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Wednesday, 14 March 2018

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THE SPEAKER (Mr P. B. Watson) took the chair at 12 noon, acknowledged country and read prayers.

HON MALCOLM JOHN BRYCE

Condolence Motion

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [12.01 pm] — without notice: I move —

That this house records its sincere regret at the death of Hon Malcolm John Bryce and tenders its deep sympathy to his family.

Mal Bryce, former Deputy Premier and member for Ascot, was a beloved political figure, local member, husband, father and grandfather. Can I take a moment to acknowledge the members of his family here today in the Speaker's gallery: his wife, Elizabeth; his children Sean, Fiona, Katrina and Samantha—they were just telling me that, against standing orders, they used to run around in the chamber here as children—and their partners Kane, Jax and Geoff; and his grandchildren Max, Abbie, Zoe, Luka and Saxon.

Mal was born to Eric John Bryce, a fitter, and Ruth Lucy Gibson on 10 April 1943 in Bunbury, Western Australia. His parents were fourth-generation residents of the south west. Before receiving his tertiary education at the University of Western Australia and Claremont Teachers College, he attended South Bunbury Primary School and Bunbury Senior High School where he was a much-loved alumni. In his professional life, he taught at Merredin Senior High and Bunbury Senior High School before being the acting senior master economics and history at John Forrest Secondary College. That was his final role before being elected to the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia in the seat of Ascot at a by-election in 1971. That previous role shines through in his maiden speech in which he gave an extended dissertation on the global economy, especially the scourge of stagflation—the defining economic problem of the 1970s. In that speech he highlighted the issue of Western Australia's unemployment rate, which had recently risen from 1.1 per cent to 1.46 per cent. We would obviously aspire to that unemployment rate today.

The by-election at which he was elected to the seat of Ascot was caused by the untimely death of former member and then Speaker of the Assembly, Hon Merv Toms. Given that the then Tonkin Labor government had a majority of one, the stakes in that by-election were very high as the government had been in power for only eight months after 12 years of Liberal–Country Party rule. However, the people of Ascot, in their wisdom, chose to elect Mal Bryce, who would faithfully serve them and the people of Western Australia in this Parliament for the next 17 years.

As local member, shadow spokesperson, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, minister and Deputy Premier, members here today, especially the new ones amongst us, may not be aware of the responsibility Mal had for how our current roles as parliamentarians are performed. He was responsible for the current system of electorate offices and officers. He modernised our state's electoral laws, and although he did not see them completed in office, he was a tireless campaigner to end the gerrymander with one vote, one value reforms. In his beloved portfolio of technology, he championed the idea that WA could be more than just an extractor of primary resources. In his valedictory speech in this Parliament in 1987, he noted his campaign against the belief that, and I quote —

... our eternal economic salvation depends almost exclusively on more and more exciting primary industry projects relating to mining, agricultural, and pastoral activity.

He delivered on that ambition as a minister, delivering Western Australia's first Technology Park in Bentley. He called for two more of them to be established, one of them in Cockburn Sound as a defence technology precinct. Obviously, that is now in existence. He established the first Australian government department responsible for information technology—the Department of Computing and Information Technology. He was a futurist, correctly predicting that WA's future economic performance would be defined by, and I quote his words —

... information technology, advanced materials, biotechnology, micro-electronics, aquiculture and medical technology.

He was also responsible for the establishment of many other features of modern Western Australian government and life, including Scitech and the Small Business Development Corporation. In his final speech to Parliament, he noted that Western Australia had never sent a scientist to our Parliament. The Parliamentary Library informs me that despite many teachers, lecturers and medical doctors, that is still the case.

Even after his parliamentary career ended with his retirement from this place in 1988, he continued to advocate for his passions. He was a pioneer for the internet in Australia, especially in how it allowed for engagement with business and government. In 1993, in Ipswich, he was an architect of the nation's first online community. He

served as chairperson of the Western Australian Technology and Industry Advisory Council. He was chairperson of the Australian Centre for Innovation and International Competitiveness at the University of Sydney. He was a foundation co-chairman of the Australian Greenhouse Information Service and a director of Bankwest. He was a member of the Prime Minister's Science and Engineering Council. He served as chairman of iVEC since its inception in 2003 to 2013, and oversaw its transformation into the Pawsey Supercomputing Centre at Technology Park Bentley, Western Australia.

Just on that, as I said, Mal was a futurist. He was talking about these issues before any parliamentarian had even heard of them. When he left Parliament, he referred to these issues. Every time people met him, he was always talking about the information superhighway. I remember the first time that I ever met him, over 20 years ago, he was talking about something and I did not even know what it was. He was far in front of everyone else in public life on those issues in, I suspect, not just Western Australia, but also the entire country. His vision on those issues was beyond anything members could imagine because it was so far advanced from the ordinary problems of the day. He was truly a visionary. The esteem in which Mal has been held in Western Australia cannot be understated. In 1989, he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to the Western Australian Parliament. In 2017, he was awarded the Pearcey Medal for his contribution to the national ICT industry. In 2017, he was awarded life membership of the Western Australian branch of the Australian Labor Party. He has been a beloved figure and mentor to many in the Western Australian Parliament and the Labor Party.

He was a great believer in Western Australia, the capacity of Western Australians and Western Australian democracy. Always a futurist, in his retirement speech he implored members not to worry about retiring, and when we feel that maybe we cannot do our job anymore, not to rely on inertia and doing our job on cruise control. Many people have taken that up! His reason for saying that was his belief that in a healthy democracy, there are always thousands of keen and competent men and women to take our place. Once again, he got it right, because the people of Ascot elected as his replacement another future Deputy Premier and highly respected Western Australian, Eric Ripper. Gifted with compassion, foresight and ambition for his state, Mal Bryce was an exemplary representative and will be sorely missed by this place, the Labor Party, and his family and friends.

In closing, I attended Mal's funeral service on Monday and heard some of the speeches by some of his friends over the years and some of the speeches prepared and delivered by some of his family members who are here today. One of the things I have not referred to about Mal is that he loved fishing. There is a famous photo of Mal going fishing. He was a genuine lover of fishing. He had some interesting experiences on boats, as one of his old friends relayed. He enjoyed and loved the ocean. Mal was also a very keen gardener. In his retirement years in particular, he took to gardening with a huge passion and was quite an expert gardener.

He had a deep love and respect for the Labor Party. He was one of the people who over the course of his life remained loyal. His loyalty was profound. I had many meetings with him and he raised lots of issues with me. In fact, the last meeting I had with him was a few weeks ago, when he talked about the future of work, which relates to his ideas, thinking and work on information technology and how we need to prepare for the jobs of the decades and centuries to come. He had some great ideas in that regard—ideas that we will take up. Mal did all those things, and they were all outlined in the speeches.

I want to concentrate briefly on Mal's love for his family. He loved his family greatly, which came through in the addresses at his funeral, and it is clear that the people from his family who spoke at his funeral loved him dearly in return. Mal's wife, Elizabeth, is here today. It is interesting that they met at high school, not even in their final year of high school but about three or four years before the end of high school. They were truly life partners and deeply devoted to each other. I know that his family will be feeling deeply the loss of Mal, and in particular the health difficulties that he faced in the last 18 years of his life. Today's condolence motion reflects a person who was a great Western Australian and highly respected. Mal did so much for our state, and he will be sorely missed.

Members: Hear, hear!

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Leader of the Opposition) [12.13 pm]: I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier and on behalf of the opposition offer my condolences to Mal Bryce's family on his passing.

In politics, there can be some enmity between both sides, but Mal Bryce will be remembered by both sides of politics as a thoroughly decent person. He was a thought leader before his time, who progressed innovation and technology in government.

Mal Bryce was a traditional Labor man, as the Premier has indicated. He was born in Bunbury. His father was a fitter. He was educated at South Bunbury Primary School and Bunbury Senior High School. He obtained a bachelor's degree and trained as a teacher at the University of Western Australia and the then Claremont Teachers College, before teaching at Merredin Senior High School from 1964 to 1966. He then spent the next three years teaching at his old school in Bunbury.

Mal had an interest in politics from a young age. In 1961, at the age of 18, he joined the Labor Party, and in 1966, at the age of 23, he was preselected for the federal division of Moore, a safe conservative seat. In 1970, he secured nomination for the third position on the ALP ticket for the Senate election of 1970, a notable achievement at the

age of 27, in an era in which it was unusual for young candidates to gain preselection. Mal polled 43.2 per cent of the vote, which was insufficient to win the third ALP Senate seat, but he was the last candidate standing in the final distribution. The sudden death of the then Speaker, Hon Merv Toms, in October 1971 created a by-election for the district of Ascot, which straddled the Swan River and included most of Bayswater, Rivervale, Redcliffe and Belmont. At that time, the Tonkin government held a one-seat majority, and the loss of Ascot would have unseated the government and reversed the result of the 1971 election. Mal Bryce was selected by the ALP for this vital contest, contested by a high-profile Liberal candidate, the future Senator Fred Chaney. On 13 November 1971, Mal Bryce retained Ascot, polling 53.4 per cent of the vote and an absolute majority of 830 votes over four candidates. After the 1971 by-election, no minor party ventured to oppose him. He was a popular local member. In five subsequent general elections, he easily defeated successive Liberal candidates in a seat that was not always safe for Labor. At the 1977 election, his lowest margin was 2 400 votes, or 59.0 per cent of the vote, while in three other elections he polled more than double the votes of his Liberal opponents.

Mal Bryce soon made his mark in the Legislative Assembly and the public arena, partly as a strong proponent of electoral reform, as the Premier indicated. In Opposition after 1974, he served in various shadow portfolios, as well as in various party positions. Mal was elected Deputy Leader of the Opposition after the 1977 election, serving until 1980. Mal Bryce and Brian Burke set aside their former rivalry, and in September 1981 Mal regained the deputy's position, with Brian Burke being elected as leader. Brian Burke has said of him that "his personal ambition was submerged into a bigger, more generous ambition for the Labor Party". That was noted throughout Mal's career. They were to prove a strong, mutually supportive team, which eventually swept to electoral victory in February 1983.

In government, Malcolm Bryce was Deputy Premier and successively Minister for Economic Development and Technology; Industrial Development, Technology and Defence Liaison, Small Business and Communications; and Industry and Technology. Way back then, I was a senior bureaucrat in his department for a period of time. Prior to 1983, there had been no mention of technology as a portfolio responsibility. This was Mal Bryce's constructive political passion, and those who had interaction with Mal can still hear his cries to focus on technology and innovation. As I said at the outset, he was a thought leader.

As is well known, in February 1988, after exactly five years in office, both Brian Burke and Malcolm Bryce resigned as Premier and Deputy Premier and from Parliament. Mal was aged only 45 at the time. I can still remember, as I am sure can many members, the defining picture of Mal Bryce and Brian Burke walking side by side, fishing rods in hand, to do new things and go fishing. Mal did not ease into retirement but commenced a new career as a management consultant and company director in the field of technology. I kept up with him during all those years, and he pleaded with everyone he talked to, including me, to focus on technology because it was going to transform our lives, and he was right.

In 1989, Mal was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia. He enjoyed the respect of his political opponents, in an era of considerable partisan bitterness. He was never personally tainted by the controversies of WA Inc during the 1990s. Mal Bryce served in many corporate and institutional positions during his time, including as an adjunct professor at Curtin University, which fittingly awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1993. From 2001, he was an e-commerce consultant and company director, living at Australind near his original home town of Bunbury. Mal Bryce leaves a positive record in politics, business and community life. He achieved political success at a young age but gave in to neither hubris, bitterness nor rancour in parliamentary battles. He was a moderniser within his party and within government, and subsequently within the community, driven by his commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship and giving back to our community.

On behalf of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, I express our sympathy to Mrs Liz Bryce, to Mal's children, Sean, Katrina, Fiona and Samantha, and their partners, and to Mal's seven grandchildren. You can all be rightly proud of his service to our state.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [12.19 pm]: On behalf of the Nationals WA, I rise to contribute to the condolence motion for Malcolm John Bryce, a former Labor Party member and Deputy Premier of this state. Firstly, I express our sincere condolences to his family and friends, especially his wife, Liz Bryce, their children—Sean, Fiona, Katrina and Samantha and their respective partners—and grandchildren. They are seated in the Speaker's gallery today.

Mal Bryce was 28 years of age in 1971 when first elected to this place in the seat of Ascot, making him one of the select group of Western Australian politicians who were under 30 years old when first elected to the WA Parliament. Malcolm was a highly respected WA politician with a parliamentary career that spanned 17 years, and he played an active role in the political lay party that extended well beyond that. As the Premier said, his achievements in technology and technological advancement clearly demonstrated it to be an area dear to him. He led the way in this Parliament and became the first Minister for Economic Development and Technology. He laid the foundations for so many of the improvements we see the benefits of today. We can add the establishment of the SciTech Discovery Centre and Technology Park Bentley, which is still home to tech-based businesses and various start-ups, to Mal's list of achievements in his short but very colourful career.

It is interesting to read the thoughts of former members in *Hansard*. My family and I have known Mal and his niece, Tammy March, who lives in my electorate, for a very long time. Tammy always speaks very highly of Mal, and she is now the president of the Carnarvon branch of WA Labor. We are friends, but may become frenemies in that respect!

It is interesting to see what Mal is recorded as saying in *Hansard* of Tuesday, 7 December 1971. We still have the same fights today. Although he thought well ahead when it came to technology, some might think he was backward-thinking on the electoral system and the metropolitan and country divide. He raised the issue of the number of electors in certain electorates and mentioned the Shire of Ashburton, which is now in my electorate. He said —

The supporters of the Lord Forrest at that time included nine members of the Legislative Assembly who together represented a grand total of 1,280 people. This figure included the seat of Ashburton, with an enrolment of 42 electors, of whom I believe only 11 were resident while the rest voted by proxy.

At the same time the seats of Kalgoorlie and Boulder with 17,000 electors on the roll were represented by two members in the Parliament. The district of Kanowna, containing 13,000 people, was entitled to only one representative; whilst a little elementary arithmetic indicates that 19 of the members who supported Lord Forrest represented the same number of people.

That fight continues today between the National, Labor and other major parties. He went on to say —

Lord Forrest rationalised this situation. Here I quote from an extract appearing in *Hansard* in which Lord Forrest said that the goldfields were “plains fertile in radicalism.” I could not for one minute believe this to be the reason why Governments in the State subsequent to the time of Lord Forrest, have discriminated against the people in the metropolitan area.

Those words probably ring true today, and it is interesting that he had the foresight to want reform to the parliamentary process; obviously, some people over this side disagree with that.

As someone who knew Mal for a long time, on behalf of the Catania family I offer my sincere condolences. He was a very respected individual, no matter the political allegiance. Mal had respect right across the board. I got to know him in his later life in his roles outside politics. He was always very active in pushing the advancement of technology throughout the state, but more importantly he was a good and genuine bloke. Tammy March speaks extremely highly of her uncle. She is very proud of being a member of the Labor Party and following in his footsteps. Condolences from the National Party and the Catania family.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Premier) [12.25 pm]: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Mal was a giant on the public policy and political landscape. He had a profound effect upon my life as a politician and community member, and he was in large part an exemplar of how we should work as politicians—members of Parliament—and representatives of the community, but also how we should live our lives in the balancing of our passion for our work with our love of our families and making sure we have the opportunity to share in that.

I begin by acknowledging the members of his family in the Speaker’s gallery: his wife, Elizabeth; his children, Sean, Fiona, Katrina and Samantha, and their partners, Kane, Jax and Geoff; and his grandchildren, Max, Abbie, Zoe, Luka and Saxon. Mal Bryce was a former Deputy Premier and member for Ascot who was a beloved political figure, local member, husband, father, grandfather and mentor. He was a lifelong member of the Labor Party who served as Deputy Premier between 1983 and 1988, and served in state Parliament for 18 years. He was a friend, mentor and great Labor champion. At the risk of giving away some of my pedigree, I take members back to about 1981 or 1982. It is a Scotch College politics class, and I think it is fair to say my moral compass had been well and truly set by this point in time by my family and I was very much a loner in this class of political radicals. We were allowed to meet a couple of living politicians and had a great presentation from Hon Allan Rocher, then member for Curtin. He gave an able and dedicated description of the life of a Liberal member of Parliament. Then we had this ball of energy come in the room. A future Deputy Leader of the Opposition—a position I did not aspire to—he was a man with incredible energy and enormous passion. He pretty much set the course for me at that point. From then on I understood where my political path lay—with the Labor Party. He made an extraordinary impact on me that day, and I aspired to be involved with the Labor Party from then on.

Roll forward to about 30 years later; I am shadow Minister for Science at a SciTech function. A somewhat frailer Mal Bryce comes up and says g’day, and I tell him I am humbled to be in his presence. What struck me is that the same passion and energy was as present as it was back in the early 1980s, before he even served as a member of Parliament or Deputy Premier. He was still driven by his passion for science and equipping us to cope with the challenges that would confront us in the future as a community and an economy. He brought to that short conversation the same energy as he did back in the 1980s. I met with him on a number of occasions after that as he continued to mentor me on public policy and the life of a politician.

Last year I had the honour of hosting a lunch for former Labor Deputy Premiers. Don Taylor, a former member for my area, Ian Taylor and Eric Ripper joined me, and of course Mal Bryce was at that lunch as well. One would

have thought we were there for him! I do not think any of us got a word in edgeways as he continued to present to us all that we needed to know, both as former Deputy Premiers and as serving Deputy Premiers at that time. One of his lessons was, “Young fella, young fella, never forget the power of the in-tray. You’d be surprised what can be resolved just by leaving something in the in-tray for a few days and all of a sudden that problem that you’re presented with today can be resolved in the next few days because it takes care of itself!” I do not recommend that for all issues, but it is a powerful tool. His advice was always frank, very practical and incredibly helpful.

As other speakers have reflected upon, Mal Bryce was an incredible champion for the sciences—for many of the innovative changes that have taken place in the public sector. He was responsible for the establishment of the Small Business Development Corporation, the Scitech Discovery Centre, the Department of Computing and Information Technology, and of course I think his grand work was the stewardship of Technology Park, which of course now has the Pawsey supercomputer based at its location. That was in no small part to the ongoing championing and strength of leadership of Mal Bryce. The Square Kilometre Array also owes its place in our state in no small part to the work that he did in the sciences.

I, like the Premier, was honoured to be at the funeral for Mal Bryce on Monday. What struck me was the incredible warmth from his family. This is a man who obviously took as much care with the relationship of his family and worked on the love of and embraced his family as much as he did his professional life. I saw Liz and family as they were coming in today and they remarked that I am now in Mal Bryce’s old office. They also remarked that they had the run of the place as kids! As they said, one of the few ways they got to see dad was to come up to Parliament House of an evening and hang out. I reflected upon the children of the former Attorney General and member for Victoria Park.

Mal was truly ahead of his time. Even though he had long left Parliament, his participation in public policy was as vibrant and as driven as it had always been. It was great to see at his funeral a number of people who worked with him when he was Deputy Premier. It is also true to say that a number of his former ministerial staff felt that they had never really relinquished their duties as his adviser. John Phillimore, who spoke at his funeral, and Warren Harding, who is in the Speaker’s gallery today, were both advisers to him in Parliament. They worked with Mal as recently as a couple of months ago in the body of work that the Premier alluded to—the future of work. Mal Bryce was as energetic and passionate about public policy issues over the last few months as he was in the early days of his political career. Mal was always examining ways our future will be challenged and how we will survive the digital disruption to our lives and how we can thrive through that. He was a true visionary and a true exemplar of public policy.

I thought it was interesting that many of the photos at Mal’s funeral involved him fishing. I am pretty sure this is the case: on the day that he took that walk down the beach with former Premier Brian Burke, with fishing rods and buckets in hand, he did not actually own a fishing rod at that point; he had to borrow the fishing rod to set up the photo! I think we are all guilty from time to time of the perfect media shot. Clearly, from those photos, fishing became a very important part of his life into the future because there were also some photos of some very successful fishing trips.

Mal’s passion for the great Australian Labor Party never ceased. He had energy and commitment. The McGowan government celebrated its first anniversary in office this weekend. Of course Mal was an RSVP to that event. I am so desperately sorry that he could not join us.

Mal had this advice: Always turn up. Always be there. Always make sure that you are committed to your community. Members heard the Leader of the Opposition talk about his prodigious numbers as a member of Parliament in the following that he had in his local community. That is a lesson we can all learn. He retired at the age of 45 years while his energies were strong and his ideas were fresh. That is a lesson we can all learn. He continued to invest heavily in his personal life and in his public policy life. His central passion was to ensure he lived a very happy life. That is a lesson we could all learn as well. Thank you.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [12.35 pm]: I, too, rise today to offer my deepest sympathy to the family of Hon Mal Bryce, AO—his wife, Elizabeth, and their four children, Sean, Katrina, Fiona and Samantha, along with his seven grandchildren. As we have heard, Mal Bryce was a true Labor hero. He served in the Legislative Assembly in the seat of Ascot, which is now mostly my seat of Belmont, from 1971—he was elected at the very young age of 28 years—through to 1988, when he resigned from state Parliament. During his parliamentary career he served as Deputy Premier to Brian Burke. He fiercely championed science and technology as well as electoral reform. The establishment of the Technology Development Authority, Technology Park and the Scitech Discovery Centre were all born out of Mal’s passion and foresight for technology, which we have heard about already from many members. In his extensive and successful career after leaving politics, Mal worked as a company director, a corporate manager, a management consultant, a digital strategist, an author and a public speaker, with a clear focus still on information technology. Mal was awarded an Order of Australia in 1989 in recognition of his contribution to the Western Australian Parliament.

I remember meeting Mal for the first time in 2012 and I was struck by his enthusiasm and energy for public policy. Over the years, he provided sound advice and much inspiration. It was really clear to me that he was truly one of

a kind. Mal was a friend and a mentor. Locals in my electorate still recall his tenacious nature, his warmth, his dedication and his keen intellect. His work to improve the lives of his electors left an enduring legacy. He contributed so much to his electorate, to the Labor Party, and to the state of WA. He was a man of vision, he was a man of integrity, and he was certainly a man I deeply admired. He will be sorely missed by us all.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.37 pm]: I rise to support this condolence motion and offer my condolences to Liz Bryce, Sean, Katrina, Fiona, Samantha, and Mal's seven grandchildren. I have an interesting story about Mal Bryce. Several years ago one of the more infamous constituents in my electorate contacted my electorate office and said, "A good mate of mine, Mal, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. I understand your husband has been fighting that. He's doing it tough—could Hal give him a call?" So my late husband, Hal, struck up a friendship with Mal and the two of them supported each other through their illness. I suspect from what I am hearing about the fishing stories that it is likely a lot of those conversations may well have centred around fishing and boating. With wry amusement, I heard the Leader of the Opposition talk about the parting photo of Mal Bryce and Brian Burke walking along the beach with fishing rods. It is likely those fishing rods were Brian Burke's and it is highly likely that he bought them from our shop. He was a long-time customer of Harvey's Tackle in Scarborough. Over that time, the two men derived a fair bit of support from each other. I will never forget the kindness that Mal showed to me after Hal passed away. He did not need to do that. He was a very humble and kind-hearted man. A kind gesture like that is one that will not be forgotten by me, ever.

I also ran into Mal at a number of the cancer support and cancer research workshops. He got involved in supporting the Australian gastrointestinal trials group, which is a group looking at research into gastrointestinal cancers, trying to find a cure for a disease that has not had a result shift in over 40 years. Mal did not have to do that either. I do not really have much more to add except to say that he struck me as a very humble, very kind-hearted, lovely gentleman. I was very pleased to have met him and I was very pleased for my husband to have provided Mal with some support and for Mal to have struck up that friendship with my late husband. I offer my sincerest condolences. It is a very, very tough thing to go through an experience like you have been through and my heart goes out to you. I know that lovely family that Mal thought so highly of will all stick together and support each other as you move on through the rest of your lives with lovely memories.

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [12:40 pm]: I also rise to speak to the condolence motion to Hon Mal Bryce and I would like to acknowledge Liz Bryce and their four children: Sean; Katrina; Fiona and husband Kane; and Samantha in the Speaker's gallery, together with Mal's grandchildren whom he affectionately referred to as his "grandies" on many, many occasions. I know as we are speaking here today that there will be many, many people on the internet in Bunbury and right around the world looking at today's proceedings, and it is a reflection of the following that Mal had on an international level. I would also like to acknowledge his long-term friends who are in the Speaker's gallery, Peter Kennedy and Warren Harding.

All that Mal has achieved over his life is woven into the life he has had with his family, and especially Liz, and that really came out at the funeral. I met Mal at the beginning of the Gallop government to plan for the implementation of an e-commerce platform for the south west. It was definitely one of those sit-back-and-listen moments! I cannot remember getting many words in edgeways, even though I valiantly tried as a public servant, but Mal clearly had the vision. He had the vision at a time when Amazon was still thought of as a river somewhere in South America and Ali Baba was definitely still firmly attached to the 40 thieves. This was extraordinary vision for the time, but then that was Mal—a person who not only talked about vision, but invented vision and then drove it hard—and from a public sector point of view, I knew all about that. Over the next 17 years we collaborated over many projects, and those projects were driven by Mal's passion to connect everyday people with knowledge, new ideas and an awareness of the future. We hatched a plot for Critical Horizons, which is a futures seminar and conference series still operating today, and in true Mal style all the presentations from those proceedings are on the world wide web, available to everybody. We collaborated on topics such as precision agriculture, the future of telecentres as learning hubs, online universities and the list goes on. He was a great believer in encouraging people to tell their own stories and learn from each other, and we had many a seminar on the impact of technology on business and industry, and we got small businesses around the table telling their stories to each other and learning from each other. I also used to plan for my conversations with Mal, because they would generally last for about an hour—you could not really think about a conversation lasting less than that—so my trips from Bunbury to Perth were pretty well punctuated with long discussions with Mal, generally thinking about the future and about innovation and what lies ahead, and he never lost that passion. He inspired me with his passion for knowledge and learning, and one of the things I really enjoyed was our mutual harassment of Telstra over what Mal referred to as a need for serious broadband. Serious broadband in Mal's mind was 10 to 100 megabits a second for homes, one to 10 gigabits for business and ubiquitous wireless all around. That was at a time when the Telstra boys were talking about one megabit a second if we were lucky.

He later became the master, and I was the apprentice, in the campaign to win the seat of Bunbury. He would insist on regular inspections of the soles of my shoes to prove the extent of my doorknocking and the keeping of a war book to ensure I followed up on the detail of every single inquiry or constituent matter that came up. He taught me

the value of being a parish politician—looking after our electorates, advocating for our electorates and making sure that as far as possible people who were running policy agendas understood the need to marry those policy agendas to the needs of our electorates. The campaign was punctuated with plenty of visits to Mal's favourite Chinese restaurant, and I certainly learned about yum cha lunches! He never lost his Labor values. He always, always talked to me about the values of why I was standing for Bunbury. I was so pleased when my good friend Gordon Hill, in his last conversation with Mal, promised on behalf of us all that we would continue to fight and uphold those Labor values.

Mal's story has its beginnings in Bunbury, but it really starts with the love story between a head boy of the Bunbury Senior High School, Mal, and the head girl, Liz. That has carried on for over 50 years and together as a partnership they have made a fantastic contribution. On the day that Mal passed he was to give an address at the Bunbury Senior High School's centennial celebration. He was not able to do that, but in vintage Mal style he had an alternative outcome and planned for his great friend Peter Kennedy to deliver it on his behalf. It is perhaps symbolic that Mal's final address was delivered at the school he loved and his legacy will live on. Mal is a friend I will not forget and I pass on our deepest condolences to the family.

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland — Minister for Police) [12:46 pm]: Malcolm John Bryce joined the Parliament in 1971 and rose to be Deputy Premier of the state. Although it is true that he left this place before some of the present members were even born, we all live with his achievements. Mal had been a teacher before he came to Parliament and he brought with him the insights of that honourable profession. He was keen on new technology and the economic and human benefits that it offered. Mal used his time in government to reform and create. Those businesses that have benefited from the support of the Small Business Development Corporation can thank Mal. Those firms that have located at WA Technology Park can thank Mal. Those of us who have taken our kids to Scitech can thank Mal. Mal's achievements in both the Parliament and post-parliamentary life were recognised through a number of honours. These recognised public life that went far beyond this Parliament and reflected on the dedication of a man with vision and imagination. He was a pioneer of e-commerce and a promoter of technological innovation, including the Pawsey supercomputer project at WA Technology Park and the Square Kilometre Array project. Mal was a man who saw public life as an opportunity to do something positive for the people of Western Australia. This was not only in his commitment to new technology, but also in his determination to bring real democracy to Western Australia. This was something, as has been noted, that he outlined in his first speech in this place in 1971 and then took the lead in with a series of incremental and actual reforms that have slowly but firmly guided the state to the point at which this house is fairly elected. I am sure the spirit of Mal Bryce will be there urging on the member for Cannington in his own endeavours to continue that process by reforming the electoral travesty that is the Legislative Council. Mal Bryce was a man of vision and achievement, of principle and passion. I mourn his passing and I extend my condolences to his wife, Liz, his family and his very many close friends.

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale) [12:48 pm]: I also rise to contribute to this condolence motion for Hon Mal Bryce. Mal Bryce will always hold a very significant part in the modern history of Western Australia in politics and will forever be a Labor icon and hero. I think Mal as a politician is what we should all aspire to be as politicians—that is, people who are interested in politics for the purpose of improving the lot of our fellow citizens and also making the state of Western Australia a vibrant, modern place to live and work in.

Over the last year or so I was fortunate to get to know Mal on a more personal level. I remember one particularly fantastic evening at his house with Mal and Liz, my wife, Mandy, and mutual friends Gordon and Di Hill sharing a meal of Chinese cuisine. As other members have mentioned already, Mal had many opinions and it was always hard to get your own opinion in front of Mal! During a wideranging discussion over Chinese cuisine, we talked about technology, electoral reform, economic reform and, interestingly, euthanasia. He had some very passionate and committed views on euthanasia, and I am sure that the current Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices would have been interested to hear his views.

Anyone who met Mal would also be struck by his intelligence and his thirst for public policy development and debate, but Mal was also a person who was very caring of others and very respectful, and just a fair dinkum good bloke. I remember a few months ago, when he was going through a particularly bad period with his health, he asked me through Gordon Hill whether I would be the alternative executor of his will, to which I agreed. We then spent a number of days trying to contact each other and even though he was not in good health, he persisted until he finally got hold of me, only to say thank you; he thought it was very important to thank me for agreeing to be his alternative executor.

