



# Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT  
FIRST SESSION  
2023

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 23 February 2023

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 23 February 2023

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

## PAPERS TABLED

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

### KWINANA RENEWABLE FUELS PROJECT

*Statement by Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade*

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade)** [9.02 am]: It is with great pleasure that I stand today to provide an update on BP's Kwinana renewable fuels project. Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting the Kwinana site to see firsthand BP's plans for biofuels that will help decarbonise its own operations and provide green products to its customers. The project has now entered front-end engineering design—FEED—for a \$1 billion investment and is planned to commence operation in 2026. It will be the first large-scale production biorefinery in Australia for domestic use and export and is expected to produce around 10 000 barrels of renewable fuels daily when fully commissioned.

The Kwinana renewable fuels project will repurpose existing refining infrastructure to produce fuel products that have the ability to support the decarbonisation of aviation and heavy industry. This is the rebirth of the Kwinana refinery as a renewable energy hub and will provide Australia and the region with renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel. The project will also integrate with the site's existing import terminal operations and plans for green hydrogen production, which is currently undergoing feasibility assessment. Kwinana is the first of five biofuel projects that BP has planned globally and will spearhead BP's expansion of its biofuels business as it begins to transition it into one of the region's largest sustainable fuel hubs. First production is expected by 2026, with the renewable fuels initially made from used cooking oil and fats. This is expected to reduce emissions by 80 per cent compared with fossil fuels.

BP has been a major employer in the Kwinana region for many decades and this project is expected to provide hundreds of local jobs in construction and operation for many years to come. BP will continue to use its Kwinana facility to import, store and distribute conventional fuels for domestic use, including diesel and aviation fuel.

In November 2020, the state government released the *Western Australian climate policy*, which includes initiatives to support the transition to net zero emissions across multiple industries, including low-carbon energy. BP's project is a positive step in aligning with the government's goal in decarbonising our state's economy. The Western Australian government welcomes the announcement of this project and looks forward to working with BP in support of the transition to clean energy.

### INDONESIA VISIT

*Statement by Minister for Tourism*

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Tourism)** [9.05 am]: It is with great pleasure that I stand today to inform the house that I led an investment and trade mission to Jakarta in December to strengthen government-to-government relationships and reconnect with business partners. The mission was one of several visits to Indonesia by representatives of the Western Australian government in 2022, including my mission to our sister-state East Java in May and the B20 Summit in Bali attended by parliamentary secretary Jessica Shaw, MLA, in November.

The McGowan Labor government is committed to not only deepening economic connections between Western Australia and Indonesia, one of our closest neighbours, but also continuing to build on our people-to-people and cultural links. Indonesia is Western Australia's eighth largest export market, with \$3 billion of goods exported to the country in 2021–22, including petroleum, iron ore and wheat. The mission included an extensive program of networking events, industry and media briefings, and government and business meetings, including with the Indonesia Australia Business Council, to strengthen investment, trade and tourism outcomes. During the visit, I launched Western Australia's new global tourism brand, *Walking on a Dream*, at a dinner for 70 guests, including Indonesian tourism industry stakeholders and media representatives. A meeting with aviation partner Garuda Airlines was held to discuss resuming direct flights between Jakarta and Perth.

Through a meeting with KADIN, the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and its Net Zero Hub, I highlighted Western Australia's energy capabilities, and discussed opportunities to support Indonesia's aim to achieve net zero emissions. As a result, the CEO of KADIN travelled to Perth this month to sign a memorandum of understanding with the state of Western Australia. The MOU provides a framework to explore opportunities for collaboration in the critical minerals sector and energy transition-related supply chains. As the world seeks

to decarbonise, Western Australia and Indonesia are well positioned to work together in areas of shared interest, such as the transition to sustainable energy sources. This is an exciting time in the Western Australia–Indonesia relationship, and the WA government’s mission to Jakarta played a key role in building further momentum to support this important partnership.

I table my itinerary.

[See paper [1834](#).]

### PERTH–GERALDTON FLIGHTS

*Statement by Minister for Tourism*

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Tourism)** [9.07 am]: I rise today to update the house on this morning’s announcement by Qantas that it will increase to its Perth–Geraldton services, with flights returning to twice daily on weekdays from the end of May, which is an increase of two return services a week. Qantas also revealed its capacity from Perth to the eastern states is increasing by almost 10 per cent from 1 January to 30 June 2023 compared with the previous six months. This growth rate comes mostly from using wide-body Airbus A330s to replace narrow-body Boeing 737s on some flights between Perth and Sydney and Melbourne and is four times the broader domestic network average. The increase in services between Perth and Geraldton will be staggered, with twice-daily services on Tuesdays commencing on 28 March and twice-daily services on Wednesdays commencing from 24 May.

A key part of the announcement was that more pilots also will be trained in WA after the Qantas Group reached an agreement with training provider CAE to add an A320 flight simulator to its facility at Perth Airport. The simulator will be able to train up to 300 Qantas Group pilots each year and means that these pilots will not have to travel interstate for their training.

This is an important commitment to regional WA by Qantas, as Geraldton is not only a crucial connection between Perth and the state’s north west, but also a rapidly expanding area in terms of Western Australia’s economic diversification and decarbonisation, as well as an iconic regional tourism destination on our state’s coral coast. This announcement is in addition to the new seasonal direct flights from the east coast to Exmouth, Broome and Busselton, making sure that regional WA is connected to key tourism markets for the upcoming busy season. The McGowan government welcomes this announcement by Qantas, and we look forward to the increased frequency of an important regional connection, as well the increased capacity of our key interstate services.

### LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

*Statement by Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests*

**DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests)** [9.09 am]: I draw members’ attention to the recent Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations and the Vietnamese Tet festival. This year the celebrations began on Sunday, 22 January. Lunar New Year is celebrated in many countries across Asia and has a number of different names, depending on the community celebrating. In China it is referred to as the Spring Festival or Chinese New Year, the Vietnamese community celebrates the Tet festival and the Korean community has Seollal. This year we welcome the year of the rabbit or the year of the cat, depending on which community people belong to. The rabbit is thought to be the luckiest of all the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac and the year of the rabbit is said to bring peace and prosperity. According to the Vietnamese zodiac, the year of the cat brings good luck and smooth sailing. Whatever animal is being recognised, the Lunar New Year has provided the opportunity for all Western Australians to come together and celebrate. Many celebrations and events have been held across the state to mark this auspicious time by what have become some of the state’s most popular culturally diverse festivals.

Two of the biggest and most popular of these events were held in the metropolitan area. In Northbridge, the Chung Wah Association’s Chinese New Year Fair attracted up to 20 000 people and featured entertainment, lion dances and cultural performances. In Girrawheen, where I was joined by many of my parliamentary colleagues, the Tet festival was hosted by the WA chapter of the Vietnamese Community in Australia and was celebrated over two days, bringing thousands of people together with dance, food and fireworks. Every year these celebrations grow in popularity and are attended by people from across the community, providing a valuable opportunity to learn about new year traditions and participate in the vibrant festivities. We are fortunate to be a state with a strong and thriving culturally diverse population, and this brings with it an abundance of skills, experience and talent. The Lunar New Year is a significant event for many Western Australian communities, no matter which name it is celebrated under. I take this opportunity to wish anyone celebrating, as well as my parliamentary colleagues, a safe and prosperous new year.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

*Statement by Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests*

**DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests)** [9.12 am]: I am pleased to inform the house of the outcome of the recently announced community support fund administered by the Office of Multicultural Interests. The community support fund provides triennial funding to six culturally and linguistically

diverse community peak umbrella associations. The funds will enable these volunteer-run organisations to coordinate, advocate for and provide support services for their member associations and community members. A total of \$849 000 over three years will be provided to the Bunbury Multicultural Group, Chung Wah Association, Indian Society of Western Australia, Midwest Multicultural Association, Organisation of African Communities in WA and the WA chapter of the Vietnamese Community in Australia. Most members would be aware of these associations as they all deliver important community services and major community festivals each year. I was pleased to deliver the grant certificate to the WA chapter of the Vietnamese Community in Australia at the Tet festival in early February. These associations provide services and support for culturally and linguistically diverse communities across a broad range of areas such as education, youth development, immigration, economic participation and wellbeing. They advocate for their communities on some of the most pressing and complex issues facing our society, such as domestic violence and discrimination. Throughout the pandemic, they were critical sources of information, partnering with state government agencies to ensure that their communities remained safe.

These associations are a vital touchpoint for people when they are at their most vulnerable and when they first start out their lives in Australia and ensure that they are connected, involved and welcome. I note that this list includes two regional associations, which is a reflection of the growth of culturally diverse communities across WA. During the recent community cabinet visit to Geraldton, I took the opportunity to meet with the Midwest Multicultural Association and present it with its grant certificate. This visit made clear that these associations are working tirelessly with, and for, their communities. It is important to understand that these associations are volunteer based and powered by an army of dedicated people who are committed to the wellbeing of our community. This funding not only allows these associations to support the needs of their communities now, but also contributes towards meeting the evolving needs of our culturally diverse communities in the future. All six associations are worthy recipients of the community support fund and I am sure members will join me in congratulating them.

#### **BOB HAWKE ABORIGINAL TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS**

*Statement by Minister for Education*

**DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Education)** [9.15 am]: I rise to inform the house that the Bob Hawke Aboriginal teacher scholarships are open for applicants to provide opportunities for aspiring Aboriginal secondary teachers to be supported while studying. The McGowan government is committed to engaging Aboriginal students in learning, enabling them to thrive academically and socially. Role models are important, so a key part of achieving this is increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people teaching in our schools. Two scholarships are available, offering up to \$30 000 for an undergraduate teaching course or up to \$16 000 for postgraduate studies. This includes a \$2 000 allowance, paid once the recipient starts teaching full-time in a public school after graduating. Since its establishment by this government in 2021, four scholarships have been awarded. We look forward to those recipients graduating and joining the teaching profession.

Our Aboriginal and Islander education officers are key members of our profession and have important roles in public schools. The McGowan government announced its 2017 election commitment to fund the employment of an additional 50 AIEOs at regional and remote schools, as well as residential colleges with high numbers of Aboriginal students. This commitment was met in November 2020, with an additional 43 AIEO FTEs in schools and seven Aboriginal residential supervisor FTEs—50 FTEs in total. As of 16 February, the number of AIEOs employed is 533. As part of this broader commitment to maintaining numbers in these important roles, the department has the following strategies to attract and retain Indigenous employees. The on country teacher education program with Curtin University supports Aboriginal non-teaching staff to become teachers through a Bachelor of Education (Primary Education). The Aboriginal employee professional learning program supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees to complete a qualification or a course enabling entry into a university teaching qualification. In 2022, 10 employees completed a certificate III or IV in education support to enhance and/or recognise their professional skills. A two-year Aboriginal language teacher training course supports the employment of Aboriginal people as Aboriginal languages teachers, ensuring that those who teach Aboriginal languages hold the appropriate expertise and cultural authority to teach. This course was recently accredited as a certificate III and IV in teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

#### **MADIGAN AT BAYNTON WEST RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Statement by Minister for Lands*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Lands)** [9.17 am]: I rise to inform the house of our government's latest land release in regional Western Australia. As a government, we have focused on releasing both industrial and residential land across regional Western Australia to allow for the growth of our regional centres' population and economies. To do this, we have invested in our \$166 million Regional Land Booster program, which has already seen over 500 residential and commercial lots across the regions.

I know the member for Pilbara was very pleased with this announcement, which includes the release of 29 single residential lots and one group housing site totalling 2 876 square metres. These 29 single lots and the group housing site lot are being released at Madigan Estate at Baynton West across multiple stages. It will also include a new

1.38-hectare landscaped public open space for community recreation. This site is Karratha's newest affordable residential estate, located in a thriving community, close to the local primary school, and is only minutes from Karratha's city centre. These lots will provide a diverse range of housing options, with lots ranging in size from 342 square metres to 861 square metres and priced from just \$97 000. Twenty-one of these lots are titled and ready to go, including the 2 876 square metre group housing sites, while a further 10 lots are under construction, with titles anticipated later this year.

I want to acknowledge the work of the City of Karratha in bringing to the state government detailed proposals for land release and other projects for the benefit of its town. Karratha is a great example of positive local governments that can work proactively for the benefit of their communities. This announcement, of course, follows a previous announcement by our government of the delivery of six Government Regional Officers' Housing homes in the Madigan estate that will be used to attract and retain government workers in Karratha. This is on top of our government's \$200 million investment in Government Regional Officers' Housing and \$2.4 billion investment in social housing and homelessness services across the state over four years.

### MEMBER FOR NORTH WEST CENTRAL

#### *Liquor Restrictions — Personal Explanation*

**MS M. BEARD (North West Central)** [9.21 am]: I stand under standing order 148 to make a personal explanation. On Tuesday in the debate on a matter of public interest, insinuations were made by the Minister for Police that I do not support liquor restrictions, that I was affording the opportunity for people to abuse alcohol and that I have been obstructing the adoption of a liquor accord. I refute this. I understand and have supported liquor restrictions over many years, as these have been, and are regularly, triggered in outlets as required, but they are one measure and not a complete answer. As stated publicly, I support an enhanced banned drinkers register targeting problem drinkers.

The family business is operated within the strict guidelines of the licence and the responsible service of alcohol with the utmost integrity and diligence. The liquor accord in Carnarvon has operated for over 20 years, with a range of voluntary restrictions implemented as required. Since elected, I have attended the accord only as a non-voting observer.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife)**: Member for North West Central, I am just going to interrupt. Under standing order 148, you are given a brief opportunity to make a personal explanation that corrects a misimpression or a way in which you have been misrepresented. Under the standing order, it is not an opportunity to enter into a reply or enter into debate. I am satisfied that you have responded to the insinuations that you think were made, but if you are going to make a lengthy statement, I am going to rule it out of order and sit you down.

**Ms M. BEARD**: I am finished.

### OFF-ROAD VEHICLE AREAS — LANCELIN

#### *Grievance*

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition)** [9.22 am]: I rise today to present a grievance to the Minister for Tourism, and I thank the minister for taking the grievance. My grievance today is about the situation in Lancelin and the Lancelin sand dunes. The Lancelin sand dunes, just over an hour from Perth, are a complex issue that involves numerous and competing land uses. Lancelin's shimmering white dunes offer an expansive area perfect for four-wheel driving and sand boarders. The Lancelin off-road vehicle area, managed by the Shire of Gingin, caters for two-wheel or four-wheel motorbikes, beach buggies and four-wheel drive vehicles. The dunes also supply a vast proportion of the lime needed for our agricultural industry to amend soil acidity, with numerous mining tenements in place covering the dunes east and north of Lancelin. Remarkably, the Lancelin off-road vehicle area and these mining leases have coexisted since 1986, but the Lancelin community has recently mobilised over concerns for the future of the sand dunes, launching the Save Lancelin Dunes campaign. Locals no longer want the dunes that have long formed the view from their gardens de-sanded and exported in a truck to the wheatbelt.

When I was elected to this place in 2013, I acted immediately to get some clarity around the future of the dunes, because I could see that there were competing environmental, tourism, recreational, mining and agricultural interests at play and, as I said, it is a complex issue. I wrote to the Wheatbelt Development Commission and suggested that it formulate a lime strategy. The development commission allocated funding of \$150 000 and then pulled together key stakeholders and produced a draft wheatbelt lime strategy in 2016. One of the key objectives of this document was to identify and separate recreational areas from lime sand mining areas in Lancelin before it became a heated and controversial situation. When the McGowan government came to power in 2017, the strategy was shelved and that key objective of separating recreational and mining areas was never realised. This strategy was dropped in favour of compliance with *State planning policy 2.4: Planning for basic raw materials*, which views agricultural lime simply as a finite resource essential for agricultural production.

The iconic dunes have long been a massive tourist drawcard for Lancelin. Locals reminisce about the dune buggy championships hosted in the early 1970s. It is difficult to get any firm numbers of persons visiting the dunes because

the off-road vehicle area involves moving dunes that are not fenced, but I can assure the minister that every weekend there is an endless parade of white four-wheel drives laden with motorbikes heading along Indian Ocean Drive to go to Lancelin.

I understand that prior to the COVID pandemic, there were numerous motorbike hire businesses and a four-wheel drive tour bus, as well as sand boarding hire places. Up to 12 tour buses travelling to the Pinnacles and Cervantes would stop by the dunes daily for tours or sand boarding. These tour businesses complemented the jet ski and canoe hire and fishing charter businesses on the Lancelin waterfront. Today, the international travellers are just starting to make their way back after the COVID pandemic and the four-wheel drive bus tours are again happening.

Peter Fullarton, of Tailored Treks, has run beach fishing tours for five years. Aside from his tourism venture, he also runs a training business, giving four-wheel drive owners one-on-one training on the dunes. He says that with their close proximity to Perth, the Lancelin dunes are perfect for this. The dunes are a huge drawcard locally and even for less adventurous people who might be interested in photography. Peter explains that there were once 150 crayfish boats locally; now there are just 20. The thousands of people who visit the dunes are vitally important to the local economy. He believes that lime sand companies need to stay away from the vital tourism areas of the dunes.

The Shire of Gingin has been tasked with managing the Lancelin off-road vehicle area for 40 years. That responsibility does not sit well with the shire, which, without a management order from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, cannot invest in infrastructure such as control gates, toilets and an administration hut. In fact, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum vetoed the requested management order due to the imminent mining of lime sand on land next to the off-road vehicle area and the future mining of lime in the off-road vehicle area—that is a quote from the refusal—adding that the conflict of interest between the two uses raises significant safety concerns. As the mining of lime sand moves closer to the off-road vehicle area, the Shire of Gingin is unwilling to continue to bear responsibility and liability for the off-road vehicle area. DMIRS offered its assistance to the Gingin shire to locate other land where an off-road vehicle area could be established. It might sound straightforward, but the Gingin shire and local residents understand that it is difficult. There are a number of practical reasons why the off-road vehicle area needs to be adjacent to the Lancelin town site, including accessibility for emergency services, police and shire rangers, the proximity of public amenities and so that the town’s businesses can see economic benefit from the visitors. The shire also acknowledged that relocating the off-road vehicle area would come at considerable cost.

Somewhat spooked by these responses from DMIRS and the reports of the imminent mining of lime sand next to the off-road vehicle area, the shire requested assistance from the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Tourism to locate an alternative off-road vehicle area for recreational use. The response was somewhat underwhelming. Mining leases have coexisted with the off-road vehicle area since 1986 and DMIRS has not issued any approvals to mine within the boundaries of the Lancelin off-road vehicle area, or so it is claimed. What, then, does the Gingin shire make of the advice from DMIRS that mining of lime next to the off-road vehicle area is imminent? Those iconic sand dunes are an unsung tourist drawcard for Lancelin. It is difficult to analyse the economic importance of the dunes, but photos of sand boarders dotted all over the dunes before the disruption of COVID is evidence of the contribution of local and international tourists.

As I said previously, this is a complex issue and a resolution will require consultation with multiple government departments, Lancelin residents, business owners and the shire, and they will all need assistance to be made available if the town’s tourist attractions—its dunes—are de-sanded. I quote from the *Business News* article of 13 February titled “Disappearing dunes a sandy saga”, which reports the minister as saying —

“The state government recognises the importance of balancing the needs of the tourism, agricultural and mining industry, which has been operating in the region for the past 30 years,” ...

“The government will work with local stakeholders to ensure Lancelin continues to meet the needs of the different industries.”

I understand that the minister takes his responsibility as Minister for Tourism seriously. I ask that he visit the town, meet with the key stakeholders and hear firsthand of the importance of this icon for tourism in the community.

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Tourism)** [9.29 am]: I would like to thank the member for bringing this grievance today, and in particular thank him for providing information to assist in responding to his concerns. The Leader of the Opposition is right; this is a complex area that is typical of those areas where there are contested land use needs with related constraints. You would expect me, Acting Speaker, to say that this is an important area for tourism, and I do. For a number of years, we have been promoting Lancelin as an important stopover on the way to the Coral Coast. Australian Pinnacle Tours, which operates the Lancelin four-wheel drive sand dunes adventure tour, includes off-road driving and sand boarding activities in Lancelin. It is an important component of our adventure tourism product range. The Lancelin sand dunes are often included in Tourism WA’s trade and familiarisation programs, or “famils”. Recent famils that Tourism WA has supported include Tourism Australia and Qantas, the Italian Trade Agency, AirAsia and two trade famils with Germany’s FTI. Tourism WA’s consumer website westernaustralia.com features a range of activities in Lancelin including 13 tours, three accommodation providers, two itineraries and promotion of the sand dunes and sand boarding activities.

Lancelin and the dunes obviously also play an important part in other economic activities. Key amongst those is mining and agriculture. Hon Jackie Jarvis, Minister for Agriculture and Food, informs me that the mining activities, the extraction of the lime sand, is an important part of efforts by the agrifood industry to make sure that they can balance the soil acidity in their areas, and it drives production worth nearly \$11 billion every year from the state's soils. In 2021, the WA government released the *Western Australian soil health strategy 2021–2031*, which will guide investment in soil research as well as opportunities for innovation that build on existing practice to ensure sustainable soil management.

You can see, Acting Speaker, what an important role these sand dunes play in not only the tourism industry, but also our agricultural industry. Lime sand mining is an important part of that overall supply chain and has operated in Lancelin for over 30 years, providing essential resources to the agricultural sector. The important aspect of this is that our colleagues in the mining industry can make forward investments across the mine life in a manner that provides them with confidence to manage all the mine area's constraints and contested interests. Agline, for instance, is operating under an approved mining proposal consistent with its mining leases that has been subject to appropriate environmental assessment, including the assessment of potential impacts on water resources and other land uses. Importantly, the approved mining proposal commits to no mining occurring within the wellhead protection zones or within the designated Lancelin off-road vehicle area, or LORVA. The state government recognises the importance of the Lancelin sand dunes as a lime sand resource, as well as its significant recreational value. The government is committed to exploring options to ensure coexistence for the long term.

The challenge for the member advocating for that area, and indeed for the government, is understanding each of these interests and working out where the balance lies. As the Leader of the Opposition would be aware, we decided not to proceed with the management order under the Shire of Gingin's proposal. We believe that it is important to continue to work with all the stakeholders to manage it in a way that is consistent not only with the Shire of Gingin's and stakeholders' concerns, but indeed the state and the state's economy. We are committed to that process and will make sure that we continue to work with all the stakeholders in the area to ensure that we have an appropriate way to move forward to balance these interests. We want to make sure that the tourism industry has a long-term future, and as people continue to discover and explore Western Australia, Lancelin will be an important part of that journey. The Pinnacles, Jurien Bay and Lancelin provide an important part of the backbone of that highway for adventure tourism that proceeds up through Geraldton to the Coral Coast. We want to make sure also that we support our other industry sectors. I commend the Shire of Gingin for wanting to take a leadership role in this, and I will continue to work with the Shire of Gingin and the Leader of the Opposition to make sure that we can balance all these interests.

