



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2021

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 3 June 2021

Legislative Assembly

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

ELECTORAL REFORM — REPRESENTATION — REGIONS

Petition

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [9.02 am]: I have a petition that has been certified by the clerks from 23 petitioners that is couched in the following terms —

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

We, the undersigned, are strongly opposed to any cuts made by the McGowan Labor Government to regional voices in our Parliament.

There is no doubt that regional WA is the engine room of our state and ripping away regional voices will only be harmful to the communities which help this state to grow and prosper.

We therefore ask the Legislative Assembly to speak up for regional Western Australians and call on the Government to ensure there is no reduction in regional representation.

And your petitioners as duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition 6.]

FLU SEASON — VACCINATIONS

Statement by Minister for Health

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health) [9.03 am]: As we know, flu season is upon us. As such, I would like to update the house on this year's campaign to ensure more Western Australians get vaccinated. The key message of the campaign is: "Influenza—it's now time to get vaccinated."

The influenza vaccination campaign is scheduled to run from 26 May until mid-August 2021. The campaign will run across various channels, including press, radio, outdoor, digital and social. The campaign messaging clearly distinguishes between the influenza vaccination campaign and the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. The campaign call-to-action messaging encourages people to talk to their general practitioner or immunisation provider and book in their influenza vaccination. The campaign artwork includes a diverse range of people representative of the mainstream community and groups most at risk of influenza. This campaign has been planned to avoid being in the market at the same time as the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

We have a sufficient supply of influenza vaccine to meet demand. Vaccine distribution commenced on 22 March for people aged 65 years and over, and on 12 April 2021 for other cohorts. As of 28 May, 589 247 doses of government program influenza vaccine had been distributed. In real terms this means 88 per cent of the allocation for over 65s has been distributed; 74 per cent of the allocation for the WA healthcare worker staff program has been distributed; and 44 per cent of the allocation for state primary school children has been distributed.

Although distribution of the vaccine throughout our community is taking place, there is work to be done on ensuring our community is accessing it. As of 30 May, 524 689 influenza vaccinations were recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register. Unfortunately, this equates to only 19 per cent coverage. At the same time last year, coverage was 33.9 per cent. Coverage for children aged over six months to under five years is 9.7 per cent compared with 40.9 per cent at the same time last year. Coverage for adults aged 65 years or older is 51.2 per cent compared with 65.2 per cent this time last year. Healthcare worker influenza vaccination coverage is currently 32.6 per cent compared with the 80.6 per cent coverage achieved across WA healthcare workers in 2020.

We should be all taking it upon ourselves to remind Western Australians to get vaccinated this flu season. By getting vaccinated, as I did last week, Madam Speaker, you are not only protecting yourself, but also helping to protect the most vulnerable in our community.

ROAD SAFETY — DRINK AND DRUG-DRIVING OFFENCES

Statement by Minister for Police

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Police) [9.06 am]: On Sunday, I launched the Road Safety Commission's new Time to Sweat campaign, which will raise community awareness of the new drink and drug-driving offences and penalties. The campaign is now running statewide on television, radio, and digital platforms.

The campaign about the new and tougher penalties for impaired driving that come into effect from 1 July will put drink and drug-drivers on notice. For the first time, drivers caught with both alcohol and drugs in their system will

be charged with new offences of driving with a blood alcohol content of or above a particular level with a prescribed illicit drug in oral fluid or blood. Western Australia is only the third state to introduce a specific poly-offence for driving while affected by a combination of alcohol and drugs. Penalties for existing standalone drink-driving and drug-driving offences will increase by a minimum of 1.5 times the current penalty. The penalty for refusing to comply with a direction from police to provide a breath or saliva sample for testing will generally more than double. The increase in penalties reflects the seriousness of driving while affected by drugs or alcohol. Impaired driving is a major contributor to road trauma in WA. Last year, 7 500 drivers were caught drink-driving and 4 000 people were caught drug-driving. In addition, there were 42 road fatalities for which alcohol was suspected to be a factor. With significant changes in enforcement and tougher penalties, we are sending a strong message to the community that if you get behind the wheel while under the influence of alcohol and drugs, it's time to sweat.

COUNT ME IN — SWAN DISTRICTS FOOTBALL CLUB

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [9.08 am]: I rise to inform the house about the annual Count Me In day hosted by Swan Districts Football Club.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Hear, hear!

Dr A.D. BUTI: It is the West Australian Football League club that the member for Bassendean obviously follows! Of course, it is close to your heart, too, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: That is right.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Based on the Disability Services Commission's Count Me In strategy, the annual event sees two all-abilities football teams face-off in a game of footy as the curtain-raiser to a Swan Districts WAFL home game. The club has led from the front in this space. In 2007, Maurice Embley approached the club with the idea that people with a disability, their families and carers be given the opportunity to be guests of the club at a Swans home game. Two years later, this led to a formal proposal to government to expand the initiative to all WAFL clubs, resulting in over 800 invitations being sent out to people with a disability, their carers and family members that same year. From there, the WAFL dedicated a round to be specifically known as Count Me In round. People with disabilities have gone from being VIP guests at the game to taking their positions on the field in an integrated football match. It is really pleasing to see the focus of the Swan Districts Football Club is on not just winning premierships and producing talent, but also building a strong local community around it and developing good people.

The Count Me In round provides a terrific opportunity to recognise and celebrate people with disabilities and promote a stronger, inclusive community. Additionally, clubs like the Swans have seen many unforeseen benefits across the club as a result of supporting the Count Me In initiative, including an increase in volunteer numbers, new sponsors, growth in club memberships, employment opportunities and, most importantly, a greater community presence.

Last Saturday I attended this year's Count Me In round at Steel Blue Oval where the Willetton and Kingsway all-abilities sides went head to head in a great contest. There was action on and off the field, with Sparkle and Shine dancers matching the energy of the players on the park! Sparkle and Shine dancers have performed at many big events, including the WA Special Olympics, so it was pretty special getting to see them perform. I also had the pleasure of meeting "Trev the Legend", who has been a volunteer parking attendant at the club for 20 years! The commitment and dedication Trev has shown to the Swans is truly admirable.

I commend the Swan Districts Football Club for leading the way to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of all people with disabilities, but also creating and maintaining a strong sense of community at the club.

WATER DEFICIENCY DECLARATIONS — REVOCATION

Statement by Minister for Water

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Water) [9.11 am]: I rise to advise the house that nine water deficiency declarations across six shires have been recently revoked. A water deficiency declaration is a government response to provide water to farmers for emergency animal welfare needs during very dry periods. Climate change has significantly impacted rainfall in the dryland agricultural communities of the south-eastern wheatbelt. This led to an unprecedented 12 water deficiency declarations being declared over 2019 and 2020. In response to this, the McGowan government has spent more than \$3.7 million on direct water carting to central locations to support emergency livestock needs, \$2.2 million on the development and upgrading of strategic community water supplies and government-owned water sources since June 2018, and \$1.5 million partnering with local government to upgrade existing and develop new community water supplies.

Recent rainfall across the state's south has provided relief to many of WA's famers. The rainfall and the McGowan government's investment in water infrastructure has allowed for the revocation of nine water deficiency declarations across six shires. The McGowan government's investment in farming communities is paying dividends by enlarging and desilting dams and improving catchments. Many of the on-farm dams and off-farm strategic community supplies have filled with recent rains, which provides for improved water security in the future.

Two water deficiency declarations remain in place, those being in Salmon Gums and Grass Patch in the Esperance shire. Rainfall in these areas has been variable and although sufficient to allow for the temporary suspension of emergency water carting, the availability of water in on-farm dams and off-farm strategic supplies is still limited. Climate change is having a significant impact on the south-eastern wheatbelt, which is why the McGowan government is working closely with local governments and farmers to bring new water sources online and maintain access to existing water supplies—even for the member for Roe!

PERTH ZOO — AFRICAN PAINTED DOG PUPS

Statement by Minister for Environment

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Environment) [9.13 am]: I rise today to inform the house that some of the newest residents at Perth Zoo, six endangered African painted dog puppies, had their first health checks last week. The new arrivals were born in March and are the result of a successful new breeding pair comprising Perth Zoo-born adult female, Muhumhi, and male, Gibby, who came from South Australia. I joined Perth zookeepers last week to inspect the pups. The health check revealed that the Zoo has five new male and one female African painted puppies—a valuable addition to their struggling species.

African painted dogs are endangered and considered the most persecuted large carnivore in Africa. Wild populations are threatened by poachers, habitat destruction and human-wildlife conflict. With fewer than 6 500 of these animals in the wild, there is a real risk of this species going extinct in our lifetime, making zoo breeding programs more important than ever.

The Zoo puppies have recently started to explore beyond their birthing den, making an impact in the Zoo's African savannah. Perth Zoo's work for the species extends well beyond the South Perth gates all the way to Africa, and the Western Australian community has been instrumental in helping save the painted dogs species. Thanks to local donations, Perth Zoo helps fund both an anti-poaching patrol unit, and snare removal from the African landscape, which causes the painful deaths of many painted dogs. I want to thank Perth Zoo again, and congratulate it on its successful breeding program. I look forward to seeing the progress the pups make in the coming months.

PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Grievance

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) [9.15 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Health, and I thank him for taking my grievance, which is about the lack of mental health support available to expectant new mothers and fathers experiencing perinatal depression or anxiety, particularly in the south west. As the minister may be aware, the perinatal period encompasses both the antenatal period, from conception to birth, and the postnatal period, which is the first year after birth.

A 2019 report refers to the cost of perinatal depression or anxiety in Australia. The illness, also referred to as PNDA, affects one in five mothers and one in 10 fathers or partners. The report's authors believe that PNDA affects an estimated 60 000 mothers and 30 000 fathers or partners every year. The effects of PNDA are not limited to the parent whilst experiencing the condition, but can also have impacts on the child and wider family, with some of these impacts lasting a lifetime. The cost of the condition is also significant, with the report estimating that in the first year alone it costs \$877 million in healthcare services, carer requirements and losses associated with increased workforce exit and wellbeing impacts, including the increased likelihood of developmental issues in the children. The total lifetime costs are estimated at \$5.2 billion. There is no doubt that early intervention through targeted services is key to an improved long-term outcome for both parents and children. Unfortunately, I understand that the provision of services to support these new parents experiencing mental health issues has not kept pace with the growing demand and, in some cases, particularly in the south west, there are no government-funded community-based services available for these parents. This is despite Busselton being the fastest growing population outside the Perth metropolitan area, with a higher than average rate of birth—68.7 per 1 000 women, compared with 63.6 per 1 000 women in Perth.

We know that a lack of access to community services can lead to people having to access hospital-based services, which is often not the best place for them and also puts extra pressure on the hospital system. I understand that in WA there are only 14 mother-baby inpatient hospital beds available to treat the most unwell mothers. For those patients admitted, it is usually an extended stay and, for regional patients especially, it results in the mothers being separated from their families, often including other children, friends and extended support networks. In 2017, the Radiance Network South West was established to fill the gap in response to community demand and in recognition that there were not support and awareness services in the south west region. The organisation has a dedicated website for new mums and hosts three support groups, in Busselton, Bunbury and Collie, to provide a safe and supportive space for families to connect with others experiencing similar difficulties in the perinatal period. The group also runs an intensive 10-week mother-baby nurture group that delivers targeted intervention with infants and mothers struggling to connect. This program is also run at several locations in Perth, where it is funded by the state government. To date, Radiance Network South West has not received any state government support. The group has been doing an incredible job supporting local mums in the Bunbury, Busselton and Collie regions for the past three and a half years, but it has had to rely on fundraising and grants from other not-for-profit organisations. The manager, Anne Mackay,

is paid for only two hours a week; the many other hours that she spends each week coordinating referrals and groups are unpaid. The groups themselves are mostly facilitated by volunteers. All current funding will run out at the end of the year and, as it is, that funding is significantly deficient.

In the past 12 months, with the uncertainty caused by the COVID pandemic resulting in increased social and relationship issues, Radiance Network South West has supported a 30 per cent increase in referrals for parents seeking help and support. In some areas such as Bunbury the number of referrals has jumped by 50 per cent in the first five months of this year alone. Ms Mackay says that the group is inundated and is struggling to follow-up all referrals. She fears that people are falling through the cracks. She is very concerned that some of the mums she speaks with are very unwell and feel very unsupported. Some describe themselves as being in a dark place with nowhere to go. One mother spoke of calling multiple agencies for help without success and said she did not know what she would have done if Radiance had not followed-up. The organisation is now receiving requests for support from other towns in the region such as Capel, Margaret River, Nannup and Manjimup, but it simply does not have the ability to extend its service. Radiance Network South West has had more than 55 referrals and Ms Mackay says she feels overwhelmed that it cannot provide the level of support these new parents need and deserve to ensure improved outcomes for both parents and children. The organisation is urgently seeking state government funding to be able to fund a coordinator for more than two hours a week. It believes that there is an overwhelming need for a Radiance centre hub in the south west so that parents who are experiencing this debilitating condition can access a safe space in their darkest time.

We know that early intervention is critical for both parents and babies and that providing this initial support can reduce the need to access additional and often costly government services later. Radiance Network South West is an invaluable organisation that is providing an indispensable service. I implore the minister to urgently consider funding this vital service to ensure that these parents and babies are provided with the support they so obviously require without having to drive three hours to Perth to access it.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health) [9.22 am]: I would like to thank the member for Vasse for raising this issue in Parliament today. I take this opportunity to congratulate Radiance on its nomination as a finalist in the Lifeline WA Prevention and Promotion Award category of last year's WA Mental Health Awards.

I was the Minister for Mental Health for a short while and heard every single day that mental health does not discriminate. It is a joyous time when a family is growing, but it can be very tough for many people who often need extra support during those perinatal years. Anyone at any time of life can be affected by mental health issues; we know that one in five Australians will experience a mental health issue in any given year and over half will experience one during their lifetime. The McGowan government is committed to supporting parents across Western Australia who are struggling during this time of their life. In fact, the sustainable health review, which we undertook, has eight enduring strategies, one of which is "Great beginnings", with a whole-of-government and community focus on support during pregnancy and the first 1 000 days. We know how vital this support is.

The McGowan government, through the Mental Health Commission, funds several services across Western Australia for parents who may be experiencing mental health issues. Obviously, that funding goes to a range of services, including women's health services and mental health-specific services, including the inpatient mother and baby units at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women and Fiona Stanley Hospital, and the New Beginnings postnatal depression support group. The state government also funds the Ngala Parenting Line for practical parenting advice. Playgroups obviously also play a vital role in making sure that mothers can stay connected to their communities and peers to ensure that they have people they feel they can go to for support. Of course, the commonwealth government funds the Post and Antenatal Depression Association support line on 1300 726 306.

We know that sometimes people in regional towns have less access to services than people in metropolitan areas have. Across the south west, the McGowan government provides \$11.9 million worth of mental health, alcohol and other drug services that are delivered through non-government organisations. These services include counselling, family and carer support and community and alcohol and other drug services. The WA Country Health Service also delivers more than \$32 million in specialised mental health services in the south west. A new mental health observation area is scheduled to be installed at the South West Health Campus and will be operational in 2022. Additionally, the McGowan government made a commitment to expand the parent and family drug support program and peer support network to Bunbury. This expansion will include an increase in access to telephone support, educational courses and support groups for parents and families, and is expected to be rolled out from 2021. We also committed to expanding our mental health co-response team in Bunbury, which will include a hub-and-spoke component to provide services to remote areas. Additionally, the McGowan government plays an important role in the prevention of mental health and alcohol and other drug issues for parents. Just recently, the Mental Health Commission launched its new alcohol and pregnancy campaign. I trust most have seen it; it is a powerful message.

Perinatal mental health is an important issue to the McGowan government, which is committed to keeping all Western Australians at all stages of life well and living life to their fullest, and I appreciate the great work that Radiance provides on behalf of the community. I recently wrote to Hon Stephen Dawson, the Minister for Mental Health, to set out some of the great work that it does. Radiance gains all its funding through fundraising and great

community work, and I know this because the member for Vasse wrote to me when I was the Minister for Mental Health back in 2019. Member for Vasse, my message to Radiance then and perhaps now is to continue to talk to the Mental Health Commission about the work that it does and what other funding stream opportunities there are. Mental health is also one of the key priority areas for Healthway, and the Radiance network could approach Healthway to discuss potential opportunities with it. Like Lotterywest, Healthway independently assesses applications, so I think that is another important piece of work that it can do. Mental health is an issue that continues to challenge our community, and the Mental Health Commission does a great job using the precious resources it has to support organisations like Radiance right across the state. I would encourage Radiance to continue to talk actively with the Mental Health Commission to see what opportunities there are going forward.

I would also just like to say that perinatal mental health services are going to be one of the focuses of the child and adolescent mental health service review, which is being undertaken by Robyn Kruk at the moment, and I would encourage Radiance to also reach out to that program to talk about the experience of mothers and young families in the south west and to make sure that that inquiry is fully informed of any unmet need that might exist within that region.

I commend Radiance for its great work and encourage full and ongoing contact and discussions with the Mental Health Commission to continue to explore possible funding opportunities.

LOT 350 — KALGOORLIE

Grievance

MS A.E. KENT (Kalgoorlie) [9.30 am]: I thank the Minister for Lands for taking my grievance this morning. I would like to discuss the development of a prime parcel of industrial land in Kalgoorlie–Boulder known as lot 350. It is a 214-hectare development-ready greenfield site, targeted at large value-add and emerging industries. The management of a strategic industrial area such as lot 350 would usually involve state government agencies providing project approval, with DevelopmentWA owning the land and negotiating and managing leases. However, in relation to lot 350, the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder took it upon itself to liaise and negotiate with a range of proponents for leases on the industrial land. This has caused delays, time restrictions and the loss of potential investors, including a main proponent outlaying half a million dollars based on misinformation provided to it.

I need to give the house some context at this point. A business called EnergyOz contacted me in early April and Hon Kyle McGinn and I met with Patrick Baldock, the chief executive officer, on 13 April 2021. This meeting was a revelation. EnergyOz told us that the project to develop a gas-fired power generation facility in Kalgoorlie–Boulder was at an advanced stage with finance secured and memorandums of understanding with Western Power and mining companies for the power supply. The project just needed a lease agreement for land. In the company's words, it was first promised the land on lot 350 in August last year. It was told by John Walker, chief executive officer of the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder, that it would take just six weeks for the land to be available. EnergyOz was told that the city had control over the land and it was just a procedural matter to secure the amount of land it required. Based on this assurance, EnergyOz outlaid half a million dollars to get its project ready for commencement. Over the following five months, EnergyOz met with the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder on numerous occasions and was told repeatedly that approval was being delayed but that it was imminent. EnergyOz said that was unacceptable and asked whether it should go to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, DevelopmentWA and the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. It was told unreservedly by CEO John Walker not to do so because he had it all in hand.

However, by January 2021 things had started to unravel. The City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder told EnergyOz that the state government would not release the land. Despite being given assurances over a six-month period that things were proceeding, they clearly were not. Armed with this information and the continuing frustration with the run-around it had been given by the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder, EnergyOz met with key government departments in early March 2021. At this meeting it finally learnt that everything it had been told since August 2020 was wrong. It discovered that the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder could not commit to leases to any potential proponents because it did not have the authority to do so. Members can imagine how this news was received. Here we have a proponent, keen to invest in Kalgoorlie–Boulder and create hundreds of jobs during construction—a power station that will have the capacity to supply power to not only Western Power but also major mining companies. It had already invested much money and wasted 10 months being deliberately misled by the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder. By the time of my meeting with EnergyOz six weeks ago, Mr Baldock was understandably angry. He outlined to us what had occurred and discussed the project and the benefits it would have for Kalgoorlie–Boulder.

During my election campaign, I was bombarded with negativity and blame, all designed to attack the state government and its perceived fault at not handing over the lease to the city. There were reports that the state government was dragging its heels and scaring off investors potentially worth up to \$2 billion and even that the state government's lack of approval for lot 350 would jeopardise expansion plans for KCGM. The city stated publicly that it was well advanced in its discussions with proponents and that it had been kept in limbo by the state government. I even had city councillors privatively and publicly chastise me for allowing the government to hold up development of lot 350. Consequently, the truth about the negotiations and who was experienced to bring development to this industrial land

needed to become clear. I made a commitment in the lead-up to the election to get this project moving so we could get on with supporting new jobs and industries in Kalgoorlie. I have always said that unlocking key industrial land is critical to economic growth in Kalgoorlie and was dismayed to learn how misinformation has caused the key proponent to lose precious time and money. We are all aware that the situation is different now from 10 months ago. Staff and housing shortages have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. All this could have been avoided.

I am delighted to have worked with the McGowan government and the Minister for Lands over the past six weeks to cut through the barriers and get lot 350 moving. We owe it to Kalgoorlie–Boulder. We owe it to potential investors. We owe it to potential industries and we owe it to EnergyOz. Two days before the election in March, the Premier gave the undertaking that unlocking lot 350 would be a priority if elected. I seek the minister's assurance to safeguard the economic benefits for Kalgoorlie–Boulder and mitigate the lengthy delays that have occurred. I ask that he give serious consideration to approving the lot 350 industrial land for development in Kalgoorlie–Boulder.

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Lands) [9.35 am]: I thank the member for Kalgoorlie for bringing this grievance to the house and I congratulate her and Hon Kyle McGinn, MLC, for their advocacy on this issue. It is important to give some background information and bring the member up to date with the current situation.

In 2017, the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder applied to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to lease Kalgoorlie lot 500 from the state in order for the city to enter into a sublease for the entire lot with Neometals Ltd for a lithium processing plant. That did not develop the way it should have. The city still wanted to look at how it could diversify the economy and support the development of downstream processing in Kalgoorlie–Boulder and it identified lot 350 as an area of interest. That resulted in the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation advising that Lynas Corporation Ltd had shown interest in the availability of tenure on lot 350 to support shared infrastructure for gas supply and access to lime supply for its rare earth processing facility. The Lynas project was granted lead agency status by the then Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade. The city approached the department in October 2018 and applied to convert lot 350 from a recreational reserve under management order to either leasehold or freehold tenure. Providing the city with leasehold tenure over a proportion of lot 350 would be the pragmatic approach to this situation, but to grant an additional leasehold for industrial development in areas around Kalgoorlie required further consideration for which the state was the best placed agency to deliver strategic outcomes. It was decided to await the findings of the Kalgoorlie industrial land capability assessment. This approach was not agreed to by the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder as it advised that it had at least eight other proponents urgently requiring land and it quickly mobilised the media. It is very interesting that of those eight proponents, I think we only ever received details of one of them.

The mayor eventually requested a meeting with the then Minister for Lands. That meeting was held in January 2021 at which the minister made it clear that strategic industrial developments are best undertaken by the state government, given the complex and strategic issues that need to be considered and the cost involved, which could potentially cripple the city. Of course, the member would have grave concerns about that because that would affect her constituents.

Upon a statutory referral being sent to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety for the release of lot 350, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum requested that the JTSI prepare a briefing for his consideration. In considering the three options presented to him under section 16(3) of the Mining Act 1978, he provided clearance on the basis that the land may be released as leasehold for lot 350. Basically, he said that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum provides approval pursuant to section 16(3) of the Mining Act for the leasehold of lot 350.

In early 2020, the state government funded a study into opportunities and constraints for industrial development in and around Kalgoorlie–Boulder. It is interesting that in August 2020, without any reference to or approval from the state to deal with crown land, the city signed a heads of agreement, to which the state was not a party, with Eastern Goldfields Mining Company Pty Ltd. The agreement committed the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder to provide a sublease for a term of 21 plus 21 years over a portion of approximately five hectares of lot 350, in exchange for Eastern Goldfields relinquishing mining tenure over lot 500 to enable Lynas Corporation to commence development.

Following the Minister for Mines and Petroleum's section 16(3) approval, the Minister for Lands was then in a position to consider granting tenure over the portion of lot 350 that CKB had notionally allocated to Eastern Goldfields to enable Eastern Goldfields to gain tenure on lot 350. The city was not happy with the former Minister for Lands' decision not to lease the whole of lot 350 to the city due to the claim that it had identified several proponents, but was still not providing the detail of these proponents. The former Minister for Lands undertook to reconvene the technical working group that resulted in a meeting on 9 February 2021, which was attended by the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder. At that meeting, the city undertook to introduce prospective proponents to the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. Obviously, it did not meet that commitment.

Since becoming the member for Kalgoorlie, the member's very strong advocacy on the strategic importance of this area has seen movement. We have now finalised the Kalgoorlie industrial land use study that has identified lot 350 as suitable for industrial development. The former Minister for Lands, on behalf of the state, had also approved it as a strategic industrial area. I know that the member has had to deal with what I consider to be some unusual and counterproductive activity and statements by the city, but I really am impressed that she has gone ahead with her advocacy in this area. I can assure the member that DevelopmentWA has ensured that lot 350 is to be used for

industrial purposes. It has been set aside for that use, but the state has to drive it; we are in the best position to do so and that is what we are doing. We requested that the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder provide a list of the proponents. It failed to do that to the level of detail required, but after much advocacy by the member, it has finally provided us with a list of the proponents. Thank you very much, member for Kalgoorlie.

The SPEAKER: The minister’s time has expired. I give the call to the member for North West Central.

BUILDING INDUSTRY — SUBCONTRACTOR PROTECTION

Grievance

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [9.42 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Housing. I will start with a quote from *Hansard* —

They are ordinary small businesspeople who need certainty because they spend money in order to undertake work, they have a line of credit with a bank, and they have a mortgage on the line for the work that they are undertaking. If they do not get paid, they lose their house and their business, and their workers do not get paid.

That was said by the then Leader of the Opposition, the now Premier, back in 2016. I will go through the history of the issue of subcontractors not being paid. The Premier made that commitment to protect subcontractors back in 2016, and he took it to the 2017 election. We have had a John Murray report and a John Fiocco report, an independent report commissioned by the government, to create legislation to protect subcontractors in Western Australia.