I think that exemplifies the person he was. Even though he was in ill health and suffering at the time, he thought it was good manners and respectful to show his appreciation when someone agreed to do something that he asked.

To Liz and to the family, condolences from me and Mandy. He will forever be an icon in Western Australian politics and the Australian Labor Party.

Members: Hear, hear!

MR W.R. MARMION (Nedlands) [12.51 pm]: I rise to speak to the condolence motion and to pass on my condolences to the family. I was at the 100th anniversary dinner in Bunbury for Bunbury Senior High School two weeks ago, at which Mal was scheduled to deliver the keynote speech. It was good that Peter Kennedy could take over and read out the speech that Mal had prepared, so Mal's speech was actually delivered by Peter Kennedy.

I was fortunate enough to be at Bunbury Senior High School in the period from 1967 to 1969. My form teacher in 1969 was Mrs Bryce. I know her as Mrs Bryce; it is very hard for me to say Liz, because for me she is Mrs Bryce and she still looks the same as she did then! I cannot believe that they were so young. I suppose we were so young in high school that the teachers looked old, but I cannot believe that Mal Bryce was in his early 20s when he was a teacher there. I thought he was a senior master of social studies; he probably was. We were fortunate at Bunbury Senior High School to have outstanding teachers, and Mal was one of them. It is not surprising that he went on to be Deputy Premier of Western Australia.

It is fair to say that I was probably a bit of a right-wing type at Bunbury Senior High School; there were at least three of us out of the 150! Mal was running a very serious campaign against the sitting member for Forrest, Gordon Freeth, later to become Sir Gordon Freeth. My parents knew Gordon Freeth and I and my little group of three or four were, I guess, razzed a lot about my family's connections with the Freeths. Mal had a little VW car with "Kirwan for Forrest" written all over it; you could only see red. Mal was running the 1969 federal election campaign for Frank Kirwan against the sitting federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, and he got Frank Kirwan across the line. So Mal, as the mid-20-year-old chairman of Frank Kirwan's election campaign, basically managed to unseat the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs. Obviously, he then went on to enter politics himself and eventually became Deputy Premier.

In my day a lot of people left school after doing the Junior Certificate, so on their last day, they could go around and cause some sort of hell in the school. I remember being in the foyer of Bunbury Senior High School, outside the principal's office, and there were photos of all the different prefects of the various years. I was looking at this photo and I realised, "There's Mrs Bryce and Mr Bryce!" They had both been prefects, but the interesting thing about Mr Bryce's photo was that his face had been blanked out. I actually inquired as to why Mal's face had been blanked out and was told that he had been a bit naughty on the last day of his final year—these days year 12—and he threw an egg. I asked, "What's wrong with that?" Apparently, the egg had hit a teacher! I could not believe this, because Mr Bryce was the most conservative person I had ever met, would not hurt a flea, and was, I believe, a great Western Australian. I could not reconcile Mr Bryce throwing an egg that unluckily hit a teacher! Unfortunately, the school had gone to the bother of blanking out his photo, which I thought was a big disgrace. It has bothered me ever since, because it was unfair; but anyway, he got over that, and became Deputy Premier!

I had the privilege later on in life to become Minister for Science. Mal was on the Technology and Industry Advisory Council, which he set up, I believe. He was still on that committee when I became Minister for Science. I knew Mal quite well by then; I had run into him at a few functions, and I will mention one story, before I forget it, about Capel Vale Wines and the duck logo on its bottles. He spent at least five minutes telling me that he had advised the owner of Capel Vale Wines that they should not have had a black duck on their bottles because it was not a very good marketing tool. He was constantly advising them to get rid of the black duck, and I think they have now faded it out so it cannot be seen so much and it does not have a great big black duck on it anymore; but I digress!

Mal explained to me, as the new Minister for Science, what we needed to do for technology; I am sure everyone in this chamber has heard Mal talk about that. I think he had thought that it was time for him to go, but I wanted him to remain on the TIAC. I changed the name to the science council and Mal, in true bipartisanship and as a terrific proponent of science, remained on the council. I know he was still passionate about technology until some weeks ago.

With those few stories, I pass on my best wishes to the Bryce family.

Members: Hear, hear!

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [12.57 pm]: I rise to briefly pass on my condolences to the family of Mal Bryce. When I moved to Western Australia in 1989, Mal had already retired from Parliament. I met him through the Swan electorate council at that time and he set a great example that we should all follow in that when he left politics, he did not try to say what was bad about the people who followed him; rather, he gave proper advice about the ways in which they could improve. He was a positive influence on my small role in the party at that time.

When I became assistant state secretary, Mal, with a group of other people, helped to set up the Labor business roundtable. In 1999 Mal encouraged me to organise an event at which a speaker made a presentation on the opportunities available through the internet and the challenges for government in regulating the internet. In 1999, when most people would not have had a clue what the internet was, Mal was making sure that the Labor Party was thinking about how to respond in a policy sense to the challenges and opportunities presented by the internet.

On behalf of my wife, Hon Kate Doust, MLC, I note the huge assistance that Mal gave her in her role as shadow Minister for Science in the lead-up to the 2017 election. I know she found his help, advice, introductions and knowledge to be very helpful and a major part of her role. I know that she takes Mal's passing very much to heart.

When I was fortunate enough to join the McGowan cabinet last year, one of the first people to ring me up and ask to come and see me was Mal, and I was very, very pleased to once again have him come to sit in my office and talk to me. The first thing he wanted to talk about was the Technology and Industry Advisory Council, which he had set up as a minister. I had to disappoint him by letting him know that, although I was listed on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website as the relevant minister, it was in fact passing to my good friend the member for Bassendean. He was very disappointed, because he had many good ideas about how to further develop the council and the technology park, and take other opportunities. I referred him on to the member for Bassendean, the Minister for Science, because I knew he would get a good hearing there as well. It just shows his enthusiasm and the fact that nothing could stop him from making sure that he was going to be useful.

He talked to me about one vote, one value because, as the member for Midland points out, that is now my responsibility. He again outlined his passion for the need for democracy to be implemented in full here in Western Australia. It is disappointing that we had not been able to achieve democracy in Western Australia before Mal passed away, because I think it would have been one of the great joys for him if we had been able to achieve one vote, one value for everybody in Western Australia during his lifetime. Having said that, I am appreciative of the fact that he and a number of other people with whom he was continually in touch continued to advocate in the community for one vote, one value. I understand that will only be achieved when the community understands why it is so important.

I want to finish by acknowledging Mal's life membership, conferred at last year's state conference. I know that everybody on this side of the chamber was there when Mal was awarded that life membership. It was one of those great occasions when we know that everybody in the room thought it was such a wonderful award. His speech was genuinely inspiring, and I think one of the reasons for that was that he put his life story and his contribution to the party in the context of the modern challenges. The point he made was that the ALP today has to face the issues of today. The history of the party is the foundation for us, but it is not the determination of our agenda. He made the point that the policies of the modern Labor Party could not be determined by its history. They must be determined by the challenges of the day. It was very insightful for a man who had made such a great contribution, before he entered Parliament, while he was in Parliament, and equally after he left. Vale Mal Bryce.

MR M. HUGHES (Kalamunda) [1.02 pm]: I rise to make a brief contribution to the condolence motion for Hon Malcolm John Bryce. I have listened with a great deal of interest to the contributions made by members of this place to honouring Mal's life and contribution to the state as a teacher, a member of this Parliament and a member of governments, and also his continuing involvement with and interest in technology and science. I got to know Mal Bryce directly very shortly after my election on 11 March. I got a phone call on 13 March, and the person on the phone said, "Mal Bryce here; congratulations, you've knocked off John Day. I want to come along and tell you how you can hold onto the seat and make it a Labor seat for a continuing future. I want to assist in organising your campaign. When can we meet?" Our meetings took place, all too sadly, on a series of Fridays over a few months, until the return of Mal's illness. I am deeply grateful to him. He was not at that stage inspecting the soles of my shoes, but no doubt, given half the opportunity he would have done so, in relation to my contribution to ensuring Labor was returned to government, and that we held onto the seat of Kalamunda.

Much more indirectly, I got to know Mal Bryce, through Fiona Bryce, who came to teach art at John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School, many years ago, when I was principal there. I have a very personal connection and relationship with Fiona. She is an exemplary teacher, and very evidently made a significant contribution to my school. Fiona, I want to express personally my deep condolences to you, to Liz, and to your family, including Mal's grandchildren. It is with great regret that my continuing association with Mal was brought to an end before it had really begun. I thank the house for allowing me to make a small contribution to this condolence motion.

The SPEAKER: I request all members to rise for one minute's silence in order to carry the motion, please.

Question passed; members and officers standing as a mark of respect.

STANTON ROAD AND SECOND STREET, REDCLIFFE

Petition

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [1.06 pm]: I have a petition that has been certified by the Clerks, from 61 petitioners, in the following terms —

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

We, the undersigned say the rat running along Stanton Road and Second Street Redcliffe by vehicles seeking to enter the Airport Estate via Central Avenue is creating stressful and hazardous traffic

conditions for residents of Stanton Road and Second Street, and local schools. The situation is hazardous now but it is proposed that 1 200 vehicles per hour will use Stanton Road and Second Street in the near future, which will put lives at risk. Now we ask the Legislative Assembly

1. That the Minister for Transport, Planning, Land meet with local residents as soon as possible on site.
2. That the Minister for Transport take action to stop the aforementioned rat running on Stanton Road and Second Street before someone is seriously injured.

[See petition 70.]

PAPERS TABLED

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

TERRORISM (EXTRAORDINARY POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Notice of Motion to Introduce

Notice of motion given by **Mrs M.H. Roberts (Minister for Police)**.

RIDE FOR YOUTH

Statement by Minister for Mental Health

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Mental Health) [1.09 pm]: I rise to inform the house that next week I will be riding from Albany to Perth in the annual Hawaiian Ride for Youth to raise funds and awareness for youth mental health. I am passionate about physical activity and the benefits that exercise can have on our wellbeing and I hope that this event can encourage others to take up positive methods to improve their own mental health. The annual Ride for Youth is a major fundraiser for Youth Focus, a WA not-for-profit organisation working with young people aged 12 to 25. Each year an estimated 15 000 young people participate in one of their educational, preventive and treatment programs. The programs assist our youth to help overcome issues associated with depression, anxiety, self-harm and suicidal thoughts through the provision of free, unlimited and professional face-to-face individual counselling and other mental health services.

The Hawaiian Ride for Youth is held across four and a half days with riders covering over 700 kilometres on their way from Albany or Geraldton to Perth. While cycling through towns in WA's south west, great southern, wheatbelt and midwest, my fellow riders and I will visit high schools to engage with students on issues of youth suicide, depression, anxiety and self-harm.

The purpose of the Hawaiian Ride for Youth is to remove the stigma surrounding youth mental health and to raise essential funds to enable Youth Focus to build a more resilient community. I thank the house for its support of this worthy initiative to raise awareness for youth mental health and look forward to the member for Churchlands joining me in the event next year.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER MICHELLE FYFE — RETIREMENT

Statement by Minister for Police

MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland — Minister for Police) [1.10 pm]: I rise today to pay tribute to Assistant Commissioner Michelle Fyfe, whose retirement from the WA Police Force was announced last week. Michelle Fyfe has been a real trailblazer for women in the Western Australia Police Force. Graduating from the WA Police Academy in 1984, she became one of the state's few female detectives in 1988, and in 2002 was the first woman to join the major incident group. She has been a leader and a role model for women and for diversity in policing. She was, for example, the WA Police Force's inaugural gay and lesbian liaison officer.

She has made a major contribution to issues of domestic violence, having served as a member of the national domestic violence working group and as the co-chair of the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme project board. In WA, she set up the family violence specialist case team. She has served as commander of state traffic operations and, as Assistant Commissioner, discharged a significant range of portfolio responsibilities. When leading the state crime division, she oversaw the operation Macro task force and the ongoing fight against methamphetamine abuse. Her achievements have been recognised by a number of awards, most notably the Australian Police Medal in 2012, and her nomination as WA Telstra Business Woman of the Year in 2017.

Assistant Commissioner Fyfe will take up an appointment as CEO of St John Ambulance WA later this year, the first woman to hold the post in its 125-year history. I am sure that the house will join me in thanking her for her service and wishing her and her husband Mark well for the future. In particular, I would like to wish her well as she takes up her new opportunity as the CEO of St John Ambulance.

TRUE SPORT PROGRAM*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [1.12 pm]: Sport is a fundamental part of our cultural identity in Western Australia. The basic personal values we value as a society all develop from participation in sport, and True Sport is about highlighting these. These include teamwork, trying our best in failure and success, overcoming adversity, and competing hard while showing respect, discipline and leadership. The sport and recreation setting also showcases broader concepts of inclusion, cohesion, belonging, volunteerism, and social capital building, which have far-reaching beneficial impacts for our communities. However, these benefits are not always automatically recognised or well-articulated, and with a growing list of highly publicised incidents of sports stars behaving badly, all of which threaten the integrity of sport, the positive benefits sport delivers are at risk of being overshadowed.

Sport provides the environment within which our kids learn that it takes hard work to collect a medal or award in front of their friends, parents and coaches; that there is no shame in losing a match when they have given their all; and to celebrate the efforts of everyone involved. This builds resilience, shared pride and achievements, and a culture of good sportsmanship and being true sports in our young people as they grow up. Our True Sport program is a values-driven campaign that uses the promotion of positive behaviours in sport and recreation to help address these challenges. Outcomes to be achieved by the True Sport campaign include reinforcing the value of sport and recreation in our community; a refocus on youth engagement in sport and how sport can help build resilience; an understanding that sport does this by letting our kids compete, which is having fun, to win and lose, to fail and succeed, to be picked and not be picked; and promoting initiatives to reconnect past players to clubs to support intergenerational interaction in our community.

A focus of the program will be to highlight that multi-sport participation is critical and early specialisation in one sport should be discouraged. The eight values of True Sport represent what connects our community, making it a safer, happier and healthier place to live: giving back, playing fair, showing respect, being healthy, including everyone, being safe, bringing our best and, of course, having fun. True Sport was recently officially launched by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and I look forward to everyone in the chamber supporting this initiative. I table the program.

[See paper 1197.]

CAROLINE SPENCER — AUDITOR GENERAL — APPOINTMENT*Statement by Treasurer*

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park — Treasurer) [1.15 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to formally announce that Ms Caroline Spencer will be taking up the role as Western Australia's next Auditor General. Ms Spencer has most recently been the managing partner and co-founder of Canberra-based professional services firm Vista Advisory. She holds significant experience as a specialist in public sector audit, risk and governance review at a state and federal level.

In 2015, Ms Spencer conducted an official review of the Office of the Auditor General in Western Australia and as such has a significant understanding of the role she is about to embark upon. Ms Spencer was selected from a field of 33 applicants and will be the first female Auditor General in Western Australia. Her 10-year term will commence on 28 May this year.

On behalf of the Western Australian government, I would like to congratulate Ms Spencer for her appointment. The Auditor General plays an important role in keeping governments accountable and I am sure that Ms Spencer will perform this duty admirably. I would also like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the outgoing Auditor General, Mr Colin Murphy, for his extraordinary service to the Western Australian public over the last 10 years, and wish him all the very best in his new endeavours.

INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP — ESTABLISHMENT*Statement by Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations*

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations) [1.16 pm]: Improving payment protections for subcontractors and suppliers in the building and construction industry is a priority for the McGowan Labor government. Procedures implemented in December 2016 by the last government have proved inadequate and the McGowan government is determined to go further. On 22 February 2018, I announced the establishment of an industry advisory group to facilitate industry consultation on legislative reforms to improve payment protections for subcontractors and suppliers. The IAG will ensure that we make well-informed reforms, which will improve the health of the building and construction industry. Unfortunately, there are no easy fixes to the longstanding and complex issues surrounding payment problems in the industry, so we need to make sure that we get it right.

The IAG will examine the merits of a range of actions and initiatives including amendments to the Building Services (Registration) Act 2011 to ensure a more robust and responsible registration framework for registered building contractors; the need for new or amending legislation to provide fairer contracting practices in the industry; improving the operation of the rapid adjudication process for the resolution of payment disputes under the Construction Contracts Act 2004; and introducing statutory trust arrangements to protect funds owed down the contracting chain in the event a head contractor on the project experiences financial difficulties.

The IAG is being chaired by an independent barrister, Mr John Fiocco, who is being assisted by Hon Matthew Swinbourn, MLC, member for East Metropolitan Region, and will formally report to me later in the year. Moving forward, the recommendations of this report will, in turn, assist the McGowan government to bring about genuine change and improvement to the security of payment for subcontractors. Formal letters of invitation for membership of the IAG have been extended to key stakeholder groups, including government works agencies, unions and peak industry associations. This will ensure a balanced representation of membership across the building and construction industry. The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety is leading work on coordinating the IAG, and arrangements are in place for the first meeting of this group on 26 March.

I look forward to updating the house in due course on the McGowan government's ongoing work on improving protections for subcontractors.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018

Statement by Minister for Women's Interests

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Women's Interests) [1.20 pm]: I rise to speak about International Women's Day 2018, held around 8 March. This is an opportunity to celebrate just how far we have come in striving for gender equality, but also how far we still have to go. This year's theme, #PressforProgress, is a timely call to action at a time when economists estimate that gender parity is more than 200 years away. Of the many events I attended, I would like to share some highlights. The WA Women's Hall of Fame, supported by the McGowan government, inducted a further 14 women of outstanding achievement across the state.

I had the pleasure of presenting commemorative pins to these outstanding women, including our 2018 Western Australian of the Year, Dr Tracy Westerman; philanthropist and champion of early childhood, Nicola Forrest; volunteer campaigner and equality defender, Hazel Butorac; and early education advocate and unionist, Helen Creed. I attended the Women in Resources Awards to present the Outstanding Company Initiative Award to Rio Tinto for achieving White Ribbon accreditation.

The year 2018 was particularly auspicious for WA as we celebrated 80 years since the first International Women's Day event was held here in Perth at the Town Hall. The event we held this year reflected the original gathering, where a writer, a doctor, a lawyer and an activist spoke with passion and conviction about gender equality.

Our social media campaign has shared facts, statistics and infographics about the status of women. We have profiled some incredible women who are achieving great things in our state. Today I posted a video of seven-year-old Madeline Parker, who was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in October 2015. She received chemotherapy, endured weekly needles and suffered from hair loss, fatigue and nausea before her active treatment concluded late last year. In the video I have just posted she has said that when she grows up, she would like to be a scientist and, to quote her, "Women can do anything". This leaves me excited about the change we can all bring for the next generation and I remain committed to #PressforProgress.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL) BILL 2018

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Minister for Local Government)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government) [1.23 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

It gives me great pleasure to deliver an important local government reform of the McGowan government with the introduction of the Local Government Amendment (Suspension and Dismissal) Bill 2018. As members are aware, local governments are the closest tier of government to the community, performing a vital role within our society through the provision of essential services to the community. The Local Government Act 1995 provides the framework within which local governments operate. The act is based on the principle of general competence—that is, that local governments are in the best position to make decisions for their local community and should be given the autonomy to do so. There are, however, clear limitations on this power in a number of areas. There is no ability to suspend or dismiss an individual council member. This bill addresses these limitations.

In 2012, Parliament gave the minister the power to suspend a council or require members to undertake remedial action when the seriousness or duration of a suspected failure of a local government to perform its functions properly made it inappropriate for the council to continue to act. The minister does not, however, have the ability to suspend an individual council member whose conduct is disruptive, is creating health and safety issues for staff members, or is undermining the local government itself. This bill addresses these situations.

As many members know from being former elected members of local governments, the majority of council members are hardworking representatives of our community who give up their time with the aim of improving their local area. Sometimes, however, dysfunctional behaviour can degrade the reputation of local governments and deter good people from nominating to be members. The state government is duty bound to ensure that the community is given the local government that it expects and deserves, and good governance. This bill will give the minister the power to suspend and/or order an individual council member to undertake remedial action when the minister is satisfied that it is inappropriate for the council member to continue to act as a member of council without intervention.

The triggers for this intervention are: a council member is charged with an offence that, if convicted, will disqualify them from being a council member; the departmental chief executive officer has referred an allegation or allegations of serious breach or recurrent breaches of the act to the State Administrative Tribunal; the council member is failing to perform their role, functions or duties as defined in the act and the minister is satisfied that the seriousness or duration of the suspected failure requires intervention; or the council member's conduct is adversely affecting the ability of another person, including employees or the local government itself, to perform their functions or duties and the minister is satisfied that the seriousness or duration of the suspected conduct requires intervention.

The purpose of this reform is to protect the public interest and the system of local government by facilitating a timely intervention by the minister. The existing methods of dealing with misbehaviour in the longer term, such as through the courts or the State Administrative Tribunal, will underpin the new suspension powers. By also creating an avenue for the minister to order a council member to undertake training, mediation or other remedial action, the council member can be assisted in providing effective and appropriate service to the community. This can be done in conjunction with a suspension order or as a standalone order.

Under the act, an inquiry panel can be appointed by the minister to investigate and report on a local government's operations or affairs. Before or during an inquiry, the minister may currently suspend the entire council if the minister believes that the seriousness or duration of a suspected failure of the council to ensure that the local government performs its functions properly warrants the minister's intervention. This bill will enable the minister to suspend an individual council member if the minister thinks that the conduct of the inquiry would be likely to be seriously prejudiced if the member were not suspended. These amendments will facilitate a tailored approach that will result in cost savings for the local government as commissioners may not need to be appointed.

The act allows an inquiry panel to recommend the dismissal of an entire council, but not an individual council member. This bill will enable an inquiry panel to recommend the dismissal of an individual council member if the inquiry panel concludes that the member has failed, or is failing, to perform their role, functions or duties under the act; the member's conduct has impeded, or is impeding, the ability of another person to perform their role, functions or duties under the act; or the member's conduct has impeded, or is impeding, the ability of the local government to comply with the employment principles that apply to it under section 5.40, and the seriousness or duration of that failure or conduct makes it inappropriate for the council member to remain a member of the council.

Procedural fairness will be accorded the council member through a show-cause process prior to the minister making any orders to suspend, dismiss or order a council member to undertake remedial action. This will provide the council member with notice of the proposed order and the reasons why that action is proposed. The council member will have 21 days, or such longer period as the minister allows, to respond to the proposal to suspend or order remedial action. The minister is to consider the member's response before making a decision on the order. This bill includes an amendment that will require an elected member to inform the local government CEO if the member is charged with an offence that could disqualify them from holding office. This advice is then to be provided to the departmental CEO.

There is currently no ability to dismiss an individual council member when it is clear that they should not remain in office. This bill will provide the minister with the power to recommend dismissal when the minister is satisfied, on the advice of the departmental chief executive officer, that the council member is impeding, or has impeded, the ability of the local government to perform its functions and duties under the act and/or it is in the best interests of the local government that the member be dismissed and the seriousness of the situation for the local government requires intervention.

Procedural fairness will be accorded the council member through the provision of the report that outlines the grounds for the proposed dismissal. The council member will have 21 days, or such longer period as the minister

allows, to respond to the proposal to dismiss. The recommendation and, more importantly, the basis of the recommendation to dismiss by the minister will be open to public scrutiny through a requirement imposed upon the minister to release the report on the day the order to dismiss takes effect. The dismissed council member is not prevented from re-standing for a position on council. This process will give voters the opportunity to make an informed choice on whether that person is an appropriate person to be their representative.

Mr Acting Speaker, these are important amendments that provide the minister with the ability to intervene to address issues involving individual council members that impact adversely on the ability of the local government, its elected members and its staff to carry out their respective roles under the Local Government Act. The legislation has the potential to provide greater public confidence in local government and it protects the reputation of the sector generally from the actions of an individual.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms L. Mettam**.

LIQUOR CONTROL AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Second Reading

Resumed from 13 March.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [1.31 pm]: I rise to offer comments on and support in the main for this legislation, although the opposition, as has been flagged by the member for South Perth, will certainly interrogate this legislation to ensure that it will achieve what the government purports it will achieve.

Obviously, we support the concepts put forward in what was a very brief second reading speech. We support those initiatives, such as the concept of reducing red tape for the liquor industry. Indeed, some aspects of the drafting of this amending legislation fall out of a 2013 review of the Liquor Control Act and were crafted under the previous government. We are very supportive of concepts around reducing red tape for the industry. I am particularly supportive of clause 61, which looks to clamp down on sly grogging in remote communities. When I was Minister for Police, a particularly big issue for police was trying to prohibit people taking alcohol into communities when the community elders and management had had a vote to say that they wanted to be a dry community. One of the difficulties was trying to prevent people entering those dry communities with alcohol because of the remoteness of the location and an anomaly in the previous legislation. Even though police could temporarily seize the alcohol, as I understand it, an interpretation of the legislation by the Aboriginal Legal Service that had been given to many people in remote communities basically had them all challenging police to have the alcohol that they had illegally brought into the community returned to them. I think it is eminently sensible, and a very good deterrent to people who choose to sly grog and take alcohol into dry communities, that this legislation allows police to confiscate permanently any alcohol above the prescribed level individuals can carry at any given time, and if that level happens to be zero, all the alcohol in those individuals' possession can be confiscated.

Obviously we support a bigger focus on tourism—that tourism-friendly focus. Indeed, I believe one of the recommendations of the review from 2013 was to have some input into licensing matters from Tourism WA. If a proposed licence could be opposed by police or public health, which is often the case, Tourism WA could have an intervention power, which would be afforded if this legislation is passed, to put forward the positive tourism aspects of any new hospitality development or any development that has a liquor licence attached to it. My consultation with clubs over the last four years leads me to believe that clubs would certainly appreciate the reduction in red tape for them. A club having to submit its constitution and rules to the Director of Liquor Licensing as a condition of its licence is somewhat ridiculous and certainly provides an unnecessary level of work for both the department and the club involved. If it is an incorporated association and it keeps its constitution up to date, a certificate from Consumer Protection to state that that is the case should always be sufficient. That is what this legislation allows for. The legislation also allows for a tourism component to clubs. I know that the Innaloo Sportsman's Club often has visitors from other jurisdictions for visitors' games and each one of those visitors has to be signed in to the book. A part of the proposed changes to the legislation is that if those individuals live more than 40 kilometres from the club, they will be able to visit without having to go through that additional rigmarole to get inside the club doors and legally drink on that facility.

I am a bit curious about some of the things that have been flagged in the legislation. The second reading speech states that one of the objects of the legislation is to ensure that no juvenile will be able to obtain alcohol through a legitimate business. I am not sure how another regulation could potentially achieve this, and we will ask the minister to explain what he envisages a new regulation will achieve. Presently, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to purchase alcohol from registered premises, but it is also illegal to onsell alcohol and provide secondary supplied alcohol to children under the age of 18. We brought in that law when we were in government. I am not quite sure what could be further added other than—this is something we would welcome—a bigger focus on compliance around those businesses to ensure that if they do sell to juveniles, they are caught and they receive the appropriate infringement for that. There is not much in the legislation about online sales. Indeed, when I was

Minister for Police one of the frustrations the licensees in some of our regional towns had was that often there were restrictions on the licensed premises—the pubs, hotels and the like—however there were no restrictions on the amount of alcohol people could order and pick up from the post office. Police told me that at one stage the biggest liquor outlet in Meekatharra was the post office. Everybody was ordering their alcohol online from Perth because it was cheaper. It would get delivered to the post office and they would go and collect it from the post office. Indeed, that kind of activity is commonplace around Australia. A lot of people order alcohol online and have it delivered to their door. If they leave a note on the door to DHL, or whoever it might be doing the delivery, telling them to leave the delivery in a particular place, the boxes of alcohol just get left where the courier is directed to leave it.

On the east coast, people can now use an app to put in a request for alcohol to be brought to them wherever they may be. Nothing in this legislation addresses that form of disruptive technology that is now part of our lives. It is going to be an interesting test for governments into the future to determine whether this regulatory and legislative regime is actually the appropriate response and the appropriate approach to managing issues of alcohol-related harm in our community. For the volume of alcohol consumed in Western Australia, the vast majority of people do not have an altercation that requires police involvement. The vast majority of people who consume alcohol do not present for emergency services assistance at hospitals or anywhere else. So we have an interesting conundrum in which we regulate, we legislate and we provide a fairly heavy bureaucratic regime around the management of alcohol in our community, but we are not actually making terrific inroads with those individuals who have very serious problems with alcohol and need significant clinical and psychological support to address the cause of their alcohol problem.

I feel that there have been some improvements to the extended trading permits regime. However, those licensees who operate without causing any problems for the police at all—they manage their patrons effectively, they have security, they provide food and water and they apply for extended trading permits around certain times of the year when it is busy—those individuals notwithstanding their superb record of managing their premises are often required to go through an extensive process before being issued with an extended trading permit. As I understand it, this legislation will allow for an extended trading permit to be considered when a licence is being granted. However, the individuals already in the system are still going through quite a significant process of hoop jumping and box ticking so that they can be issued with an extended trading permit for particular events. I would like to see good behaviour in the industry rewarded with a streamlined regime for those who have proven to be good operators. Perhaps those people who have had a couple of adverse interactions with police—for example, violence on the premises, overcrowding on the premises, serving people who are clearly intoxicated and all those sorts of things—should go through a more rigorous process if they want an extended trading permit. Those who do not transgress should have a more streamlined process. That would be a reward for those businesses, which is the vast majority of hotels that operate within the law in a very responsible way.

The reason I make mention of what I think is a substandard second reading speech is that a couple of things in the bill are absent from the speech. I will need the minister to articulate the purpose and reasons behind the inclusion of these aspects when we go into consideration in detail. For example, the minister has decided to change the objects of the act. The objects of an act are very important. They articulate the setting within which every decision of the director, the commission or indeed the State Administrative Tribunal will make with respect to licensing matters. What has been included as an alteration to objects is another object that will encourage responsible attitudes and practices towards the promotion, sale, supply and consumption of liquor that are consistent with the interests of the community. That waves a red flag for me. Including that object sends a message to me that this requires every application to be made around the nanny state lens of the health lobby, which opposes pretty much every liquor licensing application. The objects of the act are quite clear—we need to consider harm minimisation, the responsible service of alcohol, tourism and regulating the supply of alcohol. However, to include this as a catch-all opens up a broad definition that perhaps might lead to more interventions on behalf of those people in the community who would see fit to further restrict the supply of alcohol to law-abiding citizens.