The Leader of the Opposition requested that I visit the area and obviously I would be delighted to come up and meet with the tour operators in the area and the Shire of Gingin.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Tough gig, but someone has to do it!

**Mr R.H. COOK:** Member for Landsdale, I was just about to say that.

The last time I met with Australian Pinnacle Tours I was in London, as it was supported by Tourism WA as part of a trade mission.

**Mr R.S. Love:** Could we set a date for that minister?

**Mr R.H. COOK:** Yes, and obviously I would be keen to do that at some point this year. I look forward to meeting with the member and with the Shire of Gingin to make it happen. As I said, we need to work out who we are advocating for. Everyone needs to be confident that they can operate in this area to make sure that we continue to see the area thrive.

## DISTINGUISHED VISITOR — HIS EXCELLENCY MR AMIR MAIMON

*Statement by Acting Speaker*

**THE ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife)** [9.36 am]: Before I call the next grievance, I acknowledge two guests in the Speaker's gallery. We are fortunate to be joined today by the Israeli Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Amir Maimon, and he is accompanied by Hon Kate Doust, MLC, former President of the Legislative Council. I welcome them to the Parliament of Western Australia.

## ANTI-SEMITISM

*Grievance*

**MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary)** [9.36 am]: Thank you, Acting Speaker and thank you for that acknowledgement. I join you in acknowledging His Excellency the Ambassador, and welcome him to the Parliament of Western Australia. In their absence, I also acknowledge Geoff Midalia, the president of the Jewish Community Council and Steve Lieblisch, the vice-president of the Jewish Community Council. I wish Steve a speedy recovery from the cold that he has.

My grievance this morning is to the Attorney General. In recent years, there has been a dangerous increase in incidents of racist rhetoric. Sadly, WA is exposed to these emerging global trends. In our state, we have an incredibly successful multicultural community. One need only look at this Parliament to see that multiculturalism reflected. In fact, this morning we heard the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests celebrating some of those things, such as the outcomes of the community support fund, and the Chinese and Vietnamese Lunar New Year. We need to reflect on that success. But this successful multicultural story is under strain. As is, concerningly, the case across democratic societies, Western Australians are not immune to the polarisation and scare tactics of populist political discourse and problematic social media trends here at home. Following the lead of politicians like former President of the United States Donald Trump, sections of our community have become emboldened to spout racist rhetoric. It is no secret that many of the current xenophobic hate groups who seek to disseminate fear and hate have taken to using Nazi symbols and imagery. One need only look at the recent tales from the electorate of my good friend the Labor member for Hillarys to see exactly how that has transpired. I quote from an article by Caitlyn Rintoul in *The West Australian* from 17 January. The journalist says —

There are growing calls for the WA Government to ban swastikas after a politician’s advertisement was defaced with the nazi symbol.

A bus stop featuring political advertising for Hillarys MP Caitlin Collins was vandalised on Friday, with the offenders daubing the nazi symbol in white as well as the word “bitch”.

“It was quite confronting to ... see that. Really quite shocking,” the Labor MP said. “For people to use the swastika ... is never OK.”

Further in that article, Dr Dvir Abramovich, who is the chairman of the Anti-Defamation Commission, who has long campaigned for reforms in this field, said —

“It is a repulsive and vicious assault on our elected representatives and on our core principles ...

That attack also coincided with similar activity in Queensland. I quote from a Sky News article from 19 January that states —

Offensive imagery splattered across Australia has led to major arrests in Queensland and the ban of Nazi symbols in Western Australia.

Three men were arrested on Tuesday by Queensland Police after a counter-terrorism investigation group raided homes ... after offensive imagery was displayed in public.

Police discovered a mass of Nazi paraphernalia in the form of banners, stickers, flyers, computer devices, and a German SS uniform.

Materials read “white revolution is the only solution”.

One of the banners was believed to have been allegedly displayed on the Pacific Highway at Helensvale in November 2022—causing community outrage.

Queensland Police Service Acting Detective Superintendent Leonie Steyger had this to say —

“Our primary focus is on keeping the community safe, the public have a right to go about their daily lives without being subjected to highly offensive imagery,”...

“Those responsible represent the smallest minority of our communities, and my team will continue to disrupt and charge individuals who are motivated by this type of behaviour.”

A key feature of our diverse society is the ability of migrant communities to preserve and promote their language and culture. In our local neighbourhood of Mt Lawley, we have flourishing language schools. There are Chinese, Korean, Greek and Hebrew language schools. The hardworking volunteer teachers at these schools are supported by government grants and the Office of Multicultural Interests.

Another way we can promote awareness of and respect for different cultures and communities is through education. I said in my first speech that I was proud to have both Perth’s premier Jewish school, Carmel School, and Perth’s premier Muslim school, the Australian Islamic College, in the electorate of Mount Lawley. These are both outstanding schools, serving their communities over decades. But it is important that we also educate the broader community. For many years, the Jewish Community Centre in Yokine has housed the excellent Holocaust Institute of Western Australia. As well as inviting visitors to come and see the exhibits and listen to survivor testimony, the Holocaust memorial centre also runs an outstanding outreach program, visiting schools throughout the Perth metro area. Unfortunately, the facilities were becoming quite tired and dated. That is why I was so pleased that the McGowan Labor government, together with the federal government, has committed several million dollars to the construction of a brand new Jewish Community Centre, together with a wonderful new Holocaust memorial institute.

I understand that the forecourt at this new centre will be named the William Cooper courtyard. William Cooper was a political activist and humanitarian. His contribution is well celebrated in the Jewish community. In 1938, he led a march on the German embassy in Melbourne protesting the atrocities committed by the SS and the Nazis on

Kristallnacht. It was one of the first such protests in the world. William Cooper's devotion to equality, inclusiveness and justice embodies the values that comprise the DNA of the Labor movement, and these are inspiring ideals for us to live up to in preserving his legacy in our community.

To tackle the rise of racism in our community, we need to focus on capacity building in the local communities so that they are strengthened to protect and promote their history, language and culture. We also need to invest in education to promote empathy and understanding. In my view, we also need to enact laws that tackle discrimination and vilification. I am speaking now about the actions taken by this government to update the Equal Opportunity Act. In addition to these actions, we also need to crack down on those who peddle violence and hate.

I had reason to review the recent Executive Council of Australian Jewry report into current trends in anti-Semitism in Australia by research director Julie Nathan. There has been a significant rise in the number of anti-Semitic incidents. Ms Nathan goes on to say —

A major source of antisemitism is the burgeoning neo-Nazi movement which is active across Australia ...

These neo-Nazis espouse genocidal hatred of Jews and look to Adolf Hitler as their inspiration and role model. They have adopted National Socialist (Nazi) ideology, imbued with its conspiracy theories about Jews ...

In the streets, neo-Nazi groups actively propagate their ideology ...

On encrypted internet sites, neo-Nazis and their fellow travellers (a mix of white supremacists ... nationalists, conspiracy theorists ...) exchange their views, distribute propaganda material, post about their latest acts of hatred, and dream of an Australia devoid of Jews, Africans, Asians and LGBT people.

My grievance is this: in the face of rising racism and anti-Semitism, and in the light of the fact this government is investing in community building, education and understanding, and legislating to tackle racists, what more can we do as a community and as a legislature to ensure that their message of hate does not resonate with the Australian community?

**MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General)** [9.43 am]: I join the member in welcoming Israeli Ambassador Maimon to the Legislative Assembly of our Parliament this morning to hear this important debate.

I thank the member for the grievance. He raised some very important issues. I want to assure the member that this government is proud of its track record on fostering multiculturalism and stands ready to legislate to cut out offensive and aberrant behaviour. Indeed, as Attorney General, I am responsible for the drafting of the new Equal Opportunity Act following the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia's report. At the moment, the Equal Opportunity Act does not contain any anti-vilification provisions. Drafting of a new act is well underway. In line with the Law Reform Commission report, the new Equal Opportunity Act will include anti-vilification provisions that will apply on the grounds of disability; gender identity; sex; sex characteristics; importantly, race; and religious conviction. The new provisions will ensure that those groups within society who are most vulnerable to vilification will be protected by civil anti-vilification laws.

I am cognisant of the report from the Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University titled *Antisemitism worldwide report 2021*. The report notes that there has been a worrying increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States, France, Canada and the United Kingdom. Australia has also had a worrying rise in the number of anti-Semitic incidents.

As the member mentioned, part of the government's multicultural program is to not only legislate against aberrant behaviour, but also invest in and promote community groups. Through the Office of Multicultural Interests, the government is investing in the Mount Lawley electorate in response to some very strong advocacy by the member for the Jewish Community Centre and the Holocaust Institute of Western Australia. As the member noted, the courtyard is to be named after Mr Cooper, a proud Yorta Yorta man and trade unionist from the 1930s. By the way, in advocating for Indigenous people, he never led a protest parade. He was not even a citizen of Australia. The only protest parade he led—when the wonderful Indigenous man was not even an Australian citizen—was a march on the German embassy in December 1938 after Kristallnacht, when over 90 Jews were killed in the one night. It is marvellous that he did that, and it is marvellous that he will be remembered in this way, with the courtyard named after him.

I turn now specifically to the use of the swastika. The display of Nazi symbols is offensive to most members of our society, and particularly to the Jewish community, survivors of the Holocaust and their families, and those who have fought against fascism. Nazi symbols, such as the hakenkreuz, commonly called the swastika, are widely associated with anti-Semitism, genocide and racial hatred. Nazi symbols are not only used in association with anti-Semitism but have been used in vilifying other groups in the community, including Muslims and LGBTQIA+ groups. To combat these hateful ideologies, the McGowan government—I will be responsible for doing it, and I give the member an undertaking in Parliament that I will do it—will progress legislation to criminalise the display and possession of Nazi symbols, particularly the swastika. The prohibition will also extend to the display of swastika tattoos. It is incredible that so many extreme right-wing people have this symbol of hatred tattooed on their bodies!

During the member's time in this Parliament and the during the last session as well, he has been a strong advocate against outlaw and fascist groups. I am thinking now of motorcycle groups in particular. We introduced laws, and the member for Mount Lawley spoke strongly in support of those laws, criminalising the insignia that bikies wear. Those laws have been effective and we have seen dozens of people charged. It is to be noted that some of these people have now gone over their tattoos and sought to rub them out and, in one notorious incident, replace the bikie insignia with a swastika because these groups who purvey hatred in our community turn to the swastika as their symbol. It is dreadful. It will be outlawed and they will be prosecuted. We will not tolerate it. Just as we did with the anti-insignia laws, we will introduce laws presently. The instructions are already with the Parliamentary Counsel's Office to draw up these laws to outlaw these people and arrest anyone who displays these insignia. I acknowledge and thank the member for his advocacy in this area and for this grievance.

### **DISTINGUISHED VISITOR — HON DR KIM HAMES**

*Statement by Acting Speaker*

**THE ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife)** [9.50 am]: Before I give the call to the member for Landsdale, I would just like to acknowledge that we have Hon Dr Kim Hames, former Deputy Premier, in the Speaker's gallery. I welcome Hon Dr Kim Hames back to the chamber. He is very welcome here, despite the fact that this chamber has changed a little in composition since he last sat in it.

### **POLICE AND COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTRES**

*Grievance*

**MS M.M. QUIRK (Landsdale)** [9.50 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Police and it concerns the pressing need for a police and community youth centre in the northern suburbs. When I first became a member, there were PCYCs in Balga, Scarborough and Morley. Alas, no more. I have visited PCYCs across the state from Albany to Broome. They do great work and I want to give a shout-out to both sworn and unsworn personnel and volunteers who mentor the young people who attend PCYCs. Their commitment is outstanding.

The mission statement for WA PCYC is —

... so disadvantaged children and young people at risk across Western Australia have a safe place to go— somewhere they can feel at home, make friends and do things children should do.

In 2021, there were 275 429 attendances at PCYCs across WA. PCYCs provided 30 000 meals, had over 50 000 diversionary program attendances and more than 8 800 alternative education attendances, held 47 Blue Light discos, and had over 55 000 gymnastics visits. WA PCYC has a board of distinguished individuals, and I acknowledge their generous contributions, especially from Commissioner of Police Col Blanch, APM, as patron, and its chair, Geoff Stooke, AM, business leader and rugby tragic.

Despite the "P" in PCYC, not all PCYCs have police working within them. Similarly, WA PCYC operates relatively autonomously of Western Australia Police Force, other than on the issue of staff deployment.

Since this government was elected in 2017, the McGowan government has provided WA PCYC \$19 million in funding, and in the 2021–22 budget, a further \$18 million was allocated following our 2021 election commitment. In September 2021, a new PCYC opened in Carnarvon, and Broome PCYC received a \$1.3 million refurbishment. How is it that despite the great work done by PCYCs they do not have a greater presence in the northern suburbs? Three major local governments are experiencing significant population growth. Between 2021 and 2041, the City of Wanneroo forecasts a population increase of over 150 000. Over the same 20-year period, the City of Joondalup is expecting an increase in its population of over 19 000 and the City of Stirling has a similar projection. In the northern suburbs, the population for those aged between 12 and 24 is growing exponentially. For example, 17.5 per cent of the City of Wanneroo's population belongs to this age group, translating to roughly 36 000 people. Notably, this percentage is higher than the greater Perth average of 16 per cent. The cities of both Joondalup and Stirling have more than 30 000 residents between the ages of 12 and 24, highlighting the need for augmented youth services. These major north metropolitan local governments are also culturally diverse. The percentage of residents born overseas is over 40 per cent in Wanneroo, it is almost 38 per cent in Joondalup, and Stirling has a similar percentage. That said, PCYCs are not the only show in town. The Department of Sport and Recreation runs a very successful KidSport program that recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. Over that period, it has contributed roughly \$36 million, supporting 100 000 kids to help pay club fees. This equates to 245 000 KidSport vouchers. Likewise, in the northern suburbs—I declare an interest as a board member—the Edmund Rice Centre WA operates activities in parks and sporting programs, especially for culturally and linguistically diverse youth, under the aegis of the north west metro inclusion project. In addition, the Clontarf Foundation operates in Girrawheen in Ellenbrook in the north east.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime notes that although youth face many challenges that make them particularly vulnerable to crime, violence and victimisation, it is important to remember that by virtue of their age, their energy and their learning abilities, young people are key agents of change in creating a better future and have great potential to advocate on behalf of themselves and their communities. For this reason, carefully targeted projects

that actively involve youth, especially those living in vulnerable communities, in decision-making, education and skills training, entrepreneurship and job creation can build resilience by providing youth with alternative lifestyles to drug and gang involvement. This is a good segue to the notion that in many vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, the only positive role models these kids have are personnel at the PCYCs.

In 2016, the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee tabled its thirteenth report titled *Cultivating promise: Building resilience and engagement for at-risk youth through sport and culture*. It noted the inconsistent distribution of PCYCs in the metropolitan area, and cited with approval in particular the excellent work done at Gosnells PCYC, for example. Those programs included programs targeted at kids who had opted out of school because of mental health reasons, family breakdown, homelessness, family financial constraints, learning disorders and substance abuse, and had little respect for themselves or others.

I accept that the northern suburbs expansion of PCYCs needs to occur in collaboration with local governments. In the meantime, I would appreciate it if the minister could canvass with the PCYC management what impediments exist to rolling out PCYCs in the northern suburbs and to act to ensure that the rollout can be implemented.

Closing service delivery gaps makes good economic sense. There are benefits in investing in young people before they become involved in the justice system. Economics Nobel laureate Professor Heckman demonstrated that a preschool program for at-risk children could deliver a social return of \$7 for every dollar invested. By the age of 20, participants are more likely to have finished high school and are less likely to have needed remedial help or to have been arrested.

**MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Police)** [9.57 am]: I thank the member for Landsdale for her contribution and for her direct and vocal support of police and community youth centres. The member reflected a little on the fact that the McGowan government saved PCYCs, but it is worth revisiting my response. PCYCs make an incredible contribution to our youth and communities right across the state. It is undeniable that they were on the brink of being lost altogether to the state when we came to office in 2017. The Barnett government had abandoned PCYCs. It had almost actively sought to remove them from the public vista. The member for Landsdale talked about the northern suburbs. It is unfortunate that Balga, Scarborough and Morley no longer have a PCYC. They actually had them, but they are not there anymore. The removal of police officers and administrative staff from PCYCs was an active decision of the Barnett government, which saw the PCYCs, by the time we came to office, face insolvency. That is a statement. That is not a claim by us; that is a statement by Geoff Stooke. He made that statement when we were celebrating, with the Premier, the opening of the magnificently refurbished Broome PCYC. What an extraordinary facility! It cost more than \$1 million, and I must say that the money for that one came from the federal government after advocacy by the state government. There was an extraordinary upgrade and renewal of that facility. I was at the opening of the Broome PCYC and Geoff, the chair of the WA PCYC, stated publicly to the media that the PCYC had been on the verge of insolvency as a consequence of the active neglect of the Barnett government and he was, publicly, very grateful for the contribution of the McGowan government. As the member for Landsdale noted, \$19 million was received and then a further \$18 million was thrown into sustaining the operational activities of the PCYCs by the McGowan government. That funding was on top of significant contributions for upgrading capital works. Basically, as the member said, the Broome PCYC was rebuilt.

The Carnarvon PCYC is an incredible place. That was as a consequence of the McGowan government giving the PCYC the old high school site. I think the government gave about \$1.1 million to upgrade the facilities. It has the best basketball facility in town and a magnificent gym, easily the best gym, which is used by the public. The gym also represents a revenue-raising opportunity for the PCYC. The PCYC has a mechanical workshop and other training facilities, which will be vital as the government conducts a range of responses to try to tackle juvenile behaviour in that town.

PCYCs are right across the state. As the member for Landsdale indicated, they do a lot of other programs. I am aware of the one in Gosnells. I have not visited the Gosnells PCYC, but I can tell members that Kensington does a similar thing. Kensington and Bunbury, amongst others, have a leadership program whereby they reach out to children who might not be attending school or engaged with the education process. The PCYC's leadership program has regularly resulted in children going back to school or training, and getting good outcomes. Therefore, PCYCs make a wonderful contribution. There is a glaring gap and a glaring lack of presence, though, in the northern suburbs, as a consequence of the neglect of the Barnett government. Its neglect resulted in a range of PCYCs having to shut.

This is a challenge, but it is one that we are looking at. At the end of her speech, the member requested that I canvass PCYC leadership, and I am. We have engaged in conversations about this. The PCYC is working on proposals. Undeniably, the establishment of PCYCs would be a really good contribution to our response across the northern suburbs to support youth and encourage them to stay on the right path. As the member noted, other players, such as the Edmund Rice Centre WA, are in the field and are doing great work, but the more the better. WA PCYC is a proven organisation with a lot of capability, and it would make sense to work towards renewing our physical presence in the northern suburbs. I guarantee members that I am focused on that.

The government does not run the PCYCs. As the member noted, a lot of PCYCs do not have a police presence anymore, but police do regularly work with them. We do not have police embedded in the administration of PCYCs. I was in Collie last Friday. Collie has a brilliant team at its PCYC, and it does the safeSPACE program, which is active in places like Kununurra and others. I am hoping that the program will be renewed in Carnarvon. The program provides an after-hours opportunity for children who might otherwise be at risk of getting in trouble to do programs and be supported for a number of hours. In Collie, they get a meal; it is fantastic. That sort of contribution could happen elsewhere and, ideally, it would be happening in the northern suburbs to address the challenges and needs confronting a lot of those communities that the member represents and has identified. Therefore, thank you very much, member for Landsdale. I guarantee the member that we will be working with PCYCs; they are already considering what might be done. We will work together to see whether we can address the sad gap in services and presence of the PCYCs in the northern suburbs.

### CHILDREN'S CROSSING — STIRLING HIGHWAY

#### *Grievance*

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe)** [10.04 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Police. I thank the minister for taking my grievance. My grievance relates to the children's crossing on Stirling Highway, directly outside Presbyterian Ladies' College, or PLC, which is a pre-kindergarten to year 12 girls' school located in Peppermint Grove. This crossing also services the nearby North Cottesloe Primary School, which caters for kindergarten to year 6 students.

By way of background, on 31 January this year, which was PLC's first day of school for the new year, the school's principal, Ms Cate Begbie, received a letter from the WA children's crossing unit at the end of the school day. The letter advised that the traffic warden who works at the children's crossing on Stirling Highway, near McNeil Street, had resigned and the other warden had consequently been moved as he could not operate this crossing on his own due to safety concerns. The letter further advised that the children's crossing unit had no relief staff available to cover the position and that the school should take appropriate action and inform the students and the school community to be vigilant while crossing without a warden present. To this day, some three weeks later, there continues to be no traffic warden at this crossing.

As was indicated in the letter, the children's crossing unit is acutely aware of the dangers presented at this children's crossing, which is why the unit would not allow a single traffic warden to work the crossing alone. Although the school and I fully appreciate the crossing unit's concern for the traffic warden's safety, this has left the students and staff of PLC and other neighbouring schools in a very dangerous and potentially fatal situation. Many dozens of students need to cross this point of Stirling Highway in the mornings and afternoons as the school bus stops are located on the highway opposite the school. Students have tried walking to either Eric Street or Napoleon Street, but, consequently, have missed their buses in the afternoon. The nearest controlled intersections are 400 and 600 metres away respectively. Again, this is a safety issue as we do not want young girls standing alone on the sidewalk of Stirling Highway having missed their bus ride home.

With the assistance of her staff, the school's principal has been standing at the crossing every morning and afternoon for the last three weeks in an attempt to try to monitor the situation and assist students. Unfortunately, school staff are not legally allowed to do anything to stop or control the traffic. The school is now at a stage at which it is relying on the oncoming traffic to willingly stop when they see the students waiting. This is a very heavily used dual carriageway in a 60-kilometre-an-hour zone on a downhill slope. Once the traffic has stopped, on both lanes and in both directions, the students need to cross very quickly before cars start moving again. I am sure that everyone in this room can understand and appreciate just how dangerous this situation really is and the potential it has to cause serious injury and even death. The dangers present at this crossing are, in fact, so bad that the school has already, understandably, had some staff advise that they feel it is too unsafe for them to be attending the crossing to help the students. The principal cannot and will not force her staff to perform this duty, but, equally, she cannot stand by while her students are placed in harm's way on a daily basis. Consequently, with the assistance of other staff members, Principal Begbie has been staffing the children's crossing personally on a daily basis, even though they are unable to actually direct traffic in any way.