Ms A. Sanderson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister, if you could not interject. Grievances have a short amount of time and there is the opportunity to respond.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: The former Minister for Commerce Hon John Quigley championed the legislating of a cascading statutory trust. In September 2020, that key recommendation was not introduced by way of a bill. It was a backflip, a watering down or whatever you want to call it, on a recommendation that would have protected subcontractors. The Building and Construction Industry (Security of Payment) Bill that has just passed through this house does not offer that protection. The opposition supported the bill. The member for Roe outlined the shortfalls of the bill, including the key shortfall of it not providing for cascading statutory trusts that would ultimately protect subcontractors. What do we have now? In 2021 the Pindan Group has gone into voluntary administration. A plumber in Carnarvon is owed \$150 000, a plumber in Meekatharra is owed \$40 000, a cleaner is owed \$20 000, an electrician in Karratha is owed \$100 000 and the list goes on. This year the Premier of Western Australia is reported to have said —

“But the good thing is for subbies and workers, there is so much work across the state,” ...

Clearly, he went back on his word in 2017 that he would protect subcontractors. It is disappointing. Pindan Asset Management looks after government housing in regional WA. Pindan no longer has the capacity to execute the demands of its contract. Pindan’s employees are basically non-existent because there is no more work; they are seeking paid work elsewhere. Trade contractors are no longer prepared to work for Pindan. The Housing Authority is already contracting directly for those services for P1 to P3 works. The head contractor model in the regions has failed to deliver. This contract with Pindan was renewed by the McGowan Labor government back in 2019, after it had started to go under, and Oxley Holdings, a Singaporean company, bought it out in 2018. The head contractor model in the regions has failed to deliver the outcomes that people want because it is a big contract. We must look at other opportunities and ensure that that \$35 million contract is broken up. There is an urgent need for the Department of Housing to come up with a solution for the maintenance works. Pindan Asset Management cannot successfully provide maintenance for the current housing stock. The contract needs to be terminated. We need to break up the \$35 million contract to allow local businesses to tender for the business and provide certainty to those subcontractors and tradies.

Pindan has consistently been late in paying its subcontractors and it has always sought to reduce its rates. I will read a reply from the former Minister for Housing in response to an email sent to him on 24 August 2020 —

Thank you for your further email dated 24 August 2020, regarding your concerns with Pindan Pty Ltd ...

I appreciate and share your interest in supporting local small businesses and subcontractors. I note that Pindan operates under several divisions, its Asset Management division ...

The Department of Communities’ head maintenance contract arrangements ensure full and timely payments are made to subcontracting firms, which is a key performance indicator that is assessed every month.

It is assessed every month! It continues —

The Department of Communities advises that there have been no substantiated instances of non-payment to subcontractors working with Pindan through the Department of Communities’ Head Maintenance Contract.

I want to know exactly what key performance indicators the Department of Communities has assessed every month. When a person raises a concern that Pindan is not paying on time, the minister needs to act. If Pindan is not paying

its subcontractors, does that not constitute the basis for a contract termination? Why has the minister not terminated the contract, given that his department is already directly contracting out to subcontractors to do those P1 to P3 works? The minister needs to terminate the Pindan contract, pay the subcontractors for the work undertaken for the McGowan Labor government—that is, fair pay for fair work—and break up the maintenance contract to allow locals to tender for smaller contracts, maybe \$5 million contracts, be they in the Gascoyne, the Pilbara, the Kimberley or the midwest. More importantly, minister, stand up for your own policy and amend the legislation that is in the other place to include a cascading statutory trust to protect those subcontractors, to protect a future Pindan from going broke and costing subcontractors more pain and heartbreak through not being able to pay their bills.

Distinguished Visitor — Hon Paul Omodei

The SPEAKER: Before I give the call to the minister, I acknowledge the former Minister for Local Government Hon Paul Omodei in the Speaker's gallery.

Grievance Resumed

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [9.49 am]: I also acknowledge the former Minister for Local Government, who I am catching up with straight after this to discuss local government reform.

I want to say, and I have said it before on the public record, that this government and myself as the minister, are acutely aware of the difficulties that are facing both subcontractors and employees. I think everyone in this chamber understands that. No-one is flippant about the current situation. It is a deeply sensitive situation and one that can change on a daily basis, as is the case with administrative processes. We still have a contract in place and we are working through that with Ernst and Young. We have established a dedicated team in the department with the Department of Finance and we are taking a very prudent and sober approach to this matter. I am cognisant of not just the contractors, but also the advice given to me that 70 per cent of the work being undertaken on maintenance is done by around 100 staff employed throughout the regions. I want to put this on the record: that is around 100 workers across Western Australia who are employed by Pindan under this contract. Members can understand why I am taking a very methodical approach to this contract. There are 6 500 assets under this contract. I want to be clear again: this is not a construction contract that had milestone payments. Media reports that suggest the state government has provided operational funding to Pindan are incorrect. In fact, the department is meeting its contractual obligations to work that is complete. This is critical and we are focusing on the works that are required. As I have already stated to Parliament, and which is important to understand, a key fear at the start of the simple liquidation was how we would deliver those key services to tenancies across Western Australia. It is, again, important to put on the public record that this includes items of an urgent nature that pose a risk to a tenant's health and safety that should be completed within eight hours. They are really urgent works that need to be undertaken that could pose a risk to people's health. Work is being undertaken; we are meeting our obligations under the contract.

Regarding the checks and balances, which I have already put on the public record, there is a requirement for statutory declarations. This is quite a routine practice in the construction industry. It is not particular for just this head maintenance contract, but is across many industries. Monthly stat declarations are made to the department that require any supporting evidence and listing any payments due not paid in full, together with any reasons for that payment not being made. There was a clear process and, as I have said before, Pindan had submitted a statutory declaration for the month of March. Prior to Pindan submitting its statutory declaration in April, it entered administration and, as such, statutory declarations were not made.

I want to get back to the key focus that we are working hard with EY to ensure that critical housing maintenance services are being maintained in the regions. It would be premature to speculate on the outcomes of these discussions or processes, particularly when, and I come back to this theme, we are relating to 100 or so existing employees. The member for North West Central makes it very simple with this sort of flippant response, and I understand that there are politics and that is what he is trying to do, but the simple idea to terminate, terminate, terminate, without —

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Madam Speaker, I showed respect to the member while he spoke, listened attentively and took notes. He could do the same.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, it is compromising the length of time you get to hear the response if you continue to interject. You have had your opportunity to raise your grievance. It is now the minister's opportunity to respond.

Mr J.N. CAREY: I want to also very quickly relate to the one letter that went to the minister. That letter was from a person who was neither a contractor nor an employee. They had not provided any specific substantiated non-payment. That fact is on the record. I also note that no complaints were received by the Department of Finance's complaints line from February 2020 to the recent administration. There were also opportunities for contractors to make complaints to the Small Business Commissioner. Again, I want to put on the record that we are taking a very prudent and sober approach to this matter, working through and making sure essential work is being undertaken.

SPORTING FACILITIES — SCARBOROUGH ELECTORATE

Grievance

MR S.N. AUBREY (Scarborough) [9.57 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Sport and Recreation. My electorate of Scarborough, my home, is an amazing place that has an active and strong community. It is one of the most popular and fastest growing areas in Perth. Its density is continuing to increase, along with an increasingly younger population, specifically younger families looking to raise their kids in our community. Schools and sporting clubs in the area are becoming more and more vital in keeping Scarborough's community strong and welcoming new members of our community. With no land left in the area to establish new sporting grounds, it is important we maximise the potential of our existing grounds to allow clubs to increase their participation and in turn continue to strengthen the Scarborough community.

During the recent election campaign and since the election, I have liaised with many clubs in my electorate to ensure that I understand their needs so that I can focus on fighting and delivering for them. I fervently fight for these clubs because they are integral to not only the physical, but also mental wellbeing of the Scarborough community. Supporting my local sporting and community clubs to increase participation, inclusion and diversity is one of my main priorities as a local member, as I said in my inaugural speech. I proudly stand here today to bring forth this grievance to address the concerns of my local clubs in Scarborough. These are a few of my local clubs and the challenges they face.

I begin with North Beach Soccer Club, based at Charles Riley Memorial Reserve in North Beach. North Beach Soccer Club has a membership of 650 members, ranging from the ages of four to 68—156 of these are female, 472 are junior members and 171 are seniors. North Beach Soccer Club proudly has one of the largest female participation numbers in the state.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are between the Speaker and the member on their feet.

Mr S.N. AUBREY: Its president wrote to me during the campaign to ask for my assistance with its issues of insufficient lighting at Charles Riley Memorial Reserve. The insufficient lighting is preventing the club from training and playing at night and in turn limiting the number of players it can accept into the club. Alongside my esteemed colleague and friend the member for Carine, I proudly committed \$200 000 for an upgrade to the lights and I am looking forward to that commitment being delivered, in conjunction with the City of Stirling.

Gwelup Croatia Soccer Club, based in the leafy green family suburb of Gwelup, has a membership of around 350. It is a proud family club and is the heart and soul of the Gwelup community. Now into its fourth decade of existence, its vision is to offer the entire community a focal point where both friends and family can comfortably enjoy their football while experiencing a sense of tradition, culture and identity that is unique in comparison with other clubs in Perth. Gwelup Croatia Soccer Club is looking to bring on another female junior team but is struggling to fit the extra team on the grounds it has available due to the inability to play at night. Once again, alongside my good friend and colleague the member for Carine, I have proudly committed \$150 000 towards lighting and grandstand upgrades. This will greatly assist the club to increase participation, but there is more to be done.

Scarborough Amateur Football Club was established in 1970 and has been based at Millington Reserve in Karrinyup, also affectionately known as "the Mill", since its inception. The club won the 2020 A-grade football premiership against North Beach Football Club, also in my electorate. I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the club on its premiership victory and its efforts in including more women in the club. With 286 members, three men's sides, two women's and two colts this season, the club punches well above its weight, having won two of the last three A-grade flags. It prides itself on being a diverse and family-friendly club, whose values are courage, mateship and progressiveness. The club holds a fundraiser every year, raising thousands for Sock it to Sarcoma!

Scarborough Amateur Football Club is a family, and despite the Mill being that family's home, they frequently must play what should be their home games elsewhere because they are unable to fit all of their teams at the Mill on the weekends. The biggest hindrance is the inability to play at night, as the lighting is insufficient to meet playing standards. I was able to commit, as part of this government, \$55 000 towards lighting upgrades, in conjunction with the West Australian Football Commission and the City of Stirling. I am looking forward to seeing this family spend more time at home once the lights are upgraded.

Last but not least, Wembley Downs Soccer Club, founded in 1979, has always been based in Scarborough at Butlers Reserve. It has 607 members, with 70 female members and 415 juniors. It is 100 per cent run by volunteers, who work tirelessly to give back to the community. Butlers Reserve has four full-size and one nine-a-side pitch. Insufficient lighting means the club has only three pitches that are barely playable at night and two that are completely unusable.

I recently went down to the club one evening after these issues were brought to my attention so that I could witness them firsthand. One of the club's members was so excited to have the local member come to their club that he stripped off and streaked across the oval, much to the president's embarrassment and everyone else's amusement. At least I think that is why he did it—he could have lost a bet, maybe. The club is having to turn away new members because it cannot establish new teams as it is unable to make full use of its fields after dark for training. For a club like Wembley Downs Soccer Club, this breaks its heart. It actively works to support the community and the club members.

In recent years, the club has lost one of its members, Neil Fitsimmons, who was a fly-in fly-out worker, to suicide. The club continues every year to raise funds to support Neil's son back in Ireland. Further to this, the club suffered another tragic loss when its then president, Natalie Harding, was killed late last year in a car crash. The club is holding a memorial next Sunday for both Nat and Neil to honour their contributions to the club and to the community. I will be attending this memorial, but I would like to take a moment to pay my respects and gratitude to both Neil Fitsimmons and Natalie Harding for everything they did for Wembley Downs Soccer Club and the Scarborough community.

The biggest challenge for each of these clubs is lighting. They are at maximum capacity and cannot expand any further. It is important that Scarborough's sporting grounds and clubs be fit for purpose to allow these clubs to cater for an increased and more diverse membership. This lack of lighting is a big disadvantage primarily to women, as we try to encourage more female participation in sports. These clubs are finding it hard to form female sides because they cannot accommodate any more teams.

Minister, I ask: what is the government doing to fix the lighting at sporting clubs in Scarborough and around the state to allow the clubs to increase participation and become more inclusive?

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [10.03 am]: I would like to thank the member for Scarborough for bringing this grievance to me and congratulate him on his outstanding election result. We have a shared passion for sport and community activity, especially his particular passion of surf lifesaving. It is welcome to have a very active and energetic member for Scarborough in the house, so thank you very much for bringing this grievance to me. I also congratulate the member's colleague, the member for Carine, who has been working with the member in seeking to improve sporting facilities in their electorates.

Member, I have some good news about the lighting issue. As the member said, it is an important issue for sporting organisations. It would be remiss of me not to mention the former Minister for Sport and Recreation, Hon Mick Murray, who was very forceful in trying to improve the funding for lighting at sporting and recreation facilities. I congratulate the former Minister for Sport and Recreation for his advocacy in this area and for bringing along a program that I would like to bring to the attention of the member and the house—the Club Night Lights program. That program is really needed. As we know, there is great demand on our sporting facilities, so if those facilities can be used for a greater part of the day, that will obviously alleviate the problem of sporting facilities being unable to meet the increasing demand. It is important to have good lighting so that people can train and play during the evening. The member also mentioned the issue with women's sporting teams in his electorate, and I have some news about increased funding in that respect.

Member, sports floodlighting has always been funded under the annual community sporting and recreation facilities fund grants. A considerable amount of funding has been made available under that program. Since coming to office in 2017, the McGowan government has allocated 72 CSRFF grants for sports lighting as part of a bigger grant. That is 72 individual grants to the tune of \$14 million. That improvement in lighting for ovals and courts has enabled the increased use of these facilities and provided a safe environment to train and play sport during the evening. As I said, this is very important to meet the increasing demand in this area. However, obviously, that was not enough. As I said, the former minister was very active in this area in bringing on the Club Night Lights program during the 2021 election campaign, to the tune of \$10 million over the next four years. That is an absolutely outstanding commitment. That funding will be used solely for the lighting of ovals, courts and facilities. I am sure that will help some of the member's sporting clubs and facilities. I urge the member for Scarborough and other members of the house to work with their clubs to ensure that they make application where appropriate. That is \$2.5 million a year for lighting for sports clubs.

Mr P.J. Rundle: I hope non-Labor seats will get that funding as well.

Ms A. Sanderson: Everyone can apply.

Dr A.D. BUTI: As my colleague the member for Morley has mentioned, everyone can apply. I am not sure what the concern is. Of course the sectarian Nationals WA always want things just for themselves.

Mr P.J. Rundle interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Member, I have this grievance from the outstanding member for Scarborough, who has the interests of his clubs at heart, and I wish to address my response to the grievance to him.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs L.A. Munday): Go ahead, minister.

Dr A.D. BUTI: If other members have a grievance, they can bring it, but they have not brought a grievance, so it would be a really good idea and good behaviour if they would show respect for the member for Scarborough.

That program will provide \$2.5 million a year over the next four years for sports floodlighting. The previous government before 2017 did nothing in this area; there was no additional funding in this area

The member for Scarborough also mentioned women's sports. I am also happy to announce that as part of the 2021 election campaign, we made a commitment for an additional \$500 000 a year to the CSRFF grants program

for the purpose of providing female-ready facilities—in other words, improved change room facilities and unisex facilities through the installation of individual lockable showers and the replacement of urinals with additional toilet pans.

We are trying to ensure that we provide not only floodlighting so that we can increase the time people can spend at these facilities, but also appropriate facilities to encourage increased participation by females in sport in Western Australia. I know that the member is a strong advocate for that.

I am sure that those issues will interest his constituents and clubs and the people who play sport in his area. I urge all members to work with their clubs and local governments to make applications for the annual CSRFF grants program, plus the additional \$2.5 million a year for lighting, plus the additional \$500 000 a year for the next four years to provide women-friendly facilities at sporting venues. These are really important initiatives taken by this government. I know that the member for Scarborough is a great advocate in this area, and he will ensure that his electorate's clubs can make applications to improve their chances to play at night-time and to improve women's participation in sport. I thank the member for bringing his grievance to me. It is great to have him in the house, and it would be great if members of the opposition could take a leaf out of the member for Scarborough's book, with his hard work in advocating for his local constituents.

SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENTS REPEAL BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from 12 May.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [10.10 am]: I rise on behalf of the opposition to put on record our support for the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. This bill went through the last term of Parliament, but it never quite made it to fruition. However, it is great to see that the new Minister for Commerce has introduced this bill again at the start of this term. Hopefully, it will pass through. It is a commonsense bill.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I have another 60 minutes to go, members! I will try to make it a little bit more exciting than the member for Bassendean's speeches. Perhaps we can repeal him from this place!

This bill will repeal the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979, which was a long time ago. Although some members in this house, like the member for Bassendean, may know it better than others.

Dr A.D. Buti: Were you a member of the Labor Party in 1979?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: At two years of age, I probably was!

Members, I think we will get back to this very good bill that will repeal what we have —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Madam Acting Speaker, can we please tell the drip over there, the member for Bassendean, to stop dripping!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, thank you. Go ahead, member for North West Central.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker.

Obviously, the act restricts the keeping, opening or use of premises for paid entertainment or amusement on Sundays, Christmas Day or Good Friday unless the minister has issued a permit or granted a general exemption to allow a place to open on those days. That includes football matches and any amusement activities or concerts. Under the current legislation, those events need approval to go ahead. We are in a modern society and not everyone is religious. Time is critical in this day and age and people want to maximise their time, whether it be on Christmas Day or Good Friday. They want to enjoy it with their friends and family and go out but also have the ability to work. Businesses will be able to capitalise on the changing mood of the environment and trade on those days without having to go through the archaic process of having to get approvals. Clearly, this bill is overdue, which is why the opposition is right behind supporting the repeal of this act.

Mr P.J. Rundle: As we were in the last Parliament.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: We supported it in the last Parliament, and the member for Roe made some great contributions then. The member for Roe is clearly going to get to his feet to show some support for this bill, which he did in the last term of government.

Members, there is not much to this bill other than repealing archaic legislation from 1979. The process of having an exemption for places to open on Sundays is an unnecessary administrative burden on businesses and government resources. This bill will clean that up, and I congratulate the new Minister for Commerce for bringing in a sensible bill that will actually work! It will provide relief to businesses and the bureaucracy of government, and it will ensure that the modern practices of our society will be reflected. Therefore, the opposition fully supports this bill, as it did during the previous term of government, as the member for Roe said, who was a spokesperson for the Nationals WA then. We see no reason but to fully endorse and support this commonsense bill.

MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka) [10.15 am]: I rise to support the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. As we have already heard, the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979 reflects a different time in our society when Sundays, Christmas and Easter were considered very important for religious observation. It is clear that our society and our community have moved on since this act was made in 1979. The intention of the act was to restrict the use or keeping of premises for entertainment or amusement unless a permit was issued and permission granted by the government. I am advised that although this act was made in 1979, the restrictions on activities date back to about 1902. Between 1902 and 1979, a similar restraint was contained in a different act, and with the rewriting of the Police Act 1892, this provision was extracted and incorporated into the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979. For those of us who are old enough to remember 1979, that, perhaps, explains why even then there was already some change in community expectations and standards around what happens on these important religious holidays and on Sundays. These kinds of provisions reflect the changes in society over a long time, really dating back to 1902. Society now has quite different expectations about when and how we access entertainment, whether on Sundays or religious holidays. The observance of Christian faith has changed and we are, in fact, a more secular society these days.

We are also a much more multicultural society, and it is now more common in our community and society to observe a wide variety of faiths. Christianity is important, but it is by no means the only prominent faith in our society. I often reflect on that in my electorate of Mirrabooka, which is one of the most diverse electorates in the state. Many different religions are observed by the people who live there. Islam is widely observed and many of my constituents have recently observed the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan features fasting between sun-up and sunset, with great gatherings of family and friends every evening to feast and celebrate the fast being broken. It is interesting to observe how clearly this religious festival impacts on the patterns of life in my electorate. The Minister for Sport and Recreation will be interested to hear this, because I know that he loves all stories sport-related. One of the soccer teams stopped training in the evening—they also have issues with their lighting—because they found that people would not stay because they wanted to go home to be part of the feasting and celebration as soon as the sun went down. Therefore, that soccer team did not train consistently throughout that time, as it prioritised its members' religious observance.

The Mirrabooka mosque is well known in my electorate. Many people observe their religion at the mosque and go there for prayers. I am very grateful to the imam of the mosque and one of its senior committee members, Aghmed, who recently welcomed me to the mosque. For people who are of the Islamic faith, Friday is their significant day of prayer and religious observance. On Fridays, the area around the Mirrabooka mosque becomes alive with people and activity. In fact, people come from all over the metropolitan area to worship at that mosque. Actually, I am told that thousands of people use it as their place of prayer. Even though prayer is observed every day of the week, it is particularly busy on a Friday. This highlights the contrast between the provisions of the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979, which the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill will repeal, and what happens today in our community at large.

I note that there is a greater proportion of people of Islamic faith in my electorate of Mirrabooka than in greater Perth. The latest census data, from 2011, tells us that 7.9 per cent of the Mirrabooka population nominated Islam as their religion, which compares with the 2.1 per cent of people in the greater Perth area who nominated Islam as their religion. There are nearly four times as many people of Islamic faith in my electorate compared with the greater Perth area.

It is also worth noting that Buddhism is widely practised in the electorate. I have been fortunate to visit the Dhammaloka Buddhist Centre, which is located just outside my electorate in Nollamara. Many of my constituents attend that Buddhist centre to observe their faith. I have also been fortunate to meet Ajahn Brahm, who is their spiritual leader. Recently, when I attended the centre, I witnessed a reception for new Buddhists. It was interesting to note that the centre was in fact welcoming new Buddhists from all around the world, who were participating via a Zoom teleconference. They had been called to this centre because of the teachings of Ajahn Brahm, who is based there. Again, by way of illustration, the 2011 census tells us that 7.1 per cent of constituents in Mirrabooka nominated Buddhism as their religion, which compares with the 2.5 per cent of people in the greater Perth area who nominated Buddhism as their religion. In my electorate, we can see the patterns of many different faiths that do not subscribe to the Christian calendar and the celebrations at Easter and Christmas and on Sundays. It is clear that our society is changing, and although the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979 may have once represented the majority of faiths in the community, there has been a significant change since that time.

It would be wrong to assume that because there is a great diversity of faiths in my electorate that it is not also a Christian place because, indeed, many people in my electorate are Christian. It is interesting to note that the number of people who nominated in the census that they observe Christian religion is about the same as that for the greater Perth area. It is not the case that there are fewer Christians because there are more people who practise Islamic, Buddhist or other faiths; it is almost entirely consistent with the rest of the greater Perth area. It is interesting to note that in my electorate, Christianity is overlaid with a great sense of different countries and cultures. By way of example, I had the honour to attend an Anglican church service on New Year's Day, which was spoken in Dinka, the language of the South Sudanese. As someone who went to an Anglican boarding school and attended a large number of Anglican church services, I can attest to the fact that although there were some similarities, there were

many differences, including the very passionate sermon and the very joyful and soulful singing, rather than the hymns from my boarding school days with which I am more familiar. Throughout my electorate on Sundays and many other days of the week, there are large gatherings of people worshipping in churches, halls and community centres. They worship on not only a Sunday, but also many other days, drawing on a wide range of religions and different Christian traditions.

It is important to note the work of the churches in our area. There are many faith-based organisations that contribute importantly to the safety net in the electorate, including the Balga Salvos, MercyCare, St Vincent de Paul and the Edmund Rice Centre, which is now a more secular organisation but has its roots in a strong Catholic philosophy. They all provide important services and works. There are also many faith-based schools in my electorate, some of which I have recently visited, including John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School; Emmanuel Christian Community School, which is a Baptist school; and Majella Catholic Primary School and Our Lady of Mercy Primary School, which are important Catholic schools in the area.

I speak very strongly about what I observe in my electorate—that is, a changing pattern of faith. Although we have many organisations and many religions are observed, Christianity remains important, and that is certainly true in my electorate. The Sunday Entertainments Act, which this bill will repeal, reflects a different time when Christianity was more widely observed and our expectations about activities and entertainments on those important religious days were significantly different from today's expectations. Although Christianity continues to be an important and dominant religion in our society, a great many religions are now observed and our expectations about how we spend our time on weekends and public holidays has changed greatly. We do not look to government to issue permits for those who wish to embark on entertainments and amusements on the important days of Christian observance. However, like a great many matters, it is important that the government strike a considered and careful balance on these issues.

Although I support the repeal of the legislation and think it is important to acknowledge society's changing expectations about Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day, I do not subscribe to the view that these days should be treated as just any other day. Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday are important and unique days for our community at large. They are important, as I said, for people who choose to worship on those days; the many Christians in my electorate will attest to that. But I have long been a passionate advocate for the fact that these days are important for everyone in our community, even those who do not actively engage in Christian worship and those who observe different faiths. A great many people consider Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day important days to spend with their families that allow them to strengthen their bonds with family and friends. They are days when we engage in shared activities with our loved ones and when we lay down precious family memories. Therefore, I believe that it is of great importance that our community continues to recognise these days and the government should continue to support the measures that contribute to striking a fair balance. For that reason, I have always supported the role that penalty rates play in striking a proper balance for people who want to spend time with their families while allowing appropriate commercial activities and amusements for those who wish to partake in them. Penalty rates, in effect, provide a kind of price signal to ensure that we do not treat Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday as just another day. They provide an incentive and reward for those who are required to work and forgo precious family time on these days and they are an additional consideration for those who wish to pursue some type of commerce on those days, to assess whether it is really necessary and desirable that they operate at all.