Mention was made of loosening the public interest test. The lawyers I have spoken to who deal in liquor licensing have said that that is not what they believe the amendments to section 38 will do. The second reading speech states that section 38 is being amended so that applications are not allowed to be granted unless they are in the public interest and to have only applications that are prescribed under section 175 to be considered for this particular section. However, proposed section 38(2) contains a catch-all phrase in which the director can include any liquor licence application to be subject to section 38. We will need the minister to articulate in consideration in detail how the burden of the public interest test has been reduced because from my read of it, it looks as though the old section 38C has been reintroduced, which will be a hurdle to the industry.

Mr P. Papalia: No. This is a significant change. We are going to remove the public interest assessment for what is deemed low-risk applications. That is a big change. That is for sporting clubs and small bars. As to the other category to which you referred, we are still retaining the ability for the director to act on it if he or she sees fit. We cannot remove it altogether. But there might be a one-off reason for why, even though it would normally be considered low risk, they still want to do one. That is all it is, but it is a significant change. It is a good thing.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: We will interrogate it during consideration in detail because we want to make sure that that is right.

[Member's time extended.]

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The other area that the second reading speech does not address is the inclusion of clause 12, which allows the commission to refer an application to the State Administrative Tribunal for review. We need to understand when it is envisaged that this might occur and why the bill is taking us back to the days of a court jurisdiction determining liquor licensing matters. The whole purpose of the development of the commission and the director's role when the now Premier brought through his changes to the Liquor Control Act was to remove the judiciary from liquor licensing matters and allow only those who are specialists in liquor licensing matters to determine the outcomes of licence applications. We need to understand if SAT is going to be involved. Is SAT going to receive funding to take on liquor licensing experts to determine liquor licensing matters? We need to understand under what conditions the commission or the director might see fit to refer something to the SAT rather than make the decisions themselves. This could prove to be problematic for some businesses. I would not like to see the commission and the director to be sending all the controversial decisions to SAT because we really want the commission and the director to make those decisions as experts in the field.

The other area that the Liberal opposition is opposed to is the cumbersome changes trying to manage takeaway liquor store outlets. I find the inclusion of this bizarre. The purpose of the legislation that was originally introduced in 2006 when the now Premier McGowan brought the legislation through was that it would help to deregulate the industry and a whole range of other initiatives. In fact, some of the inclusions that occurred as part of that process added significant cost and red tape to the industry. One of those is in section 69 of the act whereby the Commissioner of Police and the chief executive officer of the Department of Health can include as part of an interventional objection any other matter relevant to the public interest. This is where a lot of the interventions and objections from the Commissioner of Police and the Department of Health have added time and, indeed, a significant effort on behalf of publicans and lawyers to get licences across the line. That catch-all has not been removed in this legislation.

[Quorum formed.]

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Going back to section 69 of the act, "Advertising, referring, investigating and intervening in applications", the 2006 amendments included this catch-all that allowed the Commissioner of Police and the chief executive officer of the Department of Health to intervene on the basis of "any other matter relevant to the public interest". The definition of "relevant matter" is —

... the harm or ill-health caused to people, or any group of people, due to the use of liquor, and the minimisation of that harm or ill-health.

That is incredibly similar wording. That catch-all is indeed what a lot of the interventions by the Commissioner of Police were based on during my tenure as Minister for Police. I received a considerable level of complaints from those in the liquor industry, but my concern is that that catch-all is now included in the objects of the act. We may in fact be chasing our tails here and going back to the beginning.

I get back to these exclusions for the big box retailers. I understand this is about trying to protect smaller, independent takeaway liquor outlets from Coles and Woolworths. I draw members back to the *Hansard* in 2006. *Hansard* is a very interesting place to look. I quote some comments —

Seriously, the issues that have been raised are: first, Coles and Woolworths compete with liquor stores six days a week and there is no reason that they cannot compete on the seventh day.

The argument at the time was about allowing Coles' and Woolworths' big box liquor outlets to open on Sundays in metro Perth. The quote from *Hansard* continues —

Secondly, independent liquor stores have now formed major buying groups; they have various names under which they bulk-purchase so that they can compete on that basis. That is a fact, and they are sensible to do that. Thirdly, do members know how ridiculous it is that Western Australian businesses that employ lots of people are not allowed to open on Sundays? That is what we are saying.

Mr J.E. McGrath: Who said this?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Who do you think said it, member?

Mr J.E. McGrath: Please tell me.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I will. I have more to add. It goes on —

A big business that employs lots of young Western Australians on reasonably good conditions is not allowed to open on Sundays. That is patently ludicrous. The amendment provides that only liquor stores that are owned by people who own fewer than three liquor stores can open on Sundays. I wonder why that rule does not apply to other businesses that open on Sundays, such as fast-food outlets, delicatessens, corner stores, hardware stores, nurseries, service stations, laundrettes, restaurants and the list goes on. All those businesses can open on Sundays.

Those comments were made by the now Premier, Mark McGowan, when the Liberal opposition in 2006 was trying to introduce a similar amendment to what this legislation proposes—that is, allowing only independent takeaway alcohol retailers to open on Sundays, not the Coles and Woolworths variety. Other members who are now on the cabinet benches also made some comments.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Let me finish, member.

Mr P. Papalia: If you are going to mislead the house, I have to interject.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am not misleading the house.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Let me finish! Stop interjecting.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister, can you let the member speak.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am trying to build an argument here. Clearly, the member does not like what I am saying. We had a look at the argument that was occurring back in 2006 around big box retailers being allowed to open on Sundays. I feel as though today is groundhog day. There are some other comments here. I quote —

The only way I can see the natural progression of the argument being put by the members for Alfred Cove and Leschenault is with the imposition somehow of some form of market cap and a requirement on Coles and Woolworths to divest themselves of assets, to get down to some mythical figure of market control or domination. I would also like to endorse the comments made by the member for Vasse in his second reading contribution. I think members have forgotten the role of the consumer in all of this. The Freemantle report focused unashamedly on the role of the consumer and how we increase choice, opportunity and private initiative for these small businesses.

Further on, it states —

I assume it is a progression to market caps for Coles and Woolworths. It is worth noting, at least for the record, that Coles is 91 per cent owned by Australians and Woolworths is entirely owned by Australians. We are talking about half a million shareholders in respect of Coles and Woolworths.

Further into this contribution, which was a very good contribution by the now Treasurer, Hon Ben Wyatt, he said —

Indeed, the report found that market caps are unworkable and effectively regulate the consumer. It is worth putting that on record, because these whimsical Deakinite proposals being flung out by the “Independent” members on my right certainly have no basis in law. They are proposing and pushing an economic theory that has long since lost any form of credibility.

That, my friends, is the argument against this ridiculous amendment to try to limit the opening of big box retailers to protect the smaller, independent takeaway retailers.

Mr P. Papalia: Have you ever campaigned against a liquor store in your electorate?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: When we look at the reasons communities object to takeaway liquor outlets being opened in their constituency, we find that the considerations that people generally make relate to location.

Yes, I did—I was part of a community campaign against a liquor takeaway outlet being opened on Scarborough Beach Road between a preprimary centre and a primary school in an area where we have considerable antisocial behaviour issues associated with takeaway alcohol.

Mr P. Papalia: So it’s okay for everyone else but not you!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: No. You are not listening. Mr Acting Speaker, can I seek your protection, please?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, can the member deliver her contribution to the debate in silence, please.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: What I am —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister for Water!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am articulating that there are sufficient checks and balances in the existing legislation that is proposed to be amended. This legislative instrument is called the Liquor Control Act 1988 with amendments. Within this small phone book, there are enough rules and regulations to manage the supply of alcohol into our community, be it through a takeaway outlet, a small bar, a hotel, a tavern or a casino. The proposed legislation will enable the provision of takeaway alcohol through bars and networks, which is a big step and one that was not actually noted in the second reading speech. I am curious about that omission.

My argument, and the argument of the team on the Liberal side, is that we do not need to introduce a cumbersome, difficult regulatory mechanism that sets a distance between takeaway alcohol retail outlets and other retailers. It will only serve to disadvantage consumers in our community who cause absolutely no problem with their drinking behaviour. If members in my community want to go to Botanica's, which is a very large takeaway liquor outlet in my electorate attached to a hotel, and buy cheap alcohol for their Christmas or birthday functions, or whatever it is, they should be allowed to do that. If Dan Murphy's opens up next door to them, all power to those people—they can buy cheap alcohol. Like 90 per cent of the community, they will not cause a problem for police and they will not end up in an emergency department. Trying to limit the supply of alcohol into a community, which is what we have been doing in Western Australia for hundreds of years, is not actually fixing the problem of the problem alcoholics. The problem alcoholics who get violent and abuse their wives, who sexually abuse children, who bash up police officers and who end up in emergency wards in hospitals need clinical counselling. They need psychological support to get to the bottom of what causes them to behave so badly when they drink. They need support to understand what they need and why they need to drink so much to the point that they become violent. Trying to restrict supply through some false mechanism and a ridiculous regulatory regime, by trying to put distance between takeaway liquor outlets and existing liquor outlets, is not going to solve the problem. It is stupid in the extreme and we will not support it.

I remind members opposite of the sage words of the now Treasurer and the Premier in 2006 when they were talking about a similar issue of Sunday trading for takeaway liquor outlets. They should eat those words, because we will be repeating those words back to them. This nonsensical conclusion around restricting the opening of takeaway liquor outlets falls right into the remit of the arguments that they prosecuted back in 2006 when they opposed an amendment that was put by the then Liberal opposition.

In conclusion, we will be moving some amendments to this legislation, but we will support it.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

SENTENCE ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017 — URGENCY

120. **Dr M.D. NAHAN to the Attorney General:**

Attorney General, I refer to your shameless political grandstanding around the important no body, no parole legislation, including declaring the bill urgent in this house, and to your disgusting comments that the Liberal Party was giving comfort to murderers by not supporting the legislation. Can you confirm that last night in the other place, it was revealed that you and your government are simply not prepared to proclaim this important legislation, even if it is passed in both houses today?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

What an incredible question from the Leader of the Opposition, who, when he was part of the government, gutted —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the first time. When I am on my feet, you do not talk. You have just asked the question. You might not like the answer, but that is the answer you are getting.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In my tone of reply, I do not want to be patronising in any way of the honourable member, the Leader of the Opposition, when he said, "But you won't proclaim the bill." That is quite correct. We cannot proclaim the bill until the Legislative Council has passed the bill. We cannot go to Executive Council until it has been passed. The bill was proclaimed an urgent bill in this house, with the support of the opposition. When the bill came on, the opposition in this chamber fell over themselves to support the bill, because there were people in your gallery, Mr Speaker, who have lost loved ones whose remains have never been recovered. The matter then went to the Legislative Council, where it remained in committee until the second last week of the parliamentary session last year. It is now before the Legislative Council. It was before the committee for most of last year. It was before the Legislative Council for most of yesterday and into last night, and the Legislative Council still could not deal with it, and it will be back on again today. This government is intent on having that bill proclaimed before the Executive Council promptly, as soon as these people in the Legislative Council pass the bill.

Mr A. Krsticevic: You could have brought it on last year.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine!

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I will take that interjection from the member for Carine. Yes, it could have been brought on last year and brought to the Legislative Council. We brought it on in the first half of last year promptly, and the opposition sent it off to a committee, and it had it in committee all year—until the second last week. We could not proclaim the bill because the opposition had it buried in committee, and it is being held up in Committee of the Whole in the other chamber at this moment. This is an ill-conceived question. We cannot proclaim the bill until the Legislative Council has passed the bill! I am sorry. I do not want to be patronising, but this is a basic principle of constitutional law. What will Her Excellency the Governor say when I rock up there and say, “The Legislative Assembly has passed the bill; will you sign off on it, Your Excellency?” Her Excellency would say, “Why are you doing this, Attorney?”, and I would say, “Because that goose who leads the opposition is insisting that I do this.”

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: Attorney General, you will withdraw that last remark.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Mr Speaker, I am sorry I referred to him as a fowl. I do apologise; I do. I withdraw it.

The SPEAKER: Sit down. When I ask you to withdraw, you withdraw it properly. You do not have anything added on.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: Nonetheless, if I had to go to Exco now at the behest of the Leader of the Opposition, Her Excellency would say, “Has this passed both houses of Parliament?”, and I would say no. She would then say, “Why are you here?”, and I would say, “Because the Leader of the Opposition doesn’t understand the constitution of Western Australia.”

SENTENCE ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017 — URGENCY

121. Dr M.D. NAHAN to the Attorney General:

I have a supplementary question. Given that you presented in urgency a fatally flawed bill, will you —

Mrs M.H. Roberts interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Police, I call you to order for the first time.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Given that you presented to Parliament a fatally flawed bill and it has taken a long time to reform it, will you apologise to the many victims for your delays?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

I have no reason to apologise to any victims. All the victims ring me up and praise me, and complain, like Mr Spiers, who has rung me several times, and like Mrs Dodd, who has rung me several times, “Why isn’t this law in operation?”, and I say, “Because the Liberal Party in the upper house has bogged it down all year.”

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I know you are an expert on everything, but I call you to order for the first time.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: The curious thing is when the Leader of the Opposition refers to this as a fatally flawed bill, after the opposition has examined it for nearly a year, and the Liberals are on that committee, the committee did not come back and say this is a fatally flawed bill. It just recommended that manslaughter be added to the list of homicide offences and that some consideration be given to those people who are accused or convicted of murder who have mental impairment and might find it hard to recall where the body is. This is not a fatally flawed bill. This is a misrepresentation of this bill to this chamber by the Leader of the Opposition. We only need to read the report of the committee.

TOURISM INVESTMENT

122. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the fall in international visitor numbers that this government inherited due to the previous Liberal–National government’s —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Start again.

Ms J.J. SHAW: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I refer to the fall in international visitor numbers that this government inherited due to the previous —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Dawesville. The question will be heard in silence.

Ms J.J. SHAW: I refer to the fall in international visitor numbers that this government inherited due to the previous Liberal–National government’s lack of investment in tourism, —

Several members interjected.

Ms J.J. SHAW: I refer to the fall in international visitor numbers that this government inherited due to the previous Liberal–National government’s lack of investment in tourism, tourism jobs, and attracting direct flights to Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

Ms J.J. SHAW: I refer to the fall in international visitor numbers that this government inherited due to the previous Liberal–National government’s lack of investment in tourism, tourism jobs, and attracting direct flights to Western Australia. Can the minister outline what is being done to turn around this appalling lack of investment in tourism that the McGowan Labor government inherited; and can the minister advise what the government is doing to address the damaging impact —

Mr S.K. L’Estrange interjected.

Ms J.J. SHAW: Would you like me to start again, Mr Speaker?

The SPEAKER: No. It is all right. I am writing it down, and there is going to be a whole list of calls to order in a minute when the member has finished her question.

Ms J.J. SHAW: Can the minister advise what the government is doing to address the damaging impact —

Point of Order

Mr S.K. L’ESTRANGE: Just for clarification, Mr Speaker, if you are going to call somebody on this side of the chamber, we would like to know at the point that they are called if they have breached the standing orders.

The SPEAKER: I will make that decision. I want to get the question out, and your members keep interjecting, so I am going to let the member have her say, and then you will get the good news.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms J.J. SHAW: Can the minister outline what is being done to turn around this appalling lack of investment in tourism that the McGowan Labor government inherited; and can the minister advise what the government is doing to address the damaging impact this has had on Western Australian tourism and tourism jobs?

The SPEAKER: Before you answer, minister, I call the member for Carine for the second time; and the members for Geraldton, Vasse and Churchlands for the first time.

Point of Order

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Standing order 77, under “Rules for questions”, states —

77. The following general rules apply to questions —

(1) Questions should not contain —

(a) preambles, opinions, statements of facts or names of persons unless they are necessary to render the question intelligible ...

They should not contain arguments, allegations, inferences, imputations or opinions.

The SPEAKER: It is not a point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for the question.

Point of Order

The SPEAKER: This is ridiculous. We are trying to get a question up and, as I said yesterday, just be quiet for a moment, please. All of a sudden, over the last two days, we are going into standing orders. Question time is the opposition’s time to keep the government to account. Yesterday we went until 3.10 pm; today we will be finishing at 2.50 pm. If you want to play these games and do all the standing orders, you will not benefit because you will not get your questions up.

Mr S.K. L’ESTRANGE: Mr Speaker, thank you for your guidance. This is not about games. All we are trying to ascertain is that when somebody is called to order, they need to know why they are being called to order at the point in time that they are being called to order.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the Minister for Sport and Recreation to order for the first time.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Further to the point of order, the opposition, particularly the Manager of Opposition Business, is clearly canvassing your ruling and should be called to order. He is clearly canvassing your ruling. I am drawing your attention to this. I believe he should be called to order; he clearly does not understand the standing orders.

Mr S.K. L'Estrange interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Churchlands, I heard your point of order in silence. You have interjected twice. I could call you to order twice for that, but I have not.

That is not a point of order. Let us get back to the answer.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the member for Swan Hills for her question, which we eventually heard.

It is a good thing that there is so much attention on tourism. In fact, it is obvious that there has not been anywhere near the amount of attention on tourism over the past nine years than there has been in the last six months; we could safely say that. We have drawn more attention to tourism and there is more action occurring in the tourism portfolio now than at any time under the four responsible tourism ministers of the previous government.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: When we took office, the first industry forum the Premier hosted was with the tourism industry. He sought its advice as to the key issues it confronted. It said things were diabolical. That was in March last year. Things were diabolical. The industry requested that we take some action to immediately try to bring people from interstate and overseas to this state, and to take action to re-establish a marketing presence on the east coast, which had been shut down six years earlier by the previous government. We did those things. In September, we asked Tourism WA to bring forward and run campaigns in China, Singapore, Malaysia and the east coast to draw people to Western Australia. As a consequence, between September and December, 52 417 more people arrived in Western Australia than had arrived over the same period 12 months earlier.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: One of the things about the international visitor survey's data is that it covers a period of 12 months, so clearly a significant proportion of the period between December 2016 to December 2017 was under the previous government, and the consequences of the previous government's strategy was felt throughout that period. In September last year the Auditor General tabled a report that condemned the previous government's 2020 strategy. We have abandoned that strategy and we have directed Tourism WA to create a two-year action plan to immediately respond to the need to fill our hotel beds. That is being developed in conjunction with the industry and it will be released in coming weeks for all to see, and the industry fully supports it.

Other things we have done include building relationships with our Asian markets. When I went to China for the first time for a tourism ministers' meeting, I sought a meeting with one of the senior executives of China Southern—the only airline that flies directly from China to Western Australia, four days a week. In comparison, Melbourne gets 14 flights a day and Sydney gets 12. There are similarly large numbers for Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Cairns. We do not have direct flights at anywhere near the proportion we should because of the previous government. When was the last time —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: The senior executive from China Southern looked at me with interest, because I was the first WA tourism minister he had seen. In fact, I was the first WA tourism minister to visit China since 2011 and the first WA tourism minister to visit Japan since 2012. We do not have a direct flight from Tokyo, either; that went away in 2012. We are focused on getting direct flights from Shanghai, Tokyo and India, for which the one from London will assist. We are going to establish ourselves as the western gateway to Australia—that is the objective. That is what will fix this problem. There will be a return on this effort and it will be in the short term. I can guarantee the house that this government cares about tourism and is doing something to fix the mess we inherited.

CHILD PROTECTION — CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE — ROEBOURNE

123. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to the minister's answer to a question asked in the other place yesterday in which she refused to assure the community that there were no children in Roebourne in the care of paedophiles. Given that the minister was asked about this issue weeks ago and that she has subsequently been briefed, will she finally do her job and outline to the house whether there are any kids at risk of attack from paedophiles?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I have been asked this question before in this house as well as in the other place. First of all, I would like to answer on behalf of the communities of the West Pilbara, particularly those living in Roebourne, who are leading the response to make sure there is a rebuilding of their communities, not just in relation to child safety, which is a significant issue, but also jobs, education, community participation, stable housing and connection with people's neighbours, and ensuring that everyone is looking out for other people. That is what we need to do. Yesterday the Premier and I stood alongside Nicola Forrest from Minderoo and Jonathan Carapetis from Telethon Kids Institute. Jonathan Carapetis made the point that governments do not raise children, communities do. In the case of Roebourne, we are seeking to provide the right amount of leadership and to change the way that government works so that we are a lot more integrated within the community and across services—police, child protection, health and education—and also work hand-in-hand with community leadership to show our confidence in them to rebuild from the ground up.

The implication that no children in Roebourne are safe at all is utterly without foundation and not helpful. One of the reasons people came forward—whether it was children themselves, teenagers or families—to contact police and child protection workers was that there was confidence in their relationship with those service providers. If we destroy that confidence, we undermine the rebuilding of that community.

I have confidence in the child protection workers who are on the ground in Roebourne and throughout the West Pilbara, I have confidence in the police, and I have confidence in the community leaders who are taking up that issue to ensure that we make it clear that child safety is non-negotiable and an absolute imperative in all our communities, and that everyone has a role to play to ensure that children are safe. But we will not hitch our wagon to a hysterical, alarmist reaction that is not useful to anyone. If the opposition has any concerns or any information—I made this point when the question was asked of me before—it should come forward with that information. Simply making baseless allegations that give them something to hang onto, and creating a feeding frenzy around a very vulnerable community, is shameful.

CHILD PROTECTION — CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE — ROEBOURNE

124. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Child Protection:

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister reassure this house that no convicted paedophiles or individuals charged with child sex offences are cohabiting with children in the Roebourne community?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I do not have anything to add to the statements I made before, and that is that I have complete confidence that the child protection workers, the police and the community leaders in and around Roebourne are actively working to ensure that child safety is paramount in their community. I repeat: if the opposition has any information that authorities should be aware of, it should come forward with that information. I am completely confident that they are doing their work, and if there are any concerns about child safety, we step in and use the resources available to us under the relevant legislation, and also our partnerships in the community, to protect children, and we will continue to do that.

EMPLOYMENT — ROAD PROJECTS

125. Mr Y. MUBARAKAI to the Premier:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in job-creating road projects, both in my electorate and right across Western Australia, including regional Western Australia. Can the Premier outline just how many jobs will be created this year due to this record investment, and can the Premier advise whether any of these jobs would be put at risk by the Liberal Party's promise to kill off royalties for regions?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Thank you, member for Jandakot. As everyone in this house, and increasingly across Western Australia, knows, this government is putting Western Australian jobs first. We are ensuring that Western Australian jobs are our number one priority. We know that the Liberal Party has contempt for Western Australian workers. We saw it with the bridge over the Swan River that is now being built here in Western Australia. The Leader of the Opposition said that we would get a better quality outcome in Malaysia, members might recall. He ran down the workforce of Western Australia. We are now getting an outstanding bridge out of Western Australian workers and Western Australian businesses.

Dr M.D. Nahan: Where is the bridge?

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is being assembled, my friend. You need to get out more.

Last week I was with the member for Jandakot, the member for Armadale, the Minister for Transport and federal Minister Fletcher, whom we are working well with. We are working well with the federal government to secure outcomes and jobs for Western Australians, with a record \$2.3 billion package that we secured out of the federal government, that the last government was unable to do. We were down there with Minister Fletcher and we announced work underway on the widening of Armadale Road, a project that the local shire and members had called for for years, and this government is getting it underway. In fact, we turned the first sod, so it is actually underway, and we started it. It is a \$118 million project, removing bottlenecks and congestion, and it will create 850 jobs. This is just one part of \$750 million worth of works getting underway this year. Altogether, 4 545 jobs will be created this year out of this program: 1 400 jobs on the Armadale Road bridge; 700 jobs on Murdoch Drive; 630 jobs on the two Wanneroo Road interchanges; and 280 jobs on the widening of Mitchell Freeway. It is an unprecedented pipeline of work for Western Australians, who we have faith in, unlike the opposition, to get those jobs underway.

I note that the Leader of the Opposition has attacked the Western Australian workforce working on the bridge, and also that the member for Kalgoorlie, as I outlined yesterday, is opposed to the royalties for regions scheme. How do we know that? Because he said it on the radio. We heard that the Leader of the Opposition is opposed to it. We support the program, but we spend the money wisely. I will give an example. We are getting underway this year a major road upgrade in Kalgoorlie, called for for years, to upgrade the Great Eastern Highway between Anzac Drive and Gatacre Drive. That will create 100 jobs in Kalgoorlie. That roadwork, required in Kalgoorlie because of the way that the Great Eastern Highway comes into town, will be fixed under this government, using the program that we support, and that the Liberal party does not. We are getting on with the job of creating more jobs, reducing unemployment and providing a better economy for Western Australia, and the evidence is all there for Western Australians.

WOODSIDE ENERGY — BAY VILLAGE LEASE

126. Mr D.T. REDMAN to the Minister for Lands:

I refer to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage “Position Statement: Workforce accommodation”, released in January this year, and the government’s position that, and I quote —

Where practicable, workforce accommodation should be provided in established towns, in locations suitable to its context, to facilitate their ongoing sustainability.

Considering that Karratha is an established town of some 25 000 or 26 000 people, will the minister follow her own government’s position statement and prevent Woodside’s proposed Bay Village accommodation site?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for this question. Is he saying that the proposed Bay Village is not in Karratha? Where is it?

Mr D.T. Redman: I am saying that your policy is that you accommodate the workforce in Karratha, not in a camp.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I tell you what, it is a lot closer than where you agreed on the Ashburton camp is to Onslow.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: You have asked your question, member.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As Minister for Lands under the previous government, as a member of the cabinet, the member for Warren–Blackwood sat down and made decisions —

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, I will give you a bit of leeway, because you asked the question, but you do not give the answer too. Let the minister do that.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: As Minister for Lands, did the member for Warren–Blackwood write to the Western Australian Planning Commission —

Point of Order

Mr S.K. L’ESTRANGE: The minister just asked a question of the member for Warren–Blackwood.

Ms R. Saffioti: It is a rhetorical question; I will answer it.

The SPEAKER: Let him answer; I said I would give him leeway.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member wants to engage in a debate. As Minister for Lands, when he was in charge of LandCorp, did LandCorp write in support of that proposal?

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I tell you what, it did. The other day, I wanted to make sure that I understood the history of that, so I found the letter that the previous government sent to Chevron supporting that location, in the previous government's cabinet.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, you have had your go. Minister, through the Chair, please.

Mr D.T. Redman: Mr Speaker, she is not in responding to the question.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member's question was based on the fact that Bay Village is not in Karratha.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, I have been very patient. I call you to order for the first time. Minister, through the Chair please.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Is Bay Village in the town of Karratha? If it is, that whole question is completely false and out of order, but I do want to raise the fact that, as a cabinet minister, the member for Warren–Blackwood sat there with the former Premier; Minister for State Development agreeing to propositions put forward by a resource companies day after day, and now he comes into this place pretending that he was somehow the protector of local towns in relation to this debate. He was not. As I said, the member for Pilbara is at my door making sure that we secure local jobs and local outcomes for the community.

WOODSIDE ENERGY — BAY VILLAGE LEASE

127. **Mr D.T. REDMAN to the Minister for Lands:**

I have a supplementary question. Is the minister ignoring her own policy because she will do anything to please the miners?

The SPEAKER: You do not have to answer that.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

The National Party that refuses to increase royalties on the gold sector of WA. This is the Nationals WA. The National Party, when in government, did nothing on this issue and went out of its way to support the mining and resource companies on this issue. We are working to secure local jobs and, as I said, with the member for Pilbara, working to secure local jobs in not only construction, but also operational.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We are very keen to make sure that we have a local workforce in not only construction, but also operating these facilities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT — AMENDMENT

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

I refer to the decisive action the McGowan Labor government has taken to amend the Local Government Act to allow the suspension and dismissal of individual councillors, something the sector has been calling for that the previous Liberal–National government failed to do. Can the minister outline why this legislation is needed?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I thank the member for Southern River and I also acknowledge, leaving the Speaker's gallery, elected members from the Shire of Harvey, who have been here. They have obviously been put off by the status of question time. I also acknowledge the member for Southern River, who served himself with distinction, from what I understand, as a member of the Gosnells city council.

As the member is aware, for some time there have been constraints in the current arrangements of the Local Government Act, whereby under sections 8.15 and 8.19 there are mechanisms to address entire councils that have, if you like, fallen foul of being able to deliver good governance. Therefore, those clauses allow the minister of the day to intervene and suspend an individual council. A weakness in the Local Government Act of course is that there is no provision, currently, for dealing with individual councillors. In other jurisdictions in Australia, there are standdown provisions for individual councillors. The McGowan government believes that our legislation very firmly needs the capacity—after hierarchical benchmarks have been reached—for a minister to do that. Interestingly enough, when the other side was on this side of the house, this was not addressed at all. The only thing the other side did was to treat the local government sector with disdain, as was very clearly shown. The provision for this legislation does a number of things, including giving the minister the power to suspend or order

remedial actions to an individual elected member. There is a provision to allow a panel inquiry if required to be set up which, after investigation, may arrive at the decision to recommend the dismissal of an individual. Also in this bill, the minister, on the advice of the department CEO, will have a provision to recommend dismissal, but also importantly are provisions in the bill that will allow the minister of the day to require remedial action from an individual. That may include further training, reprimands or whatever.

It is high time that we modernised our Local Government Act in Western Australia. That is why we are going through a significant review process and why we have today introduced a bill that ensures that, ultimately, good governance is delivered to communities across the state. It is not fair and it is not right that one individual may end up corroding the entire council and bringing it down. That is not right. Therefore, it is important for the minister of the day to set, with regards to natural justice and fair benchmarks, a mechanism to do that. In terms of an ultimate dismissal by the minister after advice from the department, a provision in the bill requires the reasons for that to be made public. Member, this is an important reform. It is another indication why this government is absolutely focused on making sure that we have modern, enabling and agile legislation for the local government sector in Western Australia. We have already signed a partnership agreement with the local government sector and will continue to deliver quality template legislation into the future so that local government can and is able to provide quality governance across the state going forward.

TOURISM — INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

129. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Tourism:

Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, I do not want to interrupt but your manager of opposition business is interjecting and so is the minister. I call them both to order.

Ms L. METTAM: I refer to the shocking statistics released overnight showing WA international visitor numbers are in freefall against national trends and the tourism industry's subsequent scathing attack on the government.

- (1) How much time does the CEO of the mega Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation dedicate to tourism?
- (2) What experience has the CEO had in selling holidays, hotels, events and aviation?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

- (1)–(2) The structure to which the member refers came into place as part of the machinery-of-government changes on 1 July last year. The statistics to which the member refers and apports all blame to the current government were accrued over a period of 12 months—from December 2016 to December 2017. Undeniably, international visitors do not turn around on a whim and go, “I know, let’s fly to Perth.” They make a decision over time. They have been influenced over or prior to that 12-month period when they chose to travel or not travel, by the campaigns and policies of the previous government.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, you are on three calls.