Unfortunately, confusion at the crossing and the McNeil Street intersection, which is very close by, has already resulted in two car accidents in the last two weeks. Both accidents have occurred during the student crossing times. The school's principal was present following the second crash. Ms Begbie has advised me that it was an incredibly dangerous situation, as the two cars sat in the middle of the highway at the crossing area, adding further to the chaos. What was even more worrying was that there was no police attendance while the two cars were cleared by tow trucks. Other cars were also forced to run over the debris from the accident. As a result, the debris flew onto the sidewalk where the children were standing. Following the accident, the principal rang the local police to seek an update and was told that the job had been escalated, but no-one arrived in the time that it took to clear the accident. The school then redirected the girls to walk back down to Napoleon Street on this day to cross safely, but, again, the school had to have its own staff on duty at points to redirect students and manage what they could as safely as they could. I appreciate that the police are very busy, but I think that a car accident in peak-hour traffic at a student crossing on a major highway should have been of a high enough priority for someone to attend as a matter of urgency.

Further accidents have also almost occurred on another three separate occasions, as no traffic wardens were there to manage the crossing and it was peak hour in the morning. It is a chaotic situation. Some 31 000 cars travel on this stretch of road a day. As mentioned previously, it is a dual carriageway with traffic travelling at 60 kilometres an hour, if not faster at times.

On Monday, I was invited by the school to come down at the end of the school day to personally assist in helping the girls cross the road so I could see the danger for myself. The considerable danger to both students and staff at the crossing was all too apparent. Consequently, I am seeking the minister's assistance to work out a solution to this problem before someone gets seriously hurt or, even worse, killed.

There are a couple of ways this could be resolved. In the first instance, I believe the dangers presented at this crossing warrant that it be staffed as an urgent priority by the Western Australia Police Force children's crossing unit, even if this has to be ahead of a less dangerous crossing. The crossing presents traffic wardens and students alike with a very dangerous situation given the volume of traffic using this stretch of road and the fact that it is a dual carriageway. It is also on a downhill slope upon which cars gain considerable speed. Consequently, the school requests that a full signalised pedestrian crossing be installed at the crossing in the future to ensure the safety of all concerned and to also ensure that this type of situation is not repeated in the future.

In the meantime, until the children's crossing unit finds new traffic wardens, it asks that the Western Australia Police Force be called upon to provide temporary support at the crossing. Accordingly, I respectfully call on the minister to ensure that this crossing is staffed as a matter of urgency and that the state government begins planning for the installation of a full signalised pedestrian crossing at this children's crossing. Thank you.

**MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Police)** [10.11 am]: I thank the member for Cottesloe for raising this matter with me. It is a serious matter worthy of a grievance. At the outset, can I let the member know that I share a great deal of interest in this matter because I share an identical challenge—namely, the Secret Harbour Primary School crossing on Warnbro Sound Avenue, which is a dual carriageway road at 60 kilometres an hour with heavy traffic in the mornings and evenings. It is not necessarily quite as much traffic as Stirling Highway, but the traffic gets up speed going along there. Even when it is staffed with traffic wardens on occasions, as reported in the media, those traffic wardens have been subject to some appalling behaviour. Their lives have been put at risk and threatened. I have a great deal of sympathy for the observations made by the member on the challenge, security and safety.

I have to tell the member up-front that, like all policing operational matters, the way the traffic warden unit operates is an operational matter. It would be neither appropriate nor possible for me to direct the unit to attribute greater priority to any one site over another. Could the member imagine if I did it for mine and not his? It would be appalling and wrong. We leave it to them. It is a policing matter. It is also a challenging matter. The member would probably be aware of a question asked by his colleague Hon Donna Faragher in the other place. She asked a question about traffic wardens on 16 February. She asked about how many wardens we are short and the like. The answer was pretty revealing. The Western Australia Police Force advised that the children's crossing unit requires an additional 65 traffic wardens to fulfil capacity of existing crossings. This would have been before the member's warden resigned, leaving the other warden alone. Before that, they were looking for 65 wardens across 25 suburbs in the city for existing crossings. Suburbia is growing and there is constantly more demand with additional crossings being added, so the challenge is growing all the time. Many of those suburbs are very high traffic areas. The challenge is huge.

The police, children's crossing unit and police media have engaged in numerous mainstream media opportunities on TV, radio and the like to advertise and seek out new people, but we are confronting another challenge. Most people who are traffic wardens are elderly people augmenting pensions; they do not get paid a huge amount. During the COVID pandemic, a lot of them dropped off. Understandably, many of them chose to withdraw to avoid exposure to the potential risk of COVID and they have not all come back. The natural consequence of the demographic that we attract to the task growing older also means that, increasingly, as baby boomers age, they are ageing out, so fewer are available in a workforce pool to do that task. We all love and appreciate the crossing unit model—rightly, the member's community does. I totally concede that it is a really challenging site, which is dangerous for children if there is not support. The member would understand and I think he would appreciate that it is an operational decision in the event that if there is only one warden, and there should be two, the single person has to be moved. I think there should be two at that crossing; I do not think anyone could argue against that suggestion from the crossing unit. A warden cannot remain there on their own because it would be dangerous. This creates a problem by trying to solve one. That is a challenge.

The member asked me to come up with solutions. I talked to the commissioner's office. I do not go down to the crossing unit and tell them how to do their job because to do so would be wrong. We are looking at what can be done. It is going to be a tough ask. There will increasingly be fewer people who see this job as an attractive option. The member's suggestion that we employ technology is a good one. We will have to look at what we do and how we can replace people with other measures, which might be achievable as the ageing population creates more challenges. I can tell the member that on receipt of his correspondence, I have drawn the matter to the

attention of the commissioner's office, which is the way I can do it. I cannot go down and tell the crossing unit what to do as that would not be right. I have drawn the matter to the attention of the commissioner's office and asked for their consideration.

The member can convey to his constituents, particularly the principal and her staff, my thanks for what they have been doing. I cannot say they will be empowered to stop traffic or anything like that. I would suggest that, as much as it might be difficult and administratively tough to change buses and the like, the Eric Street and Napoleon Street traffic lights are probably a safer option for kids trying to get to the bus stop on the other side of the road, although, as mentioned, that adds to the journey and time and the like and may be administratively difficult. It is a personal observation, not a solution. It is a solution, but not the solution necessarily.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** It's stopping the kids from doing that.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Yes, I know. Getting kids to do a safe thing is not always easy. I know exactly what the member is saying. Can the member please thank them and convey to his constituents that I have brought it to the attention of the commissioner and asked that their concerns be taken into consideration.

### TREASURER'S ADVANCE AUTHORISATION BILL 2023

#### *Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr M. McGowan (Treasurer)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Treasurer.

#### *Second Reading*

**MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham — Treasurer)** [10.18 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill seeks to increase the Treasurer's advance limit for 2022–23 from the currently approved limit of \$977.5 million to \$3.1 billion, an increase of \$2.1 billion. Since 2000, there have been 13 occasions on which the Treasurer's advance limit has been required to be increased—that is every second year on average. The Treasurer's advance authorises the Treasurer to draw funds from the consolidated account for amounts that were not factored into the budget appropriation acts. This allows for the release of central funding for items or new items that have been determined as needing to be reflected in the current year but after the budget bills have been introduced to the Parliament. It also provides for short term repayable advances to agencies for working capital and similar purposes.

The annual Treasurer's advance limit is set automatically by section 29(1) of the Financial Management Act 2006 and is calculated as three per cent of the amount appropriated in the previous financial year. For 2022–23, this equated to a Treasurer's advance limit of \$977.5 million. Under section 29(3) of the Financial Management Act, if this automatic limit proves insufficient, parliamentary approval for an increased limit must be sought by way of a Treasurer's advance authorisation bill. The 2022–23 *Government mid-year financial projections statement*, or midyear review, showed that the total amount expected to be drawn against recoverable advances, excesses and new items in 2022–23 was \$1 848.5 million. This clearly exceeds the currently approved Treasurer's advance limit of \$977.5 million, necessitating the introduction of this bill to seek an increase to the Treasurer's advance limit.

Consistent with recent years, COVID-19-related expenditure, such as additional funding for small business hardship support grants, pandemic disaster leave payments and health spending, was a significant component of the \$1 848.5 million forecast to be drawn against the Treasurer's advance in the midyear review. Other large factors include funding agencies for the government's public sector wages policy, higher than expected National Disability Insurance Scheme payments, and increased funding to address cost pressures for several joint state and commonwealth-funded road projects. Matters committed to under the 2022–23 Treasurer's advance are fully detailed in appendix 4 of the midyear review.

The Treasurer's advance is also expected to be further impacted by the allocation of already provisioned funding for industrial agreement outcomes settled after the midyear review, the allocation of funding to agencies from the asset investment program cost escalation provision established in the 2022–23 budget, and a repayable advance to Main Roads to ensure continuation of the 2022–23 regional road safety program following a delay in the receipt of commonwealth funding. As the financial impacts of these issues have been reflected in the midyear review, the approval of the appropriation will not change the state's fiscal outlook.

Consistent with previous bills of this nature, an allowance of \$542 million is also included for any unforeseen spending that may materialise before 30 June 2023, such as funding for natural disasters, including responding to the Kimberley floods. This buffer is broadly similar to the equivalent allowance in last year's Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill 2022.

It is anticipated that the proposed \$2.1 billion increase to the Treasurer's advance will provide sufficient capacity for the government to respond to emerging issues for the remainder of 2022–23.

Although the increase in the Treasurer's advance provides the authority to meet higher funding requirements, it is important to note that it does not necessarily mean that the funding will be spent. Any unspent capacity on the Treasurer's advance will lapse on 30 June, and actual expenditure will be reported in the 2022–23 *Annual report on state finances*.

As the authority for release of excess funding needs to be in place before any such funds can be drawn during the remainder of the 2022–23 financial year, and no sittings days are scheduled for April 2023, the passage of the bill is required as quickly as possible.

I commend this bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr P.J. Rundle**.

### MAIN ROADS AMENDMENT BILL 2023

#### *Introduction and First Reading*

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

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

#### *Second Reading*

**MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport)** [10.23 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Main Roads Amendment Bill 2023. This bill will bring Western Australia in line with other states that have modern road authority legislation. There have been very few amendments to the act since it was first passed in 1930, with the last substantial amendment in 1996. Even then, the scope of the act has remained fundamentally unchanged and is limited to road construction and maintenance activities.

This bill will modernise key elements of the act and broaden powers and functions particularly in a commercial sense. Community expectations have changed substantially since the act was put in place nearly 100 years ago. Back then, Main Roads was simply required to build and maintain roads. Now, it must manage modern highways and freeways with complex technology infrastructure and operate a vastly improved and extended regional road network with much higher traffic and freight volumes.

In the 1930s and 40s, the travelling public expected little, if anything, in the way of roadside services. Now there is the expectation of commercial fuel and food stops and other services, including, ultimately, electric recharging stations, at regular points along a journey, particularly in rural or regional areas. The amendments in this bill will allow Main Roads to maximise the use of a \$55 billion state asset that lies under-utilised and generate a return for government and the community. The amendments will also bring the powers and functions of Main Roads into the twenty-first century and provide the foundation for it to operate and manage the road network in a way expected by the community.

This bill will provide Main Roads a power to enter into a wider range of commercial arrangements, including profit sharing and innovative business arrangements, with those business arrangements to be subject to minister and Treasurer approval; expand the functions and powers of Main Roads to reflect a modern road authority, with respect to managing land and roadside activities; and provide Main Roads the ability to facilitate the operation of road service centres, or roadhouses, and to acquire and lease land for any purposes under the act. The bill will also update the definition of “works” to capture a wider range of activities; update penalties so they are a deterrent and provide the means to enforce them through an infringement process; provide expanded regulation-making powers, especially around managing land and the roadside; provide the power to conduct works on land adjoining the road reserve; remove outdated barriers to administrative efficiency; and provide legal protection to Main Roads officers who are doing their jobs.

By giving Main Roads the powers to more effectively manage the road reserve and act in a commercial fashion, it will be able to operate like a modern road authority and serve an ever-increasing demand well into the future. This bill will improve the way in which Main Roads operates, open up opportunities for the state, and lead to improved efficiencies and delivery of services, to the benefit of the community and the economy.

I commend this bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr P.J. Rundle**.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2023

#### *Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr J.N. Carey (Minister for Local Government)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

*Second Reading*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Local Government)** [10.28 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Local Government Amendment Bill 2023. This bill will continue the delivery of our government's local government reforms, which will make the most significant changes to the system of local government in Western Australia in more than 25 years.

This bill is based on a very substantial body of prior work and significant consultation that has been undertaken by our government since 2017. I want to put this on the record. The package of proposed reforms was developed in 2021, and was informed by a wealth of prior work and consultation. The reform proposals were developed from and drew on the findings of the Local Government Act review process, which was conducted by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries between 2017 and 2020 and involved significant public consultation; the *Local government review panel: Final report*; the *Report of the inquiry into the City of Perth*; the Select Committee into Local Government's final report, *Inquiry into local government*; and engagement with ratepayers and the community directly.

The package of proposed reforms was then released for public comment from 10 November 2021 to 25 February 2022. Over 200 submissions were received through this process. The submissions received indicated broad support for the reforms, and feedback informed the refinement of proposals to ensure that we will be delivering the best possible outcomes for ratepayers, community groups, small businesses and local governments. In total, since 2017, more than 3 000 survey responses and written submissions have informed the government's work on delivering these significant reforms. The specific detail in the bill has also been developed through a series of workshops with sector peak bodies, the Western Australian Local Government Association and Local Government Professionals WA. The bill has been developed through an extensive process and reflects significant input from people across Western Australia.

This bill, which is tranche 1 of these reforms, will provide for the implementation of a range of electoral reforms for the upcoming October 2023 local government elections. It will also provide for the following range of related practical reforms: introducing principles into the act that will include recognising that Aboriginal Western Australians should have greater involvement in local decision-making; formally recognising the tiering of local governments in the act, based on the existing Salaries and Allowances Tribunal framework; reforming council planning to streamline the way local governments plan for their future service delivery; establishing community engagement charters that will set a clear standard for how local governments engage with a diverse range of people within their district; formalising a statewide caretaker period to be followed by all local governments during ordinary elections; tightening the eligibility rules for a person to be enrolled to vote or run as a candidate in a local government election on the basis of a lease, which will address the issue of sham leases identified in the inquiry into the City of Perth; establishing council communications agreements to provide an improved framework for how council members receive information and advice from the CEO; introducing specific requirements for the videostreaming of council meetings for bands 1 and 2, and audio recordings of all council meetings for bands 3 and 4; standardising the meeting procedures for all local council, committee and electors' meetings across Western Australia, to be specified in regulations; providing council members with specific entitlements to take parental leave from meetings if they have recently welcomed a new child into their household; delivering transparency and accountability measures, including new requirements for all local governments to publish information online, such as for leases, grants and significant contracts through public registers; and setting a new requirement for the publication of performance indicators and results for all local government chief executive officers, with limited exemptions for confidential matters.

This bill will also amend the Local Government Act 1995 to insert new principles for recognising and involving Aboriginal people in decision-making; promoting economic, social and environmental sustainability within the broader context of good governance; responding to the challenges of climate change; and considering issues through a long-term view. Critically, these principles have been drafted in recognition that every local government must consider these important principles in the context of the unique circumstances of its district. For example, local governments across Western Australia are continuing to work to involve First Nations people in decision-making by recognising and elevating the voice of Aboriginal people in discussions about local issues, developing and implementing reconciliation action plans, and continuing to engage in relevant native title and land custodianship matters. This bill will also deliver on formalising the tiering of local governments to recognise the immense diversity of the 139 local governments that operate under this act.

These reforms seek to deliver a range of improvements designed to strengthen local democracy in council elections. Firstly, the bill will provide for the introduction of optional preferential voting, to bring local council elections more in line with state and federal elections. Optional preferential voting gives electors the greatest degree of choice to indicate their preferences at the ballot box. Secondly, the bill will deliver a number of reforms to provide greater consistency in council representation. This includes setting tiered limits on the number of councillors a local

government can decide to have, based on the total population of its district. This will provide greater consistency between the size of a local government and the size of its council, providing for more even representation across Western Australia. Requiring band 1 and 2 local governments to have their mayor or president elected by the electors of their district will give ratepayers a direct line of sight to the person who fills this most important leadership role. Wards will be abolished for band 3 and 4 local governments. Wards in small local governments can cover limited areas with small populations, which means that councillors are more likely to be elected unopposed or with a very small number of votes. These reforms are aligned with broader trends in the sector, such as the removal of wards for smaller councils, and are designed to provide greater consistency. These reforms will not impact on the size or structure of the council for more than half of all local governments across Western Australia.

Of the local governments that will be impacted, a substantial majority have been undertaking ward and representation reviews to determine the specific arrangements for their council into the future. I would like to personally acknowledge and thank the sector for the constructive way these changes have been approached. However, for impacted local governments that do not complete this process, the bill will provide for orders to be made to implement changes through a completely new election in which the terms of all councillors will end, to spill the council; any wards will be abolished, and the number of council positions to be set will be based on the new limits set in the act; and new elections will be held to fill all those vacancies. For local governments with simple changes, such as abolishing wards but making no other changes, the bill will provide that orders may be made to implement the change without a full spill election. The bill also includes a range of measures to address enrolment by non-resident occupiers to ensure accuracy of the roll and that only valid claims are accepted.

Today, local government plans are based on section 5.56 of the act, which includes only a short reference to “plan for the future of the district”. This is the basis of the framework of integrated planning and reporting. This bill will replace this ambiguous statement with council plans, which will supersede strategic community plans. Council plans will be relatively short plans that are based on a long-term view of the likely future issues and needs of the district. Council plans will be supported by more detailed plans, as specified in regulations. Clear templates will be developed for local governments to use or adapt if they wish to. This further work to reform local government planning, budgeting and reporting to make it more transparent and reduce red tape for councils will continue in close consultation with the sector.

The bill will also formalise community engagement charters. Importantly, these charters will provide a stronger framework for how a local government is to engage with people in its district, particularly to ensure that public engagement involves a diverse range of voices and is genuinely inclusive, and that engagement—this is critical—is not a platform for vocal minorities to dominate important community deliberations.

The bill will establish a statewide standard caretaker period in the act to clear up the current confusion about election periods resulting from individual councils having different policies and protocols for decision-making during ordinary elections. Local government caretaker periods will largely mirror the convention that has long been in place for state and federal governments. However, the bill has been drafted to ensure that regulations can allow for the CEO and the administration of a local government to continue day-to-day work, including delivering a budget approved before the commencement of the caretaker period. As is the case in state government, the bill will provide that caretaker periods will apply only at ordinary elections.

The bill also provides for council communication agreements, which are largely based on the system of ministerial communications agreements established under the Public Sector Management Act 1994, which is in place in state government. The purpose of council communications agreements is to set a clear standard for how all members of a council are to seek and receive information relevant to their role and function as an elected representative. The bill provides that the council and CEO of a local government are to agree on a communications agreement after each caretaker period. If they do not, a default agreement published by the minister will come into effect. A draft default agreement has been developed in consultation with the sector. The bill will not modify freedom of information legislation.

The bill also represents a major change in how local council meetings are to be conducted. The bill provides for the standardisation of meeting procedures for all local council, committee and electors’ meetings. This is to provide ratepayers and stakeholders with greater clarity on how meetings are to be conducted, and to establish one set of rules for raising questions and making deputations at meetings. It is critical that the new statewide standard for meetings ensures that local governments can consider complex and contentious issues. Although discussions need to be honest and robust and consider a range of viewpoints, it is also important that meetings are respectful and enable everyone to provide their input and have their say at the meeting. Part of the new meeting procedures will need to address disruptive and disorderly conduct at council meetings. Unfortunately, there have been occasions when a person has continually disrupted a meeting, even when the presiding member has tried to restore orderly and respectful discussion. Accordingly, the new meeting procedure regulations will be able to, if necessary, establish offences if a person continues to disrupt a local government meeting if other measures to address the issue have not been effective at restoring orderly discussion. Section 9.61 of the act already provides for offences to be defined in regulations. We recognise that it is crucial to get these new meeting procedures right. The

meeting procedures will need to work across the state, and provide a clear and fair framework for dealing with disruptive and disorderly conduct at meetings. We will work to develop the statewide standard in consultation with key stakeholders.

The bill also provides for regulations to be made to require the live streaming and recording of meetings, providing greater transparency into decision-making processes at council meetings. The government intends to establish a tiered requirement for band 1 and 2 local governments to live stream video, while band 3 and 4 local governments will be required to publish audio recordings of meetings at a minimum. Regulations will provide that all proceedings on confidential items must be recorded and provided to the department if requested. These new provisions will also support investigations, particularly if there is a dispute about comments made during a meeting.

The bill will also amend the act to provide council members with the ability to take parental leave without modifying the existing provision for councils to grant a leave of absence for a council meeting. Providing this specific parental leave entitlement is intended to support a diverse range of people to serve on their local council.

The bill will also introduce several measures to bolster transparency and accountability to ratepayers. Firstly, the bill provides for a new requirement for local governments to disclose key information in public online registers, which will be updated on a regular basis. Regulations will specify the information that local governments will need to publish to ensure that everyone has a clear line of sight into how local governments are allocating resources and finances. Under these reforms, it is planned that the regulations will require all local governments to publish —

An online register of leases to capture information about the leases the local government has entered into, as either the lessor or the lessee. For instance, the lease of local government property to an individual organisation can be controversial, so it is only fair that everyone has a clear view into how local government property is being managed.

An online grants register to outline all grants and funding provided by local government to third parties, such as community groups. Again, providing transparency is an important part of ensuring fairness.

An online register to report all contracts above a threshold value specified in the regulations. The regulations will also be able to specify the types of contracts that need to be disclosed. It is anticipated that the contracts register will report on all contracts for the supply of goods and services valued at \$100 000 and above. The register will not provide individual employment contracts of local government employees. The regulations will be able to be amended to change things like the threshold value, as may be required from time to time.

An online register to capture all disclosures made by council members about their interests related to matters considered by council. Although this information will also remain in meeting minutes, collating it in one register will provide a further degree of transparency that will be easily accessible to ratepayers.

An applicant contribution register to account for funds collected from applicant contributions, such as cash-in-lieu contributions for public open space and car parking provision.

In the future, regulations may also provide for other information to be published in online registers. These registers will ensure that ratepayers and members of the public will have a clear view of important information about their local government.

The bill will also bolster transparency and accountability of the performance of local government CEOs. The member for Roe raised this with me. The role of the CEO is absolutely essential for a local government to work effectively. The CEO plays a critical role in developing and maintaining a strong culture of delivering for the community. It is also an important role of the council to employ and manage the CEO, including through setting performance indicators. For this reason, the performance indicators set for the CEO and the results achieved against them will be required to be published each year. CEOs will be able to include comments or responses alongside the results when they are published. This will ensure that the CEO can explain how the effects of disruptions or events, such as COVID, a bushfire or unexpected challenges in delivering a new project or service, may have practically impacted the results achieved over the year. Local governments will also be able to seek an exemption for publishing a specific performance indicator if there is a clear reason. For instance, a CEO performance indicator may relate to confidential staffing matters within the local government. Exemption requests will be considered by the director general of the department. This will ensure that every council can work with its CEO to set performance criteria that relate to confidential internal matters if required.