Members, it is important to note that over many years, the Liberal Party has tried to wind back these important working conditions and penalty rates. Prior to the 2017 election, Colin Barnett and his Liberal Party shamefully committed, if they were re-elected, to cutting penalty rates for low-paid workers in hospitality and retail. I am glad to say that they were not re-elected; instead, the people of Western Australia elected the McGowan Labor government, which had committed to maintaining, preserving and defending penalty rates and which, indeed, it has done. It is worthwhile noting that the workers who were particularly targeted by the Liberal Party policy were overwhelmingly women, many of whom were employed on insecure employment contracts and almost all of whom were earning less than the average take-home pay.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Shameful.

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: It is shameful.

The Liberal Party shamelessly called for the penalty rates of these workers to be cut, arguing that Sunday should be treated like just another day. It is little wonder that the Liberal Party has been reduced to its current state; everyday people are not fools and they will not support a party that tries to cut their take-home pay.

Mr D.J. Kelly: They'd complain if we listed Parliament to sit on a Sunday.

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: They would indeed!

I do not agree that Sunday is just another day and I do not agree that Christmas Day and Good Friday should be treated as just another day. I support this bill, but I also argue strongly that we remain committed to recognising that these are important days in our community at large, whether it is for religious observance or spending valuable time

with family. Penalty rates provide the all-important balance between recognising the importance of Christmas Day, Good Friday and Sundays to many in our community, some of whom are Christian and some of whom are not, and allowing business to operate while also providing additional compensation for those who are required to work on these most precious of family days.

I note that for the penalty rates that are outlined in many awards and agreements to apply, it is essential that specific days must first be declared as public holidays. Many members of this house may not be aware that WA has among the fewest number of public holidays of any state or territory in Australia. Members may also be unaware that Easter Sunday is not a declared public holiday in Western Australia. This is a little-known fact, although I can assure members that for anyone who has been required to work on Easter Sunday and not received penalty rates, it is both well known and much commented on. We would all agree that Easter Sunday in particular is a day of great importance to the community and to families. Over the years, many workers have expressed to me their surprise that they could be required to work and not receive additional pay for doing so. I hope this matter will soon be rectified and that Easter Sunday will be declared a public holiday, bringing WA into line with other states and territories, much to the joy of working people and their families in our community.

The kinds of permission and permits required by the Sunday Entertainments Act are no longer appropriate for these times. It is clear that the government has provided standing approval for some time and that the idea of issuing individual approvals for specific entertainments or amusements has passed. But penalty rates remain an important part of how we strike a fair balance. In my view, it is essential that we maintain a strong safety net for working people, and it must include penalty rates for those who work on the days and religious holidays that we might normally spend with family.

I note that New South Wales repealed similar legislation in 1983, and Victoria in 1993. I am also advised that no other state in Australia has similar legislation. I think we would agree that it is time, and well due, that this matter be dealt with in Western Australia as well.

Before I conclude, I commend the public servants who worked on this legislation, particularly for their consultation with the community on this matter, which I know they undertook during the fortieth Parliament.

In conclusion, I confirm that I support this repeal bill. I agree that the time has long passed since we needed the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979. It reflects a different age, when Sundays, Christmas and Easter were considered to be of particular religious importance. For those reasons, I commend this bill to the house.

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [10.32 am]: Acting Speaker (Mrs L.A. Munday), I congratulate you on your appointment as an Acting Speaker. I think this is the first time I have stood in front of you in this new Parliament. I would also like to congratulate the member for Mirrabooka for her very compelling contribution. I agree wholeheartedly with her sentiments; I think she hit all the points perfectly. I fear that I will be a pale imitation in following her, but I will give it my absolute best!

I obviously stand in this place to support the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. The main purpose of this bill is to preserve the sanctity of days that are usually set aside for religious observance by Christians. Being a Christian myself, I thought that made sense and I can understand why it was done in the past. I wanted to look into it because I am very aware that we need to acknowledge the growing multiculturalism that is occurring not so much in my electorate but across Western Australia. I found out how many people in Western Australia identify as Christian. Using the profile.id 2016 data, I found that only 49.8 per cent of the 2.4 million people in Western Australia identify as Christian. That may seem like a lot of people but we still need to acknowledge that half of our population—or 0.2 per cent over half—do not identify as Christian. Interestingly and significantly, 32.8 per cent state that they have no religion. I admit that it seems archaic for us to tie a piece of legislation to a Christian observance. I understand why it was done. I understand that observing religion on Sundays is very important to lots of Catholics like me. I choose to send my children to a Catholic school—in fact, I am very much looking forward to my daughter being confirmed in a couple of weeks—but I do not feel that this Parliament should be imposing Catholic or Christian views on our entire population when over half of them are not Christian.

I have the great privilege and joy of being married to a Macedonian, who observes Macedonian Orthodox traditions. That means that my children enjoy having two Easters and two Christmases because Macedonian Orthodox people always celebrate Christmas on 7 January and Easter moves around much like the Catholic Easter; sometimes it falls on the same day and sometimes it falls a couple of weeks later. It means that my children get extra family time, going around to Baba and Dedo's house—their grandparents' house—to partake in a feast, a celebration. Unfortunately for them, we do not give two lots of Christmas presents, much to their disgust, and we sometimes do not give two lots of Easter eggs; it depends how close the two Easters fall. This demonstrates the fact that we are not a society of one single religion. Even within that band of Christianity, a number of different religions deviate from what was the norm back in 1902, when the legislation originally came in, and 1979, when the Sunday Entertainments Act was introduced.

I firmly believe that, in practice, this act is not needed now. It is no longer relevant because successive governments have given standing permits and exemptions to businesses to be able to trade and for sporting events to be able to be

held on these days. For me, it is just regulatory process for regulatory process's sake. As a government that is looking to slash red tape to make it easier for businesses to conduct business, I commend the Minister for Transport; Planning for the reforms that were put through last year to make it easier for businesses to conduct business. For example, the "change of use" reforms meant that businesses did not constantly come up against red tape.

This legislation is another step in the right direction. It acknowledges that we do not have to be over regulatory to have a good working society. The McGowan government's commitment to slashing red tape is really important as we move forward and as we move out of the COVID-19 pandemic, looking after small businesses, in particular mum-and-dad businesses, and people like me. I used to own a party hire business in Osborne Park. It is really hard being a small business person. It is time consuming—in fact, it is all consuming—because we do not operate between nine and five; we operate between nine and five to the public and then we work after hours doing the books, getting permits and making sure that all the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted. If we can make any small change for those small businesses, those small mum-and-dad businesses, and say, "You do not need to do this", that is good. For example, a lot of people think cinemas are big businesses. Having the Warwick cinemas in my electorate, I know for a fact—I talk to the owners—that they are not big businesses; they are family businesses. They employ a lot of casual and part-time people, but the businesses are run by small family groups. If we can cut any of that red tape for them, that is entirely important.

I agree with the member for Mirrabooka that we need to ensure that in doing so, we also acknowledge that penalty rates should be paid for the workers in these businesses. We need to ensure that all people in our community benefit from the changes we make to legislation, not just a small percentage of our community. I also agree with her that Sundays are traditionally seen as family time. Regardless of whether someone observes their religion on a Sunday, a majority of families still try to gain some family time. As a society that works incredibly hard—a lot of us work more than our standard 38 hours a week—quarantining some of that Sunday time to be with family is very important. That does not necessarily mean just sitting at home with family. It can mean partaking in entertainment with family or watching sport with family.

My family sponsors the Warwick Senators. When they have Sunday games, which usually start at noon, the kids love it because they can come along to the games with my husband and I to watch the Senators play. When they are playing in the evenings, they do not finish until nine o'clock and my five-year-old does not cope very well with it! For our family, being able to attend the basketball game—which is a ticketed, paid event just like other sporting events such as cricket, tennis and football—to see those women and men on the court on a Sunday, is something that my kids and my husband and I really look forward to. This repeal bill will address some issues by allowing us to do those things on a Sunday. People want family time; sometimes they want to take their kids out for a treat. People want to take their kids to the movies or to sport, and people with younger kids in particular want to take them to play centres, which will be captured under this legislation as well. I have a five-year-old child, but having had two kids go through that really young stage when play centres were the thing to go to, I know that this legislation is really important.

I would like to go back to penalty rates and what the member for Mirrabooka was talking about. I have been a small business owner. We did not open on a Sunday, but we made the conscious decision that the staff who worked Monday to Friday were paid a certain rate and the staff who just worked a Saturday were paid at an additional rate. As a small family business, we acknowledged that in coming to work for us on a Saturday, those people were not with their families. We employed a lot of teenage girls between the ages of 16 and 19 to work in the shop for us. Actually, we employed girls and boys—we had quite a few boys come through the shop as well. They had been at school or university all week. Although they may have felt as though they did not need to see their parents at the time, we understood that in working for us on a Saturday, they were sacrificing time to enrich those bonds that they had with their parents or siblings. We paid accordingly. I know that others do not do that—there are lots of others who do not—but we felt as a family business that we needed to ensure that when we took people away from their families, we were compensating them appropriately. It is really important to acknowledge that although we do not think the Sunday Entertainments Act is relevant any more, we will protect penalty rates for those who work on a Sunday.

I have been a casual worker. I have worked in supermarkets and restaurants. I have worked in all those places that stay open on a Sunday. It does make a difference to what a person takes home in a week. If a person chooses to work on a Sunday and is paid penalties rates, it makes a difference. Sometimes it is the difference between—especially for someone who lives on their own and is not that great at cooking—whether someone eats baked beans for dinner or whether they have something a bit nicer, or whether they put food on the table at all. Sometimes penalty rates make all the difference between feeding a family and not. It is really important to acknowledge, in moving forward with this bill, that we are saying that the Sunday Entertainments Act is not required but that we will protect our penalty rates moving forward.

I would like to commend this bill to the house. I thank the minister for bringing this bill to the house. It is a sign of our times that we are acknowledging that we are a multicultural society and that we are embracing that multicultural society and not saying that Christian or Catholic traditions are the only things that we recognise. It is important that we do not link our legislation to specific religious observance.

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills — Parliamentary Secretary) [10.45 am]: I rise to speak to the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. It might surprise some of my constituents to know that the law as it currently stands restricts public entertainments on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday. Section 3 of the act provides —

- (1) Subject to this section, a person who, except with statutory authority —
 - (a) knowingly keeps, opens or uses any place or any part thereof for public entertainment or amusement on any Sunday or on Christmas Day or Good Friday in any year and to which persons are admitted by payment of money, or by tickets, programmes, objects or tokens sold for money, or in which, or in respect of which, a charge is made for seats, or a collection of money is made; or
 - (b) being the owner of any place ...

A person who enables any of those things is guilty of an offence. I do not know that many people in Swan Hills would be aware of that. Turning up to a local football field or clubrooms, people often pay a gold coin donation for a program for the football, or whatever sport they happen to be going along to watch, and at the moment it is an offence to enable that, at least. Obviously, there is a provision that clubs and event holders can apply for an exemption. I understand that an exemption is always given. Nonetheless, there is this red tape that sits there. I was looking through the history of this. It stems from the Sunday Observance Act 1780. This is a British statute before Australia had even been settled! It was certainly from a long time before Perth had been founded. It has been carried over to this day. It is long overdue that this particular statute be repealed.

I understand that this is the third Parliament into which this bill has been brought. Two Parliaments have had a crack at repealing the act and have not managed to do it. It reflects the fact, as other speakers have noticed, that society has rolled on: how we come together is different; the way we celebrate is different; and whom and how we worship, if we worship at all, is completely different. It is my sincere hope that we will be able to repeal this act.

I have been giving a lot of thought to what we do with our weekends. One of the most contentious aspects of this bill over time—not just here in Western Australia but in other places as well—is whether AFL games should be played on Good Friday. That has been a very contentious issue. I fail to understand why. I decided, with the time I have available today, to reflect on the importance of community sport and why it is so important that the facilities we have across the state are able to have public entertainment on Sundays and Christmas Day and Good Friday, if they so choose. Community sport is vital to enabling friendships, helping people keep fit and creating that sense of community. It is not just the sporting events that are held; it is all the fundraisers, the drinks that people go out for, and the family days—the picnics and the barbecues—all around sporting groups. It is not just to the benefit of the players of the sport. It is for the benefit of the volunteers who support that: the coaches; the mums who turn up; the volunteer officials; and the umpires, even though everyone often gives the umpires a tune-up!

All these people come together in ways that are so different from 1780, when a piece of legislation like this was first introduced in the United Kingdom. This came home to me particularly in the wake of the Wooroloo fires. The Wooroloo fires affected my entire electorate. We are very aware that homes were lost in Wooroloo and Gidgegannup, and my heart breaks for those communities, but there was barely a community in my electorate that was untouched. People were evacuated from Chidlow, Mt Helena, Brigadoon, Bullsbrook, Upper Swan, the Vines, Swan Valley, Morangup, Aveley and Ellenbrook. Everybody was either evacuated or put on red alert. That is a 1 400–square kilometre electorate. When the potential pathways of the fire were traced, everybody was required to either evacuate or be placed on standby. Tragically, Wooroloo and Gidgegannup bore the brunt of the fires, but I found it remarkable that in the immediate wake of those fires people, particularly the folk in Ellenbrook, looked up into the hills, saw what the community was going through and decided to do something about it.

Not long at all after the fires, our local community radio station, VCA 88.5FM, an absolutely fantastic community station, got involved. It has a sporting program on Wednesday evenings called *In the Sheds*, with “Alby”, “Brucey”, “Donny” and “Greeny”. They pitch themselves as “local sport by local idiots”, and they are good. They are genuinely funny. It can be a bit random at times—you have to strap yourself in for some of the commentary—but it is hilarious. They are great—great guys! The program focuses on all our local sporting teams—what is going on in our local sporting community. The guys came to see me and said that they were sitting around having a few beers with some of the captains of the local cricket clubs and they decided they would like to schedule a charity cricket match because they would love to raise money for the folk in the hills who were going through such hardship and asked whether I would help them. Of course, I did as much as I could, but it was very little in the scheme of things.

I want to take my hat off to those guys and the clubs involved, the Ellenbrook Rangers Cricket Club and the Swan Valley Cricket Club. They were the feature clubs. They had kids’, women’s and seniors’ games—three games. It absolutely bucketed with rain. It had been beautiful weather on the weekends either side, but in the lead-up, the forecast just got worse and worse. I do not know whether the kids got 10 minutes out on the pitch. They were like drowned rats! Afterwards, they went into the clubrooms saturated. Nonetheless, the clubs all got on with it and all went out there. Despite the torrential rain, the turnout from the community was absolutely remarkable. The event was held at the Ellenbrook District Open Space. A whole heap of local businesses turned out. Food vans turned out and

there was face painting—you name it. There were little side events. VCA 88.5FM set itself up under the verandah and live streamed the event and provided us all with music and entertainment. The Premier came, and that was quite an experience for me, because he was absolutely mobbed. It was really quite remarkable. He was interviewed live on 88.5. He took the time to meet each of the clubs. He went out to the centre of the ground. The women's teams were playing at that stage and he went and said hello to the women players. It was absolutely fantastic. Despite the torrential rain, it was an absolutely fantastic community event. At that community event the Premier signed a cricket bat, which was auctioned off. That single autographed cricket bat raised thousands of dollars. It was absolutely crazy. I loved seeing the McGowan phenomenon at work at the Ellenbrook District Open Space.

Despite the torrential rain, that single event raised over \$29 000 for my community. I just want to say how truly grateful I am to all the people who were involved in organising that event and participating in it. With your indulgence, Acting Speaker, I want to acknowledge the businesses, the clubs and the community members who were donors to the event and supported it. I want to give a shout-out. I acknowledge radio VCA 88.5FM, obviously; Ellenbrook Rangers Cricket Club; Ellenbrook Eels Football Club; Ellenbrook Dockers Junior Football Club; Swan Valley Cricket Club; Swan Valley Community and Sporting Club; Swan Athletic-Caversham Cricket Club; Midland Guildford Junior Cricket Association; Upper Swan Junior Football Club; Western Australian Cricket Association; Perth Scorcher; Ellenbrook Returned Services League; Ellenbrook Lions Club; City of Swan; Josh McGuire, who gave us an absolutely beautiful welcome to country, as they always are, so thank you, Josh, it was gorgeous; Jessica Batton, our face painter; and Bernie and friends, who did our bake sale that raised quite a bit of money. Music was provided by Tim and Sage The Duo and Less than Zer0. I also acknowledge the West Australian Football Commission, Swan Districts Football Club, East Perth Royals Football Club, West Swan Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and Perth Party Animals. They were all the community groups that came together.

I also acknowledge the incredible generosity of businesses. We really need to acknowledge the local businesses, because they support our sporting groups, our P&Cs and all sorts of community associations. The ones that came behind this event were the Local Loan Company; MCC Custom Concrete; Renteca Expert Equipment Solutions; Westcourt Family Business Accountants; Kevrek Pty Ltd; Aaron Diss Designs; BWS Ellenbrook; Wayan's Kitchen; Shiraz Soft Serve; Hot Jam Donuts; Harry and the Boys; Bake King; Total Work Wear, Midland; Williams Meats; and Proform Productions Pty Ltd. We can see why this was so successful.

A whole heap of other businesses also donated raffle items. We have a lot of breweries and wineries in our electorate—I just want to put it out there!—and they were extraordinarily generous. I think our clubs are still enjoying the generosity of our local breweries and wineries. The donations were astonishing, including cases of fine Swan Valley wines and beers. I thank Feral Brewery; Mash Brewery; the Henley Brook; Yahava KoffeeWorks; Ugly Duckling Wines; Olive Farm Wines; John Kosovich Wines; Ellenbrook Central, and that is Vicinity Centres, which runs our local shopping centre; Slater Gartrell Sports, Midland, a big provider of sporting equipment in my community; Soak and Soothe; Swan Valley Cuddly Animal Farm; Lot Six Zero, Aveley—I have to give a shout-out to their coffee, as it keeps me going; Woolworths, Mundaring; Laneway Seven, another fantastic small coffee business on Main Street in Ellenbrook; Coles, Midland; Officeworks, Midland; Repco, Mundaring; Perth Hills Barber—I do not go near there too often!; Bike Force, Ellenbrook; Caffeinated; the Vines Resort and Keishi Spa; Aura Hair Salon; Harris Organic Wines; Resin Treasures by Sharee; and Casting Keepsakes Perth.

Then there were some other donations made by CJD Equipment, Manufacturers Agency, Precision Carpets, Perth Glory, Perth Wildcats, West Coast Eagles, Melbourne Football Club, Manildra Flour, Kewdale Tavern, Aussie Floorcovering Distributors, Kevmor Trade Supplies, Badge Partners in Construction and St Vincent De Paul church.

That one event alone, that one activity that goes on in sporting and community groups, that can provide entertainment on Sundays brought together so many disparate businesses and groups and allowed us all to come together and demonstrate so much generosity. I know that is deeply appreciated by my electorate and by the people in Wooroloo and Gidgegannup. I want to say how wonderful it is and what a great community Ellenbrook is. When the chips are down, we come together and support our friends.

It is not just the sporting groups in Ellenbrook; the Hills Football Association has been incredible. Just recently, in round 7, on 22 May, there was a bit of a grudge match between the Gidgegannup Bulldogs and Mt Helena. It became a big community event. It was sponsored by BlazeAid, and it brought all the folk of Gidgegannup together at the Gidgegannup Recreation Club. Again, it is another sporting activity that goes on at a premises for which a charge is levied, which, were it not for the repeal of this act, would be an offence. We had round 7 there. It was an absolutely fantastic event held at the Gidge recreation club. Again, that is another owner and operator of a premises that provides stuff on Sundays.

The Gidge rec club is home to basketball, cricket, football and netball teams, but it has created that space for many social events. I want to give a shout-out to Paul Carroll, the president, and Carey Stewart, the secretary, for the great work that they have been doing at the Gidgegannup club. I will come to the Wooroloo fires in a moment, but even before that, they turned the Gidge rec club facility into the heart of Gidgegannup. There was so much great stuff going on there. I want to thank them for what they do. When tragedy struck, they turned that rec club facility into a place

that people could go to for help. All sorts of service providers were based out of the Gidgegannup Recreation Club. People could go there and get the assistance they needed. It was absolutely fantastic. That venue is now available for all sorts of functions and special occasions. It holds quiz nights and swap meets; people can even hire it for their wedding if they are so inclined. It is in a beautiful spot. Someone standing in the clubrooms can look out over the oval and across the hills. It is really an amazing place. The Hills Football Association has been absolutely incredible. In times of need, when our communities have been tragically affected by these events that have really shaken the people of Swan Hills, our sporting clubs have come together, and we have to do everything we can to support them.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J.J. SHAW: Of course, I have spoken today about the incredible impact that the Woorloo bushfires had on the community of Swan Hills and the way that our sporting clubs came together. Our sporting groups also really come through in instances of great personal tragedy and show what an incredible force for good they can be and the true value they offer our community. I have spoken to the club president of the Ellenbrook Rabbitohs Rugby League Club and sought her permission to read her words into *Hansard*. Members may be aware that in September of last year, Wiremu Kahui from the Ellenbrook Rabbitohs, a father of four, died following a tragic on-field accident. It was absolutely tragic and it reverberated right the way through Ellenbrook. He was a really upstanding man and the heart of the club. To me, it showed the value that one person can bring when they choose to contribute to a club or a sporting association, but then, when tragedy strikes a person or family, how a club can simultaneously come around that person or family and provide them with support. I want to put on record the words expressed by Karyssa Morrell, the club president, because they give us a sense of just how incredible our clubs can be. As I say, I have Karyssa's permission to quote these words —

As I write this, my heart is heavy.

The passing of our beloved brother and friend, Wiremu Kahui, is hard to digest.

Wiremu and his family have been pivotal in our clubs growth since it's inception. Managing, coaching and playing within our juniors, involved in senior leadership groups, and most recently taking on Vice Captaincy of our Val Murphy boys.

Our Mu was a born leader, a role model, passionate about our family, our club and our game.

This year alone, he took on two junior teams to make sure the kids didn't miss out. He represented our club in media campaigns to promote the game coming back since covid hit. He was at our club training, coaching and playing pretty much every day of the week! His commitment and efforts had to be honoured and acknowledged, and it meant a lot to still present his family with the ERRLC Mod Coach of the Year Award for 2020.

I was there for the presentation of that award. It was really quite an emotional event.

He fought hard and while this news will have a significant impact on his family, our members and the wider rugby league community, please know Mu will be with us in our hearts forever.

I will always be grateful for his many contributions to our club and I feel honoured to have even known him.

Wiremu is a true legend!

To our sister Haylee, the boys, and extended family, we will all continue to be here to support you in whatever way we can, always!

Sending all our love and strength!!

The support and love shown to Mu's family to date, from the rugby league community is amazing and truly appreciated.

During this time, we all need each other more than ever. Let's stay united and keep our integrity strong, check in on your loved ones, and know our doors are always open!!

Rest in Love Mu

Much love family

Aunty K

Club President

If that is not testament to the value that our sporting groups bring to our communities, I do not know what is. That is why I think it is important to put that on the record; as we discuss the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021 and consider the different ways that our communities now come together to support one another, to me, that is a fine case study.

I have had my own personal experience of this. At the time my dad passed away, my family were very involved with the Chidlow Cougars in the Hills Football Association. My dad died very suddenly, and the Chidlow Cougars came round and supported my family in a way I could never have imagined. I am personally eternally grateful. I just cannot overstate how important I think our sporting and community groups are.

The lesson in this is that we have all done it tough. We have all had to go through the COVID pandemic. My electorate has been through a fire incident that has affected my entire community, and every one of us will at some point endure personal tragedy. Through all this, I have observed and personally experienced friendship and support through local sporting teams, and I cannot tell you how grateful I am to them.

I want to thank all our supporters, players, volunteers, the mums in the canteen, our umpires—even though we may not always agree with them—and our club office bearers. Every day of the week it seems I get an email or a phone call from a club office bearer asking for some help to achieve their community objectives. I am so proud to continue to do that and I want the people of Swan Hills to know that every day I am in this place I will continue to do that for them because I value the work that they do. Frankly, I welcome any legislative reform that is going to make it easier for our fantastic sporting and community groups to come together on any day of the year, in any form that they choose, and I commend the bill to the house.

MR Y. MUBARAKAI (Jandakot — Parliamentary Secretary) [11.06 am]: Madam Acting Speaker (Ms A.E. Kent), thank you for the opportunity to speak on the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. I pass many congratulations to you on your appointment to the position of Acting Speaker.

I would like to start by commending the Minister for Commerce, Minister Sanderson, for bringing this repeal bill to Parliament. May I say that there is a clear sigh of relief from members who have spoken before me in the debate on this bill—a relief that its importance has been understood. I congratulate the minister on her appointment as the Minister for Commerce and on making one of the most pragmatic decisions in providing this huge relief. This should have been done by previous governments, but we are dealing with it today. Nevertheless, I thank the minister and her team for again proving to this Parliament and the people of Western Australia the importance of the McGowan government's agenda in streamlining, centralising and decluttering the bureaucratic processes for the business sector and the small business sector, especially the entertainment sector. As Western Australians, our community is full of life and engagement. We love our entertainment and our time spent with families and friends in gatherings at which we get to socialise and share how close we are as a community and share our culture of sports and other entertainment.

Western Australia is uniquely placed. Over the last year, since the pandemic began, we have all seen many changes take place in how we live our lives. These are strange times and we have learnt a lot. We cannot take things for granted. I say that and I mean it, because life was as normal as it could have been with the routine of day-to-day transactions taking place until we got hit with the threat of a situation that none of us in this generation or even in the last century have ever experienced. To then come across the leadership and the team of Premier, Mark McGowan, and Deputy Premier, Roger Cook, in handling the COVID-19 pandemic that was a huge threat to our state, our community, our people, our country and the world, goes to show how fortunate Western Australians have been in the last year having good governance and good government, with the primary focus of keeping the Western Australian community and its people safe and strong. As a collective, we have found ourselves in a safer place.

