OVERVIEW

942. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to the Chairperson's Overview in the Prisoner Review Board's Annual Report 2022/23, and I ask:

- (a) Noting the Chairperson's comments that "Insufficient resources have led to delays in assessments and flaws in the treatment programme evaluation process", what steps, if any, is the Government taking to address this insufficiency highlighted; and
- (b) Noting the Chairperson's comments that "We have observed an increasing concern regarding the number of offenders reaching parole eligibility without undergoing assessment for their criminogenic treatment needs" and that "This issue is significant as delays in assessments have led to parole denials for offenders in the previous year", What steps, if any, is the Government taking to address this issue highlighted by the Chairperson?

Mr P. Papalia replied:

- (a)–(b) The Department of Justice is undertaking considerable action to meet demand for assessments and treatment programs in prisons, including:

Permanently creating a dedicated Treatment Assessment Manager and two Treatment Assessment Supervisors;

Permanently creating 11.5 FTE for performing treatment assessments through realigning internal positions across 2022/23;

Establishing the first two regional treatment assessment positions in Albany and Bunbury to perform treatment assessments at those sites, which commenced in April 2023. The remaining regional prisons continue to be serviced for treatment assessments through Offender Program staff.

Centralising treatment assessments state-wide into a single clinical area (January 2023) to drive business improvements and ensure appropriate prioritisation of the treatment assessment case load;

As a temporary initiative, a further four treatment assessors and an additional treatment assessment supervisor position commenced in February 2023 and are running until December 2024 to assist with assessments and an increased sentencing workload;

Appointing a Chief Psychologist to drive the program of works to build contemporary offender programs and develop and implement a continuous improvement framework for clinical practice;

Continuing to run a rolling recruitment drive and social media campaign for new clinical staff, including Senior Programs Officers, Supervisors and Treatment Course Planning Assessors (Treatment Assessors) to fill vacant positions;

Establishing a Clinical Learning and Development area to coordinate training opportunities for clinical staff, enhance senior clinical supervision and establish stronger pathways for students into clinical roles within the Department;

Operating the Parole in-reach Program, a pilot initiative which supports parole eligible offenders, generally on short sentences, to access family and domestic violence or alcohol and other drug interventions at two metropolitan prison locations.

Establishing an Individual Management Plan (IMP) Taskforce (November 2022) to drive improvements in the timely and effective delivery of assessments across Western Australia. The Taskforce has regularly met through 2023 to implement both short term and long-term initiatives and respond to prisoner assessment related issues as they arise.

It is also important to note that with increases in sentencing rates, remand periods and a high number of short sentences, it is expected that a proportion of prisoners denied parole were not eligible for an assessment. These prisoners may access the Parole in-reach Program (noted above).