This bill represents a major milestone in delivering local government reform. It will be followed by a second bill to deliver other reforms of our government's local government reform package, including the critical role of the new local government inspector. These reforms reflect a wealth of prior work and public consultation. The bill before the house today will deliver significant, ongoing reforms to local governments across Western Australia. These reforms will deliver practical benefits for residents, ratepayers, small business, industry, elected council members and all those working across the sector.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr P.J. Rundle**.

**LAND AND PUBLIC WORKS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022***Second Reading*

Resumed from 22 February.

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Lands)** [10.51 am] — in reply: I appreciate all the contributions to the debate on this major reform bill. I would like to first of all acknowledge the opposition for being accommodating with yesterday's schedule. I wanted to sit in and listen to all the debate by opposition members, so I thank them for their flexibility. My office has also reached out and sought briefings and so forth for the opposition.

As we know, the central component of the Land and Public Works Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 is to introduce a new form of non-exclusive leasehold tenure known as a diversification lease. This is ultimately about allowing a more diverse range of land uses on the crown land estate. It is really also about modernising key sections of the Land Administration Act 1997 and the Public Works Act 1902 and, of course, making consequential changes to various other acts in order to facilitate these changes.

I thank all members for their comments, but I would like to respond, as I promised I would, to a number of matters that both the members for Roe and Cottesloe raised. I make all these comments to provide the constructive feedback that I can to some of their questions. The member for Roe made comments about the stakeholder feedback and said that it had been mixed. This has been a long time coming. I think we all agree that it has been a deeply exhaustive process. From the feedback that I have had—I have been in this position since March last year—I have found all the sectors to be really constructive and broadly supportive. The consultation has seen that we have listened and made changes when appropriate, and I think that is what government should do. I note that the pastoral industry has been asking for some of these changes for a very long time, such as the ability to extend pastoral leases up to 50 years and to provide a diversification lease opportunity as a way to diversify away from sole pastoral uses. This is really about enabling greater choice and the ability to explore other opportunities.

I want to be very clear on this, and I think I said it yesterday: anyone seeking a diversification lease will do so because they want to. I think Hon Neil Thomson suggested in the upper house that pastoralists are going to be forced to do this. That will not be the case at all. There will be no requirement for pastoralists to convert to this new form of tenure. It will be entirely voluntary. If a pastoral leaseholder wishes to convert to a diversification lease, they will need to negotiate an Indigenous land use agreement with native title parties, the same as any other proponent has to. That is now the reality of Western Australia, and it is the right thing to do. It is not foreign to many pastoral leaseholders, as they can already have ILUAs in place. As a government, we provide a number of supports to pastoral leaseholders to negotiate those agreements.

The member for Roe raised a question about how non-exclusive tenure will work. I want to put this on the record: there will be no change here, as pastoral leases are already non-exclusive land and already coexist with mining and native title, while obviously providing quiet enjoyment, so to speak, of the land for pastoral purposes. Pastoral leases are limited to, essentially, grazing animals, whereas the new diversification lease will not be so limited. This is why we are bringing in a diversification lease.

The member for Roe also raised a question about how any land management accreditation system will work. Again, this is about facilitating any future systems that may be developed or supported by the sector so that we can—this is what an accreditation system is about—acknowledge those pastoral leaders who are performing at the peak level and are doing high levels of sustainable beef or sheep production. Accreditation systems are not new in other industries. In fact, I think we will see savvy businesses seek accreditation to enhance their reputation and credentials in environmental and land management quality assurance. We know that the market can look at very rapid change, and we are seeing this now. Consumers right at the end are looking at the standards that companies and businesses, including pastoral leaseholders, are meeting. A broad example in another industry that is well versed is, of course, the Marine Stewardship Council, which provides certification and demonstrates best practice in fisheries. It is often held up in the fisheries industry and is quite critical in distinguishing particular products in the market. Should this industry develop and support the accreditation system, the act will enable the minister to improve it. But it will be voluntary. Ultimately, it is about assisting this industry to continue its social licence and to operate, as I have said, for consumers who are increasingly concerned about land management and environmental issues.

The member for Roe and the member for Cottesloe asked what a diversification lease could be used for. This legislation will not limit the uses, because we do want that flexibility. In a sense, this is trying to futureproof what a diversification lease could be used for. It has been designed for a large number of different uses. I know that the member for Cottesloe, and also many members of my government who spoke, talked about renewable energy, Aboriginal tourism, horticulture and other sectors that are growing, such as the hydrogen industry, which has a lot of attention right now, but were not even thought about a decade ago.

I do not know whether there was confusion on this, but members also related to the issue of local governments having to consult with interest holders when granting a diversification lease. I want to correct the record that that is not

the case. As is the case with any lease, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage will undertake relevant consultation with stakeholder and government departments, including local governments. Let me be clear on this on the record: local governments will not undertake consultation on behalf of the state.

In relation to whether a pastoral lease will be responsible for ongoing land management—this has been very clear from the start—a diversification lease and a pastoral lease cannot exist at the same time. The pastoral lease will have to be surrendered in the first instance. Once that is surrendered, the pastoral lease obligations for land management over that part of the land will also cease.

The member for Roe raised the issue of rents, and he noted that this has been an area of much debate, I think harking back to former Minister for Lands Terry Redman's time. This act is ultimately about providing more certainty and reducing the risk of bill shock. The member for Roe is right: we do remember the 2019 rent review when there were some significant shocks for pastoralists. We want to avoid that, so this new system under this legislation will provide a clearer more predictable and transparent consumer price index rent methodology. The member asked this question and I want to make it very clear that the starting rent for all pastoral stations across the state will be lower than the current rent or the average rent calculated over the past 20 years. That is very clear. This means that no pastoralist will pay more rent than they currently are, and, actually, the advice that I have been given is that some pastoralists will pay less rent for the initial period, until, of course, the first CPI review.

One of the issues raised by members opposite was land grabs. I want to say this, which is really important, particularly in relation to diversification leases: agreement will have to be obtained from any existing interest holder, such as a pastoral lessee. There has been a bit of scaremongering about the leases, and the complexities and the cost of negotiations with proponents or native title holders. In this regard, we should not underestimate the business savvy of pastoralists. This industry has been a key narrative of our state. I deeply respect the hard work and commitment of many pastoralists across Western Australia, and I do not think we should make out that they are some uninformed stakeholders. They want us to create diversification leases; they have wanted it for a long time. This change has not been just foisted on them. It has not come out of the blue. I also recognise the expertise of pastoralists, as many of them have already undertaken this type of negotiation—for example, negotiating Indigenous land use agreements or permits. I have said before that there are already supports in place for anyone seeking to negotiate an ILUA. For example, a protocol by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is to provide a template for an ILUA and guidance material. We are not just throwing it out there and saying, "Good luck; see you later when you come back." I can vouch for my agency—some of the officers are right here and they are brilliant—that as we have seen in consultation, it goes out of its way to try to assist and facilitate, because we know that we ultimately want pastoralists to do well, and we want to see diversification leases and opportunities. Again I come back to this: ultimately, diversification leases will be voluntary. We have to remember that. Those who want to carry on pastoralism can do that, and that is it.

Another issue, raised by the member for Cottesloe, was time frames for the grant of the diversification lease. Again, each lease is bespoke. Each location, environment and diversification project, whether it is from tourism to agricultural industries, is different. It has its own context and settings. Further considerations will be given to native title and other interest holders and environmental issues. The idea is that we went down to one particular time frame, but we have to understand the context and all the different factors that can contribute to considering a diversification lease.

Regarding some of the statements by the member for Cottesloe and again by the member for Roe, there was a point about this affecting other bills and acts, but it is pretty common when driving legislation, as with the local government bill that I introduced today, that there will be substantial consequential amendments; it is not uncommon. I have to say on the record, member for Roe, that all of that was flagged in briefings that we provided, and I understand the member's staff were in attendance. I think the member for Cottesloe stated that we are concentrating powers in the Minister for Lands, but that is inaccurate for the simple reason that the Minister for Lands already has very broad powers. That is well documented under successive ministers. It may be criticised, but it is there and it is critically important in a range of issues in the Land Administration Act 1997. There is a broad range of issues to deal with a range of uses on the crown land estate. This is everything from significant projects right down to the leasing of sports fields. I strongly support the retaining of those broad powers that successive Labor and Liberal-National governments have drawn on.

I say this, member for Cottesloe: although we have a bit of spar in question time, the comments about how riverside land would be snapped up by private developers were disappointing. I refer to Tawarri Hot Springs, because if the member remembers, that lay before Parliament. It was not disallowed. This is not a pot shot—I say this genuinely—but at the time the opposition did not raise any objections. It lay before the Parliament as a class A reserve with clear transparency and accountability to the people of Western Australia. I make the point that a management order held by a local government is not actually an interest in land. Crown land—that is what it is—belongs to the people of Western Australia. I do not think it is appropriate that a management body that has an order over that crown land, which the people hold, can veto or seek to frustrate a public work or a significant interest, frankly, often without any reasonable grounds. The member for Cottesloe took a peak alarmist position in the views he expressed yesterday,

because when we look at this bill, we see that it will provide for more certainty by allowing the Minister for Lands to revoke a management order for a public work. What those public works are will be far more prescribed. The bill provides very modern definitions.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** Minister, would you take a clarifying question?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Sure.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** One of my questions, because I was not sure about this, was about examples of managed reserves. I pointedly asked about the Indiana site in Cottesloe. Is that a managed reserve that would be subject to this? I understand the public works—I think everyone here understands that—but would it apply to a private development on that land?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I will have to seek advice, and I will, on the level of the managed reserves. As the member knows, if it is an A-class managed reserve, it has to lay before Parliament, as happened with the Tawarri Hot Springs development. I think that is important. With A-class reserves, ultimate authority rests with the Parliament. I will have to get back to the member; I will seek clarification on that particular landholding. I am happy to get back to the member for Cottesloe on that during the consideration in detail stage.

Members also pointed to the issuing of section 91 licences. That was also alarmist and, again, I thought it was wrong. Section 91 is not about land grabs; they are non-exclusive licences. I want to put that on the record: they are non-exclusive licences. For the most part, as we know, they are used for feasibility—for example, with regard to solar or wind or other uses that require temporary access to land. It is not a permanent land grab; it is actually a non-exclusive licence.

Concerns were also raised about the transparency of diversification permits. I do not know whether members were referring yesterday to permits granted to a lessee, but they have a clear line of sight, which I think is an important point to make.

Members asked about the extinguishment of interests and caveats. This amendment will simply clarify that consent is not required when another section of the act enables the minister to effect an interest or caveat without consent. For example, section 55 of the act, as amended, will allow automatic extinguishment of an interest when revesting land for dedication as a road. Currently, all interests must be removed for dedicating land as a road. This amendment will, in effect, be an administrative process; it is about streamlining the process.

Reference was made to the elimination of the cattle industry in the Kimberley. I do not know where this comes from. As we know, we are talking about almost one-sixth of the state's landmass, so clearly not all that landmass is going to be taken up by, or is prospective for, hydrogen and renewable industries.

An issue was raised about competing uses on a diversification lease. I want to assure members that the department and the government already deal with competing uses on tenure grants; that is a normal part at play. Members may have seen this, but I previously released for public consultation a broader draft policy framework guiding the use of diversification leases on crown land. We will bring in the legislation, but we also have a policy framework. It takes into consideration that there can be sole or multiple uses. The policy is trying to provide some guidance on the considerations, but we have to remember that the policy is an organic document that will change over time as new diversification leases are granted.

The member for Cottesloe also raised issues relating to the composition of the board. It is not changing. The board currently has three pastoral interest members, a conservation interest member, an Aboriginal interest member and, of course, the chairman. I want to put on the record—I believe this was the same practice under Liberal governments—that the Minister for Lands has always sought advice from the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, but we are formalising the process. There were also issues raised by members about the removal of confidentiality provisions relating to Pastoral Lands Board members. I can confirm that more comprehensive information-sharing provisions are included in proposed part 10A. These provisions are similar to those being introduced in other pieces of legislation, in recognition that people who deal with government on all levels expect their communication, private or commercial, to be treated as confidential and their privacy protected.

The member for Cottesloe also talked about pastoral leases being for 99 years. We did some research on that. I am not trying to be a smart Alec here, but my agency advises me that there have never been 99-year pastoral leases, and that the system of common expiry leases has been in place since the 1880s. I just put that on the record.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** I will sack my source.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** That is right! When I raise these issues, I am not trying to knock the member, because I understand his interest and passion in this area. However, he should go back to his source. I have the benefit of having a government agency to support me!

In regard to concerns about the reduction of stock numbers, we do need this as a tool. It is about providing a practical approach versus reducing stock to a very minimum number. Compensation will not be provided because this is generally connected directly to the mismanagement of pastoral leases and overgrazing. If action has to be taken, there are clearly issues and problems, and we would argue that it is required.

Overall, I am deeply proud that our government is pursuing diversification leases, because it is about trying to create a lease that is flexible for the times and unlocks unutilised land for users and industries. I put on the record that it will support our state's efforts to transition to net zero by 2050 by working to open crown land for renewable energy proposals, while enabling the coexistence of mining and native title rights, as acknowledged by members opposite. I think it will encourage the greater utilisation of crown land and help us to diversify the state's economy. It can and will facilitate increased investment in pastoralism and other region-based industries. Ultimately—I think this is one of the best aspects—I believe that diversification leases will also unlock new economic opportunities for Aboriginal people. As I have said, they can be granted for any purpose and it is designed for broadscale use on the crown estate. To be very clear, it is similar to a pastoral lease in that there is a statutory right access for Aboriginal people over a diversification lease, which is the same as a pastoral lease, and native title rights and interests will not be extinguished. Again, like a pastoral lease, a diversification lessee will be responsible for land condition and the management of feral animal, pests and weeds. But the key difference—we come back to it—is that a pastoral lease can be used for only pastoral purposes, which is why we are bringing in a diversification lease.

A diversification lease will require a proponent to enter into an Indigenous land use agreement prior to a lease being granted to ensure that native title interests, where they exist, are appropriately addressed. This is the same requirement for any grant of tenure, not just a diversification lease. Why am I putting this on the record? It is because although we have done significant consultation and engagement—I have to say that the agency has done an extraordinary job—there has been some unfortunate fearmongering about native title rights, which the member for Kimberley will be aware of.

I want to again very clearly put on the record the benefits for pastoralists. The benefits include the extension of pastoral leases up to 50 years; the change of annual return dates to align with pastoral practices; allowing for the transfer, renewal and cancellation of permits, which previously did not exist; and improvements to the rental evaluation methodology, decreasing volatility, improving transparency and providing greater notice of any changes. I have said, but I say it again, that we recognise the critical role that the pastoral industry plays in our economy and the significant component it constitutes in the management of crown land across our state. This is a real opportunity for pastoralists to work with native title holders, the conservation sector, the renewable energy sector and mining industries to get the best outcomes we can from crown land.

Again, I will put on the record—I am sorry to bore some members, but I want to reinforce it—that this bill will modernise the operation of the act. It will streamline processes and cut red tape. The act will be updated to reflect modern terms. The bill has a range of amendments for greater procedural efficiencies in crown land transactions across Western Australia. I come back to this matter again because I know the member for Cottesloe raised it: any change to a class A reserve must still go through a parliamentary process; it will still have to be laid before both houses, so I do not see how any of the other changes that we will make will result in less transparency or accountability to all Western Australians. The idea that we will see these massive A-class reserves located on the river suddenly all going over to hoity-toity private development in some sneaky, dodgy way is simply not the case.

A member interjected.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** All right; okay. Thank you. I am getting in trouble. I have been told to hurry up. I did warn the member that I am very thorough. I am getting in trouble! God, I did warn the member. I warned the member yesterday.

A member interjected.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I was dealing with it. All my staff in the ministerial office are probably blushing right now. I am sorry.

Finally, I want to recognise previous lands ministers Hon Terry Redman, Hon Ben Wyatt, Minister Saffioti, Minister Buti and their staff. This has been a long time in the making—thanks to my speech! This bill is a result of extensive consultation by my agency. The department has dealt with over 400 inquiries from industry and the public, which were individually responded to. I met a large number of stakeholders through this process and I acknowledge the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies, the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA, the Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association, the Western Australian Local Government Association, Partnership for the Outback and the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation.

I thank all members who spoke on the bill. I particularly commend the staff of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. For some of them, this bill was an epic in the making. Some of them will probably retire after this! I thank the efforts of the incredible Alison Gibson, executive director; Matt Darcey, who blows me away with his expertise—I sound like they are all dying or retiring!—assistant director general; and Jacqueline Brienne, principal legal officer. I acknowledge my staff. I give a small shout-out to Claire Comrie, Eugene Carmody, Joanne Lim, Matthew O'Keeffe and Sam McLeod. It has taken a long time, but we have got here.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave denied to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

*Consideration in Detail***Clause 1: Short title —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Thanks for the very comprehensive reply, minister. It was good because it answered some of the questions the member for Cottesloe and I raised. I will ask a few short, general questions on the short title of the bill in clause 1. If possible, the minister can answer and then I will move on to more detailed questions as we go through.

The minister answered pretty well the list of stakeholders that he consulted. He certainly outlined several of the main stakeholders. Does the minister have a list of all the stakeholders, or something to that effect, that he might table for us? I am happy to receive it in a table format if the minister likes.

**Mr J.N. Carey:** Member, may I suggest that rather than table it, I just need to verify and provide you a full list—you know I will—on a separate occasion. It is a huge list, as the member can see from the draft I have here, but I am happy to provide him with a list as full as I can. As I mentioned, there were 400 individual email inquiries, but I can list each organisation that had engagement.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Where hydrogen projects develop into something like a liquefied natural gas train, how will that be managed with the native title holders, pastoral leaseholders, diversification leaseholders and local governments?

**Mr J.N. Carey:** Member, my advice is that the only interests —

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms C.M. Collins):** Minister, can you please stand up?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Sorry, my apologies.

My advice is that the only interests that would be standing would be native title. To explain, an Indigenous land use agreement would have to be negotiated. As part of that, consideration would then be given to the conditions set by the native title owner. The ILUA needs to be negotiated and secured first, and it will then be used to inform the lease.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Is the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage confident that it is adequately resourced to implement the legislation—both the act and any regulations?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** As the member knows, the agency already does a substantial amount of work on all other leases granted. It operates a property and risk assessment unit. Our agency is confident. The broader issue, which I already made clear, is that our agency will continue to provide support at a broader level. As the member identified, we know that when change is made, there can always be some level of confusion or uncertainty, but we will roll out further information once the legislation has been passed. We are not just leaving space; there is a unit that already manages leasing.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I have a few questions down the line. Given the further complexities involved, will any FTE be allocated over and above what is allocated now or will it be business as usual?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I cannot say at this stage, for the simple reason that we do not know what the demand will be. Obviously, we would like to see people take up diversification leases. I do not want to oversell or undersell it. We believe that diversification leases are needed. It will be entirely dependent on the number of diversification leases that are submitted to government.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** As the number of diversification leases racks up, will further staff be allocated to the department to support the whole package or the whole industry?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Another consideration we must give is that it is likely some pastoral leaseholders will surrender, as the member noted yesterday. We have to think about it like this: yes, there is likely to be an increase in diversification leases, but we are also likely to see a decline for the agency in processing pastoral leases because people will shift across, as we have identified, and because they would like to see these leases in place. I appreciate that the member wants a clear commitment from me, but all the advice to date I am getting from the agency is that it has sound resources to be able to manage the expected number. We will wait and see.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** What consultation occurred between the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Environmental Protection Authority on funding agreements and the like for the changes to be implemented by this bill?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Sorry, member; can I seek clarity on that? What is the member specifically referring to?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** What consultation occurred between DPLH and the EPA on funding agreements?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I do not know about funding agreements. I will provide the member that list that the EPA was consulted on the legislation.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** What kind of operations will now be allowed on pastoral land and crown land under these changes that would otherwise have not been possible? How many and what are they?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I want to clarify a confusion in that question. As the member would be aware, the dominant use for any pastoral lease must be pastoral purposes. There can be ancillary uses, but they cannot be the dominant use. The current ancillary uses at a pastoral lease could continue; just because a diversification lease has been created, it does not impact that. Also remember that diversification permits are currently available to pastoralists, which are for very specified purposes, but they are very different from a new diversification lease. I do not want to create any confusion between the diversification permit, which rests with the pastoral leaseholder, versus a new diversification lease.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** To follow that up, we heard a variety of speeches in the debate and people talking about carbon trading, solar, wind and hydrogen. Those are four different uses. Do any others come to the minister's mind that he could name as potential purposes under a diversification lease?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Biodiversity conservation is one of the exciting areas. As we know, organisations that currently hold pastoral leases still have to have cattle, but their primary interest could be conservation. They have to ensure they maintain their pastoral lease by holding cattle. In that sense, someone could shift across so that they could just focus on conservation purposes. This is why we have flexibility in diversification leases because we do not know into the future what other new pathways or technologies will come up. Overall, I think many of the uses mentioned in debate in Parliament are probably the obvious ones.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I thank the minister. I have a couple of further questions before I move on to clause 5, which will be the next one.