Families from small business in particular have been affected by this regulation that is completely outdated, not only from a time perspective and where society is today, but also in the way it impacts our communities and the overall aspects of governance. The minister's decision to repeal the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979 is commendable. I am glad to support the views of the other speakers who have stood before me and outlined their clear perspectives and I commend the minister's intentions in introducing the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021 to the house. Every aspect of the legislation is onerous on not only businesses and their resources, but also the departments that have to comply with this outdated legislation. This bill will provide for simplistic decisions and take away that administrative burden and demand on resources for governments going forward. The decision to introduce this bill to the house to repeal this extraordinarily outdated legislation is a smart one.

As people in this house know, I am equally passionate about small business. I come from a small business. My experience in small business has allowed me to understand quite clearly how this bill will make the running of small businesses more streamlined, particularly for sporting arenas, such as ice skating arenas, Adventure World, which is in the electorate of Cockburn, where I have raised my family for the last 15 years, and movie cinemas. Over the years, these small businesses have had to comply with regulations, fill out paperwork and pay fees and charges, which is so unnecessary when we can pursue avenues to help them, such as the introduction of this bill.

Our society has changed in many different ways, including the modernisation of its ways of socialising and engaging. People expect their Sundays, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day and Good Friday to be days of celebration, not just from a religious perspective, but for families to entertain and celebrate their daily lives. My electorate of Jandakot is a mixture of old and new suburbs, in particular Piara Waters and Harrisdale, that have seen staggering growth in the last seven or eight years of between 14 to 18 per cent, year on year, of families moving into those areas. It just goes to show how diverse my electorate is, with families with young children, aspirational families, that want to live in an area and a state that is vibrant and has good quality education and public schools, good infrastructure and good public transport. These families will benefit a great deal by having this act repealed. They will then have the privilege of attending their local Australian Rules football games and support the fundraising that can take place. These fundraising opportunities allow the social clubs and footy clubs in our community to sustain their level of support at the grassroots level.

I would like to reiterate to the house that the repealing of this act is consistent with a great line of policies that have been introduced by the McGowan government, and led by the Premier back when he was the minister involved in the reforms to small bar licences. Today, this bill forms part of the relevant changes that Labor has brought into this house that will make things easier not only from a legislative perspective, but also in how the legislation impacts organisations. All the states and jurisdictions in Australia have managed to repeal their equivalent legislation. I am glad to see that this bill has now been presented to the forty-first Parliament in Western Australia and that we fully support the changes recommended by the minister. The bill is clear in its intent. On behalf of the members of my electorate, I commend the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021 and I congratulate and support the minister's vision in introducing this bill to the house. I thank the minister very much and I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words. Thank you.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [11.17 am]: I will make a very brief contribution to the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. I was the spokesperson for the Nationals WA on the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2019 in the previous Parliament. We supported it then and we support it now. This is a commonsense bill that will repeal an act that was created 42 years ago in 1979. I am certainly glad to see the current government progress it. I want to make the point that everyone supported this legislation in the last term of government. It was ranked sixteenth on the priority list when it went across to the other house. I would have thought this was one bill that could have actually made it through with very little fuss in the previous Parliament. We know that the Liberals and the Nationals in the upper house were very happy to do any extra time necessary to look at any priority bills, but, lo and behold, this bill was ranked sixteenth on the priority list. Once again, I am very disappointed that the bill did not get through and, quite frankly, that we are here discussing it again.

Mr R.S. Love: Mismanagement of its time by the government.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes. Unfortunately, it appears that there will be a number of bills —

Mr D.J. Kelly: It's a good example of why we need reform of the upper house.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: We will talk about reform of the upper house at another time. I certainly look forward to seeing whether any regional members of the Labor Party, such as the member for Warren–Blackwood over there, want to talk about reform of the upper house and will vote to have less regional representation in the upper house. An interesting question for the country members of the Labor Party will be whether they will vote for less regional representation. That is a discussion for another day. I am certainly very curious about the scenario that the Premier and the Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs have put their regional members into. They have put them in a vice. The Labor members of the Legislative Council will have to vote themselves out of a job, theoretically, if they want to toe the party line, member for Moore. I am certainly concerned. As I said, I was not the one who introduced this topic, but I am always happy to talk about it, because I certainly know that National Party members represent their regional constituents very well. They travel far and wide and do their best to look after their regional constituents.

To go back to the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill, Minister for Commerce, I am certainly very comfortable to support it once again. As I said last time, this is one of the many bills that the Attorney General introduced when he was the Minister for Commerce. The Attorney General has introduced something in the order of 57 bills. This was certainly one of them, and one that should have gone on.

I heard the member for Swan Hills talk about all those events that take place in her electorate on a Sunday. Many other members have spoken about that as well. On a Sunday in my electorate of Roe, the games of four different football leagues take place. We have the Upper Great Southern Football League. We have the Esperance District Football Association, which is very important to that community. We have the Lower South West Football League, which takes in Kojonup in my electorate and extends through to the electorate of the member for Warren–Blackwood and other electorates. That is an important one. We also have the Ongerup Football Association, which covers Newdegate, Lake Grace, Jerramungup, Gnowangerup and a couple of other towns. That emphasises to me the importance of the local football leagues to our regional fabric, if you like, and to our communities.

The other thing that we need to take into account is the way society has changed since 1979. Referring to the previous debate in *Hansard*, much mention was made of the former member for Hillarys, who was the lead speaker for the Liberal Party on this bill, who talked about how things have changed since those times and how things like Australian Football League matches and test cricket are, I guess, now part of the fabric of our society. The member for Moore spoke about how there were 40 000 people at an Eagles football match on a Good Friday. Obviously, we know that there is concern from a variety of people about holding sporting events on Good Friday. But when we can get 40 000 people to a football game on Good Friday, there is obviously a section of the community that is very comfortable with going to those types of events.

While I am speaking about football matches, I must mention, of course, the Dreamtime match that will take place this weekend on Saturday. It is a credit to the AFL supporters in Western Australia that this match between Essendon and Richmond has been sold out. That gives some perspective about the importance of some of these events.

Ms S.F. McGurk: What about the derby on Monday?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The derby on Monday, yes. I am sure that as the local member, the minister will be down there supporting South Fremantle Football Club.

Ms S.F. McGurk: I will, but they're going to win, so it doesn't matter.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Hopefully that is the case. I think South Fremantle is looking pretty good this year. I know there are some members on the minister's side who are strong supporters of South Fremantle, along with me, of course, so let us hope for the best at the derby on Monday.

A few other references were made in the previous round of this debate. The now Minister for Sport and Recreation recounted his days back at Kelmscott Football Club and his memories of sport on Sundays. The member for Moore also recounted many of his memories from the pub scene back in 1979 and what used to go on in those times. It really comes down to the fact that this is a 42-year-old act. From my perspective, any cutting of red tape is a good thing. One thing that I look forward to this government doing in the years ahead is taking the opportunity to minimise red tape. All of us, whether it be trying to get a road verge cleared or whatever it might be, always seem to be running up against red tape in this world these days. This bill will reduce red tape. There will be no need for a minister to grant a permanent exemption for a Sunday or a short-term exemption for a Good Friday. As I said, I am a strong supporter of this legislation. I am sure it will go through without too much trouble. I will end my contribution there.

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Parliamentary Secretary) [11.28 am]: I want to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. I reckon that if we were to ask most Western Australians, they would not know that the Sunday Entertainments Act exists. Given the number of exemptions that have been given since 1979 for various activities on Sundays and the other days designated in the legislation, most Western Australians would take it for granted that those things are allowed on those days. We have heard from members today that lots of community organisations and groups regularly hold events on those days, whether it be football, cricket or other sporting events, big and small, around the state. In my electorate, there are some smaller sporting clubs. There are also a couple of bowling clubs—Osborne Park Bowling Club and Stirling Bowling Club. I also have a large number of ethnic clubs in my electorate, which regularly hold some sort of event on those days. I am talking about the Vasto Club, Sicilian Club, Illinden Macedonian Cultural Centre, Chung Wah Cultural Centre, Tuscany Association WA and Stirling Adriatic Centre. I was curious about what happened in 1979 for the minister to restrict events on those days. About half an hour ago, I went to the corridor out the back and researched it the oldschool way—through the index of *Hansard*. If the staff from my electorate office are watching, I do make fun of them for not being able to print on A4-size paper, so they will be very pleased to know that I have also managed to print this on A3-size! I was sitting cross-legged on the floor just outside the chamber, printing off *Hansard* and having a look at what happened in April and August 1979 when the Sunday Entertainments Bill passed in this house. I note that it passed on 9 August 1979, which was about five months before I was born!

Mr D.J. Kelly: Have you got the proposal for the Fremantle train lines?

Mr D.R. MICHAEL: No; it was during the Court government, so the train line would have been closed by then. I will talk about football in a second, but, interestingly, special trains were put on for big matches at Claremont Oval between South Fremantle and Claremont. Those were the only trains that came back on the railway line under the Sir Charles Court government, because we know that the Liberal Party hates public transport!

I had a look at the second reading debate of the Sunday Entertainments Bill 1979. Hon Des O'Neil was the chief secretary and I think he was the Deputy Premier at the time as well. He noted —

The practice of placing some restraint on public entertainment on those days identified with religious observance is, of course, not peculiar to Western Australia.

Mr Tonkin interjected —

What about Seventh Day Adventists? What do you have against them?

I will get to that in a second. Mr O'Neil continued —

I support the view that this practice should continue, and that regard should be had for the preservation of good order, decency, and the avoidance of nuisance. Having said this, I am also mindful of a gradual change in social attitudes, and the fact that in other States and countries a less restrictive attitude has been adopted without causing offence.

As the member for Roe said, here we are 42 years later—which gives members my age—and we are now looking at this legislation.

Mr O'Neil also noted —

The Bill now presented is not a prescription for radical change.

Obviously, from what I just read, this bill took a provision out of the then Police Act 1892, where it had sat for many, many decades. At the time, Mr Tonkin asked what Mr O'Neil had against Seventh Day Adventists, whose Sabbath is on Saturday. We heard from the member for Mirrabooka today that our state is a lot more diverse in religion and religious adherence than it was in 1979, especially in her electorate. The member for Mount Lawley's

electorate has a significant Jewish population, which has different adherences to religious days of the week as well. Therefore, this is a very Christian act. The member for Roe mentioned the support that this bill received in the upper house in the previous Parliament. I look forward to hearing the contributions of some of the upper house members from the member for Roe's other alliance partner. They sometimes think they are more of an Ori Prior than a member of Parliament.

I did not have time to look at all the census records, so I went back to 1986 only, which was, obviously, seven years after this legislation was passed. In 1986, 73 per cent of people in Australia identified as Christians. In 2016, it was 52 per cent. In 1986, two per cent of people identified as an "other" religion—it is now 8.2 per cent. In 1986, 13 per cent of people identified as having no religion. That has skyrocketed to 30 per cent now. The world has changed. Our state has changed. Our country has changed since 1979.

I now turn to the contribution by Mr Barry Hodge, who was the Labor member for Melville. I presume he was speaking as the shadow minister in the second reading debate of the bill on 9 August 1979. Mr Hodge stated —

The Opposition has no objection to this Bill which we believe is a fairly minor machinery one. However, we feel the Government should undertake a fairly wide review of the parent Act rather than just tinker around with minor amendments.

I agree with the remarks made by the Chief Secretary when he introduced this Bill that a significant change has taken place in the community's attitude to entertainment on a Sunday and like matters. In view of this changed attitude, we feel that the legislation could be reviewed thoroughly.

The review is happening 42 years later, or maybe a few years earlier, given this is the second time around in this place. But it has taken a while. Even in 1979, the members in this place recognised that the world was changing and the bill might not have been needed in this state.

The member for Jandakot said that no other states have a bill like this. Only New South Wales and Victoria had similar bills and, from memory, they were removed back in the 1980s and 1990s.

Looking at *Hansard* again, there are only four pages in the old book for the entire debate in this chamber. My speech is probably going to go longer than all that, and it will not be very long! Even the time spent was not great for this one.

A question was asked in the committee stage by the late Mr Ron Bertram, who was the member for Mount Hawthorn. Importantly, for me, he became the very well loved member for Balcatta. He asked —

Is that the Government's intention to approve of the playing of league football matches on Sundays?

The chair at the time said that that question was out of order, but an answer was provided later. The debate continued —

Mr Jamieson: Presumably you would grant a blanket exemption to Sheffield Shield matches.

Mr O'NEIL: Yes, that is the sort of thing we have in mind. The member for Mt Hawthorn referred to the playing of league football matches on Sundays. Even currently, exemptions are granted to the performance of Australian National Football League championship matches on application from the WANFL. For example, there is to be a match played in Western Australia during the football carnival at the end of this year for which a request has been received to permit it to take place on a Sunday. However, this is not a normal Western Australian league game but a game between teams from different States.

He went on to say —

I doubt at this stage that blanket approval will be given to the WANFL to allow it to conduct league football matches on Sundays. Several other associations play football on Sundays and they would certainly raise objections to such a proposal.

Even in that answer, the minister had moved away from the intent of the bill, which was religious observance, to being more concerned about the Sunday Football League, which, I am told, probably attracted quite a crowd at local football grounds in the late 1970s, and 1980s. The minister was more concerned about having the WAFL in competition with it. Again, the world has moved on. There are regular WAFL games. I am a member of the Claremont Football Club, and I have seen them play on a Sunday. I am a member of the Fremantle Dockers, and I have seen them play on a Sunday. I am a member of the Perth Wildcats, who regularly play on a Sunday.

Mr P.J. Rundle: The Dockers didn't play very well last Sunday.

Mr D.R. MICHAEL: I switched over to a movie at halftime!

We can see from the passage of the legislation through this house—I did not look at the upper house—that even 42 years ago the members in this place were talking about the bill being a little bit outdated. I suspect that that was one of the reasons they took the provision out of the Police Act, which took away some of the criminal activities that people could have been charged with.

In my electorate, we have movie theatres like Event Cinemas Innaloo and Grand Cinemas Warwick. I have mentioned all the ethnic clubs in my electorate, which are very multicultural in nature. They hire their halls out to other ethnic

groups, so lots of events happen. All my sporting clubs meet and all the football games happen on Sundays. In terms of the other football—the round ball type—Football West games between Balcatta Football Club and the Stirling Macedonia Lions are regularly played in my electorate. They have games on Sundays. They have women's games. The community competitions happen on Sundays. No-one wants this red tape. Therefore, in my 10-minute contribution, I congratulate the Minister for Commerce for getting this bill up nice and early in this Parliament. As I said, it probably should have gone through the last Parliament, but the upper house crossbench did not want to sit the extra weeks to do some of these things. This act is overly sectarian, out of step, burdensome and archaic, so I say: good riddance to the Sunday Entertainments Act!

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Commerce) [11.39 am] — in reply: I thank members for their second reading contributions to the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2021. I thank the member for North West Central, the opposition's spokesperson for commerce in this place, for his support and the support of the opposition. This bill is well and truly overdue. I certainly cannot take credit for all the attempts to pass the bill, of which there have been many over the years. It has been a victim of a number of circumstances. I thank the member for Mirrabooka for her contribution. As a member for an electorate that has great diversity and some of the most multicultural groups in the country, she is well placed to speak on the very narrow focus of the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979. I think the City of Stirling is the most multicultural local government area in the country; certainly my electorate, and those of the members for Balcatta and Mirrabooka, reflect that. They also reflect the shift and change in community attitudes towards religious-based restrictions in the community. The electorate of Morley, which I represent, and probably the electorate of Balcatta, have the largest Catholic populations, if you like, of any seat, which reflects the immigration of many Macedonian, Italian, European and Vietnamese people over a number of years. Indeed, there is a large Vietnamese Catholic community, but also there are many people of Jewish, Buddhist and Islamic faith. They represent a very broad cross-section, with many people not observing any religion. It is certainly not relevant to prescribe what people do and do not do based on religious practice in Western Australia.

It is important to make the point that the repeal of this legislation does not impact trading hours. The bill is not about trading hours or what can be sold on particular days. The two areas have been somewhat conflated in the media. There is no link between the Sunday Entertainments Act and trading hours. This government does not have any aspirations to change trading hours in Western Australia, and that position is well understood. I do not think changing trading hours for two hours on a Sunday is the panacea to the economy that some people claim it is; it simply is not. There are multiple influences, which also put an unnecessary burden on workers and small family businesses, who need and deserve some respite from running a business.

I was particularly taken by the member for Mirrabooka's comment about penalty rates. She spoke at some length about that and certainly she has spent most of her career supporting working people in maintaining penalty rates. She made it very clear before the last election that the Liberals clearly wanted to reduce penalty rates, which is a particularly nasty proposition. The member was absolutely correct in her position when she outlined that it is women in low-paid jobs and those who are highly casualised who would be impacted by a reduction in penalty rates. It is a disgrace, frankly, that people think that the rates should be reduced in any way. The Legislative Council does not want to sit any more days during the week. It is a perfectly acceptable proposition for low-paid workers, particularly low-paid women, but imagine what would happen if we made the Legislative Council sit on Sundays. Aged-care and disability support workers rely very heavily on penalty rates. We know that the opposition certainly does not support that. Last week, the member for Moore made an extraordinary attack on aged-care workers who wanted to access their own advocates during the pandemic. He said that those aged-care workers are not entitled to speak to their representatives during a time of crisis. Aged-care workers are some of the most vulnerable workers in our community.

Ms S.F. McGurk: It was also the member for Cottesloe.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Yes, and the member for Cottesloe. Without question, aged-care workers are some of the most vulnerable workers in our community. We have seen the commonwealth's absolutely cack-handed approach to rolling out its vaccination program in aged-care facilities. It is vaccinating aged-care residents but not the workforce—what a bizarre approach! If we look at the profile of aged-care workers, we see that a lot of them are older women who are incredibly vulnerable to COVID-19 and who cannot be vaccinated under the commonwealth program. Somehow the member for Moore thinks it is completely inappropriate that they access their representatives at that time. I fundamentally disagree with that position. This government supports penalty rates and it supports recognising people for the work they do on public holidays and Sundays. It supports the existing arrangements for retail trading hours for exactly those reasons.

The member for Swan Hills talked about the impact of the act on local sporting clubs and their ability to fundraise and charge entry to local sporting events. A number of members touched on the importance of local sporting clubs in their electorates. They are an important part of the fabric of our community. They do important work in supporting the growth of women's sport, and they mentor Aboriginal people and support their participation in sport. It is always heartening to see the deep and strong connections that members of this place have with their sporting communities.

The member for Jandakot has small business experience and knows what it is like to be tied up in unnecessary red tape. The Sunday Entertainments Act is absolutely irrelevant now. I am very pleased that we are able to repeal it

in this chamber at this time. It is part of a broader streamlining and red-tape reduction plan that this government has delivered and continues to deliver. I do not think that any government in recent history has done as much as the McGowan Labor government to streamline processes for larger businesses right down to small businesses. No government has done as much. In my environment portfolio, the former Minister for Environment passed amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and we are also moving to digital transformation with the digitisation of environmental approval processes, which will enable many proponents and those interested in projects to see the progress of approvals processes as they happen. That is exciting. The first tranche of planning reforms was passed in the last Parliament and involved a significant reduction in business red tape to support the economic recovery. The Minister for Planning has just announced the second tranche of that planning reform. Mining approval processes have been significantly streamlined by the department. It is important that we reduce the burden on businesses while maintaining a strong regulatory and compliance role. Red-tape reduction does not mean lower standards; it is about removing unnecessary layers. There was agreement last year at national cabinet for bilateral approvals for federal and state environmental approvals. Western Australia is well progressed to deliver those when the commonwealth finally passes its legislation, which is currently before a Senate committee.

I thank the member for Balcatta for enlightening us on the original debate of the Sunday Entertainments Act in 1979. My understanding of what happened is that the restrictions were taken out of the Police Act, which contained some heavy-handed penalties, dumped holus-bolus in the Sunday Entertainments Act and put under the commerce portfolio. They were incredibly clunky and probably should have been fine-tuned at the time. I think that was evident when serious questions were still raised in the debate.

Members will probably be horrified to learn that there has been no active noncompliance with the act. Officers of the department do not scour the streets on Sundays looking for people who have accidentally not sought an exemption. When an issue of noncompliance has come to the notice of the department, that business is notified and told that next time the owner needs to fill out an application for exemption and it will be fine.

I appreciate the member for Roe's support for the bill. He spoke about the priority that it may or may not have received in the last Parliament. The Minister for Commerce in the previous Parliament, the Attorney General, attempted to pass this legislation. I do not share the member for Roe's optimism about the bill's speedy passage through the Legislative Council. We will wait to see what occurs. Imagine how speedy its passage would be if all those candidates that the Liberal Party threw up at the election—those with very outdated views that were not in keeping with the community around the COVID conspiracy and religious observance—constituted the make-up of this Parliament. What a frightening prospect! Thankfully, the community saw exactly what was on offer from the Liberal Party at the last election and said, "No, thank you; we do not accept that. We do not accept you as our representative." By and large, they voted for good Labor candidates and good Labor members. I also hope that the bill receives speedy passage through the Legislative Council, but we will see.

The member for Balcatta outlined some attempts to enact this legislation. It was attempted a number of years ago, being included in an omnibus statutes repeal bill. It was then determined that it was not completely obsolete—that it was government policy. Essentially, it was excised from that omnibus statutes bill. Various attempts have been made to pass it since.

I thank members for their support of this bill and for their contributions. The act essentially serves no useful purpose whatsoever, and I look forward to its repeal.

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 **Ms A. Sanderson (Minister for Commerce)**, and transmitted to the Council.

AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from 12 May.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [11.54 am]: I am very pleased to rise today in support of the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021. I acknowledge that the member for Moore has joined us in the chamber; I hope I do not steal too much of his thunder by rising to my feet first. This is a very important bill. It was presented to the last Parliament and passed in the Legislative Assembly with the support of both sides. It is a great thing that the new Minister for Fisheries has brought this bill to this chamber early on in this Parliament. As I said, I am very pleased to support this bill. Once this bill is passed by both this house and the upper house and receives royal assent, the Aquatic Resources Management Act will become the primary legislation to manage fishing, pearling and other aquatic resources in the state of Western Australia. I will talk shortly about the importance of aquatic resources to our great state, our economy and our community.

In effect, the act replaces the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and the Pearling Act 1990, which will mean that for the first time in Western Australia there will be a single instrument for regulation of our aquatic resources. More than that, the act is based on a new methodology of talking about managing the particular aquatic resources, not just particular fisheries. That is a significant modernisation of the way we approach the management of fisheries. It is an approach that has been developed over the last 10 to 15 years in this state by successive ministers. I acknowledge that not only is the current Minister for Fisheries, Hon Don Punch, in the chamber, but also sitting next to him is Hon Dave Kelly—not the immediate-past, but the immediate-past-past Minister for Fisheries.

Mr R.S. Love: Long past!

Mr D.J. Kelly: Still remembered.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: We can all say that he is well remembered and well supported by members of this house. Successive fisheries ministers have carried this important reform through to this important sector of Western Australia.

I will give the chamber an indication of the importance of our fisheries to Western Australia. The sector makes a significant contribution to both economic output and jobs in this state. The gross value of production for WA fisheries was estimated to be \$633.7 million in 2017–18. Research undertaken by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation in October 2019 estimated that WA fisheries added gross value of \$989 million—it is almost a billion-dollar industry—to the WA economy in the same period. That research also estimated that our fisheries provide 6 281 direct and indirect full-time equivalent jobs. Those jobs are spread across production, processing and consumption. Obviously everyone in this chamber can get behind the consumption of fish. I will talk later about the way that this changes our approach to the consumption of our aquatic resources.

It is interesting to note that the Western Australian fisheries industry is dominated by wild catch. About 77 per cent of gross value of production from our fisheries is from wild catch as opposed to aquaculture. That is quite different from other jurisdictions in Australia. If we compare that to Tasmania, about 81 per cent of the gross value of production of over \$1 billion generated in Tasmanian fisheries is from aquaculture.

Within those two categories of wild catch and aquaculture, members will be familiar with the wild catch fisheries. The dominant wild catch in Western Australia is the western rock lobster fishery, and in aquaculture, our most significant aquatic resource is the pearling industry.

Having outlined the significant contribution of the sector, I would like to turn to the significant pressures that have been put on the industry by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those pressures have been demand-side and supply-side driven. On the demand side, to some extent there has been a reduction in domestic demand, but more particularly a reduction in international demand. That is obviously being driven in large part by some of the difficulties that we are having at the moment with our western rock lobster industry's trading relationship with China. The pandemic has also caused supply-side difficulties for the industry. Social distancing has caused all industries to take necessary precautions that might make their industries less efficient. There have also been some crewing difficulties produced by the COVID-19 pandemic in the supply of labour. As a result of that, the gross value of Australian fisheries declined to \$3.11 billion for the 2019–20 financial year, which is a downwards revision of about eight per cent—\$258 million—from the projections as they stood in December 2019. There is no doubt that WA fisheries have been particularly hard-hit given the dominance of the western rock lobster fishery. Some estimates put it at being as high as 98 per cent reliant on export to China.

Fortunately, in addition to bringing forward this bill, we have a government that very much understands the concerns and the problems that are facing the sector. This government is very focused on diversifying the economy and supporting our fisheries sector as part of that diversification. I acknowledge that this government, in March 2020, announced an 18-month season for the western rock lobster fishery, which extended the current season to 30 June 2021. It also had the effect of bringing forward future quota for the fishery to make the total allowable commercial catch 9 000 tonnes. The government also introduced back-of-boat sales, which have been very well received by the industry and the community.

In August 2020, the government announced a \$6 million package to support recreational fishing, including building new artificial reefs and boosts to finfish stocks. It made specific commitments around infrastructure. I acknowledge my colleague the member for Albany and the great work that she has done, and will continue to do, in this place. I recognise that the government's investment of \$700 000 for infrastructure at the Albany Shellfish Hatchery will boost production and underpin about 1 200 jobs stemming from the industry.