Mr P. PAPALIA: The 2020 strategy was deemed to be an abject failure by the Auditor General when he tabled his report in September last year. He said it had failed, and we recognised that. This industry to whom the member refers—the mythical industry—is part of the task force that developed our two-year action plan, which we are about to launch. It has worked with us on creating the response to the diabolical numbers to which the member refers, which have been similarly poor for a number of years. We are responding to it. In the months between September and December last year, as a consequence of a campaign that was requested by the industry—we met at our first industry consortia that the Premier hosted in March last year —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr P. PAPALIA: — the numbers increased by 52 417.

Ms L. Mettam: You do not know that yet; the national numbers are not out yet.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, I warned you. You are on three calls. Do you want to go home early?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Member, if there is a failure in strategy for international tourism, it is entirely the responsibility of the campaigns that were conducted prior to that 12 months. People do not decide in the course of the 12 months, when the data to which the member referred was being accrued—to fly to Perth as a consequence of our campaigns. If the member is trying to attribute any responsibility to the new structure, that came in on 1 July. For seven months of the 12 months, the previous government’s structure that we inherited was in place.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr P. PAPALIA: We are fixing the mess that we inherited from the previous government.

TOURISM — INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

130. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Tourism:

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister confirm that the Tourism WA head of market and partnerships position has not been permanently filled and the person acting in that role is also the head of strategy, brand and marketing services, effectively juggling two key roles?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: It is not really a supplementary question, but you can answer it.

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I will take it. I can confirm the question that the member has put to me because that position was vacant for the last two years. Yes, it is true that the member's government ignored tourism and as a consequence did not fill key elements of the marketing team in Tourism WA. I can confirm that we have gone to market. We have sourced someone and we will be announcing that position shortly.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE — TELETHON KIDS INSTITUTE AND MINDEROO FOUNDATION

131. Ms J.M. FREEMAN to the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to investing in early childhood services, particularly in regional and remote areas of Western Australia, and the unprecedented \$50 million early childhood initiative announced yesterday. Can the minister further outline to the house how this historic partnership with Minderoo Foundation and the Telethon Kids Institute will support disadvantaged children and help communities in delivering childhood development services?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I am very pleased to stand on behalf of the McGowan government as it is part of the collaboration that is the early years initiative, which builds on the understanding that so much development occurs from conception to four years old. Enormous cognitive, physical and emotional development occurs in those early years from zero to four, so much so that international researchers are still in awe of the development and the influence that we can have if we invest in those early years.

The partnership is for \$49.3 million and it is, as I said, a significant partnership, building on the commitment of Minderoo Foundation, headed by Nicola Forrest, and the Telethon Kids Institute, which will provide its significant world-class research expertise to the effort. Significantly, it is a 10-year project. That is also an element of this exercise of which we are very pleased to be a part, because it is very tempting for governments to look at short-term projects and not projects that invest over the long haul. Long-term projects are needed if we want to invest in the communities, families and individuals who really need the most attention. We will work on four sites—one in the metropolitan area, one in a regional centre and two in remote areas. As I said, the structure in place will build on the partnerships between the state government and all its agencies, the philanthropic efforts of Minderoo Foundation and the research capacity of the Telethon Kids Institute. The investment in early years through this initiative is in stark contrast to the previous government's attitude to the early years. In its last two years of government, it cut \$10 million from parenting services.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough!

Ms S.F. McGURK: That included cuts to support for Aboriginal children aged zero to three years. The previous government cut those services. The Barnett government cut that support for some of the most vulnerable children in our state. In contrast, we are building a partnership, as I said. We know that it will be not only government that resolves some of the entrenched disadvantage in communities. It will not be only the not-for-profits. It will not be only the communities. It will be all of us working together. We want to make sure that the communities, through either local government or their own organisations, are involved in designing the initiatives that we will then put in place in their community. We will measure how we are going with those initiatives with the assistance of TKI.

The early years initiative builds on some of the themes of this government. The government has to have a joint approach. We have to be a lot more effective working across government agencies. We have manifested that in the machinery-of-government changes. We have to work in partnerships with research bodies, community organisations and philanthropic efforts. We have to work on early intervention if we want to turn around disadvantage and we have to look at an evidence-based approach. I am confident that if we have the right support for the disadvantaged kids, families and communities, we can turn around their disadvantage and those communities and their children can thrive.

MOORA RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

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

I refer to the Premier's comments about Moora Residential College on 6PR in February and in the press that the government's advice was that \$8.75 million was needed to make the residential college fire-safe. I refer to the report prepared by Armstrong Parkin Architects on 9 October 2017, which was tabled in the Legislative Council by the Minister for Education and Training yesterday and which outlines the real cost of \$580 600, plus contingencies.

- (1) Will the Premier admit that the people of Moora are right that making the building fire-safe will cost far less than the \$8.75 million the Premier told them?
- (2) Will the Premier apologise for misleading the public on this matter?
- (3) Will the Premier commit to spending the \$580 600 necessary to keep Moora Residential College open?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(3) I outlined the position yesterday to Parliament and I have a range of reports here. I think the Minister for Education and Training tabled five reports yesterday. The member can look at them. The report compiled by Armstrong Parkin Architects is titled "Moora Residential College: Project Definition Plan Report". We did the work. The report shows that the options to bring the boarding hostel up to an appropriate standard would cost between \$7.2 million and \$11.2 million.

Mrs L.M. Harvey: That's for a rebuild, not a refurbish.

Mr M. McGOWAN: No, the member is wrong. That is the cost. Members should know—I told them yesterday, but they seem to have trouble remembering—that before the Liberal–National government lost office in that landslide defeat, it had allocated \$8.7 million towards the boarding hostel. If the college did not require that, why did it allocate that money? There we go. Although I realise that the former government was the most profligate and wasteful government in the history of this country, in that case it had allocated the right amount of money for that boarding hostel to remain open. When there are alternatives and other opportunities out there that are often closer to where the 26 students live, to spend nearly \$9 million in the current environment, considering the record debt and deficit the previous government left us, is not the right course to take and we are working with the families to provide them with alternative options.

MOORA RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

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

I have a supplementary question. I believe that that report was released only yesterday. Why did it take five months for that information to be made available to the Moora community?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The Minister for Education and Training released the reports. For some time after making the decision on the boarding hostel in December, we commented about the issues involved and she tabled the reports in Parliament as was appropriate. As I understand, the upper house has been sitting for only one or two weeks this year.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. Cook: This is the first week.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is the first week. I am ill-informed about the operations of the upper house, as anyone will attest. The first available opportunity to table the information by the relevant minister was taken. The government made the decision on these issues in December and she tabled the information at the first available opportunity.

My advice to the member for Moore is to talk up Moora. That is what I am going to do. I am advising everyone about the great opportunities in Moora. Iluka Resources is establishing additional opportunities and we will be pushing through the state agreement act to allow that to happen. The Westpork organisation is establishing a pork operation 20 kilometres or so from Moora. We will be promoting the economic activity in Moora and I ask the member for Moore not to talk down his own community.

COMMONWEALTH REDRESS SCHEME

134. Ms M.M. QUIRK to the Attorney General:

I refer to the letter of 21 December that the Attorney General sent to the federal Minister for Social Services, Hon Dan Tehan, regarding outstanding issues with the commonwealth redress scheme for child sexual abuse survivors. Can the Attorney General advise the house whether he has received a response to that letter; and, if so, does the response address all the concerns raised?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

Thank you, very much, member, for that question. As revealed during question time yesterday, we did receive a response from the commonwealth. It was received during question time yesterday, after a wait of nearly three months. No, it does not deal with all the issues, member, raised in our letter of 21 December to the commonwealth. I note that the federal Attorney-General, Hon Christian Porter, disingenuously advised the public of Western Australia that all the information we were seeking was already in the public domain. We got a four-and-a-half-page letter back from the commonwealth, and I wish to assure members that all this information is not in the public domain.

I want to refer to one area—that is, the issue of child migrants. I go specifically to this area because the former Premier and member for Cottesloe, Hon Colin Barnett, whilst he was still a member of this chamber, took me to the back of the chamber and said, “Hey, Quigs, when this redress issue comes up, they’re going to try to snow you on their responsibility to child migrants. Don’t let them do it, Quigs.” I have researched this area of child migrants and as the federal Attorney-General, Hon Christian Porter, knows, because it is a commonwealth law, but he has not revealed it to the people of Western Australia, nor to the redress conferences, the Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946 deals with the commonwealth’s scheme of bringing children from the United Kingdom and placing them in Western Australia. That act specifically statutorily provides that the commonwealth will be the legal guardian of those children and as such, as the legal guardian of those children, has a non-delegable duty of care to those children. Now, it has sought to avoid this from time to time, but as recently as 2015, in relation to some of these child migrants, a class action was brought in New South Wales against, in part, the Commonwealth of Australia for failing to look after and protect the child migrants the commonwealth brought out. That class action claimed \$24 million in compensation. The commonwealth, together with another defendant, settled it out of court because it did not want a judgement. The commonwealth knew what its responsibilities were to these children. It knew that it had a moral and legal obligation to these children. The commonwealth had been joined in the class action. Now the commonwealth says, “As you’re aware, we wash our hands. As you’re aware, the commonwealth accepts no responsibility.” As the chamber is aware, I will be travelling to a redress conference in Melbourne on Monday, and I will be telling them, “You haven’t even got the rules of the scheme settled yet and you’re trying to avoid your legal—not your moral—responsibility.” Until a set of rules is published that clearly sets out the commonwealth’s liability in this matter, we are very reluctant to agree to anything the commonwealth says.

I will just conclude by saying that the commonwealth calls it a national redress scheme, but it is intent on not putting a dollar into it, apart from for servicemen and Indigenous children in the Northern Territory. The commonwealth does not want to put a dollar into it, but it wants to beat its chest and call it a national scheme. If it is going to be a national scheme, the commonwealth has to honour its legal obligations to the children whom it was guardian of.

POLICE — WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

135. Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS to the Premier:

I refer to the government’s priorities for 2018 as outlined in the Premier’s statement. Why is the introduction of a workers’ compensation scheme for police not one of those priorities despite the clear commitment the Premier made to police prior to the election?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

This is something that the Minister for Police continues to work on in conjunction with the WA Police Force and the Commissioner of Police. Indeed, I think the minister is in ongoing discussions with the WA Police Union. As the member for Hillarys would know, because he was in office for eight and a half years and did not put in place a workers’ compensation scheme for police officers, and as the Leader of the Opposition would know and the former Minister for Police for four or five years would know, because they did not do it, it is a complex area. It is a complex area because police officers currently have an entitlement to six months’ sick leave on an annual basis. Obviously, that puts some complexity around creating a workers’ compensation scheme. Because members opposite did not put it in place during their time in office, they would understand that that adds that complexity. I note that the Leader of the Opposition is nodding while I am saying this, because it is true that it adds complexity to that particular matter. We are working through the issues as best we can, bearing in mind that simple fact that there is currently a six-month entitlement to sick leave for police officers that needs consideration as part of those deliberations.

POLICE — WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

136. Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given the failure of the Premier and his Minister for Police to actually deliver on this promise, will he provide the house with a commitment on when police will finally receive their workers’ compensation scheme, or will he short-change them again, as he did with their wage increase?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Honestly, Mr Speaker. The Liberals and Nationals were in office for eight and a half years and did not deliver a workers' compensation scheme.

Mr P.A. Katsambanis: You're the government. You made the promise.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Eight and a half years—we have been in office for one year; in fact, not even one. The member was in office for eight and a half years and he has the gall to come in here and demand that in the space of one year we do something that his government had eight and a half years to achieve. The member will also know that the WA Police Union agreed to the wages arrangement that the state government put forward. We managed to secure a wages deal. The police minister, ably assisted by the Attorney General, has put through all sorts of legislation, including dangerous sex offenders laws, methamphetamine laws, Corruption and Crime Commission reform laws and laws to trace the proceeds of crime using the CCC. All these tools are available to the police force, which the member was unable to achieve when he was in office, and he has the gall to come in here, when we have not even done one year in office, and carry on about something that his government could not achieve in eight and a half years.

The SPEAKER: Members, that is the end of question time.

Point of Order

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I seek clarification of a statement you made about points of order during question time in response to a question from the Labor backbench. From memory, you said that there were a number of points of order that you were going to raise, or call, and that you were going to record, but you were going to wait for the response to the question. I am just seeking your clarification.

The SPEAKER: Can I just explain—sorry, member.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: There may well have been people on a third call who were not aware of that being the case and who inadvertently might have got an extra call and therefore been kicked out of this place, Mr Speaker. I seek clarification about your comment.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Excuse me, it is a point of order. Member, I think we were on—I am not sure what question we were on—probably the first or second question and every time there were interjections from this side of the chamber. I called some to order and then I got the member to start again. I made a decision. Instead of getting the member to do the question again, I said that I would write down those who had been called. Now, they were all on one call. I have to run this house in a proper manner. I thought it was best for her to do the question. I did not wait for the answer. I said to the minister before he answered, "I will call these people to order." So that the house was running more freely, I thought that was the best way to go. Now, if someone has two or three calls, I would not do it. But at the start everyone was interjecting before the person had asked the question, which was unparliamentary, and that is why I call them to order. Are you happy with that?

Mr D.T. Redman: I'm not, no.

MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION*KidSport — Grievance — Personal Explanation*

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [2.59 pm]: I wish to make a personal explanation.

The SPEAKER: Proceed.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I would like to correct the information I gave in response to a grievance from the member for Geraldton on Thursday, 22 February, in this chamber. I stated that the subsidy provided by the state government to Girl Guides is \$558 per person, per annum. The correct figure is \$253.89 plus GST per person per annum.

McGOWAN GOVERNMENT — PERFORMANCE*Matter of Public Interest*

THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson) informed the Assembly that he was in receipt within the prescribed time of a letter from the Leader of the Opposition seeking to debate a matter of public interest.

[In compliance with standing orders, at least five members rose in their places.]

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Leader of the Opposition) [3.00 pm]: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: That must have been a private joke about suicide, which is something you should not joke about.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, read it out please.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: I move —

That this house condemns the McGowan government for its failures in its first year of government, including broken promises on taxation, jobs and financial management.

It has been just slightly over a year since the election that brought in the McGowan government. One thing is quite clear: it had a plan to win government but no plan to govern. Indeed, any objective assessment of the government's performance against its own criteria shows that it has been a very hollow and weak performance. It is true. It was a major political victory that probably warranted a big party, such as the one held at the weekend. However, the big side of town that funded the big party and the champagne —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, I want to hear this in silence.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The big side of town that funded the champagne and sat swilling it with members opposite will think twice next year because of the government's lack of performance.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Minister for Transport, I call you to order for the first time and Minister for Housing, I call you to order for the first time. This is a matter of public interest. I will not have any interjections from the government side of the house.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Members opposite came to government at a very important time when the economy was fragile, particularly households and business investments. We knew that. There were some signs of recovery particularly in commodity prices and tourism numbers, and an increase in the number of foreign students from a low level. It had a whole range of supports from the previous government, which this party has willingly opened and for which it has claimed credit. I might add that the tactic has been to claim responsibility for the assets but not the liabilities that fund them. The 3 000 hotel rooms underwritten by the previous government are potentially the basis for an expansion of international tourism. Members opposite forget about that. Yagan Square, Optus Stadium and the City Link project have all underpinned the economy over the last 12 months and have led to increased vibrancy in the city. Members opposite take credit for the assets but regularly deride us for the funding of them. The question is: what did they do? They inherited a very large capital works program, improved commodity prices, and committed to job creation. What did they do? A couple of issues illustrate their lack of preparation to meet their primary goal of job creation. By the way, the latest data shows that there were 9 000 fewer full-time jobs in Western Australia over the past 12 months. The basic key performance indicator is down. One of the reasons that had a major impact is that our population growth is way below the budget forecast; indeed, from my estimate, it is the lowest in 35 years. People are leaving the state in increasing numbers. Interstate migration is negative—still—and international migration is low to negative, the lowest level in 35 years. Housing prices are still negative. I think there was a positive one month but it was negative across the year and negative most of the month. In other words, the housing sector, which is one of our biggest employers in the state, is down sharply from the previous year. One of the policies that members opposite inherited from the previous government was the first home owner grant. That was one of the first moves they made and pulled out. The Treasurer, on the basis of advice from Treasury—it was probably more like his chief of staff—decided that there would be no negative impact on removing the first home owner grant. I have with me the record on house financing, and it has actually collapsed under Labor. That is the contribution to the housing sector from the people on the other side—a full collapse of one of our major sectors. This underpins not only economic activity, economic development and job creation, but also house formation. The question is: why is population growth collapsing? One reason is that interstate migration is still negative. But one of the first things the Premier did—he promised to do this—was change the regional migration arrangements. He reduced the number of categories from 178 to 18 and shifted Perth from a regional centre to a capital centre. Do members know what that did? It told people to stay away: “People from overseas—migrants—are not welcome.” It also said that international students should stay away: “You’re not welcome here.” The Minister for Tourism says that that is not the case, but he has not talked to any international students. Most international students who come to Australia want the option to stay on after graduating either on a temporary or permanent basis so they choose places that give them access to that. In order to do that, we have to have categories that are open to immigration and points for, in this case, a regional centre. We are losing international students to Tasmania, South Australia and the Northern Territory. That is the Labor Party's contribution. The government can send 40 people to China on taxpayers' money to tell the Chinese that we like international students, but when they look at the Labor Party's record and policies they say, “No thanks, mate; we're off to Hawaii.” That is what the government has done. It has spent money to send 40 people to China—the Premier and everybody else—where they had big dinners, with the big side of town paying for it, no doubt. But what counts are policies on the ground and Chinese students know it. It is a failure—a complete and utter failure.

As we on this side of the house know, the biggest driver of our economy is the mining sector. Commodity prices have gone up and helped the government significantly, but the government had nothing to do with that. Fair enough. It was clear before the election that one sector that was improving and getting some energy and investment was the gold sector. It is the archetypical Western Australian sector. It is owned by Western Australians in the main and there are a large number of small projects. It is very labour intensive for the mining sector, particularly in the exploration and development of gold. The government saw that development coming up. Before the election, they promised no new royalties, no increase in royalties: “We won’t touch you.” Immediately after the election, gold miners were a bit worried. The government said that it would not increase the royalties, but it increased them in the budget and then it tried to increase them again. In other words, members opposite saw a sector that was growing, creating jobs and was expanding investment. Do members know what the government tried to do? It tried to stop it. It tried to stop that growth and claimed that an increase in royalties would have no impact on jobs investment. That is the Labor Party. On top of that, the new Minister for Mines and Petroleum has banned hydraulic fracturing until June 2020. He curtailed the growth in uranium mining —

Mr W.J. Johnston: What growth?

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Zero to zero!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Actually, he did okay—four mines were developing and had approval. Of course, the Aurora Range—the government received advice from the Environmental Protection Authority that it should not be developed. But a government committed to job creation would have done it. Not only that, the Yindjibarndi land claim is affecting all the native titles across mining in Western Australia. It particularly affects the Fortescue Metals Group project. If it goes through, it will change the understanding and put at great risk all the native title agreements to date. Previous governments, and a government committed to development of the mining sector, would have participated in that. They chose not to. As a result of that, the Fraser Institute’s ranking of the state government has plummeted from ninth in 2016 to seventeenth in 2017 under a McGowan government.

Mr B.S. Wyatt interjected.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The Treasurer laughs at that as though the mining sector is not important.

I now refer to agriculture. I talked to the farmers at Wagin Woolorama. Wool prices are good, lamb prices are good and oat prices are good. There has been a \$25 million investment in oat processing; so it is pretty good. The problem in the Wagin area was the Minister for Agriculture and Food; Regional Development. The ageing hipster from inner-city Perth is trying to impact negatively on genetically modified foods, live exports, the production of eggs —

The SPEAKER: I am sure that you were referring to a member in the upper house and you will use the proper title.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: Okay; Hon Alannah MacTiernan is frightening the hell —

The SPEAKER: She does have a house in Albany too, so she is an Albany person.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: She is frightening the hell out of the agricultural sector; I guarantee that.

The Minister for Regional Development is pulling money out of education in rural areas, including pulling back royalties for regions investment in water for the future. She is basically pulling money out of rural Western Australia and putting it into Albany, where her new home is, and other areas.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: It is a city, mate.

Our major areas of growth—international tourism, international education, mining, and agriculture—are down. There has been a lack of investment. One thing this government inherited is a significant capital works program. It likes to take credit for the assets but it blames us for the investment. The reality is if the government claims the new Perth Stadium as its own, it has to claim the funding with it too. If it loves Yagan Square, it has to claim the money with it.

Mr D.J. Kelly: If you don’t want the stadium funding, you’d have to actually pull it down.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: No. If the government goes out and says, “That is the best thing for tourism in this state”, it cannot decry the funding of it.

Mr D.J. Kelly: That is ridiculous.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: No, it is not. It might be ridiculous to the member, but nonetheless.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water!

Dr M.D. NAHAN: One of the major issues this government inherited was a very large capital works program. The second largest one, after decrying all of those in opposition, was Perth Freight Link. The Labor Party went to

the commonwealth and threatened to kill all the jobs associated with it. Like spoilt kids, it said, “If you don’t give us all the money to redirect it, we’re going to destroy all these jobs.” The commonwealth government, being a mature government, agreed to it. It is a government committed to growth and to actual job creation. The commonwealth government allowed this government to do it. It took its \$1.2 billion in state money and allowed it to be moved to other projects. Of course, this government claims that is all job creation. It does not create a single new job. Taking one dollar from one construction project and putting it into another does not create any new jobs—they are the same jobs. In most cases, the government went out there without tenders and moved the same people who were actually working on the Perth Freight Link project to other projects. It can go out there with its spin merchants and say, “We’re creating all these news jobs” but it is fake—fraud. In the end, the data will show it. The data will show that there is still a lack of job creation in the infrastructure area because this government, instead of adding to it, moved it somewhere else. I might add, when the commonwealth doubled down on the state government and said, “On top of that, here’s an extra \$1.2 billion”, it was refused. The Minister for Transport says that there is essentially no congestion problem on Leach Highway after High Street—it does not exist. Let us watch over the next three years. Yesterday, two serious accidents took place on Leach Highway. We will remind the government every time there is an accident on those roads. The Minister for Transport, whose brilliant idea it was, will be held to account.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water, I call you to order for the first time.

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The government’s commitment to job creation has just been words. Its job creation bill for WA is a fraud. Actually, it equates to job creation in New Zealand on the same grounds and parity as job creation in WA. It has said a lot of words, it has taken a lot of action, but it has done virtually nothing. One bad year; three more to go, I suspect.

MR D.C. NALDER (Bateman) [3.16 pm]: I stand in support of this motion and condemn the McGowan government for its failures. I will talk about a few specific things. The first point is that this government is spin over substance. I will directly relate this to the comments that the Premier made and show up that he does not understand the basic impact or consequences of pretty basic economic policy. I want to talk first about jobs. Coming into government, jobs was the mantra of the Premier. During question time, he started to spruik jobs for Western Australia. I am going to walk through some of the economic policies and the consequences that have actually negatively impacted on jobs in Western Australia. To frame it, let us look at what has happened with jobs. This government will say that jobs are increasing but it fails to tell us that it is in casual employment; it is not full-time employment. In fact, full-time employment has decreased by 9 000 positions from March last year to January. Unemployment has risen from 84 700 people to 85 500. We are seeing a reduction in full-time employment and an increase in unemployment. We can say that the total number of jobs is up, but as I said it is casual employment. If we are going to underpin an economy for it to grow into the future, full-time jobs need to be created in this state. Losing full-time jobs has a negative impact on the people of Western Australia. The Premier and the Minister for Transport talked about the job creation of the High Street upgrade. They have been spruiking that it will create 700 jobs. What they failed to tell the people of Western Australia is that by cancelling Roe 8 and Roe 9 in the first place, they removed 2 400 full-time jobs and up to 10 000 indirect jobs. That is what was taken out of the economy, yet they do not tell the people of Western Australia that. Here they are claiming 700 jobs, but they have not shared what they have taken out of the economy.

As the Leader of the Opposition talked about, the flowthrough effect in industry by shutting down the first home buyers grant has been a dramatic drop in the number of new finance applications. We have seen the impact since the first home owners grant boost was removed. I am holding up for members in the chamber a graph that shows the net impact. The housing industry employs a lot of people in Western Australia. If the government makes an economic decision to take away the first home owner grant boost, it needs to understand what the flowthrough effect is. This is showing the impact since that economic policy was implemented by the current government. It is having a negative consequence. Yesterday, I raised an economic report looking at the impact of closing something simple like Moora Residential College that stated it would have an impact on 19 jobs, with a \$2 million impact on the economy. That is 19 jobs. What was the Premier’s comment? He said it was not a real report and that it was false; it was wrong. The Premier said that it was wrong. The group that undertook that report is a government-supported institution for writing economic reports. To understand the basic consequences of economic policy, we have to look beyond one dimension, and unfortunately this Premier is one-dimensional in his thoughts on economic policy. He said there were not 19 jobs there to lose. We have to understand the flowthrough effect on the economy. If the government is going to close down Moora Residential College, there is a broader impact on the whole town of Moora—not just the jobs associated with teaching at the residential college, but its broader impact on the whole community of Moora. That is what that economic report was highlighting, yet this Premier fails to understand that. He only can see the number of teachers and a number of people supporting the hostel—the boarding masters and mistresses. He does not understand the broader impact on the economy of Moora as a whole. That is what we are seeing over and over again.

We have talked about the regional migration scheme. The regional migration scheme was all about giving local jobs. The government again did not understand the economic consequences of what fee-paying foreign students bring to this economy, as well as the people who come to visit those students who pay full fees at our universities. The impact on the regional migration scheme is that there has been a dramatic drop in the number of students studying in Western Australia, particularly relative to the rest of Australia. That is the disgraceful act that has been undertaken without an understanding of the full consequences of that policy. Just maybe there is a flowthrough to why we saw such a dramatic drop in the number of tourists in the last three months of 2017. That is maybe just an inkling of what happens when a government does not understand the consequences of its economic policies.

Let us look at a couple of other things this government has implemented in the last 12 months. When in opposition, the current government called the former government mean spirited when it lifted energy prices by three per cent, because it was tough economic times. We are still going through tough economic times and what do we see this government do? It lifts energy prices by 10.9 per cent. Even worse, we found out that the Treasurer had been informed that this was going to adversely impact other parts of the economy, particularly single household pensioners, with an increase equivalent to over 30 per cent. We wonder why parts of our economy are hurting. We wonder why the retail sector is hurting. We have demonstrated why the household sector is hurting. Yes, mining exploration is up and that is fantastic, and we are really happy about that, but there are consequences of negative impacts of basic economic political policy decisions made by this government.

I also want to mention the fact that this government continues to talk about the debt it inherited. The Premier needs to be corrected, because he talks about the debt he inherited being \$40 billion, when we know the audited accounts as at 30 June last year were \$31.96 billion. The Premier said, “Oh, it is \$32 billion. That is still a lot.”

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water!

Mr D.C. NALDER: Yes, it is a lot, but the government wants to play funny numbers between \$32 billion and \$40 billion and say it is pretty much the same number when it is a further 25 per cent increase in debt. What is actually happening, members of this house? This government knows it is spending, it knows it is going to increase debt, but it is trying to get a free \$8 billion. It keeps leaning on the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement* that stated that if debt were left unchecked, the forward estimates show it would grow to \$41.1 billion. What did the former government do? We went to the election saying we could not let that happen and that we would deal with it. We took policies to the election and had them costed by Treasury, and Treasury said that debt at the end of the term would be \$28.8 billion—\$29 billion. That is a big difference from the \$42.8 billion that this current government is now forecasting. Let us have a look at the impact on the interest expense that this state will be paying. Volume 3 of the current *Budget Statements* shows that we are paying around three per cent on borrowings, but that figure is forecast to grow to 3.4 per cent by the end of the forward estimates. With debt growing from \$32 billion to \$42.8 billion, we are talking about a 50 per cent increase in the interest expense over these four years. That is what is occurring under this government. It promised to pay down debt like a mortgage, it promised that it was going to deal with it, but we are seeing that the interest expense for this state will be climbing by over 50 per cent and debt will be growing by over 33 per cent. The government is not living up to the rhetoric it espoused during the election campaign. There are a number of other things I would like to talk about, but I am going to pass over to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The other thing I will mention is the number of taxes that the government has been talking about introducing, after the Premier said, “There will be no new taxes, no tax increases under a government I lead, full stop.” That is what the Premier said. We have seen the current government announce a 10 per cent Uber tax, it sought to increase the gold royalty and threaten thousands of jobs, it has announced a betting tax, it has threatened a bank tax, and it has increased payroll tax and removed payroll exemptions for training. This is what we are seeing from this government. I think this has been a shabby performance over its first 12 months. People in the community will start waking up to the spin that this government has been putting forward, the rhetoric it has been putting forward. All we have to do is start lifting the lid on this current government and we start to see the real facts about what is happening.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.26 pm]: I thought someone from the government might get up at this point, as is usually a case in matters of public interest, but I shall continue on. In closing the argument of this MPI, I draw members’ attention to an article in *The Weekend West* of 10 and 11 March, in which the Premier, in summing up his first year in office, said that having to say sorry twice was not something he would easily forget. He said he thought that most people would think that it was not a bad broken commitment to tax large corporations with more payroll tax. Misreading how his government’s education cuts would be viewed in the community, which forced his second apology after returning from Christmas, was another memory of his first year. This article is so feeble. If we look at this government’s performance over the last year, all we see are broken promises, failures and backflips. To summarise what has been said, this government is now feeling the pressure of being in government knowing that it went to an election and said anything to win. It promised \$5 billion worth of commitments, it had no plan to govern, it had no plan to pay for those commitments and it excluded every option it could possibly have to fund those \$5 billion worth of commitments. The government

said it would not privatise assets, except apparently wind farm assets, because they are not public assets that can be privatised—broken promise. The government said it would not increase fees and charges, but we saw an increase in the supply charge for electricity—another broken promise. There has been an increase in water charges—another broken promise. There has been an increase in public transport charges despite patronage dropping—another broken promise. There has been an increase in swimming fees for vacation swimming classes as part of the education cuts—another broken promise. The government promised it would not make any cuts to education. The government was going to cut Schools of the Air, but it backflipped on that—thank goodness. The government was going to cut the gifted and talented education program, but it backflipped on that—thank goodness for that.