Renewable energy projects such as solar might take up a large expanse of land, but the land could also potentially be a mine site. What would be the process to adequately transition industries or potentially co-locate industries? Let us say there is a large expanse of a solar farm, but then a discovery, I guess, with an adjoining mine site, how would that work?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I think there are two matters to consider. The intention is that different uses can coexist, as I said; however, obviously, any approval of a lease requires the Minister for Mines and Petroleum's approval, so there is that check and balance in place. The second matter is, as stipulated in the changes, we are creating buffer zones for significant structures. That seeks to address those potential conflicts by creating a buffer zone, which, I have to say, is the standard in other states.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** My final question on this clause: has the minister sought advice on how this legislation interacts with the Warden's Court?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The advice is that it is limited and very similar to a pastoral lease, but it cannot interfere in situations in which it relates to, for example, a substantial structure like a homestead.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 2 to 4 put and passed.**

**Clause 5: Section 3A inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I have just one quick question. Why has the definition of "location or lot" been separated into proposed section 3A?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** In effect, it is to enable the grant of different tenures over different layers of crown land—for example, when we have identified land that is adjacent to or above a sunken train line for the construction of a new university campus. It is really acknowledging that we can have different tenures over different lands.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 6: Section 9 replaced —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Will the chief executive officer of the department have to notify the minister when they delegate powers that were delegated to them?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** They will not be required to, but we would expect that they would.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** How far down the line can they delegate those powers?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Currently, as the member knows, there are delegations, but they are to level 4.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Why is the requirement to notify delegations through the *Government Gazette* being removed — Several members interjected.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Sorry, there were voices from the Leader of the House in the background.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** I was blessing the member.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Sorry, member; which clause?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** We are still on clause 6. Why is the requirement to notify delegations through the *Government Gazette* being removed? Is it really that expensive, or is it inefficient?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Yes. The member is exactly right, spot on; congratulations, you have won bingo! It is expensive and slow.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** What is the actual cost and time involved in that?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Delegations can be five to six pages and can cost anywhere between \$2 000 and \$5 000.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 7 put and passed.**

**Clause 8: Sections 11A and 11B inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Will the inclusion of proposed sections 11A and 11B change the intent or the ministerial responsibilities of the current Land Administration Act 1997; and, if so, what will change exactly?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I think the member should be aware that, currently, the Minister for Lands does not have powers to deal with land in freehold. To be very clear, if any land is held by the state in freehold and requires transfer or contracting actions to be undertaken, effectively it can be done only at significant cost and delay. Therefore, we really need the minister to be able to hold freehold land from time to time and to be able to do it effectively.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 9 put and passed.**

**Clause 10: Section 14 replaced —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Obviously, this relates to consultation with local government—the minister's favourite subject. Why was the period of 42 days chosen?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** There was a recognition that local governments can take time to consider matters, and, in consultation with the Western Australian Local Government Association, I am advised that 42 days was settled on.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Although local governments will need to be consulted, is there a reason local Aboriginal cultural heritage services will not be consulted? Is it expected that those groups will be consulted by local governments instead?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I am advised that the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act will apply and they will be consulted.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I want to follow this chain of consultation. The local government is the first priority. Will any other layers of consultation take place from there; and, if so, who and what are they?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Obviously, we would consult other relevant agencies, but in particular—this is also obvious—the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 11 to 13 put and passed.**

**Clause 14: Section 27 amended —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Can the minister confirm that section 28 will be deleted because the intent is captured by the proposed amendments to section 27?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Yes.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Can the minister provide an example of where it is deemed impractical to consult local government?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Sorry, member. I am slightly confused by that question. We always consult local government.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The minister cannot see any example; regardless, will there always be consultation with local government?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Yes.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 15 and 16 put and passed.**

**Clause 17: Section 30 amended —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Why is the requirement to notify by *Government Gazette* the appointed surveyor being removed?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** This is a very simple one; it is to modernise the terminology.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 18 to 21 put and passed.**

**Clause 22: Section 46A inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Further to debate on clause 10, why was the period of 42 days chosen?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** It is an issue of consistency.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 23 put and passed.**

**Clause 24: Section 51 amended —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Although I understand the rationale behind excising land necessary for the purpose of public works, can the minister provide examples of when land would be excised in the public interest?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** To be very clear, I already have that power. It would be based on the considerations that it is a use that is in the best interests of the broader Western Australian state. It could be for a number of different uses. It is a good question. That is why we also have a number of public works that are clearly defined and have been modernised and that give a very clear intent about the type of public works.

**Clause put and passed.****Clauses 25 and 26 put and passed.****Clause 27: Section 55 amended —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Why has the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline corridor been singled out under new section 55(4)?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** In short, this is to ensure that roads can be created over the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline corridor without affecting the corridor or other associated rights.

**Clause put and passed.****Clauses 28 and 29 put and passed.****Clause 30: Section 58 replaced —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Will the new sections 58 and 58A place the Minister for Lands in conflict with the Minister for Transport as the minister responsible for Main Roads WA?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** No, because this will apply only to local roads; it will not apply to main roads.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Can the minister see any examples of where there might be a potential conflict between those two ministers?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** We do not believe so, because the minister responsible for main roads would consult the Minister for Lands about anything that relates to land tenure.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Is the minister very confident that in the state's best interests both those ministers would consult? Does the minister not see any occasion in which there might be a conflict between ministerial departments or the like?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** No, I do not.

**Clause put and passed.****Clauses 31 to 33 put and passed.****Clause 34: Section 75 amended —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Proposed section 75(4A) provides that if the minister considers that the failure of a holder to use land for the specified use is unreasonable in all the circumstances, subsection (4) will apply as though the failure were a breach of conditions. What would count as "unreasonable in all the circumstances"?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** We have faced scenarios in which conditional freehold land has remained unused for years and years; in fact, I think we have had an example of one that was for decades. This provision seeks to rectify that kind of scenario.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Would a pandemic resulting in lack of land management count as unreasonable?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** No, it would not.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Can the minister see whether this proposed subsection could be misused or abused at all?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Under the current act and under any changes that we make to the act, as the Minister for Lands, I must always act reasonably in my decision-making. I think the suggestion the member is making is that it could be abused, but the minister has a clear responsibility under the act to have reasonable and considered decision-making processes.

**Clause put and passed.****Clauses 35 and 36 put and passed.****Clause 37: Section 81A inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** This clause relates to the removal of expired registered leases from the certificate of crown land title. How will the new process differ from the current process under the Land Administration Act 1997?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The simple reality is that Landgate requires a significant amount of information, including signed statutory declarations. Of course, that is extremely difficult if, for example, a party is no longer in existence or is uncontactable, which does occur from time to time. This is about streamlining the process.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The minister has identified one particular example. Noting that he is obviously streamlining the process, what other examples or risks have been identified due to the change?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** One is similar to the example I have just given. If identified land has sat vacant over a period of time, the lease has expired and no rent is being paid, and we have identified that that land is important to a significant project, the expired lease must be removed from the title before the tenure can be granted. The former lessee, for example, will probably be deregistered. In that scenario, departmental staff would have no way of contacting the former directors, so that can create quite a burdensome process. In order to have the lease in that scenario removed from the land title, the department must prepare and lodge a statement with the Registrar of Titles outlining the circumstances of the expired lease removal. We are saying that the preparation of this statement currently is very burdensome and time consuming.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Does the minister have concerns that some sort of legal or court challenge might come from some long-lost relatives?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** No. The advice that I have been provided is that the Registrar of Titles is very satisfied with this proposed new process.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 38 to 40 put and passed.**

**Clause 41: Part 6A inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Does the minister acknowledge that there are big differences between ecotourism, aged-care provision and mining, yet all these could be allowed under a diversification lease?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The intention is that a diversification lease will be broad scale. I suggest that a highly intensive use, if that is what the member is talking about, would fall under another lease application.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** What sort of lease application is the minister referring to? What other arrangement could be put in place?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** An example in point would be a renewable hydrogen project. The actual production facility would fall under section 79. That would be separate from the rest of the diversification lease.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** That is getting to it. It is a bit like the potential LNG train or the hydrogen train that I referred to. Is the minister envisaging that section 79 will be used quite a bit down the track as hydrogen comes more to the fore?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Let us be clear on the record: hydrogen proponents would seek a section 79 lease if they were proposing intensive use, but a diversification lease would offer a broadscale contribution to their project.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** If I owned a pastoral lease and a hydrogen company came along, at what stage would it progress from a diversification lease to a section 79 lease? Would it be when the buildings were being built?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** This is an example in which the agency would work with the proponents. It would sit down and identify the required leases or licences and, through that process, they would be submitted at the same time.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** There is reference to mining not occurring within 100 metres of any land that is in actual occupation. Why was the 100-metre radius chosen and what feedback on this clause has been received over the past few years? I am obviously looking at concerns about shearing sheds, houses and the like.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** We have selected the smallest current buffer, as is the case with pastoral leases in relation to the Mining Act.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Does the minister think that buffer may be changed at any stage under the Mining Act? The minister is obviously looking at the Mining Act.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I am not second-guessing future changes to the Mining Act.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Proposed section 92B states —

(2) A diversification lease may be granted for any purpose or purposes.

What would count as a purpose? Would temporary accommodation, for instance, count as a purpose?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Again, I respectfully refer to my previous comments. I suggest that does not constitute a broadscale use.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I thank the minister. How will biosecurity be managed in this instance?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** By lease condition.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Proposed section 92E relates —

Aboriginal persons may at all times enter upon any unenclosed and unimproved parts of the land under a diversification lease to seek their sustenance in their accustomed manner.

Does this clause already exist under the current Land Administration Act?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** It does exist but only for pastoral leases. Clearly, we should also then apply it to diversification leases.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** What protections for pastoralists' stock exist in relation to this clause?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** They are the conditions if it is enclosed or improved.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Can the minister explain that to me a little bit further? What does he mean by that?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** If it is enclosed or improved, like a homestead, they cannot access it.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** This comes back to my subject earlier about full-time employees and navigating the whole scenario at low cost or no cost or whatever. Does the minister have plans to set up some sort of support base or the like to assist pastoralists with this?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I know the member is stressing this point, but I look to the record of the department in its preparation of this bill—to its level of engagement, respectful consultation and responsiveness. For example, I cited in my response that the agency provides support for negotiating an Indigenous land use agreement, noting that many pastoralists are already familiar with these processes.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** As I said in my second reading contribution, we could envisage that a pastoralist could potentially be looking at five to seven years of negotiations with three, four or five different parties, and the pastoralist might end up with a legal bill running into hundreds of thousands of dollars in this sort of scenario. I can understand the disquiet among our pastoral community about that. Obviously, diversification leases are potentially a good thing, economically and socially, but I am very worried about pastoralists' potential capacity to deal with Indigenous land use agreements, hydrogen companies, mining companies or whatever. It could be a broad scale.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I come back to this point respectfully. Ultimately, this is voluntary. We will not be forcing any pastoralists to decide to move or shift to a diversification lease. Ultimately, it will be a commercial decision, and that decision and negotiation will be left to pastoralists. I have noted in my engagement with pastoralists that they already have a significant level of expertise and understanding. I disagree, in part, with the member's assessment. Ultimately, this is a commercial decision, and they will factor in the costs, the processes, the negotiations and the financial return, and decide whether they want to shift from a pastoralist's lease to a diversification lease.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** As I brought up in my second reading contribution, does the minister envisage something like the Small Business Development Corporation or something of that nature playing a role in assisting?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** People can seek advice and support from anybody, but I note that the member organisations already provide support services. This has not happened in a vacuum, and this is not something that has just popped up out of the blue. As the member acknowledged, this reform process has been going since Hon Terry Redman was the responsible minister. I really believe that there is a level of education, but I understand that we will still have to provide future education and support.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I go back to the "Minister's powers as to grant of diversification lease" under proposed section 92B, but I have a more general point. In granting those leases, will the minister have any test of the likelihood that the proponent is serious in developing the project it seeks the lease for? I ask this because considerable concern has been expressed in the Kimberley and Gascoyne regions that parties are coming in that may, in fact, not be genuine project developers but simply want to gain control of land. Once they gain the change of use for the land, they will sell that interest on to another party and another proponent. I am concerned about that because, if that occurred, it would significantly decrease the potential economic viability of renewable energy projects, for example. Will the minister apply any test to determine whether these are serious proponents that have the capacity to carry out the development they are applying for and not simply speculators seeking to take the value of the land, potentially interfering with the success of a subsequent project?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I thank the member for Cottesloe. He makes a valid inquiry. Obviously, it would be a consideration for the Minister for Lands, but the Minister for Lands would seek advice, for example, from the Minister for Hydrogen Industry about the seriousness of the proposal.

I noted in the answer I gave the member during the second reading debate—I am sorry; I will get the correct naming of the policy—that we have put out a draft policy document that goes into further detail about the considerations and the framework by which a diversification lease might be issued. For the record, the document is *Proposed policy framework guiding the use of diversification leases on crown land under the Land Administration Act 1997*. If the member has not seen that, I will get a copy for him. It is our intention that that will develop over time. Actually, I have just been told the document is available on the website, which the member can go to. Yes, a consideration will be the level of seriousness of the proposal.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 42 to 44 put and passed.****Clause 45: Part 7 Division 2A inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I want to go back to voluntary accreditation systems. Why are they being included in the act rather than in subsidiary legislation?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** We thought it was important that they be placed in the act, given, like I said in fisheries, we have seen a push for more sustainable land management across Australia.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Have any accreditation system providers been approached by the government ahead of the bill being introduced; and, if so, who?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The advice that I have been provided is no. This is to be an industry-led process.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I note that the minister raised it in his second reading reply, but have any concerns been raised about introducing these accreditation systems, and what concerns were raised?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** No, because, in short, they will be voluntary.

**Clause put and passed.****Clause 46 put and passed.****Clause 47: Section 102 amended —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Although alternative modes of publication will be prescribed in regulations, what are the intended modes of publication separate to publishing in the daily newspaper?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** A website.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Is that the only mode of publication that the minister is aware of?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The advice is that they would still advertise in *The West Australian*. It could be any relevant publication, but I do not think we should underestimate that websites and online sources have become the pivotal way that people obtain information.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** If someone is 500 kilometres out the back of Kalgoorlie or Meekatharra with no internet coverage, how will that work with a website being the only potential form of information?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I want to be clear that we will keep traditional methods. This will be in addition to that.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Would an extension of a lease trigger the requirement for new negotiations with native title holders or, for example, would it trigger any requirement under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act for negotiations before that lease could be extended?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The member is referring to a diversification lease?

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Yes. We were talking about clause 46 around extensions. Would an extension trigger a new round of negotiations or would existing arrangements stay in place?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** If someone extends a lease, they would need to have an Indigenous land use agreement in place.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** They would have to go through a new one?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I will clarify.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** To be clear, minister, if one was in place, would it just continue?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The advice is that a number of pastoralists already have an ILUA in place that would also permit an extension.

**Clause put and passed.****Clause 48 put and passed.****Clause 49: Sections 105A and 105B inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** This section enables the term of a pastoral lease to be increased to a maximum of 50 years by extension or re-grant. Can the minister outline why the maximum of 50 years was chosen?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Terms of 50 years have been a historical feature of current and previous legislation. To change it would impact on future statewide acts.

**Clause put and passed.****Clauses 50 and 51 put and passed.****Clause 52: Sections 108A to 108C inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** This relates to submitting a management plan. How will this differ from current methods and what concerns were raised by stakeholders on proposed sections 108A to 108C?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The key difference is that the current development plan only deals with physical infrastructure on a lease. It does not deal with any land management issues. As the member would be aware, the Auditor General's report identified failures in terms of pastoral land management and the ability of agencies to respond to those issues.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** What steps would be taken if, as the minister suggested, a management plan was not being adhered to?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Obviously, there will be a carrot-and-stick approach. If they breach a condition, the Pastoral Lands Board, not the minister, would be able to serve a default notice.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I notice that we have fines and other scenarios, but how far will the PLB go as far as the management plan? Will there be a three-strikes policy, or will it send someone out to help with the management plan? How will that pan out?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** It would ultimately be dependent on the PLB. We recognise the expertise in the role of the PLB. Ultimately, it could recommend forfeiture to the minister.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 53 put and passed.**

**Clause 54: Sections 111A and 111B inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** This relates to determinations on the number and distribution of stock. This clause will allow the board to determine the number of stock on land, which may mean that pastoral businesses become unviable. For example, if the board were to say a lease could hold a maximum of only 50 head of cattle and that was unviable due to market economics, that pastoral leaseholder would have to diversify their holdings. Does the minister have any comments on that? I find that quite concerning.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** As I stated in my formal response, this tool will be used only if there is a land management issue. If a pastoral lease is being managed well and there are no concerns, no action will be taken by the PLB to issue a notice to destock.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Is the minister comfortable that there will be no situation in which the PLB will determine that even though a management plan is not looking too bad, there is not enough stock? One scenario is that a pastoralist might want to run a low number of stock to have more leisurely activity, if you like. Is the minister comfortable with the scenario as it stands in the legislation?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** As the member for Perth, it is obvious that I do not share significant regional experience, although I get out to the regions a lot and I worked for six years as a conservation advocate and went to the Kimberley a lot. I provide that context because I deeply respect and acknowledge the expertise and experience of the PLB. I suppose my concern is with the member's suggestion that the PLB will somehow act improperly or abuse its powers, when in fact a key function of the PLB is to make sure that the industry prospers. It will take action only if there are land management issues. Of course, the board will be provided with advice on the state of land, including from the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation. I really want to stress that I think we all—the opposition and the government—want the pastoral industry to be successful, but it is acknowledged, including by the Auditor General, that we need better powers for the PLB to take action in cases involving serious mismanagement.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I fully agree with what the minister is saying. I respect the PLB. As I said in my contribution to the second reading debate, I respect Tim Shackleton very much. As I raised in my contribution to the second reading debate, my question concerns fire risk and the like. Where will liability for that lie if the PLB says that a pastoralist cannot run stock on 50 per cent of their property, or some other example? Where will liability reside in that case?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I respectfully say to the member that the liability will remain with the pastoral leaseholder, as it does now.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 55 put and passed.**

**Clause 56: Section 113 replaced —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** One of the proposed provisions relates to the potential for rent to be reduced if stock numbers are reduced. The wording is that the minister may reduce the rent. My first question is: why was "may" used rather than "must"? There obviously will be an economic impact on pastoralists if they have to reduce stock numbers and the like.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The word "may" was chosen because it is dependent on the destocking required. For example, if it is a reduction by as little as 100, one could argue that that will have a limited impact on the financial viability of the pastoral lease.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Would the minister consider amending the word to "must"? I guess we are looking for the justification for this to ensure that pastoralists will not be worse off in the event that a change of conditions is imposed on them.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** For the reasons that I stated previously, we believe “may” gives some flexibility, because there could be circumstances in which it is not appropriate to provide rental relief, particularly in cases when a very small amount of destocking is required.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I will not move an amendment on this occasion, because I suspect it would be as successful as every other amendment that has been moved since March 2021. Nonetheless, there is a requirement for an annual return. Proposed section 113(4) refers to a reasonable excuse being a valid exemption for failing to provide the annual return within the time frame. Can the minister outline what reasonable excuses would be considered by the board and explain why this is not in the legislation?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The advice is that it could be a significant medical issue affecting a pastoralist—for example, being diagnosed with terminal cancer—or it could be a flood, and the immediate priority of the pastoral lease is to deal with the significant challenges it faces.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 57 put and passed.**

**Clause 58: Section 117 replaced —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Will pastoral lessees be notified of, and given the chance to rectify, any failure to meet any environmental conservation requirements?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Yes.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 59: Sections 122B to 122F inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to the board’s power to amend permits and the like. Can the minister outline the steps the board will be expected to take when issuing a suspension or cancellation?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Proposed section 122D, “Suspension of permit”, makes it clear —

(2) Before suspending a permit, the Board must —

- (a) give written notice to the permit holder of the grounds on which the Board intends to suspend the permit; and
- (b) give the permit holder a reasonable opportunity to provide any information that the permit holder thinks is relevant to the decision to suspend the permit.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** If a permit is suspended, will all the stock need to be immediately removed from the property?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** This is where I think there was some confusion. This is the diversification permit. It relates only to the functions of the diversification permit, which is auxiliary to the main purpose.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Thanks, minister. Regardless of that, what is the definition of “reasonable opportunity” in proposed section 122D(2)(b)? Similarly, is there a minimum notice for permit cancellation?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** It will depend on the circumstances, but, in short, depending on what needs to be rectified, the permit holder will be given a reasonable opportunity to respond and try to address the issue of concern and rectify the situation.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The second part of that question was: is there a minimum notice for permit cancellation?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** No, there is not.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 60: Section 123 replaced —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** This clause is about determining the annual rent. Can the minister tell me how the mathematics in the proposed section differs from existing procedures?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I think the member did this to deliberately challenge me. Member for Roe, I actually really like you, and for you to do this to me, I think, is a deliberate strategy!

As we know, at the moment, valuations of pastoral leases are determined by the Auditor General—sorry; Valuer-General. Sorry. I am jumping a bit; I have the Auditor General on my mind at the moment. My apologies. It is not for any particular reason; it is just that I have referred to the Auditor General previously. As we know, the Valuer-General currently sets the annual rent, but this clause clearly sets out and articulates a formula. I am happy to go through that formula in detail. Would the member like me to do that?

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** I think a broad explanation will be fine.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The formula is based on the consumer price index. Again, as a minister, I do not pretend to be an expert on all matters; however, I am well briefed on the clear intention, as I have said, to avoid the significant spikes that were previously seen and that the member himself has identified. The formula is set out in this clause. I could read through the formula. But there is a difference, and this clause clearly articulates what that formula will be.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I was heartened by the minister's comments about rent potentially dropping, which is promising. Were many concerns raised about the new rent determinations, and what has the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage done to address those concerns?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** It is important to put on the record that the changes to the methodology were discussed at a working group comprising representatives from the Pastoralists and Grazers Association of WA, the Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association, the Valuer-General and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, so a serious effort was made and consideration given. My understanding is that there was broad support. As the member and we have identified, we are trying to avoid those significant spikes that we saw, and this new methodology will provide greater transparency and certainty to pastoralists.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 61 to 65 put and passed.**

**Clause 66: Section 128A inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Will there be a penalty for failing to comply with a direction of the board?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Yes, there will be. It will be a default provision under the pastoral lease.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 67 and 68 put and passed.**

**Clause 69: Section 134A inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I think the minister and I both agree that the transferring of permits is a good element of this bill. Does the government anticipate a cost for transferring permits from one holder to another?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** What I can say is that it will be much less than the cost of applying for a new permit.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Can the minister provide any more clarity than "much less"?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Clearly, applying for a new permit is a far more exhaustive process than extending a permit, but we have not set the fees as yet.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 70 to 72 put and passed.**

**Clause 73: Section 146 replaced —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** What is the notice period for permit holders in the event an easement is granted?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Permit holders cannot have an easement, only a pastoral lease can.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I have a further extension to that. What is the notice period for a lessee?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** My apologies, member. Can the member clarify what he is asking again?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I asked about the notice period for lessees in the event that an easement is granted.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** A pastoral lessee must give consent and then notify once an application has been submitted and their consent is sought.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 74 to 81 put and passed.**

**Clause 82: Part 10A inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** This clause relates to the sharing of relevant information with the board, department and different agencies. Were any of these changes made in relation to the incidents at Yandeyarra and Noonkanbah stations?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The advice is no.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Did the minister consult with the Attorney General and the State Solicitor's Office over the interactions between proposed part 10A and the new privacy act that is expected later this year?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** We consulted with both the State Solicitor's Office and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** This clause is fairly comprehensive. Is the minister comfortable that he has covered all the relevant authorities relating to the sharing of information? After we saw the incidents at Yandeyarra and Noonkanbah stations, is the minister comfortable that all relevant agencies will be covered under this legislation?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Yes, and additional agencies can be added under regulations into the future.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 83 to 89 put and passed.**

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 748.]