We have also seen a doubling of the number of back-of-boat sales for western rock lobsters to 200 per landing. That happened over the Christmas–New Year period—that was in December and January of last year and this year. I also acknowledge that the new Minister for Fisheries announced in May 2021 another extended 18-month season for the western rock lobster fishery. That all comes as good news for the state of Western Australia. This bill supports that good work in managing our fishery and in supporting our industries. There is also good news for my local community, which borders Cockburn Sound. One thing that we are always dealing with in Cockburn is central to this bill—that is, how to balance the protection of our natural environment and our natural resources with industry and

development and the creation of good, secure, well-paying jobs. Cockburn Sound is home to both commercial and recreational fisheries. The history of those fisheries really speaks to the necessity for this bill. It speaks to the importance of the prudent management of fisheries, and also where we have got it wrong, unfortunately, in the past.

There are four managed fisheries operating in Cockburn Sound: the crab, line-and-pot octopus, fishnet, and mussels-managed fisheries. It is worth noting that the crab fishery in Cockburn Sound has been closed since 2014 due to low staff recruitment, and stock levels. Mussel aquaculture has reduced in productivity from production levels of over 700 tonnes in early 2000 to below 200 tonnes in recent years, likely due to environmental factors such as climate change and the associated warming of the sound. There are now also annual fishing closures to protect the snapper that aggregate in and around Cockburn Sound to spawn. There was also introduced in 2017 a total fishing ban on southern garfish within the metropolitan zone to allow the recovery of that stock.

As members can hear, Cockburn Sound, being a very popular recreational fishery but also having some commercial fisheries as well, has struggled in recent years with the need to properly manage the local aquatic resources. I am confident that this bill will go a long way towards correcting the mistakes of the past and making sure that the local environment and local recreational fishing in my electorate is kept strong and sustainable in the future. It is worth noting two things in that respect. I would like to acknowledge the Minister for Fisheries for coming out to my electorate on 13 May and overseeing the release of juvenile yellowtail kingfish in Coogee. I look forward to hearing from local rec fishers about the good sports fishing they will benefit from in the coming years because of that initiative of the government and the minister.

It is also worth noting that my electorate is home to one of Perth's premier recreational fishing platforms, which, of course, is the Ammo jetty at Woodman Point. A fantastic initiative of this government has been a \$9.69 million investment to replace that jetty further south of its current location. The jetty is one of the only fully wheelchair-accessible fishing platforms in the southern suburbs. I am certainly looking forward to seeing a new and improved jetty. I swim near Ammo jetty most days, and it is very well used. I know that the rec fishing community and the local community are very much looking forward to those improvements.

I would now like to move to the history of fisheries management in Western Australia. I would like to acknowledge, as I have, the current minister and also the immediate past minister, the member for Willagee, for advancing this bill in the last Parliament and now under the current minister in this Parliament. I also want to acknowledge earlier ministers who confronted some very significant challenges in the WA fishery. In the mid-to-late 2000s, those ministers faced research that was making it clear that we had declining demersal fish stocks in the metro fisheries. Those are the really iconic fish, for those who do not know, such as dhufish and snapper. Stocks of those fish are declining in the metro fisheries, but there were also very low puerulus counts in the rock lobster fishery in the mid-to-late 2000s. Those puerulus counts are a very accurate predictor of the catch for western rock lobster three or four years down the track. Alarm bells were ringing that our fisheries, which are very profitable and employ a lot of local people, were at risk of collapse. I would first like to acknowledge Hon Jon Ford, who was really the first minister to ring the alarm bells about problems in fisheries and the need for a new philosophy. Really, the start of that new philosophy is what has led us to where we are today. Hon Jon Ford changed the philosophy from us thinking about fisheries as a resource that is only to be exploited to a resource that has to be managed effectively. I used to work for Hon Jon Ford when he was Minister for Fisheries and I remember he had a saying, which he still says today: "Just because it is there, does not mean we have to eat it." I think those are words to live by and to eat by as well!

Ms S.F. McGurk: It also applies to afternoon tea!

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: It does! That is a good note of caution to members of this chamber—just because afternoon tea is there, it does not mean you need to eat it!

The minister at the time found that recreational fishers were much more advanced than they had been when previous legislation had been enacted, and sometimes more so than commercial fishers.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: The recreational fishers were in some cases more advanced than commercial fishers. Recreational fishers not only had access to better weather predictions, but also technology like fish finders had come into their own in the 1990s and the 2000s and were making recreational fishers more effective in taking resources out of fisheries. As a result of that, Hon Jon Ford essentially introduced a principle that if commercial fishers had to take a cut to their total allowable catch, recreational fishers also had to take an equivalent cut. That was a significant reform in producing equity in the system. He also made the unpopular decision to apply successive 15 per cent pot reductions in the crayfishing industry.

The next minister I would like to recognise is Hon Norman Moore, who continued that change in philosophy. Going off the back of those pot reductions in the crayfishing industry, which as I said was unpopular, Hon Norman Moore made the difficult decision in about February 2009, not long after the 2008 state election, to ban commercial crayfishing near Kalbarri. That was an extremely unpopular decision. Like Hon Jon Ford, he was on the receiving end of some fairly unkind and perhaps even threatening communications from people in the local fisheries. Nonetheless, he made that tough decision in recognition that we needed to sustain the rock lobster and crayfish fishery for future years.

Hon Norman Moore was also ultimately the minister who started the review that led to the Aquatic Resources Management Bill 2015 being introduced to this house. It was passed by Parliament in November 2016, but has not taken effect due to two issues that this amendment bill will address. The Aquatic Resources Management Act established management frameworks for aquatic resources that set out how we will manage them, but also how the resource must be maintained for sustainability purposes. It also set limits on the exploitation of the aquatic resource, based on that criteria, and its sustainable management. It does this by providing for the development of two instruments. The first is the aquatic resource management strategy or ARMS. That strategy sets the high-level policy for that resource and then descends into some of the detail that has to come from that. For example, it sets the total allowable catch for both the recreational and commercial sectors. That is significant and goes back to the point I made about the reforms introduced by Hon Jon Ford. It is about having equity across the commercial and recreational fishing sectors. That continues under ARMA. The aquatic resource management strategy will also set how the total allowable catch is determined. What is so important about that approach is that before we get to the point of a crisis in the exploitation of a fishery or aquatic resource, there has already been discussion between the relevant stakeholders—the industry, the regulator and recreational fishers—about the limits of the management of that resource. We have seen in the past, like with the western rock lobster fishery, that it is only once a crisis is apparent in the fishery that the relevant stakeholders put their heads together to come up with a solution. We all know that the best solutions are not put together in a rush. Often, tempers can be pretty high. This strategy really prevents that by ensuring that everybody is on the same page from the beginning on how the resources are to be managed.

ARMA then provides for the development of aquatic resource use plans. These are subsidiary legislation that give effect to the matters set out in the aquatic resource management strategy for the particular resource.

Another feature of ARMA I would like to point out is that, for the first time, not only are the commercial and recreational fishing sectors acknowledged, but also customary fishing for traditional owners. That is recognised as a priority resource use. That is a very important part of the act. It is about acknowledging the significant cultural and economic benefits to traditional owners from being able to manage not only the land, but also the sea within their traditional areas. The legislation also acknowledges public benefit use such as research as a priority use of resources.

As I said at the outset, this bill essentially amends ARMA to ensure that it can come into operation. It deals with some errors and unintended consequences of ARMA. One of those potential errors was that when ARMA was passed, it was always the intention that the pearl oyster fishery would continue to be managed through the use of zones. That is how it had been usually managed and would be managed in the future. But ARMA, as it is currently drafted, likely does not allow for different types of resource shares. As a result, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to manage the pearl oyster fishery under zones as it currently is. I think about 77 per cent of the gross value of production from our fisheries in Western Australia comes from wild catch, but of the 23 per cent that comes from aquaculture, the most valuable resource is our pearling fishery. If continued in its current form, it would produce significant inefficiencies in having to draw up aquatic resource management strategies and aquatic resource use plans for every resource, and it would also produce some inflexibility in how the total allowable catch is calculated across different zones within particular resources. That was not the intention. Members will note that clause 4 of this bill will amend the definition of “resource share” to allow for an aquatic resource management strategy and an aquatic resource use plan to apply across different zones.

Clause 5 of the bill will allow for categories of resources to be identified by the gear or method by which it is taken. That clause acknowledges that there are significant differences in how an aquatic resource is exploited—whether by line or pots or other methods. It would be inappropriate to use the same aquatic resource management strategy for the same aquatic resource if it is being exploited in a different manner.

I also draw members’ attention to clause 9. This is an important clause from the perspective of industry and ensuring that this important industry continues to be productive and to employ local workers. It is a simple clause that will remove the requirement for the chief executive officer to publish notice of a decision in relation to an aquaculture licence. That is significant because it will remove unnecessary red tape in the aquaculture industry that does not exist in the pearling industry under the Pearling Act 1990, which is one of the acts that the Aquatic Resources Management Act replaces. If that requirement were not removed, potentially in the pearling industry the CEO would have to publish possibly hundreds of notices a year, because licence holders in the pearling industry may make several applications a year to vary their aquaculture licences.

Another matter to note is clause 16, which provides for a review of ARMA after the fifth anniversary of the revocation of the Pearling Act. That clause is significant because although it is included in the current bill, it was originally an amendment to the bill that was passed by the Assembly in the previous Parliament and which was negotiated between the then Minister for Fisheries, the member for Willagee, and Hon Jim Chown. That amendment was negotiated to ensure that we are always keeping an eye on the horizon in the management of our fisheries and ensuring that ARMA is doing the job that we asked it to do.

In conclusion, fisheries are significant commercial industries in WA and give significant economic benefits. There are other obvious benefits to the community from things like recreational fishing. This bill continues the work done by successive governments, both coalition and Labor. In that respect, I think it represents the best of this place in

showing how bipartisanship and setting the right philosophy through bipartisan politics can achieve great outcomes. There are real opportunities in aquaculture in our state. We need to look to what is being done in other states like Tasmania. It is very important that we manage our aquatic resources properly into the future. For that reason, I commend the bill to the house.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.24 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021. In doing so, I point out that although I am the lead speaker in this house, I am not the shadow Minister for Fisheries. That is Hon Colin de Grussa in the other place. No doubt, he will be making a more fulsome contribution on this bill than I will be able to do as a secondary spokesperson.

I start by acknowledging the member for Cockburn, who is just taking the chair. Listening to his contribution, obviously, he has a long history in the industry and in the administration of the industry. I remember working with his former minister, Jon Ford, at that stage as shire president of Dandaragan, which represents towns such as Cervantes and Jurien Bay, when we were working through issues around the reduced puerulus count and the effects of the marine heatwaves a few years later. That was after his time, but I am going back to those earlier times when we were trying to make adaptations for the change in circumstances that had significant consequences for many of those communities. Before puerulus collapsed, I think there were about 700 boats operating on the west coast in the rock lobster industry; towards the end, it got down to about 270 boats, I think. I am not sure how many there are at the moment.

As the member for Cockburn outlined, the industry currently has some serious financial problems caused by the cessation of trade with China. I think the member would be an excellent choice for Minister for Fisheries, instead of perhaps the predecessor to the predecessor of the current minister, the member for Bassendean, who managed to outrage the entire industry with his attack on the property rights of rock lobster fishermen. He managed to unite the rock lobster fishing community in a way that I do not think anybody has ever seen before. It was a significant achievement on his part to unite them. Unfortunately, he united them in outrage. Thankfully, the decision was made to move him on, and the member for Willagee was given a brief period as the Minister for Fisheries. I have heard good reports about the member for Willagee. Many in the fishing community spoke very highly of him and said he was quite interested in their plight. He would listen, take on board their concerns and make decisions aimed at achieving good outcomes for the fishing industry. He was very highly regarded as the minister and it is a pity that the mechanics of Labor Party politics have seen him relegated out of that position. We now have the member for Bunbury as the Minister for Fisheries. He is relatively new, as he has been in the post only since March, so there has not been a lot of output from him in this area, but we look forward to seeing his interaction with the fishing industry and the recreational fishing community in the time to come.

Fishing is an important contributor to the Western Australian community and economy. I think it has been mentioned that there are a number of key fishing industry sectors in Western Australia, not only the rock lobster fishery, which dominates the fishing industry in my area, but also pearls, prawns and scallops, abalone, finfish, shark fisheries—there are a couple of shark fisheries still operating in my area—and octopus. A number of licences for the production and pickling of octopus are taken up in places such as Fremantle and the octopus is sold throughout the state and the nation. Western Australian octopus has a very good name because of that. Unfortunately, as I have pointed out, the western rock lobster industry especially is facing very challenging times. I implore the minister to do everything he can to ensure that that industry can have the ear of government. When the industry comes to the minister to ask for certain measures, I hope that the minister will listen carefully, as many families are in distress because of the current plight of that industry.

We know that the industry had begun to change from a time when most fishers held their own pots and entitlements and would fish with those. Over time, something like two sectors have developed in that industry—the active fishermen and the investors, some of whom are retired fishers who still hold their licence, but also others who have invested in that industry. Making a return for both those sectors of the industry is becoming increasingly difficult because of the reduction in price. Although, at a very low level, if someone owns their fishing entitlements, they may still be able to break even, at the current price, it is very hard to see further investment in the industry. To have further investment, those others need to get a return, and people need to be able to replace the fleet at some stage to ensure that we do not end up with an industry that is no longer efficient or effective.

It is important that the industry remains sustainable. In order to be sustainable, we know that the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, which regulates the industry, needs to take into account and work with both the recreational sector and the professional sector, not just in the rock lobster area but in all sorts of fisheries. Members may be interested to note that the other day I was reading a report on the success, or otherwise, of the demersal fishing bans and the recovery stocks of those fish. There is a difference between the zones in just how effective that ban is. Of course, those fish species are very popular for recreational fishers. For many of the communities that I represent, the recreational fishing industry itself is a big economic driver. Many fishers and holiday-makers come to my electorate to enjoy that activity. We want to see that continue in the future. We do not want to see it unnecessarily restricted, but it is a fine line. I know that the minister and the department have to work towards knowing where that line is and keeping to that line.

Some time ago I read about the perils of the north west Atlantic cod industry in Newfoundland and other parts of the east coast of America where there was a vast supply of fish for many years. Fishing in a commercial sense had occurred in that fishery for 400 to 500 years, but then came the introduction of new technology, such as large trawling outfits, without the necessary controls. At its peak, something like nearly a million tonnes a year was taken out of that fishery—I cannot quote the exact figure off the top of my head, but it was not far short of a million tonnes of fish. That is a huge amount of stock to come out of a particular fishery. I think in the early 1990s, the industry virtually disappeared. Thousands and thousands of people relied on that industry for their livelihoods. There are now ghost communities in Canada and North America; where there were once thriving towns, there is nobody. That shows how important it is to maintain the industry and to make it sustainable. That is why we need to have a decent set of regulations and law surrounding the industry and why we need to ensure that nothing is done to imperil that industry.

It was interesting when the member for Cockburn talked about a recreational jetty or some sort of facility to enable disabled people to fish in Cockburn Sound.

Mr D.T. Punch: Was it Ammo jetty?

Mr R.S. LOVE: I am not too sure.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife): Yes, Ammo jetty.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Yes, the member did mention it, but it did spike a thought. I wonder whether the minister has given any thought to the damage that could happen to Cockburn Sound from the development of that port and whether he has been raising in his caucus concerns around that and whether that will lead to —

Ms S.F. McGurk: We will be taking expert advice about that matter.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Thank you, minister. I am sure the government will be taking expert advice, but I think that the member for Cockburn is something of an expert in this area. I implore him to think very carefully about the impact of any development in that area in Cockburn Sound, which we know is a fundamentally important nursery area for many species. A vast amount of fishing relies on that nursery, that area and that habitat, and nothing should be done that will imperil that habitat into the future. I ask the member for Cockburn to take that forward. I also want to ensure that the Minister for Fisheries is arguing the case for the protection of Cockburn Sound in his caucus and in the cabinet, where he will have a great deal of influence in the coming years, I am sure. I look forward to the minister's reply to the second reading debate. He will have an opportunity then to outline exactly what he is doing to ensure that Cockburn Sound is protected in the face of a development that does not seem to be going through the normal environmental protection analysis. I will be interested to hear the minister comment on that. I am sure that the member for Cockburn will be interested to hear him too, because he does not sit in the cabinet, so he is not privy to those considerations. The minister holds a more privileged position and is able to put the case for the preservation of Cockburn Sound to the cabinet to ensure that nothing is done to imperil Cockburn Sound through the reckless development of the port facilities without undertaking the necessary environmental analysis.

I turn again to the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021. I note that the Aquatic Resources Management Bill 2015 passed through both houses and was assented to in 2016, but it was not actually brought into operation because of some flaws that were discovered in the bill. That goes to show that even after a bill has passed through consideration in detail in this place, it can still be flawed. In this case, the intention of the original act was to combine the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and the Pearling Act 1990 to have one primary legal framework to enable the management of Western Australia's fishing and aquatic biological resources. We know that the uses of the pearl oyster fishery are currently managed by a zonal system, but under the Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016, each of those zones requires a separate aquatic resource use plan because the act does not outline the use of different types of resource sharing—for example, zones for a particular fishery. In the case of the pearling industry, that made it difficult for it to proceed. This amendment to that act will allow more flexibility in the management of fisheries, specifically allowing the management of different zones within the same aquatic resource use plan, and allowing those plans to provide for aquaculture resources that can be defined by the type of gear or the method used to take the resource, as well as the type of species by reference to a particular characteristic of a type of species—for example, the weight. Also, as pointed out by the member for Cockburn, there will be a reduction in the administrative burden for the chief executive officer in not having to publish notices of decisions to vary.

We know that those things were happening. We know also that that was brought about because there was a fundamental flaw in the original bill. There is a difference between this bill and the bill that was introduced in 2020 and went through this place. We have had extensive discussion on that matter; therefore, I do not think we need to deeply interrogate most of this bill. The previous bill was agreed to by both sides, and I know there was support for it in the industry. We had originally consulted with various industry sectors around the 2020 bill. Hon Colin de Grussa has just reinitiated that consultation, and nothing has really changed in the support for the bill. Therefore, we see no need to interrogate this bill deeply once again, having that all now on record in *Hansard* from a year ago.

The only difference between this bill and the previous bill is the insertion of a review clause. That means that the act will be reviewed five years down the track, after the repeal of the Pearling Act. As I understand it, that is pretty well the only difference between this bill and the bill that we discussed only a short while ago, really—one year

ago. I do not intend to hold up the house by going into any further detail on this bill. I am happy with the bill. I think we will find that the opposition will support the bill in both houses. There may be further interrogation in the other place; that is its right and its role. Given the fact that we have already put this bill through consideration in detail in every respect except for the review clause, I do not see the need to hold up proceedings in this house. I am sure the government has such a busy agenda for us today that we can get on with things other than consideration in detail of this bill.

There is about 10 minutes left before the house has to move to other business, so I will sit down and let someone else make a contribution on this very worthy amendment bill.

MS C.M. COLLINS (Hillarys) [12.42 pm]: Today I rise to comment on the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill. The Aquatic Resources Management Act and these proposed amendments will provide an extensive toolkit for sustainable management of aquatic resources. The focus of the original act was to ensure that ecological sustainability is at the centre of fisheries management. This will guarantee the conservation and productivity of our waters, as well as encourage the development of the industries associated with their use. This amendment bill will simplify and bring together certain undefined responsibilities and overlaps from several governing bodies in a more coherent manner. It does so in an effort to better manage our aquatic resources under the one set of guidelines for the benefit of all stakeholders in the community.

There is no doubt that marine resources is a topic close to the heart of the Hillarys electorate and its surrounds. That is why I take this as an opportunity to discuss some of those key areas in the Hillarys electorate. Our state's marine parks are the national parks of the ocean; they are protected areas that conserve the biodiversity of underwater life. Western Australia's first marine sanctuary was in fact Marmion Marine Park, which is just south of Hillarys Boat Harbour. It is interesting to note that before we even had any legislation around marine parks, WA Labor protected this area in March 1987. Marmion Marine Park includes reefs, tiny islands and lagoons, which all provide a rich habitat for local species. It is incredibly popular with both locals and visitors and has about 1.75 million visitors a year. Indeed, many of the lessons learnt in the conservation of the Marmion Marine Park are now being used as a blueprint for the conservation of other reefs, such as Ningaloo Reef, Jurien Bay Marine Park and many others.

Enthusiastic divers plunge underwater to enjoy the Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club dive and snorkel trail. This is a 400-metre journey that follows 20 underwater plinths and allows divers to experience a huge array of local sea creatures. The dive trail is a great example of collaboration between the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the members of our local aquatic clubs.

Our support for sustainable fishing can also be seen in some of the new commitments that this government has made along the northern suburbs coastline. The McGowan government is installing a million-dollar new artificial reef seven kilometres off the coastline of Ocean Reef, which will span an area of 150 000 square metres. This project, funded through the recreational fishing initiatives fund, will create an amazing and accessible recreational fishing experience for Western Australians.

In Hillarys, heading out to fish for dhufish or pink snapper is almost an iconic pastime enjoyed by many. The Western Australian dhufish cannot be found anywhere else in the world; we will find it only on the coast between Kalbarri and Esperance. We want to make sure that WA fishing enthusiasts get to tell their friends and family the story of catching a dhuie weighing in at up to 40 kilos! Pink snapper is not as localised as dhufish, but is a favourite among recreational fishing enthusiasts. Pink snapper is also incredibly important for our commercial fishing industries and is favoured by Asian importers, particularly the Japanese market, in which it commands high dollar prices. However, keeping pink snapper populations healthy and buoyant requires planning, legislation, and occasional intervention with protective measures. Ensuring the protection of the breeding and feeding environment of the pink snapper population is therefore of great importance. The proposed amendments to the Aquatic Resources Management Act will help us to centralise and update breeding data more regularly in order to regulate the balance between recreational and commercial stakeholders in the fishing community.

Smarter management of fish populations is particularly important at this time as we go through the COVID-19 pandemic. We see more and more West Aussies spending so much of their tourism dollars and their recreational time here in WA along our coastline at some of the best fishing getaway spots. A lot of local fish populations are only just recovering after implementing population plans that have been decades in the making. Again, it is vital that we get the balance right between limitations for the commercial industry and recreational fishers. This is for the sake of the long-term profitability of WA's tourism industry, as much as it is for the important environmental goals.

Members, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the many Western Australians who work within the fishing sector in the Hillarys electorate. Getting the balance right on fishing means we need to have dedicated industry experts advising the government. Recfishwest is an arms-length away from my office at Hillarys Boat Harbour. It is the peak body representing more than 750 000 Western Australian recreational fishers. This bill, through its representation of such a significantly large part of the population, will create a more equitable and inclusive discussion forum to hear the concerns of all involved stakeholders in our marine environment. I am pleased that through these proposed amendments, recreational fishers will be even more empowered to help manage our marine resources, but in alignment with the concept of centralised management involving discussion with all interested stakeholders.

Hillarys also hosts the office of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The scientific research work undertaken by the public servants at the Hillarys facility underpins the ongoing management and monitoring of Western Australia's aquatic resources. As a candidate during the 2021 election, I visited DPIRD and was proud to announce an investment of \$500 000 to boost Western Australia's shellfish research capacity and support the growth of the emerging aquaculture industries. This funding, from the \$5.5 billion recovery and jobs plan, will enable the Hillarys researchers to expand their capacity to provide industry with new opportunities to grow shellfish species such as tropical rock oysters, scallops, clams and abalone across WA's coast. Also under the WA Recovery Plan, the McGowan government is funding a \$6.8 million project to upgrade jetties at Hillarys Boat Harbour to improve commercial and recreational boating opportunities. This is, of course, great news for those who love to fish!

It goes without saying that Hillarys Boat Harbour is one of the largest recreational centres for all things aquatic on the greater Perth coastline. Hillarys Yacht Club is a fantastic community resource that holds fishing clinics, weekly fishing trips and monthly boat angling competitions, aside, of course, from the yachting aspect. The recent annual Harbour Classic Fishing Competition at Hillarys Yacht Club was a huge success. People can simply fish off the side of the boardwalk or the boat harbour also supports a number of commercial deep-sea fishing charter companies, such as Mills Charters or Blue Juice Charters, with which people can go on fishing trips along our great coastline.

As a great example of community involvement, next week is WA Cray Day. At Hillarys marina, people will have the opportunity to meet the people who catch the crays and buy them straight off the back of the boat.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 1349.]

RACHEL NIGHTINGALE — TRIBUTE

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition) [12.51 pm]: I rise to pay tribute to Rachel Nightingale, who sadly passed away suddenly on 5 April 2021. Rachel, wife of Will and mother of Harry and Lauren, lived a busy, full and rich life every day of her 44 years. She and Will moved to Western Australia in 2000, making Wyalkatchem their adopted home. Many, many miles from their family and friends in England, they chose the little town with a strange name to make a life for themselves and, later, their children. Rachel threw herself into work and community life without hesitation, and her intellect, commitment and passion meant that everything she was involved in benefited enormously. She was always positive and approached every challenge with a no-fuss, no-conflict philosophy. Her enthusiasm was infectious, drawing others onto committees and boards and into sporting clubs and event organisation to work together for the benefit of the community. Rachel served as a school councillor at Wyalkatchem District High School, was involved in cricket, hockey, football, swimming, tennis, music, waterskiing and much, much more. She was elected to the local council in Wyalkatchem and brought all her admirable traits to this role, demonstrating a proactive, positive and selfless attitude that made a difference in not only Wyalkatchem, but also the wider wheatbelt region. Our community has lost a leader who had so much more to offer. Her beautiful family has lost a loving wife, a devoted mum, a treasured daughter, an adoring sister, a caring in-law, a fun-loving aunty and an amazing friend. It was a privilege to know her. She touched so many lives and will be greatly missed.

Rest in peace, Rachel.