I turn to Moora Residential College—what a disgraceful government position with respect to those students in Moora. What did one Labor member of Parliament have to say today, according to Paul Murray? The MP said it would not be a problem if rich farmers did not send their children to private education in the city. That is class war; war of envy. It is an absolute disgrace. The Premier comes into this place repeatedly and misleads the house, saying that it needs \$7 million to fix it, when we and the community of Moora know that only \$580 000 is needed to fix the school-year home of those children to make it fire safe for them to stay there. We know that. The Premier comes in here and says, “Stop talking down Moora.” We are not talking down Moora; we know that there is investment coming to Moora and that investment will mean more families and kids living around there, and they need that school and the boarding facility to stay in. That is the whole point—for \$580 000. That is all they need.

I go back to the cuts to education. The government thinks it has got away with those cuts. There are 170 positions to be axed, and they are still to come. Landsdale Farm School is closing. Other mistruths have been put out by the government with regard to the camp schools. It says that it is going to save millions of dollars by closing the camp schools. How can the government do that when the camp school at Point Peron costs only around \$300 000 a year, according to a former manager out there? There are 6 000 students going through Point Peron. My kids, who went to Newborough Primary School, went through there and they said that it was the best experience of their lives. Closing the camp schools is something that is going to come home to roost.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [3.30 pm]: I am really pleased that we sat here in silence and did not interject on the opposition, so that we could have the same respect when we are on our feet.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: The minister says that he wants to be protected, and I will protect him.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Thank you very much.

Talk about leading with your chin! The opposition has come in here, talking about financial management, when its former ministers and cabinet were part of the worst performing managers in the history of the state. They come in here, trying to lecture us. Who is the Leader of the Opposition, I ask rhetorically? The former Minister for Energy. Who would ever have heard—perhaps a media person—of something called the Muja AB project?

Dr M.D. Nahan: It started under you! Read the report! Read the report!

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the third time. There will be no interjections. He said that he does not want any interjections, so no interjections, please.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Is this not great—I did read the report. In fact, I have it here in my hand! It states that in 2007 the Verve board approved the retirement of Muja A and B. It also states that in 2010, Inalco was selected to refurbish it in a joint venture. Who was in government in 2010? In September 2009 —

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

The SPEAKER: It is your last warning. That is three and a half, and the other half is very close, so no interjections, please.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I refer to a media release dated Monday, 11 May 2009, by former Premier Colin Barnett and Hon Peter Collier in his capacity as Minister for Energy, announcing that they had just that day decided to refurbish Muja AB. Let us get rid of this lie that somehow the Labor Party decided on Kempe as the partner. That is not true. Anybody who says that either does not know what they are talking about is deliberately telling a lie. As is explained in detail in the report by the eminent Western Australian John Langoulant, the decision to grant the contract to Kempe was made in 2010, when the Labor Party was in opposition. Anybody who says that Kempe was chosen by the former Labor government is either lying or does not know what they are talking about, because that is simply not true. The decision to award the contract to Kempe was made after the Liberal government made the decision to refurbish the power station.

There were dozens of occasions on which the Leader of the Opposition came into this place and said that there was an extensive business case to back that decision. Just as an example, on 19 June 2013 the now Leader of the Opposition said in this place —

... the government of the day signed off on a report put together over the previous year or so by Verve and its joint venture partner. The business case was comprehensive; it assessed everything.

Yet when we read the Langouant report, we find that that was simply untrue. Either the then Minister for Energy knew it was untrue—if so, there are consequences for his actions in the chamber—or he was incompetent and had no idea of the truth of the matter, and was simply incapable of doing his job. Either way, it is unacceptable, and that is why the Liberal Party has no capacity to talk about financial management. It is a disgrace. It ruined this state's public finances and it is not like we did not suggest to it that there were alternatives. Every day we sat over there, pointing out that it could not do it the way it was doing it and that there are consequences for bad decisions, and now the people of this state are bearing the costs of those bad decisions.

My mind explodes every time the member for Bateman says that the \$11 billion of debt held by Western Power is paid for in the budget. My mind explodes!

Point of Order

Mr D.C. NALDER: I made no reference to \$11 billion —

The SPEAKER: No, that is not a point of order.

Mr D.C. NALDER: He is making claims about what I have said.

The SPEAKER: It is not a point of order.

Mr D.C. NALDER: I would like some evidence of where I have said that.

The SPEAKER: Member, that is not a point of order.

Debate Resumed

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: As I say, I know that there is \$11 billion of debt held by Western Power because I have read its annual report. For crying out loud! If the member is going to come in here and say that the debt of Western Power is paid for by the taxpayers of the state through the budget, all I have to do to know whether that is true is to read the Western Power annual report. Perhaps, given that he is the energy spokesperson, he might think to read its annual report. I would be surprised if a shadow Minister for Energy were to come in here and say that he has never read an annual report of Western Power; but, if he had, he would know how much debt was held by the company. Let me make it clear, for the 157th time, just for the benefit of the member for Bateman: Western Power's debt does not add to the budget deficit. It does not add one cent to the debt services cost of the Western Australian budget—not one cent. In fact, it has a positive influence on our budget position because Western Power has to pay a debt service fee to the Treasury Corporation, which goes into the budget to pay for the services in this state. If it borrowed more money, our debt services cost would go down, not up. I have absolutely no idea why the member for Bateman does not understand mathematics. He is a former senior banking official, yet he does not understand finances or mathematics. My head literally explodes every time he comes in here and talks about these things when he does not understand the basics of the state's finances.

I really think it is time for the Liberal Party to do the one thing it has not done yet, which is to apologise for the shambles it left to the Labor government—the shambles that we are trying to fix.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Sorry is the hardest word to say!

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: Sorry is the hardest word to say! I am amused that the member for Bateman, by interjection during question time today, and then during his comments in this debate, went on about the flow-on jobs that would have come from the building of Roe 8, and the second, third and fourth-order economic effects of that project. Guess what? There are second, third and fourth-order effects of the projects that we are doing. What is more, our projects are more labour intensive than the projects the Liberal Party designed, which means that, per expenditure of dollar, our projects are creating more jobs because they are more labour intensive and have less of a capital component. That means we are creating more jobs for the same amount of money. I have no university degree; I am just a year 12 kid, yet I understand mathematics better than the member for Bateman. I have read the Western Power annual report, and I have read the budget papers. I have even read the budget papers from when he was a minister, and apparently these are things that he has never done. I am very pleased that the National Party did not participate in this debate, because the fiscal vandals are trying to turn the country and the city against each other. National Party members are apparently supporting the Liberal Party, which says that regional cities are not part of the country.

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park — Treasurer) [3.40 pm]: When I saw this matter of public interest, I was surprised to say the least. It is week 3 of year 2, and it is a generic spray at the government. I will give the Leader of the Opposition some advice. He actually sailed past a couple of specific issues that would not have made bad MPIs. I will draft them up and send them to him, just to give him a bit more focus. This is the sort of MPI that is bowled up in the last week of the year. I have a few that I have prepared. This is the sort of MPI we bowl up in the last week of the year. No wonder the opposition got itself confused yesterday and had to suspend standing orders to deal with what was clearly the key political issue of the day, then it comes in here with this general spray at government. Heavens above—focus, people!

Let me come back to an outstanding statement, “including broken promises on taxation” —

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: Just sit still, Dean, and I will get to you.

The MPI includes the words, “including broken promises on taxation, jobs and financial management”. That to me reminds the house that this is the party, now in opposition, that gave us the “fully funded, fully costed” election campaign of 2013, and was then turfed out of office on the back of debt heading towards \$41 billion. I know that frustrates the member for Bateman, and I know it frustrates some of his colleagues that they have left the state with \$41 billion worth of debt, but that was their record. I understand it frustrates the member, but I will give the opposition a tiny bit of its argument, on the basis of one thing—if the previous government had left the state in a surplus position. But it did not, did it, member for Bateman? It did not leave the state in a surplus position. I want to remind the member, because I have read the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement*. I know this stings, member for Bateman. In the *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement*, not one surplus is forecast, which is why the opposition owns the net debt, all the way through. When we lost in 2008, we left the new government record surpluses.

Mr D.C. Nalder interjected.

Mr B.S. WYATT: Member for Bateman, I know it stings, and I am starting to understand why you might have left Australia Post. This confusion with the finances that the member for Cannington has just outlined is highlighted. I know the opposition says that it had a plan, but it did not. The *Pre-election Financial Projections Statement* left us on this side of the house with deficit after deficit after deficit. That is how the Liberal Party left the finances of this state. I know it stings; I get that it stings. The report from Mr Langoulant highlights the complete dysfunctional breakdown of governance, in which a budget was not a budget of rounds; it was a year-long feeding frenzy. That is how Mr Langoulant described it—a year-round feeding frenzy. That was the previous government’s budget process. Mr Barnes, the Under Treasurer, is quoted as saying that he told them, but they just assumed that the GST was going to get better. That is the previous government’s record.

I do not know what economy the member for Bateman was talking about, but it was not Western Australia’s, because wherever I turn, whether it be the National Australia Bank, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia, or the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the data is all trending in a positive way. Even CommSec made the point in January that employment growth in Western Australia is as strong as it has been in five years. This is now a common theme of Western Australia over the last period of time. When Geoff Gallop became Premier in 2001, seasonally adjusted unemployment was 6.5 per cent. When the Labor Party lost office in 2008, seasonally adjusted unemployment was 2.9 per cent. When Mr Barnett lost office, seasonally adjusted unemployment was back up to 6.4 per cent. We now have it down to 5.7 per cent and trending in the right direction. There is a common theme to Labor and Liberal governments over nearly 20 years; that is, Labor works to reduce unemployment, and the Liberal party relies on the trickle-down theory. That is what the member for Bateman just talked about: relying on this whole idea that if we pump-prime in the right place, it will trickle down. On this side of politics, we actually go to the effort to ensure that jobs are created.

I find it interesting that we now hear the Leader of the Opposition, the former Treasurer, talking about tax increases. One thing I have not forgotten, and I am sure many Western Australians have also not forgotten, is that in a debate I had with Troy Buswell at the Hyatt Hotel in 2013, he told an audience of about a thousand people that the Barnett Liberal government would not be increasing taxes. Mike Nahan, as Treasurer, increased land tax three times in a row. That is land tax, member for Dawesville; I know that the member knows how it works. That is what the Liberal Party did three times in a row. If we look at the total dwelling investments that the member for Bateman was talking about, we can see the impact of that, as investors did not bother anymore because they were getting smacked time and again in an environment of increasing vacancies, declining property prices and declining returns on investment properties. That is what the Liberal Party did. Members opposite should not come in here and pontificate about taxes when, as the previous government, they had the greatest impact on the construction market that we have seen in the last 20 years beyond the normal economic cycle.

That is why Hon Dr Steve Thomas had the good grace to apologise for what the previous government did. The Premier has quoted him, and I will quote him again; he is a man I like. He said —

I apologise to the people of the South West, for the financial outcomes that they’ve been left with. It’s probably multi-generational debt that’ll have to be paid back by our children and grandchildren.

Hon Dr Steve Thomas summarised the legacy of the former Liberal government in two sentences, when he apologised and made the point that we tried to make for years in opposition—the \$41 billion debt the previous government has left is going to be there for generations.

There is one final point I would like to make, because the Leader of the Opposition always has a curious way of articulating his case. The point he was making was that now that we are opening infrastructure that was started by the former government, we now own the debt. I think that was the argument he was trying to make. Curiously, the Leader of the Opposition opposed the construction of the stadium. I know that he now says that it is one of the greatest things since sliced bread, but he opposed the construction of the stadium. We remember that. I am not sure whether it is a good thing or a bad thing that we own it and we have opened it. Either way, I will leave the Leader of the Opposition to try to explain himself.

I will conclude with this point. A general spray in week 3 of year 2—well said. I am going to sit down over the weekend and draft up some suggested MPIs, because I think I can nail a couple for the opposition. I will put some bullet points together, and the opposition might then come up with a constructive way to critique the government in specific areas that actually mean that we might get a decent policy debate. For the opposition to come in here with the record that it left to the people of Western Australia, and start critiquing the government around broken promises on tax, jobs and financial management, where everything improved the moment the previous government lost office, is not something I will cop.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport) [3.49 pm]: I find it quite bizarre that the opposition raised a gala dinner held a year after an election victory. At least we waited until we won before we had the celebration. Do members remember the opposition, the Liberal Party with the Daft Punk song *One More Time*? Do members remember it? To quote the words —

One more time
We're gonna celebrate
Oh yeah, all right
Don't stop the dancing
One more time
We're gonna celebrate
Oh yeah, all right
Don't stop the dancing

Do we all remember that? The Liberal Party was celebrating an election victory before it even got there.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: The job was done.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The job was done; the dancing was there.

Mr J.N. Carey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Perth, I got the message.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The job was done and they were dancing to *One More Time*. We saw the awkward high-five, member for Nedlands. That is in my memory as much as the dancing of the member for Scarborough. I cannot remember who the member for Nedlands was trying to do a high-five with, but it did not quite work, I remember that.

The opposition came in here talking about a dinner that we did not even hold just after we won; we wanted to wait a year and then we then had a gala dinner. The opposition had celebrated before the election was over. Let us figure out the backdrop of this. While opposition members were dancing to *One More Time*, the economy was in recession and the finances were out of control. The place was basically falling apart. Business confidence had record lows, unemployment record highs —

Mr D.J. Kelly: The Moora hostel was falling apart.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: —and Moora hostel was being ignored. Projects were all over the place in disrepair, there was no confidence and the Liberal Party was dancing and celebrating. I wonder why it lost. Opposition members still do not realise that. Like I said, the deposed monarchy is walking and floating around, saying, “Look at how good we were.” After a year, as the member for Victoria Park said, the opposition moves a matter of public interest that we used to have on the top shelf collecting dust. When we were really desperate we would blow the dust off and use it. I do not remember us using it in the first years of opposition. This is when we were at the end of the year when everyone was thinking about Christmas holidays and we were all tired, not in the second year when the opposition should be coming at us with key issues. It brought it in and I think there are dust marks.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: Must have left it in the loophole!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Yes: “I think we prepared this for you earlier.” I can see the dust marks. The opposition blew the dust off and came in and that was the performance. Half of the Liberal Party were not even here for most of it. I calculated that it went down to four Liberal Party members. I know that it is not very hard to get to four from where the opposition is, but at least we used to sit and listen to our own MPIs. That is one thing; we had discipline in opposition. We had to sit there and listen to our MPIs. While the opposition is focused on a dinner we had a year after being elected, it was dancing to *One More Time*. It wrecked Daft Punk for all of us for the rest of our lives. I suspect Daft Punk is probably suing the Liberal Party.

Let us look at the key facts. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia’s “Survey of Business Confidence” states —

West Australian business confidence is stronger than it has been in four years, continuing the upward trajectory witnessed throughout 2017 ...

Business confidence is back. Do members know why it is back? It is because WA jobs are our number one priority, and everyone knows that. I do not know who the opposition is talking to out there. I get feedback that business loves infrastructure certainty. It loves that we have a plan for roads and rail in this state. It loves that there is

a pipeline of work and it can see where those projects are coming and can work with the government to build those projects. Business loves infrastructure certainty. It does not like projects that are committed to and then cancelled. It does not like the fact that investors went out and bought land for the Metro Area Express light rail on the basis of a light rail project that was never delivered. It did not like that. We have a government prepared to invest in WA and in the right projects in WA. As the member for Cannington, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, said, our projects are delivering more jobs. It is true: the smaller the project, the greater the labour intensiveness and we are seeing that all through the state. The projects are across the metropolitan area and regional WA.

We believe in investing in regional roads. The previous government, under the leadership of the former member for Pilbara said that he did not believe in investing in roads from royalties for regions. Not at all. As a result when I go out to regional communities —

Mr D.T. Redman: But we did invest in roads in RforR.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No, you did not. I have been in the great southern quite a bit, and honestly, the reception I am getting from shires and councils across the state is very positive. They cannot believe the level of investment. We visited Albany recently —

Mr R.S. Love: They don't say nice things about you behind you.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I am getting very positive feedback from the fact we are investing in Indian Ocean Drive, member for Moore. They were projects that he did not fund.

Mr I.C. Blayney interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Geraldton!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We would think he would be appreciating that. In infrastructure there is an investment pipeline.

I want to touch upon the bridge for a second because the opposition has no embarrassment that it waited for 16 months and not one bit of the bridge appeared. Remember that the bridge was supposed to be finished in December 2016. The previous government committed to the project in 2015. It waited and waited and not one bit of that bridge, arches or deck, ever appeared. The Leader of the Opposition is sitting here now asking, "Where is it?"

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I do not know whether he has visited that precinct recently, but it is pretty much getting put together on the banks there. Then the member for Scarborough said, "They are not putting it together." Go and look. Maybe I need to take everyone on a study tour of the bridge at Burswood. Maybe we can do that one day. The opposition is reluctant to support the WA workforce and manage its portfolios. This government has a massive agenda of reform. We have seen it today with liquor licensing, which is all about cutting real red tape, not some weird red tape reform project whereby the previous government came in and basically deleted obsolete parts of legislation that were not impacting any processes. We have real reform, tackling real issues across the state. We are very proud of our agenda. I notice too that the opposition is talking about broken election promises. Every day this opposition wants us to break election promises, in its stance on the Perth Freight Link it wants us to build Roe 8 even when we committed not to. The opposition discussed accidents. I will go through every accident over the past number of weeks. They were all over the state and all over the metropolitan area. Again, it aims to blame some person for an accident when the previous government had eight and a half years. If the opposition wants to play that game, every accident in WA is its fault because it had eight and a half years and it did not fix those roads. That is the type of approach we will have if the opposition wants to do that.

Mr D.J. Kelly: What about the wheatbelt towns?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Exactly; the previous government did not commit to fixing roads in regional WA. We have a strong program: business confidence is up and infrastructure certainty is back. We have a competent government that goes through processes to make sure that we analyse the commitments that we deliver, unlike the previous government as was borne out in the Langoulant review. It cannot handle it. It acts like a deposed monarchy. It does not realise that we have the authority to govern and we are delivering the projects we committed to.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [3.58 pm]: I heard the Treasurer indicate that he might go home and come up with a few matter of public interest ideas for the opposition, which is very kind of him, but I have a feeling by reading this one that he already has. He has given them this idea for this MPI in which he or perhaps the minister expressed that a couple of weeks into the parliamentary year they are already doing these broad sprays. I note that the opposition leader's performance was so inspiring, the passion with which he expressed himself, it put me to sleep. I had to go into my office and have a cup of coffee to try to get myself back up again after watching that quite passionless performance.

This motion allows us to talk about some of the things that are going on. Finally, confidence is back in the Western Australian economy. It was not there before. We all know that during the dysfunctional reign of the

Liberals and Nationals in office that confidence ebbed out of the Western Australian economy and the domestic economy was in recession for four whole years.

Now the domestic economy is back in growth and the export economy is powering ahead. The financial management of the Liberals and Nationals in office was the worst in the history of Australia, and members know it. John Langoulant, former Under Treasurer, and former CEO of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia —

Mrs L.M. Harvey: That's a disgrace.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Did you say that he is a disgrace? There we go! John Langoulant is a disgrace, according to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. John Langoulant, a highly respected Western Australian, pointed out the deficiencies of those eight and a half years.

The SPEAKER: Premier, debate will be adjourned now under standing orders for private members' business.

Business of the House — Standing Orders Suspension — Motion

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

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable any time remaining and the vote on the matter of public interest to be taken forthwith.

Matter of Public Interest Resumed

Mr M. McGOWAN: To finish what I was saying, John Langoulant in his comprehensive report pointed out the shocking financial management of the state. The other point I wanted to —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Dawesville is attacking John Langoulant as well.

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Dawesville—you are very frisky today! It must have been that football game at the weekend. I call you to order for the second time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will make a passing comment: one thing that I have noticed about the Liberal Party is that it has no understanding of Parliament and it has no respect for the institution and its practices.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Exhibit A. The Liberal Party has no respect for Parliament's practices.

The last thing I will say is that this government is working hard to rebuild those relationships with our traditional trading partners of China, Japan and Korea. We are working hard to secure more support from the commonwealth government. We have had more success than the Liberals and Nationals ever had because we are taking those relationships seriously. We heard from the Minister for Tourism that the former government did not even go to China or Japan. It had no interest in getting support from the commonwealth. This government is having more success in achieving those outcomes than members opposite ever could have dreamt of.

Division

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (15)

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Mr I.C. Blayney | Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup | Mr W.R. Marmion | Mr D.T. Redman |
| Mr V.A. Catania | Mr A. Krsticevic | Dr M.D. Nahan | Mr P.J. Rundle |
| Mrs L.M. Harvey | Mr S.K. L'Estrange | Mr D.C. Nalder | Ms L. Mettam (<i>Teller</i>) |
| Mr P. Katsambanis | Mr R.S. Love | Mr K. O'Donnell | |

Noes (37)

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ms L.L. Baker | Mr W.J. Johnston | Mr P. Papalia | Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski |
| Dr A.D. Buti | Mr D.J. Kelly | Mr S.J. Price | Mr C.J. Tallentire |
| Mr J.N. Carey | Mr F.M. Logan | Mr D.T. Punch | Mr P.C. Tinley |
| Mrs R.M.J. Clarke | Mr M. McGowan | Mr J.R. Quigley | Mr B. Urban |
| Mr R.H. Cook | Ms S.F. McGurk | Ms M.M. Quirk | Mr R.R. Whitby |
| Mr M.J. Folkard | Mr K.J.J. Michel | Mrs M.H. Roberts | Mr B.S. Wyatt |
| Ms J.M. Freeman | Mr S.A. Millman | Ms C.M. Rowe | Mr D.R. Michael (<i>Teller</i>) |
| Ms E. Hamilton | Mr Y. Mubarakai | Ms R. Saffioti | |
| Mr T.J. Healy | Mr M.P. Murray | Ms A. Sanderson | |
| Mr M. Hughes | Mr L.M. O'Malley | Ms J.J. Shaw | |

Pairs

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Ms M.J. Davies | Ms S.E. Winton |
| Mr J.E. McGrath | Mr D.A. Templeman |

Question thus negatived.

EDUCATION — FUNDING IMPACTS*Referral to Education and Health Standing Committee — Motion*

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore) [4.07 pm]: I move —

That the Education and Health Standing Committee inquire into the Labor government's cuts to education, announced 13 December 2017, to determine —

- (1) the educational impacts of the closure of Moora Residential College, closure or privatisation of six camp schools, cuts to the Western Australian agricultural colleges trust fund and increased fees for VacSwim; and
- (2) the appropriateness of the decision-making process behind the cuts, including any consultation that was undertaken.

There are two key areas of importance for consideration here. First of all, the first point refers to the educational impacts. We would like to examine exactly what these decisions will mean in order to understand the costs or the benefits, if any, to educational outcomes for students right across Western Australia in both the —

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Excuse me, member. Members, will you please stop conversations in the background. Hansard cannot hear.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Very good. I cannot hear myself think because there is so much noise at times. It is very important to assess the educational impacts and exactly what these decisions will mean for the students in not only regional areas, but also the metropolitan area. Cuts to programs in the metropolitan area will also affect students. Some of the cuts—for instance, to the Western Australian agricultural colleges trust fund—will affect the farm schools and those schools that have a farming program, such as Landsdale Farm School and others, in the metropolitan area.

It is very important to understand exactly the effects of these decisions on educational outcomes. Given the chaotic and rushed nature of decision-making and its emphasis, pretty much, on agricultural, regional and a few programs in the metropolitan area, we would like to get an understanding of how some of these decisions were made; how it was that they were then overturned; what criteria was used to come up with both the original decisions and the pushbacks, if you like, that subsequently occurred; and the motivation behind some of the decisions. We have chosen to seek to refer this issue to the Education and Health Standing Committee, which I think is the appropriate course of action. I understand that the committee structure is set up to do exactly what we are asking to happen. Having looked at the parliamentary website to gain further instruction as to appropriateness of referring this issue to the committee, I have gained a clear insight into the functions and powers of the committees. I will quote a little from the Parliament of Western Australia website because it is important that members know exactly what we are seeking to do here. The website states —

Committees can address, in an appropriate level of detail, matters that are the business of Parliament but are not suitable to be dealt with in the environment of a House. Committee proceedings are more intimate and less likely to be adversarial than proceedings in a House.

It is important that we have a very collegiate atmosphere to really get to the bottom of some of these issues. The website continues —

Party politics are often less prominent in a committee than in a House. It can be useful for a committee to review a complex or contentious matter —

Certainly these are contentious and complex matters, Deputy Speaker —

and to assist parliamentary debate by clarifying issues and establishing common ground between members of different parties.

We all know that there is precious little common ground between the parties at the moment, so it would be good if we could establish some common ground and perhaps come to some understanding. Other matters addressed on the website include that committees are a good avenue of communication between Parliament and the Western Australian community. Consistently coming from all this is that members of the Western Australian community, certainly in the areas I am familiar with, feel that they have not been communicated with well, there has not been a good deal of consultation and that they are being kept in the dark and decisions are being made without any regard to their needs. I think the committee undertaking an inquiry would go some way to restoring public confidence in the processes of Parliament and the processes of government. I think that is important for, if you like, the good governance of the state, not just in terms of education, but in a general sense. In my electorate at least, people feel very, very frustrated with government at moment. They feel disappointed and let down, and that they are not valued. A thorough exercise of inquiry by a committee may well help to undo some of that damage.

The Parliament website goes on to state —

The committee forum gives different sectors of the community the opportunity to participate in law making and policy review by airing their views on a matter and having those views reported to Parliament.

Yesterday, the Moora community and its supporters were in the metropolitan area—it was not just people from Moora but many, many people travelled from Moora for that event—and at the start of this Parliament, on

13 February this year, the Country Women's Association of Western Australia put itself into a political rally for the first time. Being in politics is not a comfortable position for the CWA to be in; it is not the place it volunteers itself for. In fact, by memory, the mantra of the CWA alludes to being nonsectarian and non-political. The CWA did not see this as a political issue, but as a fundamental issue for communities and the wellbeing of children.

Mr V.A. Catania: They're not just tea and scones.

Mr R.S. LOVE: No, they are not just tea and scones.

Of course, as a women's association, the CWA has a very long history of involving itself in matters to do with making families more comfortable in country areas and ensuring that students—that children—have a supported lifestyle in country areas.

Earlier we had decisions around Schools of the Air and the energisation of the more remote areas of the state. My colleague, the member for North West Central, was instrumental and helped to work with the Isolated Children's and Parents' Association and the Schools of the Air parents' associations to organise a series of rallies that took place in most of the regional centres Schools of the Air is located. I congratulate him for that work. In the case of Meekatharra School of the Air, that rally took place in Geraldton. Geraldton is now the centre of the Meekatharra School of the Air. That makes some sense because it is located right next to the Geraldton camp school, which I will talk about later. Certainly the level of community concern demonstrated then, just after Christmas and during the Christmas period, led to the government reconsidering that outcome. I suppose it also quite clearly demonstrated how deeply country people feel about the education of their children. The feelings of people involved in Schools of the Air are no different than the feelings of people in my electorate involved in Moora Residential College. Indeed, it is important to understand that many people involved in the Isolated Children's Parents' Association live in my electorate. I think most of the executive are my constituents. Surprising as it might be to some people, my electorate is quite large; it even covers some pastoral areas. Many people in the more remote farming communities have very limited access to education as things stand now, let alone if any threats of cuts to those services come along.

Although the Schools of the Air decision was overturned, I think it would be instructive for the committee to look at that situation as part of the second tier of this investigation into the government's decision-making process. Although it will not be necessary to examine the effects of the closure, I think it would be very instructive to get an understanding of why Schools of the Air was an area of education in Western Australia, especially in regional Western Australia, that was targeted by those decisions and to see not only how the targets were selected, but also how the costings would affect the budget. Where the savings would be was very unclear throughout the whole discussion on Schools of the Air. The aim was to remove Schools of the Air. I think there are five schools. Is that right, member for North West Central?

Mr V.A. Catania: Yes.

Mr R.S. LOVE: The aim was to remove five schools and replace them with the School of Isolated and Distance Education, but not as the school operates at the moment; to change SIDE's operation fundamentally and make it replicate the things Schools of the Air does. Exactly where any savings would be after those changes had been made is pretty difficult to find. I suspect that was not envisaged when the decision was made. I suspect it was expected that the children would simply enrol in the SIDE program as it stood at that point and that as part of, shall we say, the spending that goes on trying to deal with a difficult decision, the government came up with the idea of changing the School of Isolated and Distance Education to more closely reflect what Schools of the Air does. I do not think that decision was planned and it probably was not costed. It would be a very important issue for the committee to examine.

Mr V.A. Catania: That's a good point, member, because no-one knows the amount of money that SIDE needed to bring it up to a particular standard.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I know it is a good point; that is why I am making it, member.

Would there have been any savings by the time SIDE had been brought up to standard? That may well be the reason, apart from the very, very strong reaction from Schools of the Air and the hits the government was taking on a daily basis in the press and in the public arena on its decision on SOTA. It may well be that the government finally recognised that it was not going to save any money. Maybe that was part of the reason; I do not know. We probably will not know until we actually have this inquiry so that we can get to the bottom of exactly what went on with these matters.

I will return briefly to the website. It is very instructive. I must congratulate the Parliament on having such clear outlines on its web page. It allows the public, and people like me, when talking about these matters, to understand exactly what the committee's functions are. I again quote —

As discussed, a committee is charged with the task of investigating and reporting to the relevant House on matters referred to it. This involves seeking information, assessing its significance, and then reporting findings and recommendations to the House.

Committees:

- will seek information and comment from Government departments and agencies relevant to the inquiry, as well as appropriate experts;

I think it does need the gravitas of a committee to be able to go to the public servants and seek that information. Certainly as an individual member, I made plenty of inquiries to the department and the minister for information about the decisions being made. That information never arrived until some information was released yesterday in the other place. I had been seeking that information since last year. Going back to the web page, it says that committees —

- may cast a wider net, seeking submissions from individuals and groups likely to be interested in or affected by the issues under inquiry. Where an inquiry is on a large scale a committee may advertise for submissions from the general public;

When we look at the number of people who got involved over this whole issue, it is quite clear that individuals and groups, much wider than simply parents, wanted to be involved in the discussion and got behind the rallies and other actions that were put together to try to demonstrate public concern about the decisions made. Again, going back to the rallies organised by the member for North West Central, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association was also involved, along with the Isolated Children's Parents' Association. Can the member recall the other groups?

Mr V.A. Catania: There were people from camp schools right across the area.