**BANK CLOSURE — CARNAMAH***Statement by Member for Moore*

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition)** [12.50 pm]: Tomorrow, 24 February 2023, Westpac Bank will close the doors on its Carnamah branch. This bank closure will leave six shires, covering 23 000 square kilometres, with no bank whatsoever. Residents from Carnamah will have to make a costly 250-kilometre round trip to either Moora or Dongara, highlighting the bank's total disregard for the *Banking code of practice*, which talks about banks being accessible and inclusive, and servicing customers in remote and regional areas. This follows Westpac's closure of its Wongan Hills branch last December, ending a 110-year history of this bank in the town. The closure of Westpac in Wongan Hills last year and ANZ Bank in 2021 leaves no other bank in that town, forcing locals to drive hundreds of kilometres to access face-to-face banking. The Regional Banking Taskforce, which reported in October 2022, recommended that banks establish a process for conducting and publishing regional branch closure impact assessments by mid-2023. No such assessment was carried out in Carnamah or Wongan Hills. Perhaps this recommendation has prompted the recent rush of regional bank closures nationally. I want to commend local community members who, in both cases, were vocal in their opposition to the branch closures. The Shire of Carnamah has left no stone unturned in highlighting the detrimental impact of Westpac's withdrawal. The Australian Banking Association say customers remain at the centre of all that banks do. Knowing that Westpac did not engage or consult with the Carnamah community over the closure of this branch, I beg to differ.

**STROKE***Statement by Member for Warren–Blackwood*

**MS E.J. KELSBIE (Warren–Blackwood)** [12.52 pm]: Stroke attacks the brain—the human control centre. It changes lives in an instant. It blocks blood flow to the brain. Getting help fast is very important. It can impact how people think, behave, use words, swallow, see, feel, touch and move their bodies. Stroke can happen to anyone at any age. It is not something that just affects older people. You can be fit and have a stroke. Our family friend was a runner and surfer, and generally took good care of his health. He was taking his dog for their daily run when he was struck down by stroke. Living where we do in regional Western Australia, thanks must go to the first responders, both career and volunteer; our excellent healthcare service providers; and our local police. I also thank the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Emergency Telehealth Service. All their swift responses together helped to save his life. There are clear signs that someone may be having a stroke. The FAST test—face, arms, speech, time—is an easy way to remember the common signs. Check their face; is their mouth droopy? Can they lift both arms? Is their speech slurred? Do they understand you? Time is critical. If you think someone is having a stroke—acting wobbly, slurring words, cannot smile properly, is stumbling or droopy-faced—do not assume. Ask whether they are okay. You could save someone's life. You could save someone's career. You could save someone's family. We are very glad our family friend is still with us. His life and the lives of his family have changed. They have adapted to a new normal.

**WESTERN GROUND PARROT***Statement by Member for Roe*

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [12.54 pm]: A special project is underway in my electorate to preserve Western Australia's rarest bird. The critically endangered western ground parrot, known as kyloring, is a ground-dwelling parrot, once known to exist from the east coast of Esperance through to Cape Leeuwin and north to Dongara. There are now fewer than 140 western ground parrots in the remote Cape Arid National Park near Esperance. Their numbers have been significantly reduced by clearing, foxes, cats and bushfires.

Last year, a task force of conservation professionals and volunteers attempted a capture-and-release project to save the parrot population. The project, which was more than five years in the making, involved the Friends of the Western Ground Parrot; BirdLife Western Australia; Perth Zoo; the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; South Coast Natural Resource Management; and other skilled volunteers. It was supported by donations and state and federal funding. In April 2021, seven birds were moved 600 kilometres to a secret location west of Esperance. This was the first attempt of a wild-to-wild relocation of western ground parrots. Incredibly, the birds survived 12 months, prompting a second relocation attempt in July 2022. The monitoring, site management and capture of the birds was headed by DBCA ecologist Sarah Comer and supported by Perth Zoo.

I commend all those involved in the fight to save the western ground parrot. I also acknowledge the work of Riggs Australia, Esperance-based filmmakers and wildlife documentary makers, in raising awareness through film of the plight of the western ground parrot.

**URBAN TREE CANOPY***Statement by Member for Bateman*

**MS K.E. GIDDENS (Bateman)** [12.55 pm]: The suburbs that make up the electorate of Bateman are known for being leafy green, but members may be concerned to learn that Perth has the lowest urban tree canopy cover in Australia, and this percentage is in decline. I recently represented Hon John Carey, MLA, Minister for Local

Government, at the Western Australian Local Government Association Urban Forest Conference, at which the Minister for Environment, Hon Reece Whitby, MLA, gave a keynote address. The conference theme, “Valuing Canopy”, recognises the environmental, social and health benefits of our urban tree canopy, which enhances biodiversity, amenity and wellbeing while reducing surface temperatures and urban heat sinks.

Work is underway to address our declining tree canopy. As a part of the McGowan government, I was pleased to deliver funding to plant Carnaby’s black-cockatoo feed trees at Mt Henry Bridge Reserve, Winthrop Reserve, Layman Park, Robert Smith Park, Morris Buzacott Reserve, Karoonda Reserve, Ratcliffe Park and Gairloch Reserve. There is more to do. I am aware of a planning control area along Forbes Road in Applecross, which allows for road widening to accommodate future bus routes. Forbes Road has a magnificent mature tree canopy. I am concerned about this planned loss and am advocating on behalf of the Applecross and Canning Bridge communities to retain these trees. I acknowledge the Western Australian Tree Canopy Advocates and, in particular, Essie Jessen and our local Melville Tree Canopy Advocates group. I will continue to engage and work with my community to advocate for our urban trees and shared solutions to this important issue.

### **A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS EVENT**

*Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt)** [12.57 pm]: On Saturday night I joined the Leader of the Opposition, Shane Love, and member for the Agricultural Region Hon Martin Aldridge to attend A Night Under the Stars, an event in the Avon Valley. The event was organised by Blue Tree Project founder and CEO Kendall Whyte, Courtney Thornton and their brilliant team. Members can picture a balmy summer night and 650 people in their best gear and boots under the stars, with the historic venue Buckland Estate as the backdrop.

Everyone has a responsibility to educate themselves and look out for family and friends when it comes to mental health and wellbeing. One in four people in Australia is impacted by mental ill health every year, and people in regional WA have twice the rate of suicide compared with our metropolitan counterparts. Regional Western Australians are resilient, but mental health is often neglected to make space for the critical task of keeping businesses, farms and communities running. The statistics show that farmers, young men, older people and Aboriginal people face the greatest risk of suicide in our communities. The “she’ll be right” attitude costs lives. We all need to acknowledge that it is okay not to be okay, but, more importantly, that support is available, even in the far-flung reaches of our state.

The Nationals WA team in the Agricultural Region was pleased to be one of the many sponsors for this amazing event. Congratulations to Kendall and Courtney. They are an inspirational team doing important work to keep our communities healthy and safe.

### **BELMONT POLICE STATION**

*Statement by Member for Belmont*

**MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont)** [12.58 pm]: Community safety is an important issue for many locals in my electorate. I am proud to be part of a government that recognises this and strives to make Western Australian communities safer. Whilst we have delivered an additional 950 police officers across the state and invested \$21 million in establishing the Meth Border Force, which has led to record drug seizures, we have also invested in keeping our suburbs safer. Locally in Belmont, we have a newly upgraded police station. The McGowan government’s \$5 million investment to upgrade and expand Belmont Police Station was very much needed and has gone a long way towards modernising the workplace for our local police force. Importantly, this significant upgrade provides Belmont Police Station with greater capacity to house more police officers, of course at the discretion of the commissioner. The result of this valuable investment is that urgent services can be delivered more efficiently. This major upgrade to one of the busiest police stations in the metropolitan area highlights the government’s strong stance on tackling community crime. Most importantly, this investment supports a safer Belmont.

I also take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the hardworking police officers in my electorate. Their commitment to making our community a safer place is no easy task, and I deeply respect the work they do. I especially recognise Sergeant Trisha Stjepic, who was named the 2022 Police Officer of the Year. It is a fantastic and huge achievement to receive this prestigious award.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*

### **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

#### **TREASURER’S ADVANCE**

#### **84. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:**

I refer to legislation introduced today to increase the Treasurer’s advance by an unprecedented \$2.1 billion. How can the Treasurer claim good financial management when the government has to increase the Treasurer’s advance by 217 per cent to cover cost escalations for Metronet, day-to-day expenditures such as the wages policy and a \$500 million slush fund for unforeseen issues?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please, members! Quite a few people are chatting. The Premier in response.

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I reject the premise of the question. The Treasurer's advance is commonplace. It has occurred in, I think, 12 of the last 22 budgets. It basically occurs every second year, and it is to cover those cost increases that were not known at the time of the budget. Just so the Leader of the Opposition knows, the \$542 million for emerging issues is covering the cost of cyclone Ellie. When he describes it as a slush fund, it is to cover the cost of housing, roads and all those things that were totally unable to be predicted at the time of the budget because the cyclone had not occurred. One of the others was the wages policy. Obviously, negotiating wages policies requires some flexibility and \$463 million of that is for wages. I note that either the Leader of the Opposition or the new Leader of the Liberal Party advocated for a five per cent wages policy. He asks why the government has spent \$463 million, but the opposition members' wages policy would add another \$2 billion to the wages bill of the state.

In terms of the other components of the Treasurer's advance, \$273 million is for the small business hardships grant program, which was a COVID relief program that has been brought to book. Around \$400 million to \$500 million is additional spend for health and education. Does the Leader of the Opposition oppose extra spend in health? Does he? A range of it is for Main Roads, particularly in regional WA, because the cost of contracts has gone up. It has gone up all over the world as a consequence of the Russian invasion of Ukraine—and also COVID. We know that the cost of materials has escalated significantly all over the world and that has impacted every business and government around the world.

It is a bit rich for the Liberals and Nationals to come in here and complain about budget management. When they were in office, they had debt tracking to \$44 billion; we have reduced it to \$29 billion, and we are the only government in Australia running it down. Ordinarily, members opposite come in here and say: why not spend more on this, that or the other? I think they did that yesterday. We announced the program yesterday for regional and city headworks for housing of \$80 million, and the Leader of the Nationals WA went out and said it should be \$1 billion. That is what he said yesterday. One day he says one thing; the next day he says another. That is what he does and he thinks no-one ever notices.

#### TREASURER'S ADVANCE

**85. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:**

I have a supplementary question. How can the Treasurer claim to be a good economic manager when this is the second year in a row that the government has had to come to Parliament and ask for extra billions of dollars?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** It looks like lots of people want to help you answer, Premier.

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

The Western Australian government's financial management is the best financial management of any government in Australia by a long, long way. It has been recognised by Standard and Poor's in relation to our credit rating, as it has given us a AAA credit rating after the last Liberal–National government lost it. It said a large part of the reason it restored our credit rating was, I quote, the "outperformance" of the Western Australian government in managing the finances. That is what S&P Global said. It is hardly a GetUp!; it is hardly *The Guardian*. Moody's gave us an upgrade to our credit rating as well. Both of the major credit ratings for the world did that for Western Australia because of these things.

But I just outlined to the member a moment ago what the Treasurer's advance is for. If the member objects to any of those things, such as funding for cyclone Ellie or cost escalation on regional roads or the cost of the small business grants program for COVID relief, he should say that. Which one of those does he not support? If the member can outline which one he does not support, we might take him seriously.

#### KIMBERLEY FLOODS — RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS

**86. Ms D.G. D'ANNA to the Premier:**

I refer to the impacts of ex-tropical cyclone Ellie and the subsequent flooding across the Kimberley region.

- (1) Can the Premier please advise the house on how the McGowan Labor government is working with the federal Albanese government to respond?
- (2) Can the Premier provide an update on the WA government's ongoing role in the recovery efforts?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Kimberley for the question and I congratulate her. When I was up there a few weeks ago, I saw the member in action with local residents, helping people and taking up issues. It was really terrific; it was a great performance. I know it has been ongoing and the member for Kimberley deserves a great deal of credit.

The once-in-100-year flood saw 400 millimetres of rain in just 48 hours in some areas. Obviously, it was a dramatic and traumatic event that damaged roads, houses and infrastructure across a large part of the Kimberley. The commonwealth and state governments have been working cooperatively on recovery arrangements. We can announce today two significant steps towards recovery through the joint commonwealth–state disaster recovery funding arrangements. The first is a freight subsidy scheme for \$42 million to assist in transparent costs. As we know, because the Fitzroy Crossing Bridge is down and because some of the roads are damaged, transport by freight from the East Kimberley to the southern parts of the state is disrupted—and it has to go the other way, which is an enormous distance. That is impacting costs on houses and businesses across that part of the Kimberley. State and federal governments have agreed on a freight subsidy scheme backdated to 1 January. As I understand it, this is the first time it has occurred as part of disaster relief funding arrangements. It is obvious because of the geography that doing something such as this is a good thing; so we have agreed that between the state and commonwealth governments. I thank the commonwealth government for its support for that.

The second initiative we have agreed under this is the installation of temporary residential accommodation. Currently, displaced people have emergency accommodation, but we are working on the arrangements for temporary accommodation to be put in place as soon as possible. Houses will be built; the housing rebuild is at least 60 houses that we know of, which will be very expensive to achieve, but we are absolutely committed to providing that housing. I thank the commonwealth for the temporary accommodation arrangement as well, which will be jointly funded between the two. We have further things to announce in coming days and weeks as part of the recovery effort for the Kimberley. I thank everyone involved. I thank the people of the Kimberley for their forbearance. I thank all the emergency responders, volunteers, local, state and federal governments and the Australian Defence Force—the list goes on—for the recovery. It will take some time to get it back to where it was, but we are on our way.

#### LIVE EXPORT — FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY

##### **87. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:**

I refer to the ongoing attacks on the live sheep export industry from the federal Labor government and comments from federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Murray Watt, in which he says that he does not think there is anything the Premier or Minister Jarvis could do to change his mind about shutting down the industry.

- (1) Has the Premier impressed upon the federal minister or the Prime Minister the importance of this \$136 million industry to our state?
- (2) Given the minister's ignorant resolve, what will he do to move him from this dangerous position?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! I note that the question is about a federal minister, but I will ask the Premier to respond as appropriate.

##### **Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

- (1)–(2) The nature of the questioning from the state opposition is often about issues totally outside the state government. My views on this are well publicised and I urge the member to ask any questions of the federal government about its policies should he have them.

#### LIVE EXPORT — FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY

##### **88. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Did the Premier raise this issue with the federal minister or the Prime Minister when they were in WA this week?

##### **Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I raised many issues with the federal government and achieved many outcomes with the federal government. I will not go into what was said at the cabinet meeting.

#### PLANNING REFORM

##### **89. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Planning:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's efforts to make Western Australia a vibrant and connected place to live and work.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this government is creating new opportunities for housing, including through housing and planning reforms?
- (2) Is the minister aware of anyone who is opposed to Western Australians of all ages staying in their communities as their housing needs change?

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, before I give you the call, can I say that I am glad we had a group of students in the public gallery for those first couple of questions. Welcome to Parliament House. I hope you enjoy your tour.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Thornlie for his question.

(1)–(2) Yesterday, the government announced a range of reforms to its planning system to make it easier to buy a house, to live in a house and to rent a house in Western Australia. There is enormous demand throughout regional WA for affordable workers' accommodation. In many instances the land developers in those areas are local councils. Part of the reforms we announced yesterday include a new fund to help support infrastructure provision for new housing throughout regional WA. We know that we simply need more housing, more housing choice and a diversity of housing in WA. We cannot continue to just build the four by twos. We need two-bedroom apartments and one-bedroom apartments. We need a range of accommodation because there are a lot of people out there who are single or separated and who need housing choice. If we do not provide housing choice, we will not be providing the housing supply for future generations.

Examples of our reforms include an infrastructure fund, as I said, to help support infill development and regional accommodation, and the implementation of a permanent special pathway for major projects. Today we also announced the new medium-density housing code. It is the first time we have released the new rules of how medium density should be rolled out across the suburbs and across the state. We do not want to see the wholesale subdivision of suburbs that occurred under the previous government. It basically subdivided every street in a suburb and called that reform. We want precincts of activity, precincts of density, locked in near train stations and activity centres. With that, we will get better amenity, better public open space, more tree canopy, and better and more sustainable living for our future populations.

I was disappointed, but not surprised, to hear the views of the Liberal Party and Nationals WA yesterday. They were all over the place. From the old party of the free market, members have abandoned the traditional Liberal Party that used to exist in this state. I turn first to the Liberal member Mr Steve Martin, who said that the infrastructure fund would do nothing to help solve the housing process. Meanwhile, the Leader of the Opposition was out there welcoming our announcement, saying it was copying the announcement they made more recently. Within one day this alliance was eating each other up. They do not know whether to welcome something or oppose something. The Leader of the National Party and Leader of the Opposition basically said, "This is good. It copies our policy, but we would have been spending a billion dollars." Today he comes in and asks why are we spending any money. He came in yesterday and said, "We would have spent a billion dollars." I will give him a hint: he was there for eight years with \$8 billion of royalties for regions and he did not do it.

We then had the predictable comments from the former Leader of the Liberal Party. He made outrageous accusations. On one day, the Liberal Party comes in and says, "We need more housing. What are you doing to get more housing?" We say, "Here it is; here is what we are doing to get more housing." And it says, "Oh, how dare you do anything to get more housing!" Who do members opposite think is going to build the housing in WA?

We had another outrageous comment, again from Mr Steve Martin, who said that the outer suburbs had been ignored in our announcement. I give the member a hint: we announced the headworks fund to help fuel Metronet precincts. There are a lot of Metronet stations in the outer suburbs, I will say, such as Yanchep, Alkimos, Ellenbrook and Byford—all over the place. The opposition cannot come in here and ask any questions about housing. It opposes everything this government is doing to increase housing supply. It opposes everything we are doing to make sure that there are affordable homes for people to live in, not just for today, but for generations to come. We have a responsibility to think not just about ourselves, but about our children and our children's children. Older people who want to downsize currently have to move out of their suburbs into a new area—disconnected from their friends, disconnected from their well-known shopping centre and disconnected from their medical facilities—because there is no supply. The big demand here is for us to increase supply. We are very proud of all the innovative initiatives we have to increase housing supply in this state.

**The SPEAKER:** I just note that members of the other house, the upper house, are referred to by the title "Honourable" and then their name, as opposed to Mr or Ms or some other title.

#### LIVE EXPORT — FREMANTLE PORT

**90. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the \$2 million set aside for a feasibility study into relocating livestock shipping from Fremantle port and how this relocation would affect Fremantle and provide economic development opportunity for regional WA.

(1) Has the minister received a final copy of the study?

- (2) If no to (1), when will the study be finalised?
- (3) Will the minister table the report at the earliest opportunity in the interests of transparency rather than burying the study on the future of Fremantle?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

- (1) No.
- (2) A lot of work is being undertaken. Our initial focus is on cars. People who attended my *Business News* lunch a couple of weeks ago would have heard about our plan and all the work we are undertaking on Westport. The study is currently underway into the shape and size of the Kwinana port. The other big factor, which we are currently considering, is in relation to cars. About 13 hectares—or maybe it is 16 hectares—of land along Victoria Quay is currently home to a major car park when the big car ships come in. There is probably a technical name for that.

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** ROROs—I cannot roll my Rs! There is a lot of land at Victoria Quay and the government is undertaking some studies and talking to industry about the relocation. That has been our primary focus.

- (3) When I receive a report, I will make it public.

LIVE EXPORT — FREMANTLE PORT

**91. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Transport:**

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister support the continued live export from Fremantle port or does she intend to see the export of sheep cease altogether in this state?

**The SPEAKER:** I do not think that was the topic of the member's initial question, so I rule that supplementary question out of order.

UNIVERSITIES — REVIEW

**92. MR S.J. PRICE to the Minister for Education:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's appointment of an expert panel to review Western Australia's public university sector.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this government is working to ensure a sustainable future for Western Australia's university sector to ensure that WA universities are at the forefront of research and innovation?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how the review will consider how structural change could strengthen the local university sector and deliver for students?

**Dr A.D. BUTI replied:**

I thank the member for Forrestfield for the question. Yes, I can provide that information.

- (1)–(2) Western Australian universities will play a very important role in the state's society and economy in the future. The sector generates about \$2 billion in economic activity, employs over 10 000 people and on average caters for the enrolment of around 35 000 students in our four public universities, including 14 000 new international students. At any one time, there are over 100 000 students enrolled in our four public universities. I am really pleased to say that today the Premier and I announced an independent review of the structure of the public university sector in Western Australia.

The expert panel has been charged with investigating and making recommendations to ensure that the WA public tertiary sector is well placed to take on current and future challenges, and meet the needs of industry and the workforce going forward. We live in a very rapidly changing world economically and with people's employment and technological advancements, so we need to have a public university sector that is geared to be ready for those changes. It is critical that our four public universities—the University of Western Australia, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University and Curtin University—evaluate their ability to generate a skilled workforce to take on those challenges, whether it be in local innovation or the diversification of our state's economy.

Prior to the pandemic, Western Australian universities were increasingly constrained on international recruitment, our share of grants received nationally and the commercialisation of our research task, which was falling behind. For instance, between 2010 and 2019, WA had the smallest percentage growth in university enrolments in Australia, with 13.6 per cent compared with 32 per cent nationally. We need to address that decline. The Western Australian university sector has experienced a significant decline in its share of research funding, more than any other Australian state or territory, falling from 11 per cent in 2001 down to as low as 2.9 per cent in 2022. We need to do something, and that is why we have announced the review of the university sector. It will explore opportunities for structural change.

The terms of reference will be finalised after we receive feedback from the four vice-chancellors, whom I met yesterday. We look forward to working with the universities to ensure that the review process fully explores all the opportunities and possibilities so that ongoing we have high-performing universities and the public university sector in Western Australia is financially sustainable.

We have appointed a very eminent panel to be headed by Professor Sandra Harding, AO, former vice-chancellor and president of James Cook University; with Professor John Williams, executive dean of the faculty of arts, business, law and economics at the University of Adelaide; and Dr Ian Watt, AC, former secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. They will be joined by Professor Peter Shergold as a special adviser. He is a former chancellor of Western Sydney University and a former secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. I think everyone would agree that that is an eminent panel to look at our public university sector. It is intended that the review will be completed within six months from the time it commences. I really look forward to working with the panel. I am sure the public university sector will also work with the panel to ensure that it comes up with recommendations that will allow our universities to become world class and meet the challenges expected as we go forward.

#### SOCIAL HOUSING — STOCK

#### 93. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the minister's comments yesterday noting this government's investment of \$2.4 billion in social housing and homelessness and his recent media release claiming that the government has delivered an additional 1 000 social housing homes, noting there were 43 759 social housing properties at the end of 2017, yet figures received from the other place show there were 43 458 as of 31 January 2023.