HEART FOUNDATION — WALKING PLANS

Statement by Member for Nedlands

DR K. STRATTON (Nedlands) [12.53 pm]: I rise to speak about an important health initiative that has its home in the seat of Nedlands. Nedlands is also home to many public and private health services and health practitioners, including the Heart Foundation of Western Australia, which has its headquarters in Subiaco. The Heart Foundation has been working for over 60 years to improve heart disease prevention, detection and support for all Australians. Currently, 65 per cent of Western Australians are not meeting Australian guidelines for physical activity. Exercise plays a role in prevention, recovery and maintenance of our health, including our heart health. Experiences of lockdown highlighted the importance of exercise for maintaining our physical and mental health. For me, exercise is not only about my physical health, but also a key to my mental health self-care strategy. I was therefore happy to sign up to a personal walking plan via the website walkingplans.heartfoundation.org.au last week. People need to answer a few quick questions on their current health and activity level, as well as their goals, and then a plan will arrive in their inbox. I am lucky that my electorate has so many beautiful places to walk—Matilda Bay, Kings Park, the University of Western Australia campus and Rosalie Park. As an early riser, there is a sense of camaraderie and community amongst those of us who are up and walking pre-dawn. I usually finish my walk with a coffee at one of the many fabulous independent coffee shops in Nedlands such as Boubar, Santis or Felix and Co. These experiences of a personal walking plan highlight for me the benefits of a walking strategy for Western Australia and are the reason that I support the Heart Foundation's advocacy for such a strategy.

COTTESLOE COASTCARE ASSOCIATION — NATIONAL TREE DAY*Statement by Member for Cottesloe*

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [12.54 pm]: This Sunday, I will be joining volunteers from the Cottesloe Coastcare Association to plant 1 000 seedlings on the dunes of Cottesloe Beach for the association's National Tree Day community planting event. Cottesloe Coastcare Association was formed in 1995. Volunteers collect local seed and each winter they plant approximately 3 000 local provenance seedlings to establish a stable plant cover for our important coastal dunes and provide the first and best line of defence against storms and changing sea levels. Neighbouring councils have also started revegetating adjoining areas and the green corridors created have allowed for insects, birds and animals to populate restored habitats. In recent years, members of the association have even seen white-winged fairy-wrens return to the dunes in Cottesloe.

I would like to specifically thank the association's chair, Mike Ewing, and vice chair, Robyn Benken, for the work they do in continuing the excellent work of the association. This event is being sponsored by the Cottesloe Coastcare Association and the Seedling Bank, with a donation from the Town of Cottesloe. Leaf Bean Machine's Karvan coffee and North Street Store will sustain the workers with excellent coffee and cinnamon scrolls. I applaud the Cottesloe Coastcare Association for this fantastic initiative and playing a lead role in protecting our local coastal environment. Once again, I congratulate the Cottesloe Coastcare Association, along with the local businesses that have supported this initiative. Thank you to all involved.

SOUTH WEST RAIL AND HERITAGE CENTRE — MALCOLM PAINE*Statement by Member for Collie–Preston*

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston) [12.56 pm]: I rise in this house to recognise the contribution of Malcom Paine, a resident of the electorate of Vasse. Malcolm recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday, and I extend my best wishes to him. I rise as the member for Collie–Preston to recognise the significant contribution that Mr Paine has made to the South West Rail and Heritage Centre in Boyanup. Mr Paine is a special volunteer at this centre. He has dedicated over 70 years to the craft of blacksmithing and is recognised as a master guild blacksmith. Now retired, Mr Paine shares his immense knowledge and skills with a new generation. Volunteers, including Mr Paine, run open days at the Boyanup site on the fourth Sunday of each month. Visitors can see blacksmithing demonstrations, rolling stock and vintage agricultural machinery at work.

The South West Rail and Heritage Centre will be hosting a special celebration of 150 years of rail heritage in Western Australia on Sunday, 22 August 2021. After visiting the centre last year, I was amazed to see dedicated volunteers and local contractors working to restore WA's oldest steam locomotive and state treasure, *Leschenault Lady*. I was pleased to make an election commitment of \$20 000 to help the group complete the restoration work in time for the August event. I am proud that Collie–Preston is home to this wonderful community group and the services of living legends like Mr Malcom Paine, master guild tradesman.

CYCLONE SEROJA — NORTHAMPTON CYCLONE RESPONSE COMMITTEE*Statement by Member for Moore*

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.57 pm]: Sunday, 11 April 2021 will be firmly etched in the memories of many of those who live in my electorate because it was the night that cyclone Seroja tore through the midwest, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. Within 48 hours of the cyclone making landfall, the Northampton Cyclone Response Committee convened and was ready to represent the devastated local community. With 80 homes in Northampton and a further 120 homes in Kalbarri destroyed or left uninhabitable, the Shire of Northampton was stretched to its limits, and this committee of five stepped up to help. Whether it was advocating or agitating for the local community, liaising with the Australian Defence Force, which had come to help, sourcing generators from nearby Geraldton residents, providing a quick synopsis of community needs to government agencies or meeting with the board of the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund, this group worked tirelessly from day two.

The Northampton Cyclone Response Committee scooped up the shell-shocked townspeople and served as their eyes and ears on the ground. They liaised with the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation, which generously donated \$80 000 to the locals who lost their homes and will be hosting a community event this weekend. The committee is working extraordinarily hard to ensure that those who have been left homeless find local accommodation so that they can live with dignity during the rebuild phase, which is likely to take two years. It will not be an easy stage to navigate; rental properties in Northampton were in short supply before the cyclone. The group is concerned about the mental health impacts of Seroja and is working tirelessly to get mental health outreach to the district. Its long-term goal is simple: to enable people to stay in the community. I thank the Northampton Cyclone Response Committee for its relentless and selfless efforts.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST MORAL PERSECUTION*Statement by Member for Maylands*

MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands) [12.59 pm]: One of my constituents contacted me earlier this month to remind me that this year we celebrate 50 years since the establishment of the WA branch of Campaign Against Moral Persecution. My constituent was a former president and volunteer and also served on the committee between 1978 and 1986.

Set up in May 1971 to focus on advocacy for the LGBTQIA+ community, the Campaign Against Moral Persecution sought to abolish discriminatory laws against male sexual relations. It was one of the first gay rights groups in Australia. It was originally intended to respond to media misinformation, but it rapidly became a national organisation with branches in all states and capitals and took on a more broadly inclusive role for the gay community.

In May 1971, a small advertisement appeared in the personal column of the classified section of *The Sunday Times*. It stated that people who would like information regarding homosexuality to assist in the development of a proper social understanding should write to the David Widdup Campaign Against Moral Persecution. Seventy people replied and, subsequently, a WA branch was formed. By the end of that year, 500 members had joined and the association had its own clubrooms.

CAMP WA has played an important role in campaigns to find a more equitable space for LGBTQIA+ people. I am so proud that members of my rainbow community stood up and fought for equality and recognition. I recognise the work that former Attorney General Jim McGinty did in law reform in this space and congratulate CAMP WA.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER — PHOTOGRAPHER ACCESS

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [2.00 pm]: Members, as you would be aware from the advice I have already sent to you, photographs will be taken of Legislative Assembly members in the chamber on our next sitting day, Tuesday, 15 June. These photographs—a 360-degree panorama shot and a down-the-aisle shot—are taken at the commencement of each new Parliament and are an important part of the Parliament’s historical records. I would request that everyone be present in their seats in the chamber a few minutes before our 2.00 pm commencement on this day. The photographs should take approximately 20 minutes. After this, the bells will ring and proceedings will commence.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

BUILDING INDUSTRY — SUBCONTRACTOR PROTECTION

190. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Premier:

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Helen and Colin, who are subcontractors in Parliament today and who have lost \$450 000 from a construction company that has gone into administration.

I refer to federal Labor’s policy commitment in 2019 to introduce cascading statutory trusts that says that cascading trusts will protect subbies from the poor performance and bad behaviour of some of the big builders. Given the strong support for cascading trusts by WA Labor and federal Labor as well as legal experts, such as John Fiocco and John Murray, why did the Premier not include such provisions in his version of the Building and Construction Industry (Security of Payment) Bill?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Firstly, I acknowledge all those subcontractors and people who have been impacted by what has happened with Pindan. It is no doubt a very difficult situation for those hardworking people. We are doing what we can, certainly in terms of government projects, to ensure that payments owed by the state continue to be met.

In terms of law reforms, we obviously introduced some law reforms in the last Parliament, particularly in the area of retention trusts, phoenixing and a range of other things to try to deal with some of the issues whereby subcontractors are impacted by the insolvency of a head contractor. That legislation did not get through the last Parliament. As members will all recall, under the arrangements in place at that point in time in the upper house, everything was held up and we were unable to get legislation through. However, in this Parliament, of course, that legislation will get through and that is one of the advantages of what occurred in the election, whereby important legislation that will assist the people of Western Australia will be able to pass through the Parliament without some of the appalling practices of the opposition in the upper house.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I think that is one of the reasons why the people voted the way they did in March this year—to ensure that a government that is sensible, reasonable and responsible can actually pass its legislation. That is one of the reasons that occurred.

In terms of the legislation itself, obviously, under the former Minister for Commerce—the Attorney General—and I think it might have also been under the former Treasurer and the Minister for Industrial Relations, a review was undertaken by John Fiocco. He recommended a range of things. The government decided to split it in two simply because it wants to make sure that everything it does is in consultation with industry and that it does not move in ways that might have adverse consequences for industry that may make the situation worse. In relation to cascading

trusts, the advice I have is that no other government in Australia has implemented it at this point of time. Cascading trusts can have a dramatic impact on a contractor's cash flow. In the contracting industry, contractors rely on cash flow to fund existing projects, particularly new projects they move onto. It is a well-established system that has gone on for a long time. When we want to make changes, we want to make sure we do not make the situation worse. The Attorney General, I think it was, when he was Minister for Commerce, consulted with industry extensively about these matters, and industry was quite concerned about the rapid implementation of cascading trusts and the impact that might have on the cash flow of major contractors and the fact that it might actually have adverse outcomes. Therefore, we did not implement any of those changes. We will continue to review that and continue to work with industry, but the legislation we have brought forward obviously is an important change and will improve the situation immensely. Whether we do cascading trusts, we will work with industry and certainly consult on all those things to make sure that whatever we do does not actually have any adverse impacts beyond the existing situation.

BUILDING INDUSTRY — SUBCONTRACTOR PROTECTION

191. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given the Premier's legislation does not protect subcontractors in the case of Pindan, for example, which has gone into administration, will he amend the Building and Construction Industry (Security of Payment) Bill 2021 in the upper house to include cascading statutory trusts to protect subcontractors, a policy that his Labor Party in Western Australia supports, as well as the federal Labor Party?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The former government of eight and a half years did not do anything. That is a fact, and there was a range of insolvencies of builders over that time, but nothing was done. We have done the work and the consultation and done the review to ensure a range of changes will be made. That has gone through this house and, hopefully, will go through the other house shortly now that we have a sensible situation in the other house. In relation to the issues —

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Sorry; I heard an obscure voice over there in the corner, but I will ignore that as the people of Western Australia do.

In relation to the issues of cascading trusts, I answered that question in my opening response to the member. Whatever federal Labor did in the last federal election campaign is a matter for it. We will continue to consult on these things. I do not want to put in place changes that have adverse outcomes and may well make a situation that we are currently going through worse without knowing fully what the implications could be. That is responsible and sensible government and that is the way we will approach this matter.

CORONAVIRUS — INDIA

192. Mr Y. MUBARAKAI to the Premier:

- (1) Will the Premier update the house on the state government's efforts to help repatriate those Western Australians needing to return from India?
- (2) Will the Premier update the house on the aid and assistance being provided by the state government to help India and neighbouring countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Jandakot for the question, and I acknowledge him, the member for Riverton and member for Pilbara, who, no doubt, have family and friends in India who are going through a very difficult time.

- (1)–(2) What we have seen in India and neighbouring countries over the course of the last few months is absolutely devastating. Western Australia is now supporting the repatriation of Australians and permanent residents who have been in India, ensuring that they can get back to Australia. A repatriation flight from New Delhi to Perth arrived yesterday morning at eight o'clock. I am advised that around 140 passengers were onboard and that the disembarkation and processing of those passengers went very smoothly and there was great collaboration by all agencies involved. Nearly all passengers had the G2G PASS, the unique Western Australian system, when they arrived and there were no issues at the airport. We used 11 Transperth buses for their transportation, as well as a police convoy. I thank everyone involved—all the staff, and the police officers; everyone at Perth Airport, the border and quarantine workers, and the hotel staff—for making sure that it all worked well. The passengers from this flight are now quarantining at the Westin Perth hotel, undergoing 14 days of quarantine. They will undertake mandated COVID-19 testing on day one, day five and day 13, and the Westin is well prepared. We made sure that we put in place strong health controls and that the system is as watertight as possible.

On top of this, we are also providing aid and assistance for India, Nepal and Sri Lanka in responding to the COVID-19 situation. We have sent an aid package to those three countries. That package includes

18 ventilators, 10 million masks, 419 000 gloves and more than 3 100 coveralls. They are surplus to the requirements of Western Australia should we have an outbreak. We have also allocated \$2 million to a relief funding program. We are providing grants of around \$100 000 and \$500 000 to local Indian community organisations that are helping to deliver on-the-ground support in India. They have already successfully provided oxygen concentrators in hospitals in India, which is a terrific outcome and no doubt has saved lives in India.

I thank all of those Indian organisations, but, in particular, I know that all Western Australians are thinking of the people in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. We are doing all we can to help them.

QUARANTINE ADVISORY PANEL — QUARANTINE FACILITIES

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

I refer to the Premier's suggestion yesterday that Exmouth and Busselton would be good locations for COVID quarantine facilities.

- (1) Has the Quarantine Advisory Panel met since its formation last Thursday; and, if so, when and how many times?
- (2) If not, why does the Premier keep plucking towns and locations for quarantine sites out of the air instead of letting his own panel do the work that it was convened for in a methodical and sensible way?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) Obviously, the issues surrounding COVID have been going on for the best part of 18 months. Every day I get questions on it at press conferences. Basically, I do a press conference every day and I get questions on this issue, as I have for the best part of 500 days now. Clearly, every single state has had some issues with hotel quarantine; in fact, we had an issue this week, despite all our efforts. That is because hotels are not built for this purpose. One of the things that has been suggested many, many times by people across the community and by the Liberal Party and National Party in this state is that we need to look for alternatives. Then, when I come out and suggest some quite reasonable alternatives, members opposite come in here and attack me!

The Liberal Party's position on this is that the state should pay for the commonwealth's responsibility for hotel quarantine. This is the Liberal Party's responsibility—your alliance partners! The Liberal Party's view is that states should pay for the commonwealth's responsibility and that we should look for alternatives. The instant we suggest an alternative, the Liberal Party's view is that is not right—not in my backyard! The Liberal Party and National Party are nimbys. You are nimbys. You are conservative nimbys, which is not an unusual thing, I might add.

Obviously, when I think about it, when there are airports that can take large aircraft and they are in regional areas outside the CBD of Perth, they are worth considering. Everyone across the country, including the press, is always saying, "Come up with some new ideas!" That is what we have done; we are coming up with new ideas on how to deal with a difficult situation. That is what has happened. We will continue to work on this. Obviously, the best solution is for everyone to get vaccinated, but we will continue to work on this. I saw a news report with people in Busselton saying that this is a great idea. The only person who opposes it is the member for Vasse.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It might be a good idea, and we will work with the commonwealth—because quarantine is its responsibility—on these sorts of ideas to deal with the situation. It may well be that if, at some point in time, a facility is built that that facility may be able to be used beyond the pandemic for purposes such as worker accommodation in Exmouth. They have a shortage of worker accommodation across that region. A facility there might be able to be used for those purposes. I do not know if members have ever been to Learmonth, but it is a pretty isolated airport. It is a massive airport. It is actually an Air Force strip that was built by the Americans, I think, in the 1960s. It has gun emplacements there to protect them from whoever might attack Exmouth, but it has the capacity for security and all those sorts of things. In the case of the Busselton Margaret River Airport, it was recently upgraded and it has had a lot of money spent on it. It is in a community that is reasonably close to the hospitals in Perth, so it is worth considering. But all members opposite do is carp and whinge. They demand solutions to this, but when ideas are proposed, they say they are no good. That is the way members opposite act. The Liberals and Nationals are nimbys!

QUARANTINE ADVISORY PANEL — QUARANTINE FACILITIES

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

I have a supplementary question. The Premier did not answer the question that I asked, which is: has the Quarantine Advisory Panel met since its formation last Thursday; and, if so, when and how many times?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I do not know the answer to that question; I am not the relevant minister. Obviously, within government, we do a whole range of things and work on this issue. I will outline to the house a couple of quick things. Australia and Western Australia have had one of the best records in the world in dealing with COVID. Our hotel quarantine system, whilst imperfect, has done a pretty good job. The problem is that when something happens, the consequences can be quite severe, as we saw with the Adelaide outbreak that then spread into Victoria, and look what is going on in Victoria. Australia does not have a tolerance policy for COVID in the community. We want to get rid of it, and I agree with that. When it spreads around, as it has done in other countries, it is devastating, so we want to get rid of it. The consequences of an outbreak from hotel quarantine is devastating. Although the system has worked 99.99 per cent of the time, the times that it has not worked have had dramatic outcomes.

Everyone wants us to look at alternatives. We are looking at alternatives, particularly alternatives that might last beyond the pandemic and there might be an ongoing benefit for a community out of it. I have heard the Leader of the Opposition on many occasions demanding accommodation out there in regional communities for workers and the like. We proposed a solution that might have that ongoing benefit and the opposition says they do not want it. You are just a bunch of nimbys!

GERALDTON HEALTH CAMPUS — REDEVELOPMENT

195. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's significant investment in regional hospitals and health services.

Will the minister update the house on this investment, including an update on the much-needed expansion to Geraldton Health Campus, and outline to the house what this investment in health services will mean for those not only in my community, but also right across regional WA?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

That is a good question, and I thank the member for it. I am very pleased to be able to report on the McGowan government's commitment to investment in Geraldton Health Campus. I remember when I first came to this place as shadow Minister for Health. I went to visit Geraldton Health Campus and they talked about the great work that the Gallop Labor government had done in the first stage of the development of that hospital, creating a modern health campus in Geraldton. It is the jewel in the crown of midwest health services.

I was then saddened to see, over the following eight and a half years, not a dollar of investment being spent on that hospital, so it is with great pride that I report that the McGowan government's \$73.3 million investment in Geraldton Health Campus will put patients first in the midwest region. It will involve an expansion of the emergency department, including a four-bed mental health short-stay unit; integrated mental health services, including a 12-bed—four secure and eight open—adult health inpatient unit, with a co-located mental health community treatment team; expanded critical care services, including the relocation of four high-dependency unit beds and the establishment of four intensive care unit beds into a combined intensive care unit—high-dependency unit; and an essential engineering services upgrade, including replacement of the chillers. Also, 2D and 3D artists have been selected through an expression of interest process as part of the Percent for Art Scheme. Extensive community engagement is planned to ensure that midwest residents and groups have input into the final art pieces. Excitingly, the exterior and other spaces will incorporate art elements that reflect the region's Aboriginal cultural landmarks, industries and history.

As of 1 April, the \$8.54 million forward works package at Geraldton Health Campus has met practical completion. The completion of forward works has delivered a new hospital main entrance on the southern side of the campus, with a covered canopy and a public bus parking area. However, the most important element—an element that I know the member for Geraldton is particularly excited about—is that we have supported the hospital's services for consumers with the delivery of 422 new parking bays, bringing the total number of parking bays to 840. We know that health consumers around the world judge a hospital on two things: first, whether they can eat the food, and second, whether they can park at the hospital! It is really pleasing to see that these forward works have now taken place.

We will soon move into the advanced works of the redevelopment of the hospital, which will see construction beginning in the last quarter of 2021. That will include the expanded emergency department and integrated mental health works, which are expected to be completed by 2023, with the balance of works in intensive care and the expanded HDU expected to be completed in 2024.

I am really excited about the great progress we are making at this hospital. We have broken the hospital contracts down into smaller, bite-size pieces so that local subcontractors can get the rewards of being successful in winning those contracts and therefore getting local workers to do that work. It means that the community, by and large, can continue to see growth in this great hospital. The last time there was a major investment in Geraldton Health Campus was under the Gallop Labor government; stage 2 is now galloping forward under the McGowan Labor government!

OUTER HARBOUR — COCKBURN SOUND

196. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to WA Labor's plan to build an outer harbour over the important benthic marine environment of Cockburn Sound.

- (1) Given the magnitude of the environmental damage that will be caused to the benthic primary producer habitat when the outer harbour is built, has the minister read the Environmental Protection Authority's 2006 advice on the impact of an outer harbour?
- (2) If so, can the minister please outline to the house the current status of the benthic primary producer habitat in the Cockburn Sound marine environment?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

- (1)–(2) When it comes to environmental vandalism, I think we need look no further than the WA Liberal Party and what it proposed over the Beeliar wetlands. Let us be real. That was a shocking project, which would not even have solved the issues at Fremantle port. With regard to the member's specific question, I am happy to provide that information on notice. But I can tell the member that the Westport project will create thousands of jobs and relieve pressure on the roads in Fremantle. It is a key election commitment. The WA Liberal Party has no credibility when it comes to the environment—absolutely none. It is frankly quite shocking to hear from the member on this issue. He worked for Alcoa for many, many years and supported Alcoa for many, many years. Now he is claiming to be supporting the environment. When we came to government, there was zero action on climate change.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the National Party, the question has been asked by the Leader of the Liberal Party. I am prepared to tolerate some interjection from him in order to elucidate further answers, but I am not going to have a wall of interjections while the minister is trying to respond.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The Westport project, like every other government and private infrastructure project that has significant impacts, will go through an Environmental Protection Authority assessment. That is what the project will go through and that will determine the best outcome for the environment. When we came to government, we could not even get a public servant to talk about climate change. They were used to being ground down by the former government; they would send up information, and documents would be sent back from across ministers' offices—not just one—with “Take out ‘climate change’.” Do not stand in here and claim to be some champion of the environment. All major projects go through an EPA assessment, and that is the appropriate channel. We have some of the most stringent assessments and processes in the world for environmental outcomes. I have full confidence in that assessment.

OUTER HARBOUR — COCKBURN SOUND

197. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Environment:

I have a supplementary question. Given the Environmental Protection Authority's estimate that 300 to 400 hectares of environmental damage will be caused when the outer harbour is constructed, can the minister confirm that this will be the single most environmentally destructive marine project in the metropolitan area in at least the last 50 years?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: No interjections! There is only one person who needs to answer this, the Minister for Environment.

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

There are currently nine separate ports in Cockburn Sound, including Alcoa. This will provide a strategic assessment of that area, and that is the appropriate process. I have confidence in that process, as should the member.

PLANNING REFORM

198. Mr T.J. HEALY to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's planning reforms, which have cut red tape, supported business and helped drive the state's economic recovery. Can the minister update the house on how the second phase of planning and local government reform will further support business, help drive jobs and assist in delivering better place activation in our local communities?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I thank the member for his question and his passion for small business. I am proud to be part of a government that has driven a very strong reform program in planning and, in particular, in cutting red tape for small business. In

the first tranche, under the Minister for Planning, we saw significant changes, including abolishing change-of-use approvals for small business, which meant that when a small business was opening, expanding or changing the nature of the business, there were fewer hurdles in the way. I am now proud to stand with the Minister for Planning again to deliver a second tranche of reforms, focused in particular on cutting red tape for small business. From my perspective as the Minister for Local Government, it is very clear that small businesses—many members will have heard these complaints from small businesses and households—have to navigate many different local laws that are in place. For example, if a small business wishes to expand an al fresco area or its signage, it may be hit by costly hurdles. It is our intention to better standardise local laws across Western Australia.

There is another area that I am very passionate about that will cause the eyes of many in this chamber to glaze over—that is, crossovers. Crossovers are that pesky piece of concrete between the road and a driveway, over a verge. It has been hell for many people to work out how to build one and get it approved by local government. I want to assure members that we intend to standardise —

Ms M.J. Davies: You're really making a big difference in the portfolio.

Mr J.N. CAREY: The Leader of the Opposition laughs about this, but for small business, which the Leader of the Opposition clearly does not understand, this kind of cutting of red tape is critical. The Leader of the Opposition may laugh about it and mock small business, but small homebuilding firms deal with this issue every day. When I announced it at a meeting with the Master Builders Association of WA, I suspect that was the only room in Western Australia where I would get a cheer for saying I was standardising crossovers! Let us be very clear: these reforms will save money and time for small businesses. The Nationals can mock it. They can laugh about it. But this will be meaningful change. Perhaps opposition members might want to talk to small businesses in their electorates a little more and hear what they are saying.

HOSPITALS — EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS — PRESENTATIONS

199. **Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the minister's commentary and response to my question yesterday in which he stated there has been a significant increase in demand in our emergency departments. Given ED presentations averaged 80 000 per month for 2018–19, peaking at 86 074 in June 2019 before falling due to the COVID lockdown in April 2020, are the current levels of ED presentations not just predictable on-trend activity?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

No, they are not, member. December 2020 was the busiest month ever in our emergency departments, with over 104 000 presentations, which is an increase from less than 87 000 in July 2020.

Dr D.J. Honey: It was the middle of the lockdown.

Mr R.H. COOK: No, member. By July, our response to COVID-19 had brought people back into their workplaces—something which may have eluded the member. Does the member remember that, or at that point was the member busily ensconced with Clive Palmer, mapping out a proposal to try to pull down our border?

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party, your colleague has asked this question. I ask you to not keep interjecting so that she can hear the answer along with the rest of us.

Mr R.H. COOK: Importantly, Madam Speaker, between July 2020 and December 2020, for instance, mental health ED presentations were 8.2 per cent higher than in the same period in 2018. At Perth Children's Hospital, in 2019–20 there was a whopping 86 per cent increase in the number of patients admitted with a diagnosis of an eating disorder. We are seeing a significant change to the pattern of the number and type of people coming to our EDs, and particularly the level of acuity. For instance, I spoke yesterday about the number of people presenting in terms of different triage sets. In the first three months of this year, category 1 presentations were four per cent higher than in the same three-month period in 2019. That is higher than the average weighted population growth we would expect to see in our EDs. Category 2s increased by 10.1 per cent on the same three-month period in 2019, which is approximately double the average age-weighted population growth that we would expect to see at this particular time. Again, category 3 triage presentations were well above the age-weighted population growth that we would expect to see.