Mr R.S. LOVE: A whole range of people were getting involved. Committees can actually bring all of that into their purview and look at those wider views and look at how the wider community also sees these decisions and the effects.

Going back to the appropriateness of this committee, the Education and Health Standing Committee is the committee that we are seeking to send this to. The Education and Health Standing Committee is a standing committee of this house and has the portfolio responsibility, according to the web page, of the education and training portfolio. That is certainly the appropriate committee for this particular inquiry to be sent to. We see that the matter falls within the ambit of the committee. It is entirely appropriate for that committee to be involved in this. I think the public would expect this type of inquiry to be one that the committee would get involved in. Matters of considerable weight need to be considered not only for the education of the children who are immediately affected, but also it is entirely important for the wider community and the families. All these decisions that were made affect not just the current students and the groups who might have booked a camp school spot for 2018–19, but they also affect future generations of students right throughout the state. It had the potential, before the backflips especially, to fundamentally change the dynamics of education in regional Western Australia. They were very, very far reaching and very damaging in some circumstances, in my view.

As I said before, the community's concern and demand for this is the reason we are seeking this to go to the committee. It is not just a matter for debate in this house and it is not just a matter of cheap political pointscore. Real community concern has been exhibited not only through the rallies and the social media posts, but also through the testimonials of real family distress. Many of the families that the member for North West Central, the member for Roe and I, and others, deal with are quite private people. They are not the sort of people who wear their heart on their sleeve and tell everybody how they are feeling. They often do not like to share their private views and concerns. Many of them have come forward in the last few months to do things they never thought they would do—tell stories about the effects these changes would have on their families and children, on their businesses, and on their hopes for the future and for the future of their districts. Even yesterday, we saw mothers talking, including the president of the P&C at Central Midlands Senior High School who has been instrumental in organising quite a bit of the response to the government decision to close the Moora Residential College. She is not someone who likes to be in the public eye. Yesterday was the first time that I think she has spoken publicly for a very long time. She did a remarkably good job. The reason she did so was not that she enjoys public speaking—I can tell members that she does not enjoy public speaking—the issue was fundamentally important to her and to others in her community. She felt that the injustice and the concern that she had for the future of her school and the future of her community was such that it overrode her natural reticence to speak publicly. That story has replicated throughout.

I recently received an email from the CEO of the Shire of Dandaragan with a number of stories about local people within that shire who attend Moora Residential College. I spoke yesterday about one family next door to me. A single father with two daughters had taken the time to put down in writing his feelings and send them to that person for them to send on to me. I have known that man for 30 years. I do not think he is someone who would normally write down such feelings or outline such concerns to anybody. That again goes to show how important this is to regional people and to others. I have heard members in this house who have metropolitan seats also express concern about some of the changes especially to the environmental program, I think at the Herdsman, which runs for very little money and has had a great impact on educating children for many, many years, but it will disappear. It will not be available anymore. It is part of the landscape for children's education in WA. It will

just disappear; it will not be around anymore. That is the nature of what has been decided. It is a very, very short-term budget problem but it will have very, very long-term effects on people. State debt will take time to pay off, but what we are talking about here is the budget deficit. The budget deficit problem is, even by the government's own forecast, expected to correct itself in a few years, yet these decisions will hang on. These decisions will continue to play out. These decisions will continue to affect families, children and educational outcomes right across Western Australia.

I am looking at the two arms of this referral. The second arm is all about the decision-making process behind the cuts, including any consultation. I want to know why the regions seem to figure so prominently in the cuts. Why does regional WA seem to be disproportionately affected by the recommendations that were put to the minister? Was that something that the minister called for? Does the minister feel it is important to actually reduce educational opportunities in regional areas? Is there someone in the department who somehow feels that people in regional areas are unimportant? Why were those recommendations made? There is absolutely no evidence that I can see that there is a disproportionately good educational opportunity in regional areas that needs to be reduced to equalise it with that in the city. Far from it; in fact, it is just the reverse. People in regional areas are far less likely to have high educational outcomes than are people in the metropolitan area. They are far less likely to go to university than are people in the metropolitan area, yet we are seeing a reduction in the investment in regional education. I cannot see why, as a matter of good public policy, that would be advanced by a public servant with the good of the state at heart. I think it is very important that we look at the decision-making process and find out exactly who called for these cuts to savage regional education. Did it come from some person in the department who is running their own agenda, did it come from the minister or did it just come from a complete lack of care and understanding by both the minister and the department? Someone certainly made those decisions to put those recommendations forward to the minister and the minister certainly accepted them. Somewhere in all that some questions need to be answered, and a committee could go a long way to trying to understand that. I do not want to delve into the idea that some sort of class warfare mentality is involved in all this, but maybe there is; I do not know. I think this needs to be examined, because whatever the colour of the government, it needs to make decisions for the good of the whole of the state and not just for areas held by the party that happens to be in government at the time. We know that a directive went out to fix the budget because apparently there was a failure by the government to sell the need for a gold royalty. It seems to me that the call went out to get some money back in because of the gold royalty. That was never actually going to happen. It was not ever agreed that it was going to happen. The government never consulted with anybody before it announced it was going to do that.

Mr V.A. Catania: In fact, prior to the election, it said that it would not.

Mr R.S. LOVE: That is right. The Labor Party said that it was not going to take such measures and then it took such measures and wondered why they were opposed in the Parliament. They were opposed in the Parliament because the government had no mandate to bring them in. Is that also one of the reasons that regional areas were particularly targeted? Gold comes from the regions, so perhaps there was some sort of a simplistic view that there should be some disproportionate pain visited upon regional people, because their gold—not necessarily their own gold, but the gold that comes from regional areas—was not going to provide that extra royalty increase the government had hoped for. We may never know why those decisions were made and we may never know why the regions were so disproportionately targeted—my people are now saying “victimised”—but I think we owe it to the public of Western Australia to find out exactly what happened.

As I said before, regional education is an issue that has spurred concern from not just parents themselves, but also a wider group of people who understand the value of education. I think it is interesting that the whole discussion has spurred a lot of sympathy and concern from city-based people who understand that education is important for everybody. It is not just regional people who are concerned about these matters, who are voicing their concern about Moora and who are voicing their concern about Schools of the Air; it is people from all over WA. I think the general community understands that education is very important, that a well-educated population is the key to the future and that anything done to reduce that educational opportunity is, by its very nature, anathema to all people who would like to see this state become an even better place to live than it already is.

Some of these decisions have very badly affected my electorate, so I have spent some time in this house trying to outline my concerns about not only the Moora Residential College, but also the issues of camp schools. Although the Geraldton camp school is not in my electorate, my electorate surrounds it. Many, many children from the schools in my area go to the Geraldton camp school, particularly those in the midwest educational district. That, too, is an important matter to me, as is, of course, the agricultural colleges trust, because of the situation of the College of Agriculture Morawa, which is one of the outstanding educational facilities in the electorate. It needs to be enhanced and built upon, not penalised and reduced. We will talk in some greater depth about those individual matters pretty shortly.

I will just get back to Moora for a moment. If the Education and Health Standing Committee assessed the educational impact of the closure of the college and the other matters, such as the cuts to the colleges et cetera, it would also need to understand the current general education outcomes in those areas so that we can understand

whether decisions made are in the best interests of the area. It would be really important for the committee to get a really thorough understanding of the particular challenges that face regional families in getting a decent education for their children and then to ask whether any of these decisions were made with a view to improving those educational outcomes. I for one certainly do not think they were. In the case of Moora Residential College, the former government had announced a program. A cabinet decision had been made to fund the Moora Residential College to the tune of \$8.7 million. At the time that that decision was made, the then Minister for Education, Peter Collier, along with my colleague the former Minister for Regional Development, went to the college and made the announcement. They also spoke about the need to improve Central Midlands Senior High School and intimated that they would be willing to look at investment in that school in the future, after doing some planning and investigating, to improve the whole opportunity for education in the area. Now there is a threat to the residential college. As I have said in this house before, the residential college is an integral part of the population, if you like, of Central Midlands Senior High School. If those students are removed now, they will be removed for generations to come and the size of Central Midlands Senior High School will be forever diminished, its budget will be forever diminished and the course options available will be forever diminished. That will lead to more and more families perhaps making the decision not to send their children there. Often, when a decision like that is made, because of the very high cost of boarding elsewhere, unfortunately—I personally know this happens—the mother will leave the area and find accommodation in a larger centre or the metropolitan area and take not only that child, but also younger children, if they have them. The effect is quite severe on the whole region. It affects the high school student, who probably does not come from Moora—perhaps they come from Eneabba, for instance. When that family goes to accommodate the year 7 student, they will take the year 5 and year 4 students with them. That then also affects the Eneabba feeder school, the primary school there, and that then affects the community in the whole area. The effects of this are insidious. They are ongoing and they will be generational. They are not going to go away next year because the kids have found somewhere else to go. They are going to be around for very long time. As we learnt today, that college will cost about \$580 000 plus contingencies to actually make it fire safe. Numerous reports in the press have been attributed to senior members of government, saying that it will cost \$8 million or \$9 million to achieve that. That is simply not true. The reports are there, and it will cost far less to do that. Those same reports put the full replacement costs for the college at around \$19 million, so if we wanted to build that college as a facility, it would cost about \$19 million. If we wanted to refurbish it to the same standard, it would cost \$8 million or \$9 million.

I am sure that the community there would dearly love to have such an investment, but it knows that that is not going to happen. However, it would like to see that \$580 000 spent to keep the college open. Bear in mind that we have a facility, the replacement cost of which is around \$19 million, that will sit idle and empty and provide no educational opportunities for anyone. It will sit empty for want of just over half a million dollars of investment. For me, that is a bit of a no-brainer. I really think that these decisions that are being made need to be questioned and examined because they really exhibit a very short-term view of their own effects and a lack of understanding of just how far-reaching and fundamental those effects will be for the community, the children and the school that that residential college services.

As I said before, my electorate takes in quite an extensive area, including the WA College of Agriculture, Morawa. I took the time to consult with members of the Morawa community on their concerns about Morawa ag college some time ago, after these decisions had been made. The agricultural college trust fund has been used for many years to help build the infrastructure on some of those agricultural colleges and to provide some support to other farming and agricultural programs throughout the state. Removing that 20 per cent of the budget will make very little difference to the Western Australian government's budget; it will probably disappear in the price of cups of tea and coffee in the committee rooms across the road. In fact, I was flabbergasted to learn today that the sausage rolls provided over there are imported from Adelaide, so perhaps when we are looking at local jobs, we could look at the sausage roll situation in the committee rooms! I am told that they are the best sausage rolls. I am told that by the staff; I do not stand by that, but that is a diversion. We should look into that, because local jobs are important and I am sure that within a five-kilometre radius of the South Perth area, where the member for Roe lives, there is plenty of acreage that could provide that service! He lives in the country, but he has a residence here in South Perth.

Getting back to the agricultural college, this is very serious.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I can smell it from here!

Mr R.S. LOVE: So can I; it is not very nice!

The 20 per cent cut to the trust budget is quite damaging because it is a disincentive to the people who get involved in the ag colleges. Many people give a lot of time to those colleges, in the farm advisory groups and in the community, to make sure the kids get a really good experience and an understanding of modern farming practices. In order for them to do that, they need to have up-to-date equipment. It is no good having kids in Morawa being given a grey Massey tractor and a three-rung combine or something and telling them to go and put the crop in. They need to have skills relevant to the industry that they are going to work in. The industry is changing rapidly.

In the time since I have no longer been involved in the day-to-day running of a farming operation, having been in Parliament for the last few years, the skills needed to actually run the farm in the way that it is being run at the moment by lessees and the like have changed and I would have to do a fair bit of upskilling to catch up. Things have changed dramatically in the last few years. The equipment has changed dramatically and the scale of operation has changed dramatically. The understanding of the business as part of the economy has changed very rapidly. The agricultural colleges need to be able to remain relevant, and that trust money helps keep them relevant because it is invested back into the business side of the ag colleges. Yes, the government pays some of the ongoing costs as part of its budget; sometimes it pays a little bit of capital, but quite a bit of —

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr R.S. LOVE: The minister is great at interjecting on people, but he does not like it when it happens to him.

Acquiring these skills provides a unique opportunity for students who want to go into an area where they will have strong, hands-on skills, both in agriculture and in some of the associated trades. Some of those students are also doing Australian tertiary admission rank courses at the college, specifically in agronomy and soil science and those types of subjects. They are then able to take the opportunity to go to university, so we have students coming out with very strong hands-on skills matched with academic ability. I think it is very important for the future of agriculture in our state to have people who are skilled at doing things and who have an understanding of science and economics and everything else behind what they are doing. Again, the trust budget means that there is something between \$200 000 and \$400 000 a year, which that 20 per cent take will represent. In terms of the state budget it is nothing; it is not going to pay back state debt and it is not going to fix the budget overnight. In fact, as I said, it will probably only match the cost of the sausage rolls over the road. Why are we setting up to change a system that has been around for years and years and has worked very nicely to reinvest in Western Australian government property? It actually reinvests back into the farm schools, which belong to the Western Australian government, and will provide future opportunities for students. The fact that it is owned by the Western Australian government does not mean that the Western Australian government should be looking to take a dividend from it. This is a self-sustaining situation that will enable —

Mrs R.M.J. Clarke interjected.

Mr R.S. LOVE: No, I did not say that. I clearly did not say that.

Mrs R.M.J. Clarke: No, you just said self-sufficient.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I said that the trust funds are self-sustaining because they will be reinvested back into productive activities that will then return money back into the trust. For instance, at the moment the Morawa college is trying to renew and expand its piggery; I have spoken about that before in this place. If it is successful, it will make a substantial return to the trust fund. That money will then be available for future purchases of land somewhere else and to provide for the farm school experiences in some of the metropolitan areas, and it will be available to help make sure that the students have equipment that is relevant to the modern workplace. It is not the case that without those funds the colleges would have programs that are relevant in all circumstances to the current agricultural working environment.

It is essential that the fund continues in its current form. By taking a 20 per cent slug out of that, we are breaking the hearts of the people who get involved. They are not getting involved to make money for the government; they are getting involved to make sure that their local ag college has a great program for the industry. These people are interested in the future of their industry and of young people. They are not doing this for their own profit but to improve education for students and ensure that the Western Australian agricultural industry has a well-educated and thoroughly engaged workforce. We need young people to come into the industry. We know that the average age of farmers in many areas is quite advanced in years. We need those younger people coming through, but we also need people to understand that a career in agriculture is well supported and will be well rewarded. It is a dynamic area, not a stationary and static one where people spend their lives in never-ending drudgery and toil, doing the same thing day after day. People need some excitement and a feeling that their college is expanding, just as the businesses around them are expanding.

I will move on very quickly to another area of concern—the camp school at Geraldton. When the decision was made to close the camp schools, there was plenty of chatter around. I even heard that the department was looking to sell the schools, but I have not heard anybody back up that view. That was the word around at the time, but it certainly spoke of the closure of the schools. Again, since the original announcements were made, we seem to have had a bit of a change of heart, and we are now talking about finding other ways of running the schools. Non-government organisations, for instance, will become involved.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Excuse me, you can get up and have a go later.

Mr P. Papalia: You're a bit touchy, aren't you?

Mr R.S. LOVE: I have limited time, and these are fairly complex matters.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister; members.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Listen, and take some notes.

I have forgotten where I was and may have to restart.

Mr D.T. Redman: You were talking about the NGOs taking over.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Yes—the NGOs taking over the camp schools. Geraldton camp school is, I understand, fully booked for 2018. These are not underutilised facilities; they are being fully utilised. Why was the decision made to close the camp schools? Where would the students from the schools that use the six or seven camp schools throughout the state then go to get that education opportunity? How would the schools booking the camps pay for those opportunities? At the end of the day, all of this has to be paid for. If the government felt that there were plenty of other places for the schools to go to, I would like to know exactly where those places are, how much it is thinks they are going to cost, and who is going to pay for the schools to use them. None of that is very clear to me in spite of some questioning and discussion. We do not really know the answer to those questions. A committee would perhaps be able to get to the bottom of exactly what happened and when. When the original decision was made, what actually was the decision? It is not very clear what the decision actually was. What were the costings? Did the department feel that this was not an important thing and schools would not bother? Maybe that is what it was hoping would happen. Maybe the department was hoping that students would not miss the opportunity to go on a school camp; it would all just go away, and that would be that.

Then came the announcement that the camp schools were to be retained, but they would not be kept in the same form; they would not be camp schools, and some other person was going to come and run them. Has the department had any discussions with anyone? Have there been any discussions with any NGOs that indicated they might be interested in taking them on as a business? Has there been any discussion about price? The announcement after the change of heart, as I recall, also stated that there would not be any increases in costs to the schools. We are trying to create a situation in which we retain the same facility, with someone else running it, for the same price, and we are making a saving. I am scratching my head; I do not understand where the saving is.

Mr V.A. Catania: Creative accounting.

Mr R.S. LOVE: It is very creative accounting. I am just a simple farmer, not a banker or something like that, so maybe there is some science to all of that, but I think that the committee could inquire and find out exactly how these decisions are being made. They do not seem to make any sense. The minister is in a very bad position if she is being fed information from a department that is not assessing the effects of the decisions it is making. Where are the business cases being put forward to ascertain exactly what the effects will be of these closures?

While all these decisions were being announced, what thought processes were put in place for the staff? Who cared less about what they felt on being told that their place of employment was going to close down, and then, miraculously, it is not going to be closed down? Someone else is going to run it but we do not really know who, and we do not know whether the existing staff will have jobs. At the same time, there was some program of voluntary separation, so if they did not step forward and take a redundancy now, they may not get one later. I understand that that has changed again and they have been given an opportunity a bit further down the track to enter that voluntary separation process. Those things should have been thought of when the decision was made, but they were not.

These camp schools were designated at one stage as schools. My understanding is that the government goes through a process when it closes a school. The process involves notice of at least a year that that school will close, and arrangements are firmed up for the buildings and for the staff and the students to make sure that they have opportunities elsewhere. When Buntine and Latham schools closed down in my electorate, I remember some of the difficulties caused to the families and the staff, who did not really understand what was happening in that process. When we have this situation in which the department closes the lot—the whole arm—we must ask what the decision-making process is. It is my understanding that at one stage these camp sites, as they are now known, were actually schools. They had the designation of a school number and they were recognised by the Department of Education as camp schools. The department should have followed the process that is followed for any other school that is closed down, but that does not seem to have happened. I understand that their designation as schools was simply removed by some administrative stroke of a pen, so the department did not have to go through all that process. That is a bit underhanded, and it is not fair or right to do those things. In the case of the Geraldton camp school, I think 10 staff did not know what was going on in the future.

The motion also refers to a number of other things, one of which is the increase in fees for VacSwim—a program that is very important in educating young people to enjoy the water safely. At the end of the parliamentary year last year—it might have been the last sitting day or the day before—the Ombudsman had a briefing here in the committee room and released a report on drownings and safety.

We know that drowning deaths are a real concern. The VacSwim program has, for many years, provided families with an opportunity to make sure that their kids are skilled up. The more skilled kids are, hopefully the less likely they are to have an unfortunate event, the worst case being losing one to drowning. That is a terrible thing for a family to go through. Two of my cousins drowned in a farm dam and the effect on my aunty for many, many years was severe; it is ongoing and something that a family never really gets over. Nobody wants to see that sort of thing happening, yet we know that that program also suffered cuts. Why? When we have an Ombudsman putting out a report that highlights the dangers, why would a government do that? I do not understand why these things would be thought of; it makes no sense to me whatsoever. I wonder whether there is something structural in the department and maybe that is something that the committee could look at. It could look at the very structure of the department to see whether there is adequate understanding. I know this is not just a regional program, but swimming is very important to regional kids as much as anybody else because of the matter I just outlined about my family.

Is there a bias in the department? Is there some sort of change that has taken place recently within the structure of the department that has led to a lack of understanding about the effects of these changes on regional education? Maybe the recent machinery-of-government changes in the department is behind what has happened. Maybe that is part of the problem and is something that the committee could look into, because it would point the way, not just in the Department of Education. It could potentially point to problems that the government will face in a range of departments as it slashes from the department the positions of those people who know what they are doing and leaves people who provide advice of that calibre to ministers of the government. Surely the government must be worried about it. On the basis of that, the very least the government should consider is to support this motion to refer these matters to a committee. The committee would certainly be the ideal place to do it.

Due to the committee structure, we could take some of the politics out of it, because it is a government-controlled committee, so the government would have some certainty that it was not set up as some sort of lynch mob to get the government or to score some cheap points. It is being proposed by our party because of our genuine desire to see good government delivered to the state and to see that the education department understands at least that regional people value education greatly. Education to all people in Western Australia is important. Education is one of the fundamental activities of government. If the government is making poor decisions in education, that is very worrisome indeed. Maybe it is just a sharp point for us because as regional people we have been so badly targeted and so unevenly victimised, if you like, by the current government and its decision-making that we are feeling a little defensive.

In these matters, we are highlighting to the government that there are some systemic problems in the department and in the decision-making between the department, its advice, the minister and the acceptance of that in the community. We do not often see trucks from Moora driving up and down St Georges Terrace. We do not often see some of those people who were here yesterday speaking in public. I can tell members, trucks in wheatbelt areas at the moment are flat out carting lime sand to spread on paddocks. For those trucks to have shown up here yesterday would have been a real cost to every one of those truck drivers and the owners of the trucks if the driver was not the owner. There would have been a real cost for each of the participants at that rally, at the Country Women's Association rally, at the rally on 30 January in Moora, and at each of the rallies that took place for the Schools of the Air, put together by the member for North West Central, the Isolated Children's Parents' Association, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association and others, to demonstrate country people's real concerns about this government and its decisions that affect regional areas.

All of this started even before these decisions because the previous government made the decision not to fund the \$8.7 million at Moora. That in itself showed a lack of concern for regional areas. It was a decision of the previous government to fund that. It was not an election promise as has been said in this house; it was a decision of cabinet of the previous government of Western Australia to fund that college and I would have thought that in normal circumstances an incoming government would have honoured those types of matters. We have heard this government talk about state agreements and how sacrosanct they are, yet cabinet decisions are not treated with the same level of protection. Whilst it is sacrosanct not to change anything that might affect BHP and Rio Tinto, it is fine to punish the community of Moora by taking away its college upgrade and then finally by taking away the college itself. That is not acceptable to me or to my party. It is not acceptable to the communities I represent. As demonstrated by articles in *The West Australian* today by Paul Murray, by the support of journalists in Perth such as Jane Marwick, by the general uprising and groundswell of community outrage from people in the Schools of the Air, like the Isolated Children's Parents' Association and Tracey Errington from Central Midlands Senior High School Parents and Citizens Association, it is not good enough. We want some answers and the best place to get those answers would be in a committee with a referral to that committee. I hope the government sees fit to support that, because we know it will not happen unless it does. I suspect it will try to hide behind its numbers and not do that, but I remind it that as a government-controlled committee there is nothing to fear by putting it to a committee and getting a proper examination of the decisions and the effects on education in regional WA. I thank members for their time.

MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren–Blackwood) [5.07 pm]: I want to make clear my commitment and support for the motion that has been read in by the member for Moore and highlight once again the importance of this referral. This government owes it to anyone who is linked to rural and regional education in Western Australia to have a little light shone on this issue to understand the deliberative decision-making process and why these decisions have been made, which in our view are ill founded, short-sighted and fundamentally attack the rights of children in regional Western Australia to get a quality education.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Excuse me, members, could you please keep the backchat down. Thank you.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: This is not hard for the government to support. This is not a motion that condemns it; this is not a motion that states it has to change it and put it back the other way. It simply asks to be referred to a committee that is government controlled to have a closer look at the decisions and the comparative effect of the educational outcomes that are impacted by these decisions to give people, and regional communities in particular, confidence that there has been good reason and basis for these decisions. The sorts of things I am sure the committee could look at include cost savings. What are the realities of cost savings that are made by these decisions, highlighted in the question that the member for Moore put to the Premier today? Is it true that in fact the government can keep Moora Residential College open for the simple cost of \$500 000 versus dealing with the fire risk issues in that college for something like \$8.5 million? There are discrepancies made in the public forum about what actual cost savings are there. Cost savings is one agenda that the committee can have a closer look at.

I will expand on the decision-making process in a minute, but I make the point that a range of decisions were made at the end of last year that would impact on regional and rural education, and a number of savings were pushed and booked in that budget. Since then, there have been backflips. What is the nature of the reasons that some decisions have been considered less significant and still remain as cuts but others have changed and will now be funded? I will expand on that in a minute.

There is also an issue of the educational benefits that are lost. What are the educational benefits that are lost? These other relative intangibles are sometimes not fully comprehended in some of these decisions that have been made. The government has clearly got some of that wrong and has admitted that. What are the educational benefits that are lost from these decisions? What are the impacts of the alternatives? If the Moora Residential College or camp schools are taken away, what are the impacts of the alternatives that students might or might not be able to access in order to gain the educational outcomes that they rightly deserve and are entitled to? What level of consultation occurred in making these decisions? This motion would simply refer this to a committee to have a closer look at these issues and these decisions which, quite rightly, would give regional people confidence that the decisions should or should not stand and that, in fact, they are sound in nature and have been thought through. One reason this is important is that the government has not given us confidence that these decisions have been through a proper deliberative process. Why? Simplistically, it has backflipped. It made decisions at the end of last year and said, “These are things we’re going to cut.” Since then, under significant community pressure, it has backflipped. It has backflipped and has said that it will now go back to funding the Schools of the Air.

I will quote from an 11 January report from ABC online. When the minister made that decision she stated —

“You ... need to get the timing right and ... you absolutely need to bring people with you.”

She went on to say that the cuts went too far. The minister has said that the government got it wrong. That backflip by the minister and the Premier does not give us confidence in the decisions they made on the other issues that remain cut in this current government’s budget. Why was the Schools of the Air put back in and re-funded? The minister said that they got it wrong, that they went too far and did not bring people with them.

Let us extend that to the gifted and talented education program. The original decision was to make a 25 per cent cut to the gifted and talented education program. Why was that reinstated? Why was that picked out of the pile? Why was it not Moora Residential College or the camp schools? They have equal impacts on educational outcomes. The fact that the minister, the Premier and the government by extension have backflipped does not give anyone any confidence whatsoever that there has been a proper, thought-through deliberative process to have some of these cuts still stand. In my view, that is the key issue and why it needs to go to a committee to put a level of assessment over the decision-making process.

I will give members an example. The gifted and talented educational program is very important. We have some gifted people in our education system. We need to find good processes to give them the necessary extension to achieve their full potential. It is a really good investment. That was reinstated because it seemed to have some sort of value and the minister announced that she got it wrong. There is a focus on the gifted end of the educational spectrum. I would argue that the educational value that camp schools offer to enrich the educational life of people—even in metropolitan areas who can visit those sites—is arguably of just as much value as the extension of the gifted and talented people that exist in our school system. How is it that one has been backflipped on and has been re-funded but the other one has not? We have seen that there is quite a strong focus on the lower socioeconomic end in the camp schools. Access to a fairly priced educational enrichment process to add value to their education to the school system has value.

As I have said in this place before, I come from a history of being in agricultural education and I have seen firsthand the value of exposure to the outdoors, the working environment and to a style of education that is not normally offered in a normal mainstream school and what they can do to enrich a child's educational opportunities and therefore, by extension, their vocational opportunities when they leave school. I have seen what the ag colleges can do. If it is not 100 per cent, it is about a per cent short of all the students who have graduated from agricultural colleges in the state either get employment or go into further education—100 per cent. Let us think of what that does for their future employment opportunities. They are not on any sort of welfare. They make a fantastic investment. I know the value of that, so I ask why we have made the choice to support a gifted and talented education program at one end but not support camp schools that have a level of enrichment that supports the educational process. That is a very simple assessment of something that, in my view, is not fully understood and, therefore, a committee could give it some assessment.

Also, why was the decision made to reinstate the intake of level 3 teachers, which was to be put on hold until 2020? I suspect that that one is probably a bit more union focused than focused on educational outcomes, but it is an interesting decision and people in regional Western Australia can ask, "Why was that picked out of the pile to be backflipped?" What is challenging for people in regional and rural Western Australia who have a focus on educational outcomes is that a decision was made about a range of cuts to be put in place to save \$64 million against the budget and in January there were backflips on three of those items. That does not give them any confidence whatsoever that the right decision has been made. The simplest answer here is for the government to support putting this to a committee to put the ruler over the process to measure what is lost and what is gained. It will give people confidence that, in fact, they are either right decisions or they are not and should be changed. What confidence is there that there has been an appropriate deliberative process? Those backflips came on the back of a change with the Perth Modern School. Again, the minister got it wrong. It is not one lot of backflips; it is two. Two strikes! It is two lots of backflips. We can see why the conclusion may be reached to have no confidence whatsoever in the decision-making process. How do these decisions get arrived at?

I will go through some of the key issues with the particular decisions. They are short-sighted. I will look at the case of Moora Residential College. In question time today and in previous questions that he has asked, the member for Moore has highlighted the inconsistency in government commentary on the issues around Moora college, the amount of money that is needed to maintain it, the actual costs, the impact on students—or the lack of understanding of what the impacts are—and why a decision like that was made. The most isolated kids are attending these boarding schools at a cost that is consistent with all the country hostels, which is a fair and reasonable cost to be able to access an education. As the member for Moore mentioned and I want to highlight again, there seems to be a public commentary that the previous government did not do anything about Moora. We went to a cabinet decision, I think it was in August 2016 if I have not got it wrong, which was quite some time before the end of the government's term. Governments have to keep on making decisions. I expect this government, as it approaches an election, not to stop making decisions in anticipation of whatever the outcome might be. We made that decision and announced it; it was funded. Not only is this government now choosing to shut the school, but also the first decision it made was to not fund it. There must have been a deliberative process in last year's September budget not to fund it and to pull that out.

Mr T. Healy interjected.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: When did we allocate it? It is in the budget.

Mr T.J. Healy: Where did you put it? Was it the next year?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: It was in our last budget to fund it. A cabinet decision does not get made unless the government is ready to fund and start building.

Mr T. Healy interjected.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The government makes a decision and starts building. If members want some lessons on what is happening with the royalties from regions program, I am happy to give them those. There is a broader issue there. I am sure members opposite are being kept in nice silence at the back of the caucus room about what is going on in that space.