- (1) How can the minister claim any additional social housing stock when the government's own figures show there are 300 fewer homes than when it came to government?
- (2) Does the minister admit his media release is deliberately misleading?

#### Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

(1)–(2) I thank the member for her question. We do have a significant investment —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Can I answer the question or would you like to continue to interject?

We are investing \$2.4 billion to create 3 300 homes in our social housing system. I have regularly reported. In fact, yesterday I clearly spelt out all the reforms that we are undertaking. We have added 1 000 homes to the system—that is true.

I have always been on the public record that we also face a considerable challenge—that is, ageing stock. As a result of that ageing stock, we lose houses out of the system. There are a variety of reasons for that. They are so old that they cannot be refurbished and brought into the system or we have high concentrations of social housing and there have been very deliberate and clear decisions to destock. The case in point is Brownlie Towers, which everyone agrees produced terrible social housing outcomes. I do not shy away from the fact that we have made some very difficult decisions, and there are more difficult decisions to come. Actually, I clearly outlined that challenge at the Urban Development Institute of Australia. Whether it is North Beach, Beaconsfield or Spalding in Geraldton, we are making very tough decisions on whether we save a house or we consider the broader social implications. I can tell members that the Geraldton community in Spalding strongly supports the new renewal program. For a simple decision to extend a road to address antisocial behaviour, some homes at the end of their life were demolished. This is a reality of being the Minister for Housing and making those decisions. But it is absolutely true that through all the reforms that I have listed we have added a thousand homes in terms of social housing delivery in Western Australia.

**The SPEAKER:** Before the member asks her supplementary, I believe she used the words “deliberately misleading” in her question. Of course, if you would like to use words like that, you need to do it by way of a substantive motion. That potentially should have been ruled out of order.

#### SOCIAL HOUSING — STOCK

#### 94. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Housing:

Thank you. I have a supplementary question. Regardless of the minister's spin, there is less social housing available than when he came to government, and how on earth does that represent a good outcome for Western Australia?

#### Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

Let us talk about spin and the opposition. Last year in an opinion piece, the Leader of the Liberal Party said there were 1 000 rough sleepers in the city. In Parliament, she said, “I tried to correct it. I tried to fix it.” She probably did not even write the piece. We had the shadow housing minister deliberately distort statistics about housing vacancies. I will not take any lectures from the Liberal and National Parties. They have no real concern for housing or homelessness. I will give members a really specific example—Mission Australia's homelessness lunch. The

Governor was there, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Perth was there, I was there for the sixth year in a row, but not one member of the opposition could bother turning up for 30 minutes. Where were they? Where was the member for Cottesloe? Where was the member for Vasse?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please, members!

**Dr D.J. Honey:** You've got to be invited.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** No, you don't! This is the ignorance of the opposition. This is a free public event for all Western Australians. Not one of them could find the time. That is their level of care and concern. The opposition spokesperson for housing is so missing in action that even at the Urban Development Institute of Australia event last week, I said I wanted to acknowledge the shadow Minister for Housing—I always make sure that I acknowledge the opposition—but I was told he had sent a staff member because he had not turned up. Then they said, "That's pretty usual. It's not the first time." The opposition has no commitment to housing and homelessness. I understand that the Liberal member called the Mission Australia homeless lunch a fancy event. Is that what you just said? You said a "fancy event".

**Ms L. Mettam:** I was not referring to that event.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** You are shameless—absolutely shameless! None of you bother. There are 15 of you and not one of you makes the time. It is shameful for the opposition, and that reflects its lack of commitment and the lack of respect it has for the housing and homelessness sector.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Landsdale, I have not given you the call yet. Member for Southern River and others, applause is not appropriate.

#### TOURISM — MAJOR EVENTS

##### 95. **Ms M.M. QUIRK to the Minister for Tourism:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's efforts to attract major events to Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how the facilitation of major events in Western Australia, such as the upcoming FIFA Women's World Cup, will provide both economic and social benefits for Western Australians?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house what measures this government is taking to prepare for these events, as well as their legacy?

##### **Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

(1)–(2) After the Minister for Housing's last effort, I feel intimidated! It is a hard act to follow.

**The SPEAKER:** I am sure you will do your best.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** I would like to thank the member for Landsdale for the question. It is a very important one. In acknowledging her, can I also acknowledge her advocacy on behalf of the community. The mighty Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex has been announced as the host training ground for the Denmark international side for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. I think she has done a great job in continuing to galvanise the community and create a great sense of belonging with that team.

I recently spoke about the fact that Western Australia is becoming one of the great event destinations of South-East Asia. The other weekend, we obviously had the UFC 284. That not only had a huge impact in elevating Western Australia and Perth in the eyes of the global audience, but also resulted in a 30 per cent jump in the number of beds booked, adding an extra \$2.3 million in bookings for our hotels on that weekend alone. That is a huge outcome. In a time of global economic uncertainty and an extremely competitive tourism market, now more than ever we have to continue to lift our game and make sure that we take every opportunity to promote Western Australia through our tourism strategy.

The 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup is going to be another huge event for Western Australia. I am particularly excited about it because it not only is a great tourism outcome and will continue to elevate Western Australia in the eyes of our global audience, but also has the potential to inspire young women and girls to the global game. The FIFA Women's World Cup is the largest single female sporting event in the world. In 2023, Australia and New Zealand will have the honour of hosting this major event. Perth will host five matches at the Perth rectangular stadium between 22 July and 3 August. Denmark, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Ireland, Canada, Jamaica, Morocco and Colombia will all showcase their sporting prowess here in Western Australia. The tournament will also generate significant international and domestic media coverage and literally be watched by up to two billion fans worldwide, presenting a huge opportunity to showcase Western Australia. Obviously, it will inject millions of dollars into the Western Australian hospitality and tourism industry as people come to Western Australia to watch these great events.

To plan for this unique opportunity, the state government has established a multiple cross-government working group, led by Tourism WA. Plans are progressing well and so is the sale of tickets. We want to continue to see how we can promote the games over the next 100 days or so, but in particular make sure that we take the opportunity to celebrate the tournament through the Unity Pitch activation, trophy tour and FIFA Fan Festival.

The government's WA recovery plan committed \$2.6 million to improving the Olympic Kingsway Sports Club's infrastructure and floodlights, making sure that the visiting athletes will have world-class facilities and amenities, which will be enjoyed by local communities in future years. In particular, the upgrades that have been made to the rectangular stadium will stand the square-field sports in great stead in the future. This is a great legacy contribution.

In November last year, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the member for Bicton and I met with the leaders of the Perth-based advocacy group Gaining Ground, which runs a mental health and wellbeing program that empowers women and girls to take up leadership positions in football. That organisation impressed me with the fact that we need more women and girls in leadership roles: you cannot be what you cannot see. We stand to make a huge legacy change in relation to the FIFA Women's World Cup. This will be an important tournament for Western Australia. It will not just be a legacy project for sporting facilities and for the world game here in Australia. It will not just be a great opportunity to showcase Western Australia and Perth in particular as part of this global event. It will be an opportunity not just for tourism and hospitality businesses to continue to thrive in our economy, but also to continue to inspire and create a great opportunity for young women and girls to see just where they can go to when they take on great sporting roles.

#### PLANNING REFORM

##### 96. **Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:**

Yesterday, the Premier announced further changes to our planning system, embedding the so-called COVID stimulus measures and further reducing the ability of local communities and councils to have any say over important planning decisions. Furthermore, the Premier claimed that these changes were the result of wide consultation.

- (1) Why does the government believe that local communities and councils should have no say in important planning decisions affecting their communities?
- (2) Did the Premier consult with anyone outside the property industry and, in particular, with the Western Australian Local Government Association, local councils and the local community groups that will be directly affected by these infill planning decisions?

##### **Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

- (1)–(2) I have just a few things to say about that. First of all, the premise of the question is incorrect. We did, essentially, three major things. We increased funding, but I will leave that to one side. We made permanent the special development assessment unit, which is a pathway for projects over \$20 million to go through the Planning Commission, which then has regard to local town planning schemes and the like. That is because those major projects, which basically create thousands of jobs and/or are of state or regional significance, deserve enhanced consideration, in my view. They provide lots of opportunities and lots of jobs. I do not think it is appropriate to leave those sorts of projects in the hands of local councils, but they do take account of the local planning scheme.

In terms of the development assessment panels, some changes were made to them. DAPs were put in place by the last Barnett Liberal–National government. John Day, I think, was the Minister for Planning. He was a very a decent and honourable fellow who put in place the development assessment panels. We are changing them, to a degree. Over our time in office, we have increased and enhanced the transparency of the DAP process, but we are basically reducing the dollar amount to \$2 million and ensuring that if it is a residential project, it is not a single residential project. A project of more than one residence would be eligible to go to a DAP. Just so that the member knows, the DAPs have on them representatives from the local council. When the member says they have no say, it is factually wrong. They have local council representatives on them, but they also have technical advisers who take account of the rules. They do not just listen to the loudest complainer, and that is the difference. I do not know whether the member has been to some local council meetings. I started my career in politics in local council. I know what happens. A few people come along and complain, and lots of councillors go to water over it. We have to have processes that stop that from occurring and stop the stymieing of good projects and developments that create jobs and housing.

We constantly hear from members opposite, as we do from others, that we need more housing in Western Australia. Then we bring in measures to create more housing for Western Australians and they oppose that. You cannot win with these people. They oppose everything. The Liberal Party in this state opposes anything. I do not know what they stand for. We stand for jobs, opportunity, housing, more affordable housing, housing for ordinary people, housing for people who want to downsize in the member's suburb and housing for people who own a house worth whatever in Cottesloe or Nedlands—that is not in

the member's suburb; that is the member for Nedlands' suburb. If they want to downsize, we want to provide them with that opportunity. Members opposite want to stop them. We want them to be able to live near their relatives, like in the Blackburne developments in the western suburbs that members opposite opposed. Those developments provide those opportunities for people. I note that the former Leader of the Liberal Party opposed them and then he turned up to the sod turning that I did.

There was extensive consultation with local councils and communities. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Planning undertook 13 forums around the state involving members of the public. I would like to thank the member for Kingsley. I actually saw her out in various communities listening to and getting feedback from councils and members of the community. I know that the opposition seems to have a visceral hatred of people who invest money, create jobs and do developments. It now seems to be in the Liberal Party's DNA to hate people who create jobs, invest money and create housing, but we want those people to be able to do that by making it affordable and achievable and to cut through red tape to get things done.

#### PLANNING REFORM

##### 97. **Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Why has the Premier's government abandoned an orderly community-based planning process simply to satisfy the demands of its major fundraising donors?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! You both asked and answered your own question then. You have to just ask a question and not give your own conclusion.

##### **Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Again I reject the premise of the question. It is a ridiculous and offensive suggestion by someone who was recently supplanted. He had a 50 per cent chance of being the Leader of the Liberal Party and he lost it.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Yes. That is the member's situation. Planning powers are delegated by state legislation to local governments. They are state powers. Local governments are the creation of the state, just so that the member knows. That is the reality. I will give the member this example. It has been raised a few times, but I think it is worth noting. We support having a children's hospice in the western suburbs. We are helping to fund it. We support former Senator Ian Campbell all the way with what he is trying to achieve. Do members know who opposed it? It was the City of Nedlands. The council opposed it. We are trying to set up a hospice for little kids who are dying of cancer, and who goes and opposes it? The local council. Does the member need a better example than that of why sometimes we need to have the capacity to get things done? That was so offensive and so horrible that that council would do that. It complained about the noise of little kids with cancer playing. For goodness sake! That is what we are trying to overcome here. The Liberal Party can support those naysayers all they like. I know which side I am on.

#### PORT DEVELOPMENTS

##### 98. **Mr K.J.J. MICHEL to the Minister for Ports:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's investment in job creation and the economy, driving infrastructure across Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how this government is unlocking new trade opportunities through port developments such as Lumsden Point?
- (2) Can the minister outline what these developments mean for local jobs, businesses and the Western Australian economy?

##### **Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Pilbara for that question.

- (1)–(2) Earlier this week we were joined by the Prime Minister, the federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King, and the federal Minister for Resources, Madeleine King, to make some significant announcements for the Pilbara. Work is already underway and we have secured hundreds of millions of dollars to help secure the diversification and expansion of trade at the port in Port Hedland. Over \$500 million has been allocated by the federal government and a further \$100 million has been allocated by the state to build Lumsden Point. That will support thousands of jobs as we support further exports of key commodities such as lithium and, of course, the importation of turbines to power the renewable energy sector and help the hydrogen industry. The estimated value of these projects to the state is \$25 billion. It will also support further direct shipping between Singapore and the Pilbara, removing the need for ships to bypass the Pilbara to come to Fremantle to put the equipment onto trucks.

We want to support more direct shipping into the Pilbara. Within five years, we have moved from having none of this type of trade to having 11 000 20-foot or equivalent units per annum, significantly reducing shipping costs and supporting economic development in the regions.

The interesting point to note is that while we were in Port Hedland and then Fitzroy Crossing—it was a big day on Tuesday—the “city-Nats” were here in the city.

**Mr S.A. Millman:** The “MetroNats”!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** That is a good one. I might get some bumper stickers done, members. The “MetroNats” were here in the city complaining about cuts to infrastructure funding while we were in the north west announcing over \$500 million of new infrastructure funding. Then they went into Midland—the hypocrisy is incredible. Last week, the Leader of the Nationals WA; Leader of the Opposition said that the level crossing removal project on the Armadale line was a vanity project. Then he stood in front of a level crossing in Midland and said, “We are going to build this level crossing removal now!” He called the removal of level crossings on the Armadale line a vanity project, and then he went to Woodbridge and said how incredible it is that we had not removed that level crossing and we needed to do it now. Do members not find that slightly —

**Mr D.T. Punch:** Odd.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** — odd and strange, and inconsistent?

**Mr D.A. Templeman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** He made a claim about cuts. I do not know how many times we have to say this, but there is a lot of activity going on out there—billions of dollars’ worth. As we know, there are some supply chain issues and pressures to get projects delivered. As I said, whether a person is building a pergola, buying a car or getting a new oven, there are delays. Everyone has experienced them. It has been really tough to deliver these major projects, particularly over the past few years. We constantly work to re-cashflow. We do not cut projects. The member announced that 33 projects were cut. I ask him to name one that we cut. Can he name which projects have been cut? He has been going out and saying that 33 projects have been cut, but he is not able to name one today.

What we have always said is that we continue to work. Last year, I think the figure we budgeted was around \$3.2 billion, and we spent \$3.2 billion across the transport portfolio. This year, we are budgeting \$4.5 billion and we are on track to deliver that amount. We are spending more than ever before; I think it is probably three times the amount spent the last year the opposition was in government. Then, the opposition goes around making false claims that we have cut 33 projects, when it cannot even name one. The member goes around with the other city National, federal member Hon Bridget McKenzie, making false claims around the city, while we are in regional Western Australia building new projects for the Pilbara to drive economic growth and create more opportunities. If we look around the state, we see that the member is the only person who thinks we are not spending enough money on transport in Western Australia.

**The SPEAKER:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition with the last question.

#### HALLS CREEK DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL — ATTENDANCE

#### 99. **Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:**

I refer to the persecution by the Department of Education of whistleblower Brock Burston, who put endemic truancy in the Kimberley on the government’s radar. That resulted in an apology from the former Minister for Education and Training, who admitted that the department had failed in its response to recommendations made by the Ombudsman regarding student attendance plans at Halls Creek District High School.

- (1) Given the department initially botched the rollout of student attendance plans at Halls Creek District High School, can the minister confirm the program is now working?
- (2) As Mr Burston was found not guilty of improperly releasing information, will the new minister call off the persecution and reverse the penalty imposed on this innocent education advocate and his family?

**The SPEAKER:** I offer some advice there. Although I am not 100 per cent familiar with this issue, I am noting more and more that a lot of the questions have imputations in them. I draw the opposition’s attention to standing order 77, which has some guidelines about what is allowed in questions and what is not. The word “persecution” is a very strong imputation. It may be justified, but I caution members about those kinds of imputations in questions.

**Dr A.D. BUTI replied:**

- (1)–(2) I do not accept some of the member’s emotive language, as the Speaker has outlined. What is most important here is the education attendance of students in remote communities and in Halls Head, which the member referred to. The department is addressing that as best it can. A lot of effort has been put into trying to improve the attendance of students.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, can I just query whether you said Halls Head or Halls Creek?

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** Sorry; Halls Creek.

As the member knows, the former Minister for Education and Training made a statement in Parliament. The issue of improving the attendance of students in Halls Creek has been addressed. It is an ongoing process. We will continue to monitor that and do everything we can to ensure that the attendance rate improves.

#### HALLS CREEK DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL — ATTENDANCE

#### 100. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:

I have a supplementary question. Is it right that someone who rightly stood up for their community is being treated in this manner by the minister's government department?

#### **Dr A.D. BUTI replied:**

As I said, the former Minister for Education and Training made a statement last year in Parliament. My focus is on improving the attendance rate of all students in all schools wherever they are in Western Australia.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, that concludes question time.

### BILLS

#### *Appropriations*

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

1. Treasurer's Advance Authorisation Bill 2023.
2. Major Events Bill 2023.

### LAND AND PUBLIC WORKS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

#### *Consideration in Detail*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

Debate was interrupted after clause 89 had been agreed to.

#### **Clause 90: Part 14 inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Clause 90 obviously relates to returns by pastoral lessees and annual rent. How much of a bill shock will pastoral lessees receive when the CPI determination comes into effect?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I thank the member for the question. As we have already stated and the member has acknowledged, with the benchmark setting, the rent will be either the same or less. Obviously, it will be dictated by the CPI at the time, but the reality is that it will not likely be a 400 per cent increase. The member will acknowledge that if CPI is at 400 per cent, we are all in trouble. It is very clear that increases will be far less than the sort of jumps we saw in the last valuation.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** We all agree that we do not want to see those increases again. At this stage, has the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage done any modelling that would be able to give an indication of any sort?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I am advised that the agency has done modelling. That advice says that the rate increase will go up more evenly over that time.

#### **Clause put and passed.**

#### **Clauses 91 to 94 put and passed.**

#### **Clause 95: Section 2A inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I refer to proposed section 2A, "Governor may declare public work". Will the Governor potentially be able to declare a public work separate from the government?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I thank the member for the question. It is a good question. The Governor can already declare a public work, but it is done on the advice of the government.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** That being the case, can the minister think of any past examples when the Governor has declared a public work?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I cannot. The reason is that, ultimately, as part of the reforms, we have created a multi-list of public works but it will provide for potential flexibility if there were something necessary outside those particular definitions. It might be the case that the full list will cover all necessary considerations of a public work.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I have a further question, which also relates to clause 100. Earlier today, the minister announced changes that would allow Main Roads to enter into commercial activity on its land. He spoke about rest stops, truck

stops and the like, where there would be commercial activity and the government could share into that. Would that fall within the purvey of this legislation? I appreciate that is not in the list in clause 100 but could it also be included if Main Roads decides to engage in a commercial activity and then the changes in this legislation are used to allow it to procure land for that activity?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I thank the member for Cottesloe for seeking advice. I appreciate his line of inquiry. I am advised that this legislation would not come into play; it would be fully dealt with under the proposed changes to the Main Roads Act 1930. If the member wants me to follow that up, I am happy to do so.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 96 to 99 put and passed.**

**Clause 100: Schedule 1 inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** There are some new additions to classes of public work, including references to wetlands and places of heritage, reclamation of land and water capture. Can the minister provide any examples of upcoming public works that would create wetlands and require public intervention?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Just to give context to these definitions, the list in the bill has been developed for a significant amount of time. There has been exhaustive consultation with agencies. In a sense, we have tried to modernise it and think of potential occurrences in the future.

I cannot say right now or think of a government plan for any of these particulars. It is about considering what the government may want to use in the future, but I cannot specify a particular project. We have not compiled this list with a particular project in mind; these definitions have been worked on for a significant amount of time.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I appreciate that. Places of heritage, natural, environmental, aesthetic or cultural interest or value are now included in the definition of a public work. Was advice received about this being potentially too broad; and, if yes, why is this broadened definition included?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I have two points to make in relation to this. The previous criticism was that the definitions were outdated and too broad. We have brought in a number of new definitions of public works. Again, we consulted significantly. Agencies contributed to this list. We are trying to cover a large number of different public works should a future government make a decision that it is of significance and that it should be acted on.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 101 to 130 put and passed.**

**Clause 131: Section 8 amended —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Given the size and broadscale nature of a diversification lease, it is considered appropriate that access for mining activity is the same as for a pastoral lease. Can the minister outline from where this justification originated?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** As we know, pastoral leases coexist. The government has the same intention for diversification leases. If we were to make it exclusive, for example, clearly, that would have significant consequences for one of the key industries in our state, which is the mining sector.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 132: Section 16 amended —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Proposed subsection (4) will insert a new category of approval to consider that diversification leases in mining need further approval from the Minister for Mines and Petroleum. However, the approval of the minister for mines is only required for a lease sketch. Will the minister for mines be notified whenever a lease sketch changes? Why will a formal business case not be required?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** In a sense, this new subsection will provide the Minister for Mines and Petroleum with a second opportunity to review any substantial changes.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Is the minister comfortable that a lease sketch will be good enough compared with a business case?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Yes, I am advised that it would be sufficient that it is a survey to sketch.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 133 to 138 put and passed.**

**Clause 139: Section 5 amended —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** If petroleum or geothermal energy resources were found on a pastoral property under a diversification lease, would the resources company that made the finding then be able to expedite the end of that pastoral lease if it wished to start processing that resource?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** As I indicated in my response to the member's questions, if there is a diversification lease—sorry; the member's question was slightly confusing—there is no longer a pastoral lease; there is only a diversification lease. As we have stated before, the intention of a diversification lease is not to be exclusive but to coexist with a number of other interests, which obviously includes mining and exploration.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Will fracking and similar subterranean activities, such as geothermal activities et cetera, be treated in exactly the same way as a mining arrangement?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I just want to be clear, sorry, member; I am trying to understand. There is no difference in the way that a diversification lease is treated compared with a pastoral lease. We have made that explicit. Was there something else?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I guess the question was: with a diversification lease, will geothermal or fracking activity—all those subterranean activities—be treated in the same way as, say, a goldmine or an iron ore mine, for argument's sake?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Yes, it will be treated like any other mining operation.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 140 to 151 put and passed.**

**Title put and passed.**

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

*Third Reading*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Lands)** [3.15 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [3.15 pm]: I do not propose to speak for very long at all; I think we covered everything pretty well in the second reading debate and, of course, in the consideration in detail stage of the Land and Public Works Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I want to thank the advisers for their work and I take note of the minister's comments on the fact that many hard yards have been covered over a long period. As I said in my contribution to the second reading debate, I know Hon Terry Redman was in some ways the initiator of this legislation, so it has been going for the better part of eight or nine years. I want to say thanks to everyone for their hard work over that time, including the other previous ministers involved—Hon Ben Wyatt, Hon Tony Buti and, I think, Hon Rita Saffioti. I say thanks to those ministers and the current minister.