Something is going on in our EDs and something is going on in our hospitals. People right across the country are trying to come to grips with what this change of presentations looks like and what the implications are. This has been felt in EDs right across the country. As I said, we have seen a 10 per cent increase in the number of patients presenting for category 2 triage. They are often the most difficult—not the most urgent—cases to deal with and often involve admission to hospital. That is being felt in other jurisdictions as well. There is double-digit growth in places like Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and so on. We are seeing significant growth in the number of people coming to our EDs and we are seeing a change in the nature of those presentations, and that is what is putting our system under so much pressure at the moment.

HOSPITALS — EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS — PRESENTATIONS

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

I have a supplementary question. Presentations in December 2020 were not 100 000; they were 92 000. Mental health presentations make up only 10 to 15 per cent —

The SPEAKER: Member, I think only yesterday I reminded you not to make a statement at the start of your supplementary. If you continue to do it in the future, I will sit you down and you will not get to ask a supplementary. If you could just get to the question, please.

Ms L. METTAM: The minister has been Minister for Health for four years. Given the consistent trends in presentations at current levels before COVID, why were preparations not in place for this return to normal activity?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

It is not a return to normal; it is a new normal. That is the point I am trying to make, member. None of us could have predicted the global pandemic and the implications it would have for our health system. I repeat: December 2020 was the busiest month ever in our emergency departments, with 104 000 presentations. That is a significant number of patients, up from 87 000 in July 2020. We are seeing a significant increase.

I might remind the chamber that our EDs are the best performing in the country. The Productivity Commission report showed that Western Australia's EDs were the best performing EDs in the nation. That is a record that I am very proud of. We had consistently higher performance in relation to the four-hour rule than any other ED in the country. We had a four-hour rule percentage of about 71 per cent compared with the national average of 69 per cent. I am very pleased to say that it has continued to hold fairly high for this period. There is no doubt that we are under pressure and that that is having an impact upon things such as elective surgery. On the subject of elective surgery, the *Report on government services* showed that we have the second-lowest median wait time for elective surgery of any state in the country. We are coming off a position of strength. That is the record, as the member alludes to, of my four years as Minister for Health. It is a record I am very proud of. It is a record of a government that wants to put patients first. It is a record of the government that invests over \$10 billion a year in our health system. It is a record that we are very proud of because we have some of the best doctors, nurses, allied health and support staff working in our system. We stand by the great work they do because they create a world-class health system.

CYCLONE SEROJA — WESTERN POWER — RECONNECTIONS

201. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the devastating impact of tropical cyclone Seroja on towns across the midwest, including my community of Geraldton, in particular the impact it had on the electricity network. Can the minister update the house on the assistance the state government is providing to these regional communities, and outline how this will deliver greater resilience for these communities in the face of an increasing number of extreme weather events?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

I am pleased to answer that question from a strong advocate for her community.

Cyclone Seroja took out electricity infrastructure in an area of the state that is 700 kilometres long and 150 kilometres wide. That is an area equivalent to the size of Tasmania. So far, 3 396 poles have had to be replaced. To put it in context, that is compared with the 10 800 poles that would normally be replaced across the entire network each year. In other words, in the last six weeks, Western Power and its workforce have replaced over 30 per cent of the annual work for the entire network in just one part of the state. That includes work equivalent to six months that would normally be done to the transmission—that is, the high voltage system. One hundred and seventy poles and 150 insulators were replaced in six weeks, which, as I say, would be the equivalent of the ordinary work on the high-voltage transmission system done in six months.

I thank the member for Geraldton and Hon Sandra Carr, member for the Agricultural Region, for their strong advocacy on behalf of their constituents. I announce today that the government recognises that even though 99 per cent of Western Power customers have been reconnected, those 281 customers who were not reconnected by 24 May 2021 will be eligible for a \$1 000 grant to assist with the cost of diesel fuel to keep their generators going. Those customers will be able to apply from today through the Western Power website for this grant. Western Power will send to all local members a link to the application form so that all members such as the hardworking member for Geraldton can link their constituents to this additional benefit. We understand the incredible disruption that this enormous storm caused to the people of the midwest.

I want to let people know that Western Power is using this as an opportunity to improve the quality of the infrastructure. The infrastructure was fit for purpose and strong, but it was not able to withstand this once-in-a-century storm. Sadly, with climate change, we expect these storms to be more common. Things that Western Power is doing are using better configurations of the infrastructure so that it can be more resilient in future, improving the quality of the insulators and applying more modern technologies to ensure the highest resilience. Thirty-five customers in the area will get Western Australian-manufactured standalone power systems. This is an important contribution to

improving the quality of service for people in that area. Six customers already had had Western Australian-made standalone power systems installed for them and none of those customers lost their energy supply during the storm. Those 35 customers will also be able to enjoy the same benefit as the others do. I am excited to tell everyone that the McGowan government is committing to 1 000 additional standalone power systems, mostly for Western Power customers but also for Horizon Power customers, that were manufactured here in Western Australia using our unique skills that allow us to be the global leader in this technology to further support the electricity supply across regional Western Australia.

CYCLONE SEROJA — EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

202. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to the households who requested emergency accommodation following the devastation caused by tropical cyclone Seroja and the extreme shortage of temporary accommodation options available for those communities, particularly Kalbarri and Northampton. Has the minister made contact with the Minister for Community Services to extend emergency accommodation terms beyond the current deadline of 21 days?

Mr R.R. WHITBY replied:

I thank the member for that question. As the previous minister mentioned in his response, this has been a devastating natural disaster over a very wide area and it presents a very challenging and long journey back to recovery and to delivering more normal services and situations for the people in those communities.

In terms of the accommodation that has been provided, as the member would know, virtually on day one, emergency responders, the Department of Communities and a range of services were in place to provide assistance. Emergency accommodation was provided through Communities. A lot of financial assistance has also been provided. In terms of the community support for emergency accommodation, about a week ago, I received an update that a small handful, about four households, required accommodation. On some occasions, accommodation was provided in Geraldton, but there was a preference from many people to remain in their communities—for instance, in Northampton and elsewhere—because they wanted to stay close to their home. I can understand that preference. I am aware that if someone is still in need of accommodation and requires support, that 21-day period can be extended and renewed, and I think that has been done on some occasions.

Financial support is also available. An amount of \$2 million has been given to some 7 000 recipients for a range of support. That could be used on accommodation, on rent and motels. Additionally, the commonwealth has provided support through direct payments and allowances. The state government announced grants of \$4 000, which have been made available and for which people are now applying. We have the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund. If someone's home was totally devastated, they can apply for \$25 000, or if their home was significantly damaged, they can apply for \$10 000. Of course, we are working with our friends in the commonwealth government for disaster recovery payments to be made available. These significant payments will be made available on a dollar-for-dollar basis through our cooperation with the commonwealth. I understand that for the first time in Western Australia, we have managed to unlock category C and D payments, which will provide support for significant infrastructure across 16 local government communities and support for small business and primary producers, as well.

Members should never forget that this disaster struck a very wide area of the midwest, right into the northern midlands. The communities affected include Kalbarri, Northampton, Perenjori, Mullewa, Mingenew and Morawa right down to Dalwallinu and many other small farming communities along the way. It is significant. There is a range of accommodation requirements. The government is also working on a longer term requirement for accommodation to house the population who will need to move into the area for rebuilding, but this is a significant challenge. I believe that the short-term accommodation requirements are being met adequately. If the member knows anyone who requires accommodation or support, I suggest that he is free to approach me at any time. I also note that in those communities there are welfare centres with representatives and others whom people can approach for support at any time. In Northampton, a centre is open in the main street from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, seven days a week, where anyone can turn up and seek assistance.

CYCLONE SEROJA — EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

203. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Emergency Services:

I have a supplementary question. Given that the minister has accepted there is an urgent need in those towns, will he commit to delivering temporary onsite accommodation options into Kalbarri and Northampton, as called for by the chief executive officer of that council?

Mr R.R. WHITBY replied:

As I said, I am committed to supporting all those communities, whether it is Northampton or communities right across the midwest region. We are in detailed negotiations with our friends in the commonwealth. We will be advancing support through categories C and D of the joint disaster relief arrangements and that will include looking at how we provide accommodation on the ground. The member will appreciate that in a very successful economy like Western Australia, where there is demand in the resource sector as well, that getting our hands on temporary and

transportable accommodation can be a challenge, but we are up for that. We are going to negotiate with our friends in the commonwealth. We will look at all options and we are going to make sure that we tailor specific accommodation for every community, being mindful that there is a range of different and specific needs in each community.

I make the observation that when I have been in the area recently, including Kalbarri, I have seen tradespeople on the ground already, very active, and tourists back in the town supporting that community. My advice to Western Australians is to get back into the midwest and support those communities, and we will keep working for the long term to see those communities rebuilt. I wish I had a magic wand that provided accommodation magically; I do not. It is going to be a long journey. Building a new house is a major undertaking. The insurance assessors have to get in there and the whole process of building accommodation at any time, in any economic condition, is a long process. We have particular challenges at the moment, with our economy being very active and competing for skilled jobs, but we will deliver the services and accommodation that is required, in cooperation with the federal government. I hope that we can also work together, government and opposition, on the same team delivering a positive outcome.

TARGET 120 — KIMBERLEY

204. Ms D.G. D'ANNA to the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to protecting the safety and wellbeing of Western Australians right across the state through programs such as the Target 120 initiative. Can the minister update the house on how these initiatives are helping to address antisocial behaviour amongst at-risk youth, in particular those in the communities in my electorate?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I am very pleased to talk about this topic, but I particularly want to acknowledge the member for Kimberley in taking on the task of representing her electorate that is twice the size of Victoria, which I heard her talk about in her inaugural speech. It is a phenomenal effort.

When we are looking at significant social challenges throughout the width and length of Western Australia, we have to look at innovative solutions. We have to look at different ways of doing things, and that is what we are committed to, particularly when we are looking at at-risk youth. Members might remember that in the lead-up to the 2017 election, we committed to a program called Target 120. I know that the current Ministers for Police and Finance were involved in developing that policy, amongst other things. That was a pre-emptive move to work intensively with not only those young people who are at-risk of increasing involvement with the justice system, but also their families. That is what Target 120 does. There is a \$20.4 million commitment. I have had carriage of that program since being in government.

We are working across 11 metropolitan sites, but I was particularly pleased to announce that Target 120 will be active in Kununurra. For the first time, we have given that work to an Aboriginal-controlled organisation—namely, the MG Corporation. Our results so far with Target 120 have been very promising. I spoke about this yesterday in private members' business. As of May this year, we have worked with a total of 93 young people aged between 10 and 15 years. Two-thirds of those young people engaged in the program are Aboriginal. What is significant is the multiplier effect, if you like; because we are working with those young people and their families, a further 474 family members have also been supported through the program. What is heartening is that nearly half those Target 120 clients have not had any further police contact since being involved in the program. That either means we are doing really well or we are just keeping them really busy! That could be the case, but I am hoping it has long-term impacts on people's behaviour and, importantly, family engagement and making people understand that support is available for them and that change is possible. I am looking forward to see how that program rolls out in Kununurra.

What is also significant about Target 120 that I spoke about yesterday in Parliament is that we worked with Finance to make sure that there is good data sharing between all the different agencies, whether that is the police, the justice system, the courts, Education, Health and the Department of Communities. All those different agencies are sharing information, firstly, to identify those young people who are at risk and what the factors are that mean we need to get in early, and secondly, so that we can measure the effectiveness of our efforts: What is working? What is not? Is this money well spent? Where do we need to dial up the interventions? How do we need to work with those young people and their families? There is a lot of talk about making sure that we get in early and stop people entering the justice system because then, as we know, it can be a very difficult system for people to work their way out of. The McGowan government is doing the hard yards of working productively and proactively with some of our state's most challenging young people. I am pleased to say that we are starting to look like we are getting results.

CHILD PROTECTION — CASEWORKERS — REGIONS

205. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the minister's response to the member for Moore's question yesterday and comments made during private members' business in which she admitted the difficulty of recruiting skilled child protection and family support workers in regional areas like Narrogin. What specific incentives or policy initiatives has the minister implemented to address the lack of skilled child protection and family support workers in regional areas?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

One of the points I was making yesterday was that the member for Moore had either misunderstood or misrepresented the position in Narrogin. I made the point that he said that there were no skilled child protection workers operating out of Narrogin, and that is not the case. It is actually a family support officer—what used to be called family resource employees—and it is a level 1 position. Those officers essentially do some of the legwork in taking children to contact visits, maybe picking up children, assisting foster carers in taking the children who they are caring for to appointments and the like. That position has been vacant in Narrogin and I know that has been the subject of some frustration by the staff there. We understand that and we are looking to recruit.

I was talking more generally about the concerns that the union had raised in relation to child protection and that there were not enough people on the ground. We understand that; in fact, we have added significantly to the child protection workforce since coming into government in 2017, with 307 extra staff, and more than half, 158 of those, are frontline workers and the rest are support staff. The frontline staff were protected from the voluntary severance scheme that we put in place in 2017. We have done a lot of work to support that staff. In the department, we now have a specialist child protection unit that is looking to not only make sure that child protection has given good advice to the office of the director general, but also support the work of the district. A lot of work happens across the department to support good work and good community professional practice.

It is a challenge in the Department of Communities in child protection—as it is across much of the workforce, not just the public sector workforce—to attract and retain skilled staff in some of our regional areas. As an example, we were talking before about Kununurra and the Target 120 program there. In the East Kimberley, it is difficult to attract and retain skilled staff. Those staff members are doing tough work, but we are very focused on making sure that there is good support for the FTE staff there; there is good relief staff in place, if people need a break; and if we are not able to fill positions, that there are other relieving staff who can come in and do the work. We are very focused on that. I have spoken in the past to the union about that and I have spoken about that publicly.

I do not want to disregard the concerns of child protection staff. As I said, it is difficult work that they are doing and I want them to know that we appreciate their work and want to work with their union, their representatives and their management to make sure that we can support them in whatever way we can.

CHILD PROTECTION — CASEWORKERS — REGIONS

206. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Community Services:

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister visit those regional locations, like Narrogin, to get a handle on an approach as to what initiatives and incentives are required?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I am now going into my fifth year as the Minister for Child Protection, so I have visited those regional offices in the past, including Narrogin. When I was in Narrogin, I visited the child protection workers and it was when we were doing some work on the Regional Early Education and Development program, the early childhood education model that I also spoke about yesterday. That has been very innovative and very successful across the wheatbelt.

I am aware of what is occurring in those regional offices. I make an effort to go out and speak to the staff and their management throughout the state to understand how we can attract and retain staff in that area. We want to support staff and understand what their concerns are. I am very alive to that situation and, again, I want to place on record my appreciation for the work that our child protection staff do across the state.

The SPEAKER: That concludes question time.

AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS C.M. COLLINS (Hillarys) [3.01 pm]: As I was saying before, many organisations in the Hillarys electorate are impacted by the fishing sector. Perhaps no place best displays the diversity of the local marine environment, which is the subject of this bill, than Aquarium of Western Australia in Hillarys does. It is the largest aquarium in Australia and captures species found across 12 000 kilometres of our coastline and houses more than 4 000 marine species. The fishing sector is a major contributor to both the local and export economy of Western Australia. The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation released modelling in November 2019 showing that commercial fishing and aquaculture contributed \$989 million per annum and supported 6 000 WA jobs, of which 2 900 were direct roles in the fishing industries.

The SPEAKER: Member for Hillarys, if you do not mind me interrupting you, at the moment there are quite a few conversations going on in the chamber. Some of those could be best had outside. The member for Hillarys is giving an excellent speech and I would like to hear that speech, and I would like Hansard to record it easily.

Ms C.M. COLLINS: As such, it offers a significant contribution, both directly and indirectly, to the economy of WA and, therefore, needs to be protected for our long-term benefit. I, for one, am much more interested in eating fish than in anything else. An obvious beneficiary of a well-managed sea environment is the hospitality industry. There are many restaurants and seafood eateries in the Hillarys harbour area, such as Seafood Nation, as well as all up and down the coastline. These restaurants, bars and cafes, employ many hundreds to cater for both locals and tourists enjoying the best the WA fishing industry has to offer. To conclude, the amendments proposed in this bill will support and strengthen sustainable management of WA's recreational and commercial fishing zones through closer cooperation, more centralised data gathering and increased regular research updates. Importantly, it attempts to bring together under the one roof several previously loosely connected agencies and stakeholders in our marine environment through better management. I believe this bill offers more substantive safeguards to guarantee that we, as Western Australians, can enjoy all the bountiful waters on our doorstep and what they have to offer to future generations here in WA.

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.03 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021. I am going to try to krill it! Before I begin, I would like to give a special shout-out to Dave and Margaret Whiting, Ronnie Anderson, Theresa Hartridge, and David and Avril Smith, who have just joined me in the members' dining room prior to my speech today. I am happy to tell members that many of us enjoyed the wonderful seafood of Western Australia that was on offer, and I particularly enjoyed the salmon and the barramundi.

I begin by congratulating the Minister for Fisheries for his elevation to this important portfolio and commend him for acting so quickly to get this bill in front of us. He is "fintastic". I do not need to tell the member for Bunbury how important the state's fisheries and habitats are. As the member for Bunbury, he is lucky enough to represent a very blessed electorate. The Bunbury region straddles the west and south coast marine areas of Western Australia and is home to some of the state's most important commercial fishing activities, including western rock lobster production; the west coast gillnet and demersal longline fishery, which includes dhufish, bream and baldchin groper; and the west coast purse seine fishery, which includes sardines, pilchards and anchovies. Not only is the minister's electorate home to much of the state's commercial fishing activity and therefore one of the major creators of local jobs, my research tells me that Bunbury has a higher-than-average participation rate in the state for recreational fishing, exceeded by only the Pilbara and the Kimberley. In fact, Recfishwest tells us that one in three people go fishing, so Bunbury punches well above its weight. Minister, I fish too. I used to fish a lot more than I do now, but certainly I have spent a lot of time in various parts of Western Australia, particularly three years in Fitzroy Crossing and two years at Cocos Island, and fishing was very much a part of my everyday life during that period.

I want to spend some time on explaining the importance of this bill, and I will try not to flounder! Why is the member for Landsdale not here? She would be so impressed with me. I am not as spontaneous as her. I wish I had her gift. My puns are researched by my daughter, who is listening upstairs.

As the minister highlighted in his second reading speech, the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill makes changes to the Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016 and, in effect, enables the act to become fully operational. Of course, the Assembly passed an almost identical bill in the previous Parliament, but we ran out of time in the other place. In my contribution on the Legislation Bill, I said how it is quite obvious why in many instances we ran out of time in the other place, particularly when a member there took 21 hours on one single bill that he was going to oppose from the start. Those 21 hours might have been used to pass the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill in the previous Parliament. Never mind; here we are and instead I have an opportunity to contribute to it. The only difference between this bill and that version is the inclusion of an amendment that was based on the debate had in the fortieth Parliament, and that is around the requirement to do a review of the operation of the ARMA in five years.

In essence, this bill facilitates the transition from fisheries being managed under the Fish Resources Management Act to being managed under the Aquatic Resources Management Act. This bill will allow for the replacement of the Fish Resources Management Act and the Pearling Act so that the Aquatic Resources Management Act will be the primary legislation for the management of Western Australia's fisheries and aquatic biological resources. The principles that underline the Aquatic Resources Management Act are to ensure the ecologically sustainable development of Western Australia's living aquatic biological resources and ecosystems by protecting these resources from over-exploitation and the threats posed by diseases and harmful imported organisms while encouraging the development of industries and activities associated with their use. A key feature of this legislation is that it is based around the aquatic resource—that is, the actual species themselves; for example, king prawns or snapper—rather than the traditional approach based on a fishery or fishing activity. This provides a structured approach to providing secure fishing access rights for all sectors but with resource sustainability at its core.

We often talk about the mining and resource industry as being one of our biggest assets. Western Australia has the longest length of coastline in Australia, some 20 000 kilometres, and with that comes an abundance of marine resources. The member for Southern River's approach to his speeches has inspired me. We have an abundance of delectable and fantastic species out there and I want to take this opportunity to do a shout-out to them. I would like

to recognise the western striped grunter, the humphead Maori wrasse, the passionfruit coral trout—one of my favourites—the onion trevally, and the old wife. That one is an old favourite but perhaps might not be so politically correct anymore. I also recognise the eyebrow tuskfish.

Mr T.J. Healy: Member, will you take an interjection?

Ms S.E. WINTON: Just let me get through my list. I know that the member wants to mention one of his favourites, but perhaps he can wait until the end.

I also want to mention the snubnose dart, the blackhead puller and, my favourite, the blue bastard. I could have gone on and on, but the fact is there are more than 2 500 species of fish off our fantastic coast and even if I were as good as the member for Southern River, I reckon I could not mention all 2 500.

Mr T.J. Healy: My only suggestion would be that it would be difficult to print a copy of *Hansard* and deliver it to those fish without laminating it, and that might cause an environmental problem.

Ms S.E. WINTON: It would depend. But they know that I have called them out, so perhaps next time when I am out fishing, they can say thank you by biting on the end of my line!

Ms J.J. Shaw: I feel an “Inside Cover” coming on, member.

Ms S.E. WINTON: No—but, seriously, our state’s fisheries contribute over \$1.6 billion to the state’s economy every year. The commercial fishing industry is worth \$633 million, as was referenced in 2017–18, the pearling industry is worth \$52 million and the aquaculture industry is worth \$27 million. I hope that one day we are able to stand in here and put a bigger number on aquaculture, but I will talk more about that industry in a moment. Then there is our recreational fishing industry; some of the species that I named may or may not end up on the end of the line of some of the 750 000 people who drop a line in this state every year—the one in three of us who go out and have a fish. That industry is worth an incredible \$2.4 billion.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been tough for many industries and sectors in our economy, and, of course, the commercial and recreational fishing industries have been affected more than many. As part of the COVID-19 recovery plan, there has been significant investment to support our industries and allow them to grow. Of course, last year, as part of the recovery plan, we delivered over \$6 million in a support package to Western Australia’s booming recreational fishing industry, which is, as I said, worth more than \$2.4 billion to the state’s economy. That package was designed in partnership and collaboration with Recfishwest, which is fantastic. It included new artificial reefs, a boost to finfish stocks to increase fishing opportunities in the metropolitan area and a new statewide marketing campaign to drive more locals and tourists to Western Australia’s iconic fishing locations.

I want to mention briefly a specific initiative within that, which is the Kununurra barramundi stocking program, which will see an additional 200 000 juvenile barramundi put into Lake Kununurra. I can tell members that when I was in the Kimberley in the 1990s, I do not remember seeing many barramundi in that waterway. There were plenty of barramundi in the Fitzroy River, but not so many in Lake Argyle. The only thing that I used to be able to catch were catfish. There is nothing wrong with catfish, but they certainly do not compare with barramundi in either the sport of catching them or in eating them. In doing research for this speech, I read that as a result of that restocking program, which has been going on for a while, one metre-plus barramundi are being caught there already. I dream of getting to the Kimberley again one day and catching another barramundi 30 years after I caught my last one.

I return closer to home and to my electorate. Of course, my electorate is not blessed with any coastal areas, but that does not mean that fishing and recreational fishing is any less important to the people of Wanneroo. As I said, one in three people go fishing, and in Wanneroo I certainly think that it might be a bit more than one in three. I want to mention one local project that the minister announced recently with the member for Joondalup—that is, the \$1 million artificial reef that is being installed offshore at Ocean Reef. It is a fantastic initiative. It is the seventh purpose-built artificial reef to be built and will create more easily accessible recreational fishing opportunities. It is important to note that that reef was funded through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund. The money that recreational fishers pay for annual licences to drop a line or to get a cray or to go and get some marron out of a dam down south is being used to provide infrastructure for fishers to use in the future. I think that is a fantastic idea.

We as a government recognise the importance of fishing and the key role it plays in contributing to our economy and to the lifestyle and health and wellbeing of the one in three who go fishing. Members, there are good days and bad days when you go fishing, but even on your worst day it is always a good day when you get back home. It leaves you with a fantastic feeling even when you come home with nothing.

I briefly talked about the aquaculture industry before, which I think is worth about worth \$28 million to the economy. It is the world’s fastest growing food production sector and is set to overtake captured fisheries as the major source of seafood. We in Western Australia are in the prime seat to be world leaders in this industry. This industry will play an increasing role in assisting us in diversifying our economy and in creating new jobs in regional areas. We demonstrated our commitment to and support of this growth industry when we released in November last year the *Aquaculture development plan for Western Australia*. We are committed to creating further aquaculture zones that will attract investment opportunities to expand this important industry. This initiative is critically important.

I remember at question time the Minister for Local Government talking about the government's focus on cutting red tape. This is really a part of that process, because in identifying aquaculture zones, we identify the land and water areas that will provide for investment-ready zones with strategic environmental approvals and management policies already in place. That will encourage investors to come in, because they will not have to wait for years and years ploughing through bureaucracy or red tape to get their ideal aquaculture industry started.

Other initiatives that the government has implemented include—of course, the member for Geraldton would know this—an investment of \$8.7 million to build the Geraldton finfish nursery, and, member for Albany, the establishment of the Albany shellfish hatchery in partnership with Aquaculture Council of Western Australia.

At this point I will briefly touch on the good work that we did in the previous Parliament and highlight the good work of the previous Minister for Fisheries, the member for Willagee. As I mentioned, many of our fishing sectors have been hard-hit during the COVID-19 pandemic, none more so than the \$400 million rock lobster industry. The government moved quickly to introduce new measures to include a mechanism that would boost local supply when that industry all of a sudden—there is a fish pun there, but I cannot think of it—had the legs pulled out from under it and had no market to sell to.