I also attended Swanleigh Residential College as a boarding school, and one of the reasons I went to Swanleigh is that the cost of —

Mr P. Papalia: Who shut that?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: We did not shut it. It is owned by the Anglican Church. The minister is highlighting his ignorance when he makes comments such as that. He has to stand, representing the minister in the other place, and make some sort of *compos mentis* debate about why the government has made the decisions it has made, and he comes up with a comment such as that. "Who shut it?" he said. I even got married at St Mary's Church, Middle Swan, so I know a bit about Swanleigh. Some serious issues have not been addressed.

I refer to camp schools. I talked in a previous debate today about camp schools enriching the educational process and giving people in metropolitan Perth and people who are geographically isolated a chance to be exposed to other parts of the state. People managing those facilities have educational backgrounds and are able to drive an educational process that value-adds to the normal curriculum. I see significant value in that. The government made the decision to close the camp schools. A later decision happened to sneak out when the government said it would see whether someone else might like to take on the camp schools. That was a late call. The government thought it would get into trouble, so it wondered what it could do to help soften this. It decided to see whether there is anyone else out there to run the camp schools. As the member for Moore mentioned, there has been no tender process or process to say formally who is out there to do it. This has been put through the media as the platform to see who is around who might want to run the camp schools.

Mr P. Papalia: You shut it in 2010.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: That is how it went. The first media release did not state that the government was going to look for people for these schools. I did not see that come out. As the member for Moore said in the last part of his speech, if the government is going to ask a not-for-profit organisation to look after a camp school and deliver the same services, how will it do it? The Premier said that will happen. He said that this is the service they provide and students can go to a camp. He likes to make the point that it is not a school; it is a site, and the same sort of programs will be run. The two camp schools in my electorate in Bridgetown and Pemberton raise about \$300 000 in revenue from the fees that they charge schools that come through. That comes pretty close to covering their operational costs for the year and food and the like and some minor works, but they cannot fund the six or seven staff in each facility. If the government is going to ask a not-for-profit organisation to take on these camp schools for it, so that it can book the savings from not having to pay for 15 staff in those schools, what will the not-for-profit do? The government thinks that the not-for-profit can take on the camp schools and it will bank the savings from no longer having to fund the staff. The not-for-profit organisation can either up their fees to cover the same number of staff to deliver the same program or the camp schools simply become caravan parks. I argue that this is a loss.

If that is the compromise position that the minister is chasing and anyone out there is half-interested in doing this—I cannot see how they can fund it, but if someone can do something—there will be a cost and they will not be able to achieve it. There are smokes and mirrors going on with the minister and the Premier's comments about an alternative group that might run camp schools. He even said today that his son is at a camp school or a camp site or whatever he wants to call it. It is easy for the Premier of the state to have a child there, but what about the cost-effectiveness of others in some of the lower socioeconomic groups who may want to access an opportunity to enrich their education program? That is what the camp schools are able to offer.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr D.T. REDMAN: There will be a cost here whatever happens. Either the camp schools are shut or they will be run by an alternative body. If the government is going to bank a saving, it will have an impact on what those camp schools do. The minister and the Premier are undertaking a little smoke and mirrors campaign.

I refer to the VacSwim program. Would it not be good to have a committee look at the impact of the fee changes in the VacSwim program? In Australia, and Western Australia in particular, we pride ourselves on kids being able to swim and having a level of water safety in pools and at the beach. It is the environment in which we live. What impacts will flow through from changing the VacSwim program? A committee should look at that to understand, in my view, the short-sightedness of a decision such as that and the flow-on effects it will have on the number of kids who can have the necessary swimming and water safety skills that we all desire and want them to have.

I could talk about Landsdale Farm School. I knew that school quite well when I was in the agricultural education system. That offers exposure to agriculture for some very disadvantaged kids in many cases, but also metropolitan Perth, but a decision has been made to close that school.

I want to talk about the agriculture colleges system, because I did not get a chance the last time I spoke. I talked about schools having ag advisory councils in place well before the legislative requirement to have a school council was in place. It might have even been the current Premier who put that process in place when I was first in this place in 2005. The school councils, of course, are involved in the growth, development and the future of the schools and where investment should be made and the focus that it should have. For decades, these ag advisory councils have been involved with agricultural colleges. Leading farmers, scientists and community members volunteer their time to make a difference and drive a unique system in our nation. It is a magnificently unique system. I mentioned some of their names and they should be rightly proud of the commitment they have made.

The agricultural schools started a trust fund in the mid-1980s. That gives schools some commercial incentive to make money off the produce that they sell and pool that money and support the educational program. Of that, 60 per cent stays in the school. There is a commercial incentive because we need to educate these kids in a commercial environment. That is the uniqueness of these schools. It is not only an agricultural wing or a plot at the back of the school where they are growing a few veggies. These are commercially run farms that incentivise commercial outcomes and set students up for the work environment in an industry that this government is

promoting, and we alike promoted, as the second-most significant industry in Western Australia. There are significant opportunities in this industry. Educating kids to go back into the workforce to support this industry is critically important. Of the funds raised by the six schools, including Esperance, 40 per cent goes into a fund. Now the government is going to take 20 per cent of that. As the member for Moore mentioned, the fund is used for machinery replacement. It is important to have contemporary equipment and machinery. The fund is also used as a drought buffer or in case some sort of event affects the income of a farm. Those resources are used to support that. I think some of the trust fund even goes into supporting insurance and licensing costs.

I am sure that the minister will talk about the consolidated funds to support the school program, because he has his shopping list of notes that he is going to roll out. Consolidated funds support the running of the farm, but this self-generated income from the schools supports and value-adds to the schools. That is unique in our nation. Very significantly, those trust funds go into supporting the smaller schools around the state that have an agricultural program, including Landsdale Farm School—although it is closing—Kelmescott Senior High School, Kiara College at Lockridge, Merredin College, Mount Barker Community College, Margaret River Senior High School, Manjimup Senior High School, Kojonup District High School, Coodanup College and Pinjarra Senior High School. They all run agricultural education programs supported by the funds that are generated from the bigger farms in the state that have the capacity to generate those funds. They roll out and support those schools. That is a really significant point because, in my view, the combined advisory council that will be making the decisions on the distribution of those resources will have to consider the impact if those resources are cut.

The first and most obvious point is that it will not happen quickly. It will take time because the equipment that the schools have now will take time to become old. It takes time to have impacts on safety and the like. Therefore, yes, we can get away with this for a couple of years but issues will emerge. One of the first issues is that the smaller schools will miss out because the bigger schools, rightly, need to draw resources for equipment replacement, insurance, and managing safety issues—which I will come to in a second—which are contemporary issues that cannot be compromised if we are going to develop quality agricultural education in this state at the secondary level. Sadly, smaller schools missing out is likely to be a consequence of these decisions.

I remember when I was in the agricultural education system that a couple of issues on safety equipment emerged very quickly. One issue was the importance of having chemical sheds. There is a tremendous amount of chemical storage on school farms. Chemicals are stored as one might see them stored on a lot of farms around Western Australia. Having proper chemical storage is significant and the trust fund funded building the necessary equipment to cater for chemical storage and, therefore, make it safe. The schools have little wash-down areas with showers that a person pulls a lever to wash their eyes out if they happen to have something on them. All those things were funded in a timely way in response to changes occurring within industry either through government regulation or other factors that had a flow-on impact on safety equipment in schools.

Silo ladders was another issue. There was a time when the little property we had in Mt Barker had a couple of silos—I am sure the member for Roe would be aware of this—and we used to fleece up there, open the top, put the auger in and do our bit. Of course, now all the silo ladders are required by law to have protected climbing areas—I do not know what they are called, member for Roe—and they were also funded out of the trust fund. Again, a decision to shift that funding is a fairly significant compromise over the medium term in ensuring that schools have contemporary safety equipment and that they maintain that equipment at a level that does not put students at risk. There have been accidents on school farms. We still have school farms because there has been investment in these areas. When accidents occur, the issues are worked through and changes are made. It is a deliberative process to ensure that necessary practices and procedures are put in to ensure that students remain safe.

I do not have recent data, but there is an interesting trend in agricultural colleges that some members may not be aware of. In recent times there has been a significant increase in the number of girls attending agricultural colleges. For much of my time in the agricultural college system about 30 per cent of students attending were girls. This year, for the first time, the WA College of Agriculture Denmark campus has more girls than boys attending. How good is that!

Mr D.A. Templeman: Where's that?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: More girls than boys are attending Denmark ag college. The trend in the agricultural sector for women to get necessary training to go back into the sector is an absolute strength. The agricultural colleges probably remain some of the few schools that have the trend of kids moving from the city to the country. We have this trend of centralising into the city but students in the agricultural education system are going the other way. Students are also going from private schools to government schools. That trend has probably changed a bit in recent times. I know government schools have been seen as very attractive and have taken kids out of private schools, but certainly for a period of time, when government schools were not the flavour of the day compared with private school options, the ag colleges were taking students out of the private sector. In my view, those trends highlight what those schools have been doing, perhaps ahead of their time. To me, these decisions, albeit that sound fairly minor, will have fairly significant impacts on industry decision-making to support investment in a unique school system that supports \$9 billion of gross value-added production in our state. Agriculture is the

second most important sector in Western Australia, and one that we have all identified—including the current government—will provide significant opportunities to grow our economy in Western Australia. That hits at the core of that.

This motion is to refer this issue to a committee. It is not a motion that condemns the government or that asks the government to make a decision today; it is simply a motion that states that there is no confidence that the minister, the Premier and the government by extension have made the right decisions on rural and regional education, because they have already changed decisions and backflipped on some areas. For that reason alone—I think there are other reasons to put this issue to a committee—members can understand why there is a lack of trust and confidence in the community. One way to build that trust and confidence is to support our motion to take this issue to a committee to have a closer look at the cost savings, the decision-making process, the educational benefits that will be lost and the impact of alternative measures if students do not have existing services available to them, and, albeit interesting, the level of consultation that has occurred to get to this particular outcome.

The member for Moore touched on a couple of other points. I would like to think that we will have a win here and the government will see the error of its ways on these decisions. A lot of people who feel aggrieved and that have not been brought along with the process were outside Parliament yesterday. There was a massive meeting up at Moora and the same issues apply. I know 2 000 signatures on camp schools came out of Bridgetown alone. Down the track, there will be a protest on that issue. A lot of angst sits out there. To add insult to injury—I guess this is another reason why we think these issues have not been thought through—letters went out to staff at the camp schools asking them to signal their interest in voluntary severance by the end of February. They were also told that they needed to register their interest by the end of March if they were going to take a voluntary severance.

Mr P. Papalia: Have you got one of those letters, so I can see —

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I am not going to give that to you because of the name of the person sits on —

Mr P. Papalia: Are you making it up?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: No, I am not making it up.

Mr P. Papalia: If that were a real letter, you'd have a copy of it.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I have information but I will not—hang on, let me take this a little further. Signals and decision have been made by the department to say that it is going to head down the road of a voluntary severance process.

Mr P. Papalia: Who in the department?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I am not going to give you that name either.

Mr P. Papalia: So, how do I know you're not just making it up?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: You can go and ask a question, because it would not be hard. I can justify it with the information I have. Let us leave it at that. Members need to understand that decisions have been made. Can I say, part of the advice that went in an email from the Department of Education to one of the people at a camp school when they asked a question about severance said that if at the end of that time they chose not to take a severance, within six months they could be involuntarily made redundant.

Mr P. Papalia: Have you got that email?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: Yes, I have that email.

Mr P. Papalia: Will you table it?

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The member knows as well as I do that if there is someone's name sitting on the top of that, it can be tracked right back.

Mr P. Papalia: Then redact it!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The member knows how it works. As a member of Parliament —

Mr T.J. Healy: Cut the top off it!

Mr D.T. REDMAN: I could probably cut the top off it, but, again, the member could probably do a quick search and find out where it came from. The challenge is there. I am telling the house—this is not a place in which someone stands up and misleads because they will hold the Parliament in contempt, and I am not going to do that.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [5.37 pm]: I rise to speak on the motion on referring the issue of rural and regional education to the Education and Health Standing Committee. I refer to the member for Moore's comment that this could be a real opportunity to have an impartial look at cuts to the education system, the backflips and so forth. I want to refer to Labor's policy prior to the state election that every child regardless of where they live deserves a decent education. I am sure that all Labor members in this house would agree with that, but what I see here does not really flow that way. This is an opportunity to have a level-headed discussion at the committee level. These

issues are vital for both rural and metro Western Australia. I look forward to the opportunity. As the member for Warren–Blackwood pointed out, this is a really good opportunity for all members in this house to vote for an impartial committee to look at this scenario.

I want to discuss the closure of Moora Residential College. We had the protest rally yesterday. We had the closure and privatisation of the six camp schools—we are not sure what that means. There have been cuts to our agricultural colleges trust fund and increased fees for VacSwim. I might even flow into our KidSport program now that the member for Collie–Preston is in the chamber tonight. I know that is one of his favourite subjects. To me, that fits into this backflip-type category—a cutback for no particular reason. I will talk about that shortly.

I will read out a quote that I think is quite appropriate. It is from Hon Darren West, in the other place, when he was at the Lancelin Primary School end-of-year assembly on 13 December 2017. He said, “Minister Ellery is no longer my favourite minister.” Hon Darren West stated that. He is out there in public saying, “These education cuts, they’re there, I’m not in favour but I’m just going to go with the flow.” A real worry for me is the regional members of the Labor government, and there are 13 of them. Hon Darren West often talks about how the Labor Party is the regional party and that it has the most regional members. I do not see its regional members standing up for regional education. That is my real concern, member for Bunbury. When I look at it, prior to Christmas the Minister for Education and Training was just told, “Find \$64 million. We’ve got our new school over here, a couple of hundred metres away from Perth Modern School, find \$64 million; I don’t care where it comes from.” Some advice was given somewhere; I do not know how this was decided. I think this is a good opportunity for the committee to have an impartial look. Was it the Department of Education or was it the Minister for Education and Training just going through line items in the budget? Where did that advice come from? This is a real opportunity for our committee to have an impartial look, which, I might add, is government controlled, so that will be fine.

I would like to congratulate the Moora community on yesterday’s rally. I thought that was a fantastic show of passion. It was really excellent to see the kids up there, including the Indigenous families who are very much affected by this. It was a real opportunity to see the strength of the whole community. Those drivers who spray-painted their trucks and drove up and down St George’s Terrace now have to go home and repaint their trays, which will come at a large expense. As the member for Moore said, it is the expense of having a driver, but to me it was also the words of Tracey Errington, the P&C president, and Louise House, the deputy president of the shire, which I thought struck home. I would like to quote from Paul Murray’s article in today’s paper. One quote stated —

“Politicians and bureaucrats show no respect nor understanding of the capacity, intelligence, integrity and resourcefulness of country people.

“Limited education quality and choices now see men left alone on farms, their wives and children leaving their homes for a rented house and a good education.

This is exactly the scenario that is happening right around regional WA. The actions of this government are leading straight into that. It is exacerbating it. That is an issue that is already there. This type of scenario at Moora is exactly what we are seeing. Another quote in Paul Murray’s article states —

“Suicide amongst rural men exceeds the road toll. Loneliness and isolation at its root.

That sums it up. We are now seeing this phenomenon where regional families are broken up, the father stays home looking after the farm or the family business and the mother is forced to take the kids to education far afield. I can absolutely guarantee that the closure of the residential college will lead to the gradual demise of the Central Midlands Senior High School—the only high school between Perth and Geraldton. Next thing it will be a district high school. You can bet your life that in a year or two’s time, the numbers will drop. It will be a district high school and that will gradually dwindle and we will be back to K–year 6. I am sure we will look back in a few years and say, “Look at that.” We have Yanchep, that is fantastic, on the edge of the metropolitan area. Once again we have overseen the demise of one of our regional schools. Paul Murray’s article quotes Louise House when she stated —

“A school is the hub of the country community. It is at the bottom of the pyramid. No school, no community.

It is quite bizarre that today the Premier spruiked that Labor supports Westpork, carrot farms, Moora citrus, mineral sands, and is telling us we have to talk up Moora, but what is he doing? His government is wiping out Moora Residential College. What encouragement is it giving to families to come to Moora to work on those farms: “Sorry about that, we’ve messed up your school and your education”? Who do members think will turn up to work on those farms? One of the most bizarre things that I heard was when the Premier criticised the member for Moore and told us to talk it up, yet he is in the process of closing down the residential college and overseeing the demise of Moora senior high school.

I am sure that I will stand here in a couple of years to talk about the Moora district high school and then, a few years after that, the Moora K–6 school. Mark my words, I think Pandora’s box has been opened. I cannot

understand it. When I look at some of our regional members here, I am really concerned. I see a pattern developing where, unfortunately, the party room of the Labor Party is not taking any notice of its regional members. They are outnumbered.

Several members interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I must refer to the member for North West Central the other week, when he spoke about a three per cent swing, which would see the loss of eight members from the government side. I am afraid the member for Pilbara is one of those!

Mr K. Michel interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: If I were him, I would be advocating very strongly.

Several members interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I really do like the member for Murray–Wellington and I am sure that she is very concerned about her regional constituents. I worry for her as well because she is part of that three per cent. I am sure she is strongly advocating in the background; I really hope she is. I am very worried. I was also concerned for the member for Murray–Wellington when I saw the Court Grammar School, which will be opened very close to her electorate as well; whether there will be any pushback from that.

I want to get back to the matter at hand and talk about residential colleges in the towns of Esperance and Narrogin, which are part of my electorate. Through royalties for regions, both of those colleges have been fantastically upgraded. The member for Warren–Blackwood mentioned the \$8.7 million that was approved in cabinet last August. Unfortunately, that has been reversed, so I am very disappointed. I am also disappointed that the government is not looking at the \$500 000 option that the member for Moore mentioned today. The Esperance Residential College was a \$14 million investment and it has been a terrific result. Esperance Senior High School, under the leadership of Cathy Bamblett, is going great. The residential college is full. That was one of the best investments I have seen. Narrogin also falls into that category, and under the leadership of Steve Quartermaine over the last six years, it has gone from strength to strength. That is what I am talking about. A residential college is such an important part of the whole package. I would appreciate the committee having an impartial look at the issue and assessing how strong support for a senior high school from a residential college can work.

I want go on a bit more about Moora, because an economic assessment done by the Moora council that indicated that 19 jobs would be lost and \$2 million would be wiped from the local economy. I think that says it all. It is about the outlying part of the community as well. It is about the families and local businesses that I was talking about last night and the flow-on effects. I cannot emphasise that enough. I applaud the Moora Shire Council for commissioning the report to identify for members of the government the effect this will have. It is all very well for people to stand up here and say, “Send the students off to Yanchep or Northam; that will be fine.” How would the Premier like to send his kids, who are in Rockingham, to Yanchep? It just does not add up to me. As far as I am concerned, this is one of the most disappointing performances I have seen in the year I have been here. I can understand why the member for Moore is so passionate in supporting his school and his electorate.

I would like to go on to the raid of the agricultural trust fund. We are looking at 20 per cent in funding being cut from budget of the agricultural education farm provisions trust. It is unprecedented that the state government will take money generated by a public school. As the member for Warren–Blackwood enunciated, there are so many elements to that. It is a network of all of those schools pooling their resources and putting their money into keeping their equipment up to speed with the likes of air seeders—the equipment the kids are using and will be using when they go into the workforce. It enables them to be up to speed with the current farming environment. On the list of agricultural schools there are Narrogin, Harvey, Denmark, Morawa, Cunderdin and, of course, the Esperance Farm School. I went to the College of Agriculture Narrogin open day in, I think, October, and it was a fantastic day. The enthusiasm of those kids, the parents and teachers on the day was something to behold. When I was at the Wagin Woolorama last week, I saw an example of that. Today the Leader of the Opposition talked about when he was at the Wagin Woolorama and the optimism that is out there with wool and sheep prices going up and cattle going well. When I was presenting one of the prizes for the wool, the whole grandstand was full of ag college students with their uniforms on looking fantastic and enthusiastic. It was just great to see agriculture going so well, but what are we going to do? We are going to pull money out of it. I just cannot believe the short-sightedness.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The thing that got me was that we had a steady stream of people coming in to the Nationals tent at the Wagin Woolorama and what did they want to talk to me about? They wanted to talk to me about the disgrace of the cutbacks in regional education. We had a petition there about the ag college trust fund and they could not sign that quickly enough. In fact, I had to send someone over to the photocopier. I had Murray Williams from the advisory committee coming across to take copies to the cattle section. That just emphasises the issue. Not one person could not sign those petitions quickly enough. When I look at the flow-on effects of the ag college

sector, the thing that really gets me is that some of the schools are in the electorates of some of our regional backbench members. Very appropriately, the member for Girrawheen has just walked in, and she has the Landsdale Farm School in her electorate. I thought the member for Girrawheen would be a great advocate of the Landsdale Farm School, but, no, obviously not. The member for Armadale, Tony Buti, MLA, has Kelmscott Senior High School. Kiara College is in Bassendean, the electorate of Dave Kelly, MLA. Merredin College is in the electorate of Hon Darren West and Hon Laurie Graham. Mount Barker Community College is in the electorate of Hon Adele Farina and Hon Sally Talbot, along with Margaret River Senior High School, which those two also cover. There are also the schools in the likes of Manjimup, Kojonup, Coodanup and Pinjarra. That just re-emphasises the lack of push from the backbenchers of the Labor Party.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I know the member for Moore has noted it, but I would imagine that the constituents of those —

Ms M.M. Quirk: There is more than one way to skin a cat, member. Being a blowhard and griping about in this chamber is not the only way to get an outcome.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I look forward to seeing the fruits of the member for Girrawheen's labour. It will certainly be interesting.

I want to talk about the camp schools. I am appalled at the treatment of the camp schools, because we are unclear about their future. How many members of this place have mentioned them? The Premier, I think yesterday, mentioned how his kids had been to the camp schools and that they are a real highlight. The concern for me is that there has been absolutely no consultation. The minister has spoken about non-government organisations and the Department of Sport and Recreation. Are the schools closing or are they opening? We have absolutely no idea. The member for Moore has spoken about the Geraldton camp school. He is not sure what is going on. The employees at the Geraldton camp school are not sure what is going on. I have also heard that Goldfields camp school is closing. I know the member for Kalgoorlie had a rally up there, which the member for North West Central also attended. The community there is very concerned and very confused. I want to give a bit of a time line here. On 11 January, the minister backflipped with no mention of camp schools. On 17 January, the minister said that that decision would not be reversed. She said the decision that will not be reversed is the one taken to close camp schools. Then on 2 March, Hon Kyle McGinn said —

“The general consensus seems to be that we want to close the camp schools outright, which is incorrect.

I am in a state of confusion. The Geraldton camp school is fully booked for 2018. Bridgetown and Pemberton camp schools are nearly fully booked for the year, so where are we going? Are they open or are they closed? Is it a non-government organisation or is it the Department of Sport and Recreation? I really look forward to some clarification. I am sure members opposite will see the light and realise that the committee scenario is the one way in which we can get to the bottom of this.

I would like to briefly talk about VacSwim. Thirty per cent of participants of VacSwim are in regional areas. I would like members opposite to note that a regional child is 3.7 times more likely to drown than a metropolitan child, which is a terrible statistic. It really concerned me when I was in Esperance prior to Christmas and I heard about the increases in VacSwim costs. It is a 122 per cent increase, from \$13.50 to \$30. Many of the families I spoke to there were most disappointed. Of course, there is a flow-on effect from that to KidSport, which I put in the same category as VacSwim. The minister made the decision to reduce the funding to \$150. The classic of all time for me is that Girl Guides and scouts now have to prove that they are a sport to allow their participants to get KidSport funding. I think I have said in this place once before that the Minister for Sport and Recreation wants the scouts to put out a drug policy because that is what they have to do to be regarded as a sport. I feel sorry for the scouts and the Girl Guides on that one.

Mr M.P. Murray: Don't you think troop leaders should go through the same hurdles as other people who work with young people?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I am sorry, but I am quite disturbed about the reductions to the KidSport funding and I find the lack of consultation with our Scout groups and Girl Guides quite disappointing.

I will move on to the boarding away from home allowance, which should also be included in the committee's assessment. In the last budget, the boarding away from home allowance was cut from \$2 105 to \$1 477 over four years. That allowance is all about geographically isolated families, and it is also complementary with federal funding. Some members opposite have no understanding of being geographically isolated and how important that funding is to our families. I quote the Premier from the budget estimates hearings in September 2017 when he said —

There is not an unlimited amount of money. I grew up in a regional community and I did not go off to boarding school.

I am sorry, but that demonstrates that the Premier has no real understanding. It is not about everyone going off to a boarding school; it is about isolation and about a lot of people having no choice. Ask someone from Marble Bar or Laverton about boarding schools and all the rest of it; a lot of them have no choice and, I might add, some of them are attending Moora Residential College, but not for much longer, the way things are going at the moment. Once again, this goes to a total lack of understanding of regional and remote Australia.

One final point before I close, about regional education professionals. This came about in the last budget. I find it quite bizarre that of 35 positions cut in the regions, 23 of them related to Aboriginal education. One in 12 of our kids in regional schooling in Western Australia is Aboriginal, and this government saw fit to cut 35 positions, 23 of which were Aboriginal educators and assistants. That is one of the most bizarre things. Now, of course, the government is spouting that it is re-employing all these teachers' aides and so forth. It is a bit like the one about, "We have to make sure that every child in a primary school speaks another language." The only problem is, we have 269 schools in Western Australia that do not have anyone with the ability to teach another language, yet the government is somehow going to enforce this. I look forward to seeing that. Just returning to Aboriginal education, there is one person in the Kimberley, while the Pilbara, the midwest, the wheatbelt, the goldfields and the south west do not have one person between the lot of them. I have no understanding of where the government is coming from there, but I look forward to strong support from those opposite for our recommendation to take this to an impartial committee and investigate the cutbacks. I come back to what the member for Moore said earlier and I strongly support him.

MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central) [6.05 pm]: I obviously support this motion moved by the member for Moore. I refer to a question asked today in the other place by Hon Jacqui Boydell to the Minister for Education and Training. Quoting from the uncorrected *Hansard*, she asked —

I refer to the minister's education cuts announced in December last year.

- (1) Will the minister list all the organisations affected by the cuts that she has visited since 11 March 2017, and the dates of those visits?
- (2) For any organisations that the minister has not visited, will she commit to visiting them before they close or are sold?

Of course, the upper house has a bit of a strange system in which members give notice of a question and the minister reads out the answer. The Minister for Education and Training would have stood there today and said, according to the uncorrected *Hansard* —

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) I visited Goldfields camp school on 2 March 2018 and Tuart College on 27 July 2017 and 23 January 2018.
- (2) Where and when I can visit, I will.

I thought that was a pretty good question. If I recall back when all this debacle and the shame that the Labor government has brought on regional people by trying to take away their regional education began, the minister went on radio and we could hear the backpedalling. She said, "I'm going to go and visit everyone affected by the Schools of the Air cuts and consult with everyone." I thought to myself, "Maybe she hasn't got a map in her office." Maybe the map has only the Darling Scarp and the metro area, and all the seats that belong to the Labor Party because, as a factional warlord, the Minister for Education and Training would have all the numbers in red and colour coded with all the factions: "This is United Voice, this is someone who doesn't belong to us, so we won't concentrate on them." If she looked at the rest of the map, she would have gone, "Oh, adviser, bring me the map!" The map comes, she looks at the map and says, "Did I say what I said? Am I going to go visit everyone affected by the Schools of the Air cuts?", backpedalling as she does; a bit of a backflip going on. The Minister for Education and Training would have said, "Premier, I know that you're on holidays but I think we'd better talk, because I made a commitment to go and consult with everyone who is affected by the Schools of the Air cuts, and I just realised how big regional Western Australia is and how vast, and how hard it is to actually get there!" There is not a jet service that goes into every pastoral station; one cannot do that. They have dirt airstrips, and sometimes those airstrips may be very short. So the minister says that if she cannot get a jet service in, she is not going, so we should actually reverse these cuts. That is clearly what happened, judging from the answer that the minister gave today—that where and when she can visit, she will. This is the whole problem. There was no consultation with people in regional Western Australia or with Schools of the Air about the proposed cuts before Christmas. Now we are seeing Moora college and school camps being cut. She has visited only one school camp. I have visited the goldfields camp school, and it is an amazing place, when the people come in from the stations to hold a camp and have their school get-together. I have gone to the goldfields camp school. The Minister for Education and Training conveniently has not bothered to go to Dampier, Geraldton or down south to consult with the communities affected. That just shows a lack of care.

We can dress it up and say that it is only \$8.5 million, or it is \$500 000, but that is beside the point, because it is regional education being cut from the regions. I have said this in this place before. The Premier gets up and says that it is budget repair—remember we have 40 000 million dollars' worth of debt that has been caused—and blames us, yet let us go and spend \$3 million on a terminal in Fremantle for the cruise ships; let us go and spend \$120 million for a marina in Perth; let us go and spend another \$50 million or \$64 million on a new school in Perth—the list goes on. The hypocrisy of the Labor government justifying the cuts to regional education is shameful. I know the government is saying that it will never win the seat of Moore, and the Premier and the Labor government are right—they will never win the seat of Moore. Their actions to date prove that they can never win it.

The government has so many hungry mouths to feed that are under that three per cent mark—those eight seats that will disappear at the next election. That is what the Premier needs to feed. He needs to keep the backbench happy. He needs to be able to cut off regional Western Australia, because there are no votes there for him. That is the reality, and the public is starting to see that. The people of Moora, and the people in the electorates of Moore and North West Central know that. The people of Kalgoorlie and the Mining and Pastoral Region know that. Every regional community knows that. The problem is that the Labor government has already made a decision to cut the funding in those towns and regions, particularly for those who do not vote Labor—for good reason, because of those cuts and things that have happened in the past years of neglect—because he has too many mouths to feed in metropolitan Perth. He has to keep the backbench happy so that he does not have the revolts that we generally get as governments go on. I keep saying three per cent because I suggest that the government will lose eight seats off the back because of these education cuts.

When the Minister for Education first announced these cuts—as I said, just before Christmas—we held rallies in Karratha, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie to start the process of saying that it is not on. The member for Pilbara, who is absent again—the silent one—defended the actions of the Minister for Education and Training and the Labor Premier of Western Australia, saying that there will be more and more cuts. Then Hon Darren West stood up in Geraldton and defended the cuts. He must have travelled through the night to go to Kalgoorlie the next morning, because he had one eye open and one eye closed as he was trying to speak. I do not think he has seen the map of Western Australia and how big it is. He says “I'm not going to travel around to every protest in regional Western Australia because I'm buggered. Minister for Education and Training, do a backflip, please.” That is the credit that he is taking. After defending the Labor government's position on cutting regional education, the Labor member for the Agricultural Region, Hon Darren West, is suddenly claiming victory. Hon Kyle McGinn, the member for Mining and Pastoral Region, was also defending the cuts to regional education. Suddenly, it was all about them, and how they convinced the Labor government to reverse the cuts to the Schools of the Air. Then the member for Albany said, “We won with the Schools of the Air, and we going to do the same when it comes to Moora college and camp schools.” How is that going?