As I said earlier, the focus for me as a regional member is about representing regional constituents in many ways. I think it is really important that we recognise the pastoral industry, which is the backbone of WA in a lot of ways, going back to the 1950s with the wool boom and all the rest of it. The pastoral industry does a great job; it is pretty challenging at times, out there in the elements. This legislation is a real opportunity for the pastoral industry to diversify into things that have developed well and truly since the 50s. Many government speakers talked about opportunities with carbon trading, climate change, solar power, wind power and biodiversity. Biodiversity is something that is very close to my heart, being from a farm and having planted over 50 000 trees over the years. I really understand how biodiversity works and it is great to have much more vegetation around the place.

Generally speaking, the pastoral industry is comfortable with this idea and concept. As I said earlier, the challenges will be in the implementation, and I have repeated that to the minister several times. I see challenges ahead for pastoralists because, up until now, they have operated under pastoral leases, which are fairly one or two-dimensional, whereas we could now potentially be looking at four or five different dimensions, including Indigenous land use agreements, traditional owners, solar companies, wind companies and large mining companies wanting to offset—all those things. I think the complexity of this issue has been underestimated and, certainly during this debate, I have urged the minister to have a think about that. I know it is not going to happen overnight, but I really think the FTE provision for and resourcing of the department should be thought about more clearly as we go down the track. Support for pastoralists is my number one concept because these things will not take 18 months or two years; they will take five, seven or 10 years, and many thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees and whatever. That is probably my main emphasis.

As I said, I think the Pastoral Lands Board is really important. I think the minister and I both agree that it is well run and well chaired. I am looking forward to the board working cooperatively under the guidance of the minister and the department. As I pointed out earlier, Tim Shackleton addressed the Pastoralists and Graziers Association about the reforms and the opportunities that this will provide to that category. That is a real key to it. We need to look at this as an opportunity, but we also need the government to make sure that it can help our pastoralists along the way.

No doubt Hon Neil Thomson will be keen to prosecute many arguments in the other place relating to the conservation estate and several other issues that, as the main spokesperson, he has highlighted to me. Consultation with local government is one of his real concerns. He will also question other matters such as the opportunity to extend pastoral lease terms by application to the minister, streamlining minor changes when a road is dedicated, enabling agistment on pastoral leases and those kinds of things.

As I said, we are not opposing the bill. This is an opportunity, but I think the government really needs to make sure that it does it in the right way and when it puts in the regulations, everyone is well aware of them. We have a pattern here whereby legislation is taken through and then it is like, “Oh, we will sort it out later in the regulations.” I really encourage the government on this occasion to make sure that it is well publicised to every element of the industry and I look forward to it being a positive thing for our pastoral industry and everyone involved.

**MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie)** [3.22 pm]: I rise to add my support to the Land and Public Works Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 as someone who has a longstanding interest in pastoral leases, recognising that, after all, they cover 36 per cent of the surface area of the state. My interest has long been in the viability of pastoral leases, especially under the strict terms that we currently have. After the passage of this bill, we will have diversification and that will be a very important step forward. Just the grazing of sheep and cattle is not a viable option for many pastoral leaseholders. I would like to focus on the southern rangelands; that is a line we can draw from Exmouth across to Eucla, going south west. The viability of many of the pastoral leases in that area—I think it is 200 or so—is highly questionable, definitely from a livestock grazing perspective, and I am not sure how much opportunity there will be for diversification on some of those leases either. That is a reality we need to face.

I know when I first started to involve myself in pastoral lease matters, there was a total of, I think, 500-plus leases in the state and now I believe that is down to about 416 or so. Clearly, a number have been purchased by the state for conservation purposes, have changed tenure in some way or perhaps even been relinquished. There is an issue with the viability of many pastoral leases. Members have raised the issue of the capability of government to do examinations of the method and the damage from the practice of livestock grazing. One of government’s greatest tools to correct someone who is perhaps mismanaging their pastoral lease is a soil conservation notice issued through the Commissioner of Soil Land and Conservation, which is through the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development budget. That is my understanding. We need the capacity within the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation’s office to access people who are rangelands experts. We desperately need that capability. I have referred in previous times to an expert report by Dr Paul Novelty and David Warburton, *A report on the viability of pastoral leases in the southern pastoral region based on biophysical assessment*. It looks at the capability of that land to generate enough feed for the stock required to be on the pastoral lease. They relate all this to the dry sheep equivalents, the carrying capacity per hectare and the capacity of the land to regenerate that feed. In many cases, that was found sadly wanting.

I also want to say how wonderful many aspects of this legislation are. I think of people like David and Frances Pollock at Wooleen station who have led the way with the idea of conservation ownership of a pastoral lease who maintain, I believe, some livestock on the property. The wish of many pastoral leaseholders is to have a herd or a flock for their own consumption, but beyond that the idea of having a commercial herd, the property may just not be able to withstand that pressure. That diversification and capacity for a whole host of other purposes is a great innovation and I really commend that.

There is another facet of this that I think is really important and that is the transparency around pastoral leases being bought and sold. We would think that like a lot of rural properties it would be a matter of just keeping our eye on the market and the Elders Real Estate agent’s shop window to see what is going on. There has been a history of leases transferring from one party to another without transparency. I believe that is a great improvement in this legislation. I recall our former colleague the former member for Kimberley Josie Farrer who has an ongoing passion for Moola Bulla station. I think Josie would have loved to have known when that property was first purchased by a company called South Africa WA, but the deal was done without her having the chance to put her hand up as an interested party. We have to have that kind of transparency.

While I am touching on matters relating to the Kimberley, I note that Kimberley pastoral leases are, generally speaking, the most productive, the ones with the cattle capacities and they can really be big money earners. They can do very well, but I note the suffering of a number of leaseholders because of the flooding and my commiserations go to them for that. I can only applaud their resilience and offer them my best wishes to get through the challenges that there will be, because they will have lost stock, yet they are going to face a situation in the next six months or so in which they will have an abundance of feed and it will be difficult to get the stock in to take advantage of that feed. That is one of the harsh realities of this style of agriculture.

I want to quickly say something about land rental. I know there is discussion about not increasing the rental rate too much. It is important that we understand that, typically speaking, a pastoral lease is rented out; we the landlords, we the people of Western Australia, let that land at the rate of around 1¢ or 2¢ per hectare. It sounds a tiny amount but it is multiplied. I was provided the pastoral rent case study on Murchison station, which is 140 000 hectares, so the rent is \$2 500 a year.

When people in my electorate who are trying to rent a three-by-one house in Thornlie say, “Gosh, Mr Tallentire, we’re really struggling to find the \$25 000 a year”, and I tell them there are pastoral leases that cover huge areas and they would pay only \$2 500 or \$5 000 a year, it is like we are in parallel universes. I do get that a whole skill set is required to manage a pastoral lease and that a lot of the 140 000 hectares might not be particularly hospitable land, but there will be a homestead there and probably beautiful landforms and wetlands and all sorts of unique

features, and the capacity to try to make an income out of it. Some might say that it is a false comparison, but when we weigh up this issue of how significant the rents are for pastoral leaseholders, it is probably true to say that if someone is really struggling to pay around \$10 000 rent for a typical pastoral lease of 250 000 hectares, there is probably a problem with their current business model. That is an important thing to keep in mind. I have made this comment in previous Parliaments, and I have not been challenged on it: to the best of my knowledge, the cheapest land one can legally access on this planet is pastoral lease country in Western Australia, keeping in mind that it is 2¢ a hectare, there is nowhere else in the world we can access land at that very cheap rate. That said, we need people who can manage the land, and this legislation will enable us to have diversification so that people do not have to manage livestock; they can do other things and perhaps make a viable business opportunity from holding those pastoral leases. They could have a small herd or small flock, but do other things as well.

This legislation is welcomed. I am relieved because I was here when on 30 June 2015 there was the automatic rollover of all the state's pastoral leases. People have been somewhat complimentary of Minister Redman and his role as minister when that rollover occurred. I thought that in many regards Minister Redman was a good, sensible minister, but that rollover in 2015 was a terrible missed opportunity to sort out this problem of non-viable pastoral leases. This legislation gets us on a journey forward and helps us to manage a huge area of the state. I commend the bill to the house.

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe)** [3.32 pm]: I rise to make a much briefer contribution and to thank the Minister for Lands for the collegiate, thorough and diligent way he responded to members in this place, to not only our second reading contributions, but also consideration in detail. I thank also his staff. It is usually the case, but not exclusively, that ministers approach it in a helpful way and I thank the minister and his staff for doing that.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

### PREMIER'S STATEMENT

#### *Consideration*

Resumed from 16 February on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

**MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington)** [3.33 pm]: Today I rise to speak in reply to the Premier and welcome everyone to the start of the parliamentary year of 2023. First of all, I would like to acknowledge the lands on which we meet and pay my respects to the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and to elders past, present and emerging. Parliament in 2023 has a different look this year compared with the last sitting week of 2022. Our cabinet has been reshuffled, ministers have resigned and new members have been elevated to cabinet.

I would like to acknowledge Dave Kelly, the member for Bassendean, and thank him for his work as the Minister for Water; Forestry; Youth and formerly holding the portfolios of Innovation and ICT; Science; Fisheries. Since the McGowan government was elected in 2017, the member has been a great supporter of Murray–Wellington and has made many important contributions to the state and has visited Murray–Wellington many times. We have shared many great moments in the Murray–Wellington electorate, including releasing juvenile marron into the Harvey Dam as part of the McGowan government's \$500 000 investment in stocking over 300 000 marron, and habitat enhancement projects. We have released trout into Drakesbrook Weir in Waroona as part of the annual Waroona Troutfest. This is another program by the McGowan government to create a more robust fish production program, improve fish stocking opportunities in the south west, identify new freshwater trout fishing locations, and create tourism and support local jobs in the south west. Together, the member for Bassendean and I have visited numerous communities, business owners and stakeholders in the region. Some visits included a meeting with the Preston Beach community group to address the community about the water supply in town. We met with many different logging and timber mill companies and listened to the voices surrounding the McGowan government's ban on native forest logging in the south west. Thank you, Dave Kelly, member for Bassendean, for all your support.

At the end of 2023, one of my mentors and highly respected members Hon Alannah MacTiernan, MLC, resigned after a stellar career in local, state and federal politics. When I was first elected in 2017, Alannah took me under her wing and has always been there for me when I have needed it. In Alannah's role as Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports; Hydrogen Industry she made many influential decisions that have resulted in positive change to the community members of Murray–Wellington. Alannah has visited my electorate of Murray–Wellington more times than I can remember, and I just want to share some special moments. There are too many to list today, so I will not go through them all.

Alannah's decision to implement the regional economic development grants in the state has had a huge impact on the regions, especially Murray–Wellington. Many recipients of the RED grants have invested in the electorate, which has boosted local jobs and capacity for production and has been responsible for companies evolving and growing at a faster pace. We have turned the sod for and opened many projects, including the Waroona town centre precinct; Peel Business Park; the Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia in Nambelup; Brunswick River Cottages

men's shed; the Harvey Recreation and Cultural Centre; Australia's first renewable energy industrial microgrid, which is at Peel Business Park; Bedingfeld Park's new 25-bed wing dedicated to dementia patients; and the East Keralup landholding, just to name a few. We have toured and visited local businesses, community resource centres, tourist attractions, farms and other primary industries.

When Alannah MacTiernan announced her retirement, I was quite saddened about the news. I looked back and reflected on the many things we have done together in my short career and I cannot be thankful enough for the time she has given me, the people of Murray–Wellington and Western Australia in her roles. Over the years and getting to know the community, I learnt what Alannah meant for the community in the south west, not just from what she has achieved since the 2017 election, but also in her roles in previous governments over the years. One local Pinjarra business owner, Steve Coughlan, started up Murray Engineering in Pinjarra over 20 years ago. Alannah's advocacy and help in developing the business and helping the company start and grow has turned Murray Engineering into one of the most revered engineering companies in the mining industry and Western Australia. Murray Engineering is now one of the larger employers in the region and has a fantastic record of training new apprentices, doing its bit in the community and developing some of the best technology to reduce our carbon footprint and help mining become greener.

Each time we have been at a cafe or out and about, many people thank Alannah for her work in securing the Mandurah train line. Mandurah can be a bit of a drive for those in Murray–Wellington and many people in the community still rely on the train line.

In December, the Peel Development Commission and I hosted a farewell for Alannah at Edenvale Homestead in Pinjarra. We announced the fifth round of the regional economic development grants and thanked her for her contribution to the community. Past grant recipients; shire councillors, presidents and CEOs; members of the community; primary producers; and business owners were in attendance to say thank you. I could go on about the impact Alannah has had on the community, and I am sure many members of this chamber will have stories to add about her legacy in not only Parliament, but also their personal lives, but I will finish by thanking her again for being a mentor, a great minister and most of all a good friend.

Over the summer, while Parliament was shut, many wonderful things happened in Murray–Wellington, Peel and the south west. Round 5 of the RED grants were announced. I want to congratulate the recipients: Shift Engineering, the Exchange Hotel in Pinjarra, Dwellingup Adventures, Jacaranda Hill Farm and Accommodation, and Harvey Hemp. The recipients have great projects and plans for the grants that will help boost jobs and tourism in the electorate.

I also attended many graduations and award ceremonies at schools. I congratulate all the graduating students and award winners, and wish the best to all those who started school in February. The \$11.23 million performing arts centre and sports hall at Pinjarra Senior High School is almost completed. I know the local schools, including Pinjarra Senior High School, look forward to holding their prospective graduations at the new facility in 2023.

We had National Volunteer Week celebrations and events to thank all the selfless volunteers in the regions. I attended the Peel volunteer awards ceremony at the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club. I would like to congratulate Andrew Seaman for winning the Peel youth volunteer of the year award and Compassionate Friends WA for winning the Peel community group of the year. Compassionate Friends has an op shop in Barragup in my electorate. Congratulations go to my friend Coral Richards for winning the Peel volunteer of the year. During volunteer week, my team and I visited the new Pinjarra Women's Centre, which is run by OVIS Community Services. The centre had an open day to showcase to the community the wonderful things it does to assist women in the region.

The Ravenswood Community Group hosted its annual Christmas party. It was the last one to be held in the park, as the community will be able to celebrate Christmas this year in the new \$1.3 million Ravenswood Community Centre, which the McGowan government is delivering as part of our 2021 election promise.

My office and I facilitated a back-to-school drive to encourage the community to donate school stationery to assist students returning to school. We are now running a dress drive in collaboration with Soroptimist International of Mandurah to encourage people to donate ball dresses for students about to participate in their year 12 balls.

Many projects started in the region over the summer. The Shire of Murray received \$478 113 for the extension of the floating jetties and a new universal-access path at the Wharf Cove boating facility in South Yunderup. The Leschenault Men's Shed received a Lotterywest grant of \$366 878 in addition to the \$50 000 election commitment by the McGowan Labor government to extend its shed. The Winjan Aboriginal Corporation will receive a massive \$800 000 over two years to put towards the Winjan Bindjareb Boodja ranger program. The City of Mandurah received a funding boost to put towards new boating facilities, with \$150 000 for upgrades to the boat ramp concrete slabs at the Park Ridge boating facility in Bouvard, which is part of my electorate. The Harvey Brunswick Leschenault Football and Netball Clubs will benefit from the \$449 907 given to the Shire of Harvey to upgrade the floodlighting at Brunswick Oval.

Along with the projects that have been funded, I also had the pleasure of attending the opening of some great community projects. I recently attended the opening of the new South West Aboriginal Medical Service aged-care centre in Mandurah with Senator Sue Lines and member for Dawesville, Lisa Munday. The SWAMS centre will

be the first Aboriginal community-controlled aged-care service anywhere in the greater Perth metropolitan region. I also had the pleasure of representing the Minister for Planning, Rita Saffioti, at the opening of The Promenade in Australind. The Promenade, known as the Kingston Drive extension, is a road that has been highly anticipated for over 20 years. Local business owners in the Australind light industrial area bought into the area with the promise of the road being built for easy access to their businesses, but there was no progress for 20 years.

In January 2020, my office received a call from Neil Espinos, “Esso”, the owner of Australind Tyre Service. He was extremely frustrated by the promises from and lack of action by the Shire of Harvey. Since that call, I have advocated to the shire, Main Roads and the minister’s office, with the assistance of local business owners and the community. Eventually, the advocacy paid off, and the missing link between Paris Road and Ditchingham Place has finally been connected. The McGowan government supported this important project with \$1.74 million, which represents two-thirds of the total project cost of approximately \$2.5 million. Projects like this, even though they may seem small—in total it was about 700 metres—can mean a lot. This thoroughfare alleviates traffic on Paris Road and cuts the commute time by kilometres for the local community.

Over the summer, I was constantly reminded about how great the communities in Murray–Wellington are. I attended numerous community events but two stuck out. The first event was Ahlia’s Blue Stumps Day, which was held by the Leschenault Cricket Club to honour her and raise money for RUN DIPG. The event raised over \$8 500, which will go towards the foundation to find a cure for diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma. This horrible disease is the most aggressive of all childhood cancers, with approximately 20 children in Australia diagnosed every year. The two-year survival rate of children diagnosed with DIPG is a devastating 10 per cent. I recently found out that another child in Australind had been diagnosed with this cancer.

The second event was another fundraiser—this time at the Harvey Bowling Club. On 25 and 26 January, over the Australia Day holiday, the Harvey Bowling Club hosted a 24-hour bowlathon to support eight-year-old Ariella, who has a rare genetic condition. She is currently the only known case in the country of TBC1D24, with only 100 reported cases in the world. The event rallied the community together and raised between \$20 000 and \$25 000, which will go to the TBC1D24 Foundation.

These two events over the last two months give a small insight into the selflessness of the Murray–Wellington community. It makes me extremely proud to represent each and every one of them in this chamber.

I also congratulate all the winners at the recent Australia Day award ceremonies held across Murray–Wellington hosted by the Shires of Harvey, Murray and Waroona. The 2023 Shire of Waroona meritorious community service award—under 25 years went to Matthew Della Franca; the meritorious community service award—25 years and over went to Debra Tyler and Lynette Della Franca; the award for active citizenship—community group or event went to the Waroona Community Men’s Shed; the senior Australia Day citizen of the year was Marion Herkes; and the Australia Day WA citizen of the year award went to Jenny McNamara.

The Shire of Murray Australia Day citizen of the year award 2023 went to Trevor Delaporte; the Australia Day citizen of the year award youth went to Noah Tippett from Murray Youth for Youth; the Australia Day citizen of the year award senior went to Carl Duxbury from the Murray District Rangers Soccer Club; and the Australia Day citizen of the year award group went to the Pinjarra Community Men’s Shed.

The Shire of Harvey community citizen of the year award went to Greg Campbell of Australind, Bill Russell of Harvey, Karen McCarthy of Leschenault and Lyndon Edwards of Brunswick. The active citizenship award for groups or events went to the Brunswick Junction Men’s Shed. The senior community citizen of the year award went to Gillian Dober of Australind and Colin Beauchamp of Cookernup. The Rotary Club of Harvey courtesy award went to Pauline Burgess from Harvey Fish and Chips.

Interestingly, our men’s sheds in all three shires—Pinjarra, Waroona and Brunswick—were award recipients for the fabulous work that they carry out in our community. They are not only men’s sheds; they bring in the wider community for ongoing projects and support. Congratulations to all the recipients of those awards, our community is better off having you all as a part of it.

In the few short weeks of 2023, Murray–Wellington has already had some influential people of the world visit. Last week, I had the honour of meeting the US Ambassador to Australia, Caroline Kennedy. Caroline is the daughter of former US President John F. Kennedy. With the ambassador was United States Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland. Secretary Haaland made history when she became the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. She is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and a thirty-fifth generation New Mexican. Secretary Haaland was in Perth to highlight the importance of Indigenous knowledge, collaborative conservation and international partnerships to inform the global effort to fight the climate crisis.

The visit to the Bushfire Centre of Excellence was monumental. It showcases to the world how important the McGowan government’s \$33.16 million investment into the facility was. The centre in Nambeelup brings together the best research and training in bushfire management, including cultural fire practices. The centre is the first of its kind in Australia. The visit from Secretary Haaland and Ambassador Kennedy shows that our project is leading the way for other countries to follow.

If the last few weeks have been anything to go by, 2023 is going to be another fantastic year ahead for Murray–Wellington. The McGowan government’s election commitments are funded and underway. The Ravenswood community centre is underway, with the kit-style facility currently being built at a warehouse in Kwinana. Projects like this have massive support from the local communities. I would like to thank the community for its support and for getting behind this project.

Road safety has been a high priority for the McGowan government, with its \$5 million investment into building acceleration lanes heading north on Forrest Highway.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE:** That will service the towns of Preston Beach, Binningup, Myalup and Harvey. Planning is complete and the process of marking out has occurred, with completion expected in early 2024.

Tourism and community activation is also vital to regional communities, so I am pleased to say that planning for the Waroona town centre revitalisation project has begun, with the first few stages expected to be finished by next year. This Friday, I look forward to joining the Minister for Regional Development, Don Punch, and the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Hon Jackie Jarvis, with Hon Alannah MacTiernan to attend the opening of the new Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia centre in Nambeelup. It has received a \$14.5 million investment from the McGowan Labor government towards the fit-out of the food technology facility and towards an enterprise support program to stimulate activity. Situated in Peel Business Park, an hour south of Perth in Nambeelup, FIPWA was conceived as a contributing factor to the region’s strategic goals of creating new industries, more jobs and a better quality of life through innovation for the people in the Peel region. Its purpose is to deliver socio-economic transformation and commercialisation in WA. It will scale up WA agrifood and tech businesses, commercialise research and development, develop new agrifood technology, and contribute to industry innovation, growth and exports through value-added activities while strengthening the domestic supply chain. Once open and fully functioning, there will likely be 57 full-time equivalent direct ongoing jobs, with an additional estimated 26 full-time equivalent jobs through flow-on supply chain effects.

We are now halfway through our second term and I cannot say how grateful the community of Murray–Wellington has been for the significant investment in the electorate. We are making safe and strong communities, with road upgrades, school investments, tourism, job-creation projects and vital infrastructure. I look forward to continued growth in 2023–24 and being the best representative to deliver for the community of Murray–Wellington. I wish everyone in the chamber and Murray–Wellington a prosperous and safe 2023.

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

#### HEALTH SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL 2021

*Assent*

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the bill.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

*Special*

On motion without notice by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**, resolved —

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 14 March 2023, at 1.00 pm.

*House adjourned at 3.54 pm*

---