Mr D.A.E. Scaife: It was at risk of sinking.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Thank you, member. They were at risk of sinking—brilliant!

The minister and the government acted very quickly to boost local supply to make crayfish more accessible to locals. That scheme was very successful and allowed many people to enjoy crayfish when they might otherwise not have.

A lot of good things have come out of the COVID-19 pandemic in many sectors. There have been examples of us rethinking where our produce goes. I know that the rock lobster industry has worked hard with the government to think about what other markets it can send its produce to, rather than sending it to one single market, which can lead to trouble when things like COVID-19 happens.

I also want to take this opportunity to highlight the important work undertaken by the former Minister for Fisheries, the member for Bassendean. In particular, I want to take a couple of minutes to highlight his work on our government's shark mitigation strategy. It is an approach that I am proud of and that puts science and research front and centre in the decisions we continue to make to ensure that we protect our beach-going lifestyle while also paying respect to the white sharks. Although we know that the risk of shark attack is low, the McGowan Labor government has implemented one of the strongest evidence-based shark mitigation programs in the world. Our approach focuses on the need to keep the community safe and give confidence to people who love to go to the beach while also respecting the white shark as a species that is categorised as vulnerable under federal environmental law. I am very proud that this government pays respect to that.

It was quite interesting earlier when Dr Honey asked a question of the Minister for Environment about environmental vandalism. He was part of a government that, prior to 2017, dealt with perceived problems with sharks by standing publicly holding a huge hook saying that it would hunt them all down and kill them. On the one hand, the Liberal Party wants to be the environmental protector and champion, but when we look back on its record in government, we see that in all facets—whether it was fisheries or environmental vandalism by bulldozing the Beeliar wetlands before we had a chance to stop it when we came to government in 2017—its record does not stack up.

I am proud of our holistic approach to our shark mitigation strategy.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms S.E. WINTON: Our holistic approach to our shark mitigation strategy includes upgrading the state's shark monitoring network continuously and we are investing heavily in that area. It is important that we continue the research and the science and continue the personal shark deterrent devices rebate scheme. Already some 6 000-plus people in the state have used the scheme to buy shark deterrents to not only be safer in the water, but also, very importantly, feel comfortable and confident to enjoy their lifestyle in the ocean. We have increased aerial surveillance and developed the SharkSmart WA app and website. We have beach enclosures and the shark response unit. As I said, it is the holistic approach to this important issue that provides confidence to our community and is aligned with the best science. It will continue to provide us with the best information as we move forward in protecting not only the white shark but also all species off our coast.

In summary, going back to talking about the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill, that is what this bill is about; it is a holistic approach to managing our aquatic resources. We see increasing challenges in seeking to ensure that we manage our resources sustainably. We have expanding populations, coastal development, advancing fish technologies and biosecurity threats that all add pressure to our aquatic environment and fisheries. Managing this important resource so that it is sustainable and can sustain a growing industry that provides jobs and prosperity for people in Western Australia, as well as recreational opportunities for people like me and my grandchildren, is vitally important and I believe this bill will do that.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms K.E. Giddens): Member for Wanneroo, I thought you were going to find yourself in deep water there, but I was pleased you did not take the bait!

Ms S.E. Winton: Very good.

MS L. DALTON (Geraldton) [3.23 pm]: Excellent!

I rise today to speak in favour of the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021. As we know, the focus of the Aquatic Resources Management Act is to ensure the ecologically sustainable development of Western Australia's living aquatic biological resources and ecosystems by protecting these resources from over-exploitation and the threats posed by diseases and harmful imported organisms, while encouraging the development of the industries and activities associated with their use.

I support this important bill because my electorate of Geraldton is a fishing town. Indeed, Geraldton is the beating heart of the crayfishing industry in Western Australia. The humble western rock lobster has become an export commodity worth hundreds of millions of dollars per year and fishing has been an integral part of our economy for generations. Pioneers of the industry helped to build our city from humble beginnings into an economic powerhouse for the midwest. People such as Bert Boschetti and his family have left an indelible mark on the fabric of our city. Their vision and tenacity have helped create wealth for our state, industries that did not exist, jobs and careers for people.

As members can imagine, coming from a fishing town means that everyone has an opinion about how our fisheries should be managed. Around Australia and the world, we have seen what happens when poor practices have led to wild fish stock numbers collapsing—industries fold, jobs are lost and coastal towns dwindle away. This is one of the many reasons I support this bill before the house. Our continued careful management of marine resources is vital for our future. If I can stay on western rock lobster as an example for just a moment more, tough resource management decisions in the past have delivered a healthy fishery today. Since 2000, due to the hard work of the industry, fishing families and the fisheries department, and government legislation, the western rock lobster industry has been certified by the Marine Stewardship Council for sustainable fishing practices. It was the first fishery of its kind in the world to achieve this recognition of sustainability. That is why having world-leading aquatic resource management is very important to my electorate of Geraldton. That is one example from a fishing community of how good legislation, good management and great industry buy-in of those ideals can make for sustainable outcomes for wild fish stocks and local economies. In 2021, we might think that founding new fishing industries would be a thing of the past, but innovators are still creating new ways of using the ocean to provide food for the world and industries for communities. Indeed, I very often get visits from certain people in our electorate to discuss these opportunities.

I speak now of the move towards aquaculture in the midwest. The work of local leaders in the field must be acknowledged. People like Erica Starling at Indian Ocean Fresh Australia show that the midwest could support aquaculture and that finfish like yellowtail kingfish provide not only a great source of protein but also employment and new industry. If we are to protect our wild fish stocks and their marine environment, we have to diversify and modify our production methods or risk overfishing and the collapse of ecosystems. Just like the idea of exporting live lobsters in the 1980s, fish farming has its critics and aquaculture has had to overcome some serious hurdles to show that it is environmentally sustainable. That work continues today and only with good science and research, along with sound regulation and legislation, can we be sure that aquaculture will be a long-term contributor to the seafood industry.

As the member for Wanneroo has just stated, the McGowan Labor government has committed to build a new finfish nursery in Geraldton to foster aquaculture in WA. Geraldton will become a reliable source for breeding stock for aquaculture projects around the state. This is an exciting opportunity for my community. A new industry being established means new jobs, new opportunities and the chance to be part of the change to global seafood production and supply. Let us face it, the world loves seafood. If Western Australia wants to remain a major supplier of this primary product, we must do all we can to ensure that the state government's management of our aquatic resources is up to date, fit for purpose and relevant to today's realities.

Well-managed fisheries mean more than just export dollars; they mean healthy environments and capacity for recreational fishing. That helps industries like tourism grow. For many Geraldton locals, being able to get the dinghy out of the shed, as I do often on a weekend when I can, and put out their amateur craypots around local reefs, means crayfish on the home menu for family and friends.

Mr P. Papalia: With your licence.

Ms L. DALTON: It is with my recreational licence, and it obviously makes us very popular at Christmas time. Although recreational fishing is already one of the biggest shared pastimes for Western Australians, the leap into tourism is well underway. People from around the country and around the world can now experience the entire crayfishing process from baiting and setting a craypot to pulling it up and enjoying the catch, thanks to our McGowan Labor government. In the same way that charter fishing boats have enabled tourists to get out and catch a prized fish like the famous blue bone groper, local lobster and tourism operators have used a sustainable fishery to create new tourism ventures and priceless experiences for their customers. This shows how good management of aquatic resources leads to great outcomes.

The Houtman Abrolhos Islands are a special part of the Geraldton community and our history. Once again, that history is filled with stories of fishing families, hard work and natural bounty. The way the fisheries around the islands are managed and now fished by our professional fishing industry is vastly different from the early days. The management of the commercial fishing industry and what is in the water has been crucial to ensuring the Abrolhos Islands maintain their unique beauty, biodiversity and sustainability. The Abrolhos Islands are slowly opening up for more tourism, with public submissions into how to best do that now open. The careful management of marine resources and fisheries will play a huge role in maintaining what is in the water, so that people will still want to visit. Updating legislation, changing terminology and streamlining management might not sound like the most important things that could happen for tourism in Geraldton, but the careful ongoing management of our precious marine resources and environment absolutely is.

Geraldton is just one historic fishing community in a state with over 12 000 kilometres of coastline. From Esperance to Wyndham, there are many coastal communities that also rely on sound aquatic resource management. The vast Indian Ocean is our constant companion. I hope that everyone in this house is willing to do what we should to ensure that it will always be a healthy, well-managed environment. A giant ecosystem that provides our fishing industries with the natural resources and locations for aquaculture requires our careful stewardship. It is crucial that we get this right so that generations to come can enjoy the same benefits and opportunities that the pioneers of our past have had. It would be tragic to look out over the blue waters of the Indian Ocean off Geraldton and know that we did not do everything we could to ensure its ongoing ecological integrity, consequently protecting our own community and economic interests. There is no doubt that we can balance the needs of industry with the needs of nature.

Acting Speaker and members of the house, I thank you for the chance to speak in support of this bill and I hope other members will see how important this legislation is and vote to support the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021.

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie) [3.31 pm]: I rise to speak to the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021 and offer my support for it, but I will raise a few issues of concern with the Minister for Fisheries.

My primary area of concern is that the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill honours only those who are extractive users of the aquatic environment and gives them a seat at the table; indeed, it gives them funding for their advocacy work and various projects that they might undertake. We see that Recfishwest obtains about \$2 million a year. It has a steady flow of money of about \$1 million-plus going to the recreational fishing initiatives fund and another \$800 000 a year through various grants. The \$1 million from the fund can be applied by Recfishwest to various projects around the place. I will come to some of those projects and put a little context around the scale of various Recfishwest projects. The key point is that we have a fairly serious imbalance. A non-extractive user of the marine environment, such as a diver, a snorkeler or someone who just likes to go in the water to observe fish and who sees that coral trout on a reef and values it just for its aesthetic beauty, does not have the same seat at the table as someone who wants to catch that fish. They do not have the same resourcing as someone who wants to catch that fish. This is an inequity in our system and is something that we have to work on.

I have mentioned that this inequity is between extractive and non-extractive users. I will let the minister concentrate on what I am saying. I have mentioned that this is an imbalance between extractive and non-extractive users, but I add that those who are extractive, are in many cases polluting. This is an area I am really concerned about. As a member who represents a riverside suburb—the Canning River flows through my electorate of Thornlie—I am acutely aware of pollution from discarded fishing lines and the disgraceful and horrific results that can occur when fishing line is jettisoned and discarded and ends up killing all kinds of marine life. The public will be most aware of dolphin kills. Just a week ago, the front page of the *Canning Examiner* carried the headline “Totally gut-wrenching”. I will quote from the article, which was referring to a dolphin. It reads —

The calf was found to be in an exhausted state with fishing line wrapped around its pectoral fins and peduncle (the area between the dorsal fin and tail).

...

The calf belonged to one of the Swan Canning Riverpark’s resident dolphins, Akuna. Members of the Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association (CRREPA) were all deeply disturbed by the incident.

This is a fantastic group but gets no support money like Recfishwest or any of these other groups; it gets only a little handout occasionally through various Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions funding arrangements, but basically survives off volunteers’ goodwill. The article quoted one of CRREPA’s members, Murray Radestock —

“It is time to not mince words—the death of Akuna’s calf is totally gut-wrenching for all those who care about animals and our marine life, ...

“It’s extremely disappointing for all those who put in a huge effort —

That huge volunteer effort —

to care for the nature of the Swan River basin and its foreshore, and who go to extraordinary lengths to try and prevent such deaths and injuries from occurring.

That is just one example. I did a quick scan of the local press. Mandurah has a similar situation. In Mandurah, very sensibly, the Estuary Guardians group said —

“We know the majority do the right thing and care (some are even our strongest advocates for clean waterways) but we do say to the fishing community, let’s try and reach [those] who don’t,”

This was in connection to an event in December 2020, when another dolphin mother was killed. It is just not good enough. A chain is only as good as its weakest link. If the recreational fishing community’s weakest link is these terrible people who jeopardise the whole reputation of the fishing industry, especially the recreational fishing community, as members of the community we rightly have to question their social licence to carry on like that. I ask: why have we not found a mechanism to provide good funding at the same level as Recfishwest gets to go to those who are non-extractive, non-polluting users of our aquatic resources, because their values are just as high? In fact, I am looking at some of the Mandurah papers about yet another dolphin death. This time it was Mandurah’s resident dolphin calf, Luca, that died from a fishing line entanglement. The question posed in that article was about the damage to our tourism industry. People go to Mandurah to see the dolphins. The article reads —

Mandurah Cruises director Myrianthe Riddy said it wasn’t good for tourism and it wasn’t a sight that visitors should be confronted with.

It is terrible when this happens. It is impacting not only aquatic life but also bird life. I mention another fantastic group, which is the Western Australian Seabird Rescue Group. Just looking at its website, I can see it gets no government funding at all, but it is constantly called out when birds have fishing hooks snared in their beaks and on their bodies, or when they have discarded fishing line wrapped around their feet so that they cannot escape predators and they die a slow death because they cannot function as wild animals. The Western Australian Seabird Rescue Group website states —

A significant proportion of birds that we rescue every year have either got caught in carelessly discarded tackle or have interacted with people fishing; often getting hooked while people are casting off.

These are some of our iconic birds—again, beautiful tourism assets, such as the magnificent pelicans, petrels, cormorants, herons and swans. All sorts of birds suffer from either snaring or entanglement, and it really is just not good enough.

I know Recfishwest has in the past been quite proud of its Reel It In project, so I looked to see just how well funded that project is. Looking at its last annual report, I saw that it got \$20 000 for a project that ended in December 2020. That is how much it thought that project was worth, but then I had a look at some of its other projects and how much it funded them to the tune of. The difference was enormous. We can compare that \$20 000 with the funding for the shark depredation project, for which it got \$320 000. I can tell members that the reason people sometimes catch fish that have been bitten off by a shark and there is only a head left when it is reeled in is that when it is being played on the line and becomes exhausted, of course it is going to get caught by a shark. Anyway, Recfishwest saw fit to prioritise the shark depredation project to the tune of \$320 000, yet it is putting only \$20 000 towards all the fishing line stuff.

An eminent marine biologist at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Dr Chris Simpson, said to me, “Imagine if you lassoed a gazelle out on the savanna and let it run off; it would be exhausted in no time. Of course it would get caught by lions.” It is the same with fish when they are caught on a reel. They are exhausted and unable to escape a predator like a shark.

Another project that Recfishwest was very happy to fund was the future leadership in recreational fishing project, for which there was \$108 000. Another one was the Albany Salmon Spectacular, which got \$120 000. But, again, there was only \$20 000 for a project that cleans up the pollution that can be directly nailed to irresponsible recreational fishers. I am sorry to say that they are all too common. When I see areas of the river where there are discarded fishing lines and bait bags, it really is a blight on that recreational activity and really disappointing to see. I know there are various objectives around that spend of \$20 000, but I rode past Canning Bridge this morning, where there used to be one of those yellow bins in which people are supposed to dump their fishing lines, and they were gone, or they were not there this morning, anyway. Why people cannot take their fishing lines home, I do not know. The recreational fishers I see fishing off Canning Bridge hopefully do not have any snags and do not decide to just discard their fishing lines. It really is not good enough at all. When the minister talks to representatives of these organisations, I hope he tells them that the member for Thornlie is one member who really wants to see them clean up their act. They get a very, very handsome amount of money out of the state government, and they have to do a lot better in cleaning up the waterways.

Another area I want to talk about that is quite separate from all that is marine protected areas. I know that some people in the commercial and recreational fishing sectors have been pretty negative about this in the past, but the evidence

is becoming more and more overwhelming that there are benefits in having marine protected areas and marine national parks. These have to include substantial areas of no-take zones. I saw some work done by Dr Tim Langlois and Dr Jordan Goetze from the UWA Marine Ecology Group. Their latest findings are that in the no-take marine protected areas, there has been a 30 per cent increase in fish numbers compared with those in areas outside those areas. That is after a relatively short time of having these areas protected. Even better than that, there is a 50 per cent increase in biomass. In other words, if we were to weigh all the fish in the no-take protected areas, the weight would be 50 per cent heavier all up than in the areas open to fishing. That is really valuable research that confirms again the benefits of marine protected areas. There is also a benefit to commercial and recreational fishers, because the fish in the marine protected areas spill over into the take areas, providing stock for people who want to go out there and catch fish.

I know this legislation is designed to enhance and protect our reputation and get us Marine Stewardship Council blue ticks. I think more fisheries than just the western rock lobster fishery now has MSC certification, and that is good. Of course we want a reputation for managing our fisheries as well as possible, but there are some areas in which we are really not doing a satisfactory job, especially in the area of discarded fishing lines in the Swan and Canning Rivers. It is a real embarrassment. Our population of Swan River dolphins is no more than 20; we have two million people in the Perth area and we cannot look after 20 dolphins and their calves in the river. We have to do better. The thing that is killing them most of all is discarded fishing lines.

I will finish by referring again to that inequity. This is something that I would be happy to talk to the minister about; we have to put our minds to getting some equity there. Extractive users of the marine aquatic environment get all sorts of financial support, but non-extractive, non-polluting users do not, like my friends at the Western Australian Seabird Rescue Group. They do not get a single cent out of government. We have to do much better than that; it is an issue of equity.

MR S.N. AUBREY (Scarborough) [3.47 pm]: I rise to contribute to the debate on the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021, put forward by the Minister for Fisheries. I am pleased to be speaking on a bill that focuses on ensuring the ecologically sustainable development of Western Australia's living aquatic biological resources and ecosystems by protecting these resources from over-exploitation and the threats posed by diseases.

I know it is completely out of character for me to be talking about our coast, but I am, in fact, an avid beachgoer and a water baby. I grew up on the Western Australian coast and I fondly remember spending much of my childhood in our coastal waters, as I do much of my adulthood as well: from swimming at the beautiful and at times bloody cold Middleton Beach in Albany to swimming at the glorious and at times bloody hot turquoise bay in Exmouth; from fishing off the islands of the Dampier Peninsula to deep-sea fishing in the world-renowned waters around the Ningaloo Reef, off Coral Bay; from scuba diving to the depths of the Busselton jetty to exploring the underwater playground that is Rottnest Island; from snorkelling the *Omeo* wreck off Coogee Beach to snorkelling in the safe sanctuary of Mettams Pool in North Beach in my very own electorate; from surfing at Trigg Beach, also in my electorate, to surfing Ocean Beach in Denmark; from exploring the historic pearling ghost town of Cossack in the Pilbara to exploring the south west coast while hiking the wondrous Cape to Cape Track; and from patrolling as a surf lifesaver in Scarborough Beach's crystal blue waters to patrolling the beautiful Cable Beach in Broome. These experiences have shaped who I am. They make me proud to be Western Australian. I have enjoyed my entire life on the wondrous coastline our state has to offer.

Our coastline is nothing short of spectacular. It is the lifeblood of many industries in Western Australia, and it is part of who we are as a state. Our state is the envy of the world not because of the state government's strong fiscal management, the recovery of the AAA credit rating or the fact that we have had the best economy in the world over the past 12 months, but because we have the best coastline and aquatic features in the world. This bill aims to ensure that our coastline, our ocean, our marine life and our future is sustainable for generations to come. It places ecological sustainability at the heart of fisheries management and gives the minister the ability to manage our aquatic resources and protect them from being over exploited, severely depleted, diminished, damaged or otherwise affected so as to be at threat of being ecologically unstable.

The Labor Party and this Labor government have a strong record on the sustainability of our state's aquatic resources. The McGowan government announced a further \$5 million over the next four years for the shark hazard mitigation program to help keep Western Australians safe in the ocean. The package also enables the government to increase its investment in upgrades to expand the detection range of shark monitoring receivers and includes support for beach enclosures at popular beaches and continues the rebate scheme for personal shark deterrent devices for surfers and divers, like me.

I was also pleased to find out that the funding will provide additional support for Surf Life Saving WA beach and aerial patrols, plus jet skis and drones for Surfing Western Australia event patrols. It will also support the SharkSmart WA website and app, which has more than 60 000 users, and the rollout of beach emergency number signs to improve emergency response times. As a surf lifesaver, I know how important response times are when it comes to saving people's lives on our coastline. I had the honour of representing the Premier and both Minister Whitby and Minister Punch at the 2021 Coastal Bravery Awards last month, at which I had the pleasure of meeting Rick Gerring,

whose brother Ben Gerring died after being attacked by a shark while surfing at Falcon Beach. The beach emergency numbers, or BEN signs, are named after Ben. Rick spoke with such passion and heart, and I am proud that the initiative he started in honour of his brother Ben continues to be funded by the McGowan government. After originally being implemented by the City of Mandurah, this initiative has been rolled out by both state and local governments across the entire state. The only locality yet to roll out BEN signs is the City of Stirling. I encourage the City of Stirling to take up this lifesaving initiative on our local beaches in Scarborough, Trigg and North Beach.

Just last month, Minister Punch announced the extension of the commercial lobster fishing season to provide further support to fishers. Current market conditions continue to impact our state's western rock lobster industry to the detriment of Western Australian commercial fishers. The extended season will begin at the start of July and run over 18 months. It will allow commercial fishers more time to land their catch and expand into alternative markets, thereby minimising the economic impact.

In my own electorate of Scarborough, Marmion Marine Park, as my colleague the member for Hillarys mentioned earlier, was established under a Labor government. Marmion Marine Park is the state's first established marine park. Its southern end begins in my electorate at Trigg Point and extends all the way up to Burns Beach in the north. It is a proud legacy of the Labor Party that protects the aquatic life within the Marmion Marine Park. The park has great natural beauty and is one of Perth's most important areas for aquatic recreation. Swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving, boating, fishing, surfing, kayaking, kitesurfing, windsurfing and stand-up paddleboarding are all enjoyed in the marine park. The small islands in Marmion Marine Park provide an important habitat for the endemic Australian sea lion and an array of seabirds, while the clear shallow lagoons and reefs are inhabited by a remarkable diversity of marine life. At least 136 species of fish inhabit the park, including temperate and subtropical species. Ten species of seagrass can be found in the shallow waters of the marine park, while 21 species of seabirds and numerous marine mammals are regular visitors to the park.

Many groups contribute to the protection of Marmion Marine Park. I would like to make special mention of Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare. Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare is the region's pre-eminent volunteer Coastcare Australia group, and works collaboratively with the City of Stirling and state government agencies to protect and preserve the coastal environment in the Stirling area. I would like to congratulate and thank Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare for its recent work installing interpretative signage at the southern end of Marmion Marine Park. Details of the layout of the park, its sanctuary zones and species that inhabit it are on display to promote education to preserve the park for generations to come. I would like to acknowledge Rae and Walter Kolb for their amazing work and leadership of the group and their work within our community.

Mettams Pool lies within Marmion Marine Park. It is a treasured spot for locals and families heading down for a swim and snorkel. It is important we look after it so that it can be used by generations of families to come. Mettams Pool is listed in the 2019 report by the Department of Transport, *Assessment of coastal erosion hotspots in Western Australia*. The City of Stirling recently undertook community consultation on the community's coastal values for Mettams Pool. It had an overwhelming response from more than 500 people, demonstrating the popularity and importance of Mettams Pool and the value the local and broader community place on it. I was proud to continue the legacy of protecting our aquatic resources by making an election commitment of \$200 000 towards the Mettams Pool erosion recovery project. Working with the local council, the project entails investigating and undertaking strategic sand nourishment to address the short-to-medium-term risks associated with rising sea levels and coastal erosion at Mettams Pool in North Beach, while a longer term strategy will be developed for implementation.

These are some of the many achievements of this Labor government in supporting and protecting our aquatic resources and the industries that depend on the long-term sustainability of our aquatic ecology. Once again, Madam Acting Speaker, I am sure you and others in this chamber may not find it hard to believe that as a surf lifesaver and local who lives right by the beach in Scarborough, it is incredibly important to me that we continue to look after our ocean, marine life and local beaches for all to enjoy. WA has the longest coastline of any state in the country, and although our coast is a robust part of our identity, it can in fact be a very fragile environment. No group knows this more than us surf lifesavers, as we passionately protect our communities from the risks associated with the ocean. But we also have an almost symbiotic relationship with our beaches. We watch the beach topography change through the seasons, we watch the salmon run come through, we see the banks rise and fall, we see the movement of the fish, we see the return of stingrays every year, and we see the stingers come in after a run of easterlies.

I have two Surf Life Saving clubs in my electorate—Scarboro and Trigg Island Surf Life Saving Clubs. Although I may belong to Scarboro Surf Life Saving Club, as a vice patrol captain and a club trainer, Trigg and Scarboro share a mutual beach and we have a strong relationship. I know that every one of the lifesavers from each club, like me, knows our beach like the back of their hand and would be sensitive to any negative impacts on our beach ecology. It would be the same for the Labor member for Warren–Blackwood, Jane Kelsbie; as the former president and first-ever female president of the Denmark Surf Life Saving Club, she would know Ocean Beach in Denmark like the back of her hand. The member for Albany would know Middleton Beach like the back of her hand, having been an active patrol member, director on the board and an age group manager at Albany Surf Life Saving Club.

The member for Burns Beach would know Quinns Beach like the back of his hand, having been a surf lifesaver for 39 years—longer than I have been on this planet, Madam Acting Speaker! As I recently discovered, much to my bemusement, the member for Mandurah also would know Seashells beach in Mandurah like the back of his hand, as a member of the Mandurah Surf Life Saving Club and a nippers age group manager.

Surf lifesavers understand the importance of sustainable and strong aquatic ecology. The McGowan government understands the importance of sustainable and strong aquatic ecology. And I understand the importance of a sustainable and strong aquatic ecology. I am proud to be a surf lifesaver, and I am proud to be a member of this McGowan Labor government that continues to look after our coastline and ensures that I can continue to use it to sustainably swim, dive, fish, crayfish, snorkel, surf and smuggle beach sand into Parliament in my man bun.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.R. Michael**.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

On motion without notice by **Mr D.R. Michael**, resolved —

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 15 June 2021, at 2.00 pm.

House adjourned at 3.56 pm