Clearly, the Premier cannot backflip on this again, and neither can the Minister for Education and Training, who I think should have been moved on from the portfolio because people have zero confidence in her. The only confidence that people of regional WA have in the Minister for Education and Training is that she is going to take a great selfie post, because that is all we see. Most people now have been blocked from her Twitter and Facebook pages, because the minister wants to avoid the scrutiny that people are putting this Labor government under because of the absolute neglect and hoodwinking by this Labor government.

We talk about royalties for regions. I think the member for Moore summed it up perfectly, as did the members for Roe and Warren–Blackwood. I cannot understand the Premier saying in one sentence that we need budget repair, and that is why we cannot fix the Moora Residential College, but in the same breath, he will have a crack at the Liberal Party, some of whose members do not want to see royalties for regions, which is disappointing. What is more hypocritical is that the Premier says that royalties for regions is still there. We still have \$1 billion a year. Where is that \$1 billion a year? If royalties for regions exists under the Labor government, where is it? Why is \$8.5 million of royalties for regions funding being taken away from the Moora college? Obviously, that \$1 billion is not there; it is being used for something else. Those Country Labor members who say that they support royalties for regions are part of a political party that is clearly motivated to get rid of royalties for regions. They are clearly motivated to ensure that the three per cent that the member for Pilbara is under does not get returned. The motivation is not to look after regional Western Australia, because there are no votes there. We all know that. The punters know that. The Premier says that there is \$1 billion of royalties for regions. Where is it? I have lost hospitals in my electorate that were going to be funded by royalties for regions—at Tom Price, Paraburdoo, Meekatharra and Mt Magnet—and aged care in Carnarvon. The list goes on. Where is it? Where is the royalties for regions? I think we will start a campaign saying, “Where is it?” Show me where that money is being spent. We all know that the government is putting it into power and water, and saying that it is looking after the bush because it is making sure that the price of power and water does not go up in regional Western Australia.

We know that the government is taking that \$1 billion out and saying it is going into utilities, syphoning it through projects in Perth. We know that and we have three years to keep prosecuting that the government does not care about regional Western Australia because it cannot take \$8.5 million—if it is \$8.5 million—out of the \$1 billion

because where has it gone? It is saying it is there, but it is not there. That is the problem. The member for Bunbury will find that that is a problem as he gets closer to the election, because people will ask, “Where is the royalties for regions? Where has it gone?”

Mr D.T. Punch: They will know it is being spent very wisely in the bush. People tell me that every day.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Yes, and who did it? Under what government? What we see left being opened up by the Labor government are royalties for regions projects that were funded by the previous Liberal–National government. There are budget repairs and savings, but the government is announcing all these things in Perth; I do not think the public is falling for it. The member for Moore said it right about yesterday’s protest and we had trucks from Moora with drivers probably taking two days out of their working life to protest. That shows us how important funding Moora Residential College is. People are prepared to take the hit in their own hip pocket to say to this Labor government, “We care.” The Premier says that these students do not come from Moora. Of course they do not come from Moora. Why would we have a residential college and people who live in Moora go to the residential college? They are in the town already. It is for people who live in places close or far away. People who utilise Moora Residential College live in places such as Marble Bar, or in Sandstone in my electorate. It is for regional people. To say that there are alternatives shows a lack of understanding. Perhaps the Premier has not seen a map of regional Western Australia and how big it is. I know that the Minister for Education and Training has. It is clear that there has been no consultation because it is all too big. It is all too far and too hard. “There is nothing to see here; I will do another backflip.”

It is quite clear that nothing has changed in the views of the Labor Party. Today the member for Cannington mentioned one vote, one value. Hon Darren West mentioned one vote, one value and how we need to make it a fairer playing field in the political system. What is one vote, one value? Is it taking another seat out of regional Western Australia? We all know the government’s game is to keep reducing regional representation. The member for Cannington talked about one vote, one value today.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members! Minister, please!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is interesting how we know what the Labor Party is doing. It is going to suck all the money out and call it democracy. It will reduce representation in regional Western Australia. It will probably take two seats out of the Mining and Pastoral Region, the biggest area in regional Western Australia. The area that they are trying to reduce contains a lot of the educational cuts. We can see the game plan: “Take the people out of regional Western Australia and reduce the representation. No-one here will know and we will keep the people of Perth happy because we will keep on increasing our number of members of Parliament.” That is what we are seeing.

Mr R.R. Whitby interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Democracy, is it?

Mr R.R. Whitby: That is democracy, yes: one vote, one value.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I just want to pursue this a little more. The member for Cannington is saying that we should have one vote, one value and the member for Baldvis wants democracy. Democracy in the Labor Party’s eyes is to reduce the representation of regional Western Australia. We can see the game plan here. Start off in education, slowly close the schools, close the camp schools, slowly take people out of regional Western Australia, and let us take out members of Parliament because, you know what? We are too noisy and we cause the Labor Party problems. It will stick with metropolitan Perth and make sure that it has as many members there as possible. It is outrageous. I look forward to the government bringing that legislation in, because I know the member for Cannington is doing it now; I know he is getting it ready.

Mr W.J. Johnston: It’s bullshit!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: What did you say? Sorry?

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I heard unparliamentary language from the minister. I ask him to withdraw.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr R.S. Love): I think I heard a remark from the member.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: If I said something unparliamentary, I withdraw.

Debate Resumed

Mr W.J. Johnston: I have no legislation about one vote, one value; none. I have not asked for any to be prepared. There is no proposal.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: No proposal?

Several members interjected.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: But the system that we live in is undemocratic? We know what you are up to!

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Everyone settle down. We have heard from the minister, I think he has finished. You hop up and talk now, please.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. It is quite clear that there is no motivation by the Premier to fix the situation with Moora Residential College. He has said, “No way.” I do not know whether camp schools are being sold or leased; the uncertainty exists. In fact, I was talking to someone who has a business and does charters, especially when schools go to Karratha and stay at Dampier camp school. He has that much uncertainty because no-one is booking the camp school anymore. At the end of this year and next year, because there is so much uncertainty —

Mr K.J.J. Michel: That is wrong. That is a lie!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is actually true. I was in your electorate, I was in Karratha last week.

Mr K.J.J. Michel: I was at that meeting!

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Do not worry, they tell me all about you.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members! Member for Pilbara, I do not think that you have called for the attention of the chamber, so the member for North West Central is making his contribution.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: People are quite concerned about Perth schools not making bookings to go to Dampier camp school. That is a real problem. It is creating uncertainty in the member for Pilbara’s electorate. I was in Karratha last week and people were coming up and saying, “Jeez, buyer’s remorse. We got this one wrong.”

Members, the uncertainty and lack of motivation is quite clear. We can understand the Premier’s lack of motivation in not reversing the last education cuts. The way the School of the Air protested and campaigned resonated strongly with the community in Perth and the metropolitan area and we knew that was going to have an effect on the Premier. I say to the Premier: do not underestimate the people of Moora, do not underestimate the people of Karratha, Dampier, Kalgoorlie and the other camp schools right across regional Western Australia, because the people who use these camp schools are not just School of the Air people; they are schools and organisations from Perth. It covers the whole of Western Australia. Let me tell government members that this is going to have an impact on their ability to get re-elected in 2021. I firmly believe that this will impact them because the government is not putting regional students first. It is absolutely absurd when Labor members use the excuse that Parliament has not passed the gold royalty increase. We have seen in the paper that the Premier said, “We need new revenue.” There are options to fix the budget but the government lacks the intestinal fortitude to take them on. A member said to me, “Why would we take on the iron ore industry when that makes up 86 per cent of the resource sector and gold makes up only 6.8 per cent of the industry?”

Mr P. Papalia: Who said that?

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It was quite clear. The minister should ask his colleagues that.

He said, “We’re not going to have a fight with the iron ore industry, but we’ll have a fight with the gold industry.” It all becomes clear. It is a numbers game for the government and that is all it is. It is a numbers game to not fund regional WA projects. It is a numbers game not to fund regional education. If members are not in United Voice, I can say that they are slowly not going to be in the game. The member for Pilbara comes under that three per cent. The people of Dampier are upset. The people of Karratha are very upset. They think that the member for Kimberley has done her job because they have kept the Broome camp school. They are happy with her. They would rather she move down to Karratha. This should be referred to a committee to have a proper look at it because that is what we should do in this place—that is, make the right decisions and reflect the people we serve. That is the people of Western Australia. Whether members are city MPs or regional MPs, we all represent Western Australians. In this house, it is our duty to make sure that we come up with the right way forward and not play the political games that the Premier likes to play at the moment. He is creating the city and regional divide. No-one else is, but he is.

MR I.C. BLAYNEY (Geraldton) [6.31 pm]: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Have you changed that letterhead yet, son?

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: No. I was waiting to shift offices. The Labor member for the Agricultural Region is taking a long time to move out of the office that I want to move into, so I have not changed my letterhead. Just cut it off the bottom.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Mr I.C. BLAYNEY: Labor took \$80 million out of the Mid West Development Commission.

I want to endorse these issues being put to a committee. In particular, I want to talk about Moora Residential College. The government has said that it is 12 jobs, but 12 jobs in a town the size of Moora has a huge impact and it flows on. It may result in another service being withdrawn. I have seen this in the town of Mullewa, which is just east of Geraldton, where there is a continuous downward spiral. One service gets withdrawn then suddenly another service is under threat. It flows on to the number of police and right on through the community. It is called the downward spiral. The beauty of residential colleges is that they are set up in such a way that virtually anybody who lives in the country can afford to use one. The various living away from home allowances and other forms of assistance will cover most of the fees, which means that they are a viable option for someone who is living out in the regions and not earning very much money. They can still get a decent education for their kids. I am really annoyed about the line to be positive about the Moora community. Surely, being positive about the community is fighting for every job and every facility that is in the community. It is not just rolling over and allowing people to take away what they want to take away.

It is absolutely critical that this community keep the year 12 school. It is unusual for a town the size of Moora to have a year 12 school. It is the only year 12 school between Perth and Geraldton, which is a big stretch of country. There may not be a huge number of students, but it serves a very large catchment area. The residential college enables the school to have more teachers and to offer more courses. The downward spiral will be seen in the school itself. It will lose income, teachers, courses and then more students.

It is a good thing that the government is talking about new industries in Moora. I am aware of the irrigation for oranges, the new piggery and the other new industry it was talking about—I think it was sand mining. That makes it even more important to keep that school as it is, to keep the numbers up and to keep the courses up so that it is a viable option for people who live in that area.

There is a range of figures on what needs to be spent. I have to say that I do not have much confidence in the low one and I do not have much confidence in the high one. I think that having an outside person have a look at it could give us a realistic figure to spend on the college—not the gold-plated Rolls-Royce model, but a realistic figure. The other day I was talking to people from one of the agricultural colleges at Woolorama. They made the point that when they go to get something built at the college, as soon as it is known that it is government, the price goes up by a factor of two or three. I have no doubt the quote that has been given for the work at Moora has gone up.

I will briefly touch on the others. People are pleading for some kind of certainty around camp schools. Geraldton has one, which is already fully booked for this whole year. People deserve an answer. Once again, bringing this back to the cost, it would be a real pity if it is decided that they have to be self-funded and the camp school itself has to cover the full cost of the labour used in it. The people who miss out will be the ones who have the least means to pay. It is special for kids. They come from a pretty poor background. One of the special things that they can do as a school is stay in one of these camp schools for a few days. For the kids, the time they spend at the camp school becomes a highlight of their education.

I repeat what I said previously in a grievance. It is unfortunate for people who cannot afford to have their kids in scouts, guides or find the money for swimming lesson fees. I have advocated that they should be able to access KidSport in those circumstances. Finally, the agricultural college trust fund needs to be left alone. It keeps those schools up to date in technology and safety and is quite an important block of money. It is self-generated off the farms. It is a good system and I do not think it should be interfered with.

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Tourism) [6.37 pm]: It is my role as minister representing the Minister for Education and Training in this place to respond on behalf of the minister. I will note in exactly the same fashion as he did himself earlier on—perhaps against protocol and good practice—the absence of the member for North West Central, as so often is the case. I think that is the phrase that he used.

I worry about the member for Roe because he has adopted a stance that is far more aggressive than his natural stance. It is not in his nature. He is a very gentlemanly chap and is very reasonable on most occasions. I noticed that his contribution this afternoon was pretty aggressive. Possibly we could attribute it to his proximity to the member for North West Central. Maybe that is what has done it. The member for North West Central, like myself, is a bit of a robust character. He is willing to engage in a bit of what Hon Alannah MacTiernan would have termed argy-bargy in the chamber. It is something that he often engages in. I think the member for Roe has been sitting too close to him for too long. It was an interesting contribution earlier on. I will say something else about the member for North West Central's contribution. He suggested a couple of times that perhaps members on this side of the chamber had need of a map to find their way around the regions and that perhaps the education minister had found that it was a long way away and she was in need of a charter aircraft to get to some of these people that he claimed she had committed to visit. All I would say is that if there is anyone in Western Australia qualified to refer to the requirement to get charters to get around the country and to get charters to fly from the city to the country, perhaps, it would be the member for North West Central. Perhaps I am wrong, but I am pretty certain that he has never lived in the country. He flies there a lot; he visits via aircraft. I think he referred to camp schools as camp

sites. I am pretty certain he never went to one as a child. The reason I am pretty certain is that he was never in a state school, and, when he was a young fellow, most of those camp schools were used by state schools. I know what they are like because I have been to one. I only ever went to state schools—state primary school and high school—so I am familiar. Interestingly, they are in the country, by the way. I am pretty sure that the member for North West Central —

Point of Order

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I refer to the relevance of this diatribe that is coming from the minister.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, the minister is responding and can respond in any way he wishes to this motion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order and I am perfectly capable of making that decision.

Debate Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am pretty certain that the member for North West Central never attended a camp site—what they are calling camp schools but they are camp sites. I know what they are. There is no school there. It is just like a dormitory. It is a nice place to visit and get a break from school. We used to go there in the holidays and get a break with the other students and I recall it as a child. I regaled the chamber with a story about watching *Alvin Purple* as a child at the camp site. We had a very liberal teacher. It was a very interesting evening watching the old reel-to-reel at the Point Peron camp site in the 1970s. But I am pretty certain that the member for North West Central never went to a camp school. I am not sure that I give too much credibility to any of his views or observations regarding camp sites. Similarly, I do not think I credit him with any knowledge of state schools in the regions and the difficulties associated with getting to school in the country, other than what he has read in newspapers. I credit him with a lot of knowledge about getting charter flights to the regions and the challenges associated with that. I know he does a lot of that. He flies out of the city into the country on a regular basis, so that is a reasonable thing for him to comment on.

With respect to this motion, we reject the call for an inquiry. An inquiry is not needed. If members want to determine why these decisions—particularly those in respect of Moora Residential College—have been made, we need only go to the document that was tabled by the Minister for Education and Training only yesterday. It is publicly available. Look at the size of it. For the purposes of *Hansard*, I might point out that it is probably two and a half centimetres thick. It is comprehensive and gives all the information regarding the project definition plan report for Moora Residential College, otherwise known as the Moora hostel. It is significant to note that there have been some claims in this place by Nationals WA members and other members, such as the member for Geraldton, who just made the suggestion as well, that some cheaper version was available to the government to make this hostel capable of continuing to operate. There was some suggestion that somehow the government has been exploited in some way through people giving us unfair quotes for the tasks at hand. If members think that, they should get the document, which is available now because it has been tabled, and look at it. It is a comprehensive document.

The costs associated with the various levels of repair that would be required are shown through cascading levels of quotations. Option 1 is a light refurbishment costed at \$7 233 500 million. Option 2 is a major refurbishment costed at \$8 529 600. Option 2A is a major refurbishment costed at \$8 701 000. Option 3 is a new build costed at \$11 228 800. That is not the government making it up. It is not the council commissioning a report and constraining the outcomes by virtue of giving some guidance to the people it has paid for the report. It is a significant body of work. The work done that determined the costings has been provided by a range of contractors, all of which are listed. It lists the specific scale of the works required and the outcomes of each option. When we heard the claims made by those who were in government until March this year that they put aside or budgeted or had a cabinet meeting and assigned an amount of money for repairs at this hostel, we investigated and found that it was \$8.7 million. It is not a coincidence that \$8.7 million accords with one of the options here, which is the one that has been publicly referred to by the Minister for Education and Training. It is a very clear document. It is disingenuous and borderline dishonest to continue to claim that this hostel could be repaired for \$500 000. That is an outrageous claim. It costs \$360 000 or thereabouts to run it every year. That is its operating cost for maintenance on an ongoing basis. The Minister for Education and Training has allocated funding as necessary to make the hostel safe for the remainder of this year so that the students who will be residing at the hostel will be safe.

Mr R.S. Love: How much is that?

Mr P.J. Rundle: It is \$59 000.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes. From memory, it is \$60 000, but do not quote me on that one. That amount is assigned for the purposes of making it safe for the remainder of the year, not for the purposes of repairing it for ongoing use of the facility, which would be required and, as determined by the very significant body of work that has been tabled in the public domain so that everyone can look at it, would cost millions of dollars. We have heard the obvious argument for why this decision was made: the former Liberal–National government racked up forty thousand

million dollars' worth of debt and thereby constrained the new government to deal with the imbalance in the budget process and get to the point at which we are not spending more than we are getting. We are doing that to achieve a balanced system in the budget so that we can be in surplus by the last year of the forward estimates. Had that not been the case, there might have been an opportunity to assign funding. Beyond that, as members are well aware, there is another reason, which has been referred to on many occasions. Not only did the former government destroy the state's finances, but, when the plan to repair them was put before the state in the form of the state budget, a significant amount of potential revenue was blocked by the members on the other side. An amount of \$400 million over the forward estimates is not to be sneezed at. As a consequence, unlike our predecessors, when we lost revenue, we had to return to the budget process and determine how we would deal with it so that we did not assign even further bad outcomes for the state into the future. That is what happened. Those constraints were placed on the government by our predecessors; we understand that. These decisions are not fun. I know that the Liberal and National Parties are not familiar with making hard decisions.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: For members who want to get their comments in *Hansard* for their constituent base, it will not do to be yelling over the top of the speaker who is on his feet. Ask whether you can interject, put your point and then get an answer. It goes for both sides of this house.

Mr V.A. Catania: Minister, can I interject?

Mr P. PAPALIA: No, I want to —

Several members interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Come on boys; it is not as though I get upset about interjections during question time. To suggest that I do not take many interjections is not really fair.

Deputy Speaker, I want to get on the record some of the response provided by the Minister for Education and Training, specifically, her response to the students of Moora Residential College, because I think this is important. While the National Party, in particular, continues to exploit this situation in an effort to get a bit of near-term traction politically —

Mr R.S. Love: Is that what you think I'm doing?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes, that is exactly what I think—not the member for Moore. I am not saying that National Party members should not campaign; I am saying that what they are doing, I suspect, is delaying the families. I feel for them; I understand that it has a significant impact and people will have to shift schools. I understand that, but whilst they are encouraged to continue down this pathway, they are not necessarily engaging, as much as they should, in planning and preparing for that situation.

Mr V.A. Catania: We're going to fight you all the way!

Mr P. PAPALIA: Who does that help in the end, member? Does that help the kids who will have to shift schools next year? Member, consider what will happen.

Mr D.T. Redman: I can't believe that you are saying go away and don't worry about defending the people who are being affected by this. That shows massive ignorance.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Not at all. I am saying that I would encourage these families to engage with the Department of Education, as has been offered, to ensure that they are prepared and planning for next year. That is what I am saying. If members opposite suggest to them anything otherwise, I am worried that they may not be encouraged to seek out assistance and they will leave doing that to later in the year, when it will be more traumatic. I hope that the families will seek out the assistance that has been offered, because the minister has said that parents will not be out of pocket as a consequence of attending another residential agricultural college or residential college in the region or the state. This will include costs associated with fees, uniforms, books, school charges and contributions, and travel. Priority will be given to families with children currently in year 11. I hope that families are seeking that assistance. I hope that families are seeking every bit of assistance that they can get and planning for as far in advance as they can. I hope that is the case, because I think that would be a better outcome for those families.

I think the claims that Central Midlands Senior High School will not retain its current status are scurrilous, wrong and have been refuted entirely by the minister. The minister has consistently said that funding by the one-line budget to Central Midlands Senior High School will not be impacted by any reduction in enrolments at the school in 2018. There are no plans to change the status of the school from a secondary school to a district high school. Support to the school and the families affected will continue throughout the year to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. Boarding options and capacity are available at the department's residential colleges in Northam, Narrogin, Merredin and Geraldton. Members opposite know, despite the nature of their rhetoric, that many of these students come from places far from Moora, where they currently board. Members opposite know that kids from as far away as Marble Bar, Eighty Mile Beach and Lancelin board at Moora. Not all the students are from the

Moora region. I know that there are some from the Moora region. It is not a decision that we would have made had we been given the choice. It is a sad outcome.

Mr V.A. Catania: But you have been given the choice to make. You are the ones making the decisions.

Mr P. PAPALIA: We have to make a lot of hard decisions. We have been confronting the challenges that the former government left us with since the day we took office. All that members opposite have done is hinder our ability to help people like these people in Moora. Members of the National Party opposed it. They stood there across the chamber and did it for bold-faced political gain. There was no intent on their behalf other than to hamper the government in its attempts to fix the budget. There was no other motivation.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: There can be no other motivation. What I would worry about now is that when members opposite go back into opposition, as is always the case in between stints on the treasury bench when the budget has been wrecked, National Party members slip into their cloth of ensuring that every effort is made on every possible occasion to set the country against the city. As a member of Parliament from the party that holds the greatest representation of the regions in Western Australia—the Labor Party —

Several members interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: As a member of Parliament from the party with the greatest representation of the regions of Western Australia, I am saddened to see this happen because I saw it happen the last time we were in government. The last time Labor came into government, having inherited deficits —

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Having repaired the budget, having moved to surplus and having set the state on a solid fiscal path, we were subject to a constant stream of attempts by the National Party to turn the country against the city and vice versa. It is a tragedy that Western Australians are encouraged to dislike each other by a political party that occasionally ends up in government by accident.

Point of Order

Mr V.A. CATANIA: How can we bring this to a vote, because we need some mercy here!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that is enough from you. That is not a point of order. Thank you, minister; go ahead.

Debate Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA: As a member of the political party with the greatest representation in the regions and the only political party in Western Australia that can defend and guarantee royalties for regions —

Several members interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: As the only political party that has stated it will defend and guarantee royalties for regions, I am proud —

Several members interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Madam Deputy Speaker, members of the National Party seem to have erased from their memory what happened only last week when the Leader of the Opposition—the Leader of the Liberal Party in Western Australia—said he would get rid of royalties for regions if the Liberals were to get back into power. He called on us to get rid of it! He called it a slush fund. As everyone in Western Australia knows, the entire time since Federation—the entire time that this Parliament has existed in its current form—the National Party has never once formed government with the Labor Party, so the only way to defend royalties for regions is to vote Labor! Everyone knows that!

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston — Minister for Seniors and Ageing) [6.58 pm]: In the very short time that I have, I have a very important thing to say and I am sure that members will let me have these few words. I have just been notified that Collie's blind disabled athlete, Shaun Pianta, who is competing in Korea's Paralympics in the giant slalom, has finished fourteenth overall after having had a knee operation only a short time ago. I think that is just tremendous.

In the last minute, can I now get on to it? Members of the National Party have short memories. In the 2013 election, Collie Senior High School was going to get an \$8 million upgrade. What happened? They did not produce the goods. The National Party went missing. They went out the door, out the back and were gone! Where were they? Did they stand up for country people? No, they did not. They did not have the guts to do it then and they do not have the guts to do it now! They are just a lot of loose geese; I just cannot think of any other words!

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everyone, it is late in the evening. I could not even hear what the minister was accusing them of being.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Members opposite say that it is our fault because the National Party lost the money and did not have the money to spend on those country areas. But it wasted money hand over fist. The Langouant report states that and it is about time they fessed up—owned up—that the real problem is that the National Party causes its own problems. That is where the problem is. How about taking some responsibility for that into the future? There is a real problem with the National Party's management of this state!

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

House adjourned at 7.00 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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| Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard. |
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EDUCATION AND TRAINING — CAMP SCHOOL CLOSURES — STAFF**2461. Mr V.A. Catania to the Minister for Public Sector Management:**

- (1) From the total staff across the 7 camp schools facing closure through changes to the Education Department funding priorities, including at the 8th January 2018, how many full-time, part-time and casual staff are there at each of the Camp Schools facing closure in:
- (a) Geraldton;
 - (b) Bridgetown;
 - (c) Pemberton;
 - (d) Goldfields;
 - (e) Broome;
 - (f) Dampier; and
 - (g) Point Peron?
- (2) How many staff have applied to accept the redundancy packages that they have been offered in:
- (a) Geraldton;
 - (b) Bridgetown;
 - (c) Pemberton;
 - (d) Goldfields;
 - (e) Broome;
 - (f) Dampier; and
 - (g) Point Peron?
- (3) What is the critical number of staff required to offer continuity of Camp School services across 2018 at:
- (a) Geraldton;
 - (b) Bridgetown;
 - (c) Pemberton;
 - (d) Goldfields;
 - (e) Broome;
 - (f) Dampier; and
 - (g) Point Peron?

Mr M. McGowan replied:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Education.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING — SCHOOLS OF THE AIR — STAFF**2462. Mr V.A. Catania to the Minister for Public Sector Management:**

- (1) From the total staff across the 5 Schools of the Air (SOTA) facing closure through changes to Education Department funding priorities, including at the 8th January 2018, how many full time, part-time and casual staff are there at each of the School of the Air facing closure being:
- (a) Meekatharra SOTA;
 - (b) Port Hedland SOTA;
 - (c) Derby SOTA;
 - (d) Carnarvon SOTA; and
 - (e) Kalgoorlie SOTA?

- (2) How many staff have applied to accept the redundancy packages that they have been offered at:
- (a) Meekatharra SOTA;
 - (b) Port Hedland SOTA;
 - (c) Derby SOTA;
 - (d) Carnarvon SOTA; and
 - (e) Kalgoorlie SOTA?
- (3) What is the critical number of staff required to offer continuity of education services across 2018 at:
- (a) Meekatharra SOTA;
 - (b) Port Hedland SOTA;
 - (c) Derby SOTA;
 - (d) Carnarvon SOTA; and
 - (e) Kalgoorlie SOTA?

Mr M. McGowan replied:

We are not closing School of the Air.

ROAD SAFETY — RANDOM BREATH TESTING — JURIEN BAY

2465. Mr P.A. Katsambanis to the Minister for Police; Road Safety:

- (1) How many Random Breath Test stations were set up in Jurien Bay between July 1 and December 31 2017?
- (2) Of these, how many drink driving offences were recorded?
- (3) How many drug driving offences were recorded?

Mrs M.H. Roberts replied:

- (1) Five Random Breath Test Stations were set up by Breath and Drug Operations in Jurien Bay between 1 July 2017 and 31 December 2017. This number does not include random breath testing conducted as part of general patrols by local police.
- (2) It is not possible to identify the mechanism by which a drink driving offence is detected, however five infringements and 14 charges for drink driving related offences were recorded in the Jurien Bay Police Sub-District between 1 July 2017 and 31 December 2017.
- (3) It is not possible to identify the mechanism by which a drug driving offence is detected, however three charges for drug driving related offences were recorded in the Jurien Bay Police Sub-District between 1 July 2017 and 31 December 2017.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EGG MARKETING BOARD

2471. Ms L. Mettam to the minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the dissolution of the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board and the establishment of a committee to oversee the transfer of the board's assets to a producer-owner egg marketing company and I ask:

- (a) who is on the transition advisory committee; and
- (b) how were these representatives selected?

Mr D.A. Templeman replied:

- (a) The Transitional Advisory Committee consisted of:
 - Mr Ian Longson (Chair) – Department of Agriculture
 - Mr Greg Kendall – Golden Egg Farms
 - Mr Zilko Lendich – Golden Egg Farms
 - Mr. Peter Newing – Poultry Farmers Association
 - Mr. Peter Bell – Poultry Farmers Association
 - Mr Phil Steele – Golden Eggs Farms
 - Mr. Neil Thompson – Department of Treasury and Finance
- (b) Members of the Transitional Advisory Committee were appointed by Minister Kim Chance after being nominated by their representative organisation.
 The Committee was formed on the 29 August 2003, together with the appointment of its members. I am not aware of any further activity of the committee after it submitted its final report to the Minister in July 2004.

MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION — STAFF — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — OPTUS STADIUM

2478. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Child Protection; Women’s Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

Have any staff (above PSGA level 7 or equivalent) in the Minister’s office accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Optus Stadium:

- (a) Gillette One-Day International, 28 January 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date; and
- (b) AFLW – Fremantle v Collingwood, 10 February 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

No.

- (a)–(b) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR SENIORS AND AGEING — STAFF — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — OPTUS STADIUM

2484. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation:

Have any staff (above PSGA level 7 or equivalent) in the Minister’s office accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Optus Stadium:

- (a) Gillette One-Day International, 28 January 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date; and
- (b) AFLW – Fremantle v Collingwood, 10 February 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date?

Mr M.P. Murray replied:

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) Cricket Australia
 - (ii) Emma Ramage and guest, Walter Ramage
Gordon MacMile
 - (iii) \$319.00
 - (iv) Yes, 15/02/2018.
- (b) No.

ATTORNEY GENERAL — STAFF — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — OPTUS STADIUM

2485. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Attorney General:

Have any staff (above PSGA level 7 or equivalent) in the Minister's office accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Optus Stadium:

- (a) Gillette One-Day International, 28 January 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an "Request to Attend Event" form to DPC and if so, on what date; and
- (b) AFLW – Fremantle v Collingwood, 10 February 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an "Request to Attend Event" form to DPC and if so, on what date?

Mr J.R. Quigley replied:

- (a)–(b) No, not applicable.

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT — STAFF — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — OPTUS STADIUM

2490. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment; Disability Services:

Have any staff (above PSGA level 7 or equivalent) in the Minister's office accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Optus Stadium:

- (a) Gillette One-Day International, 28 January 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an "Request to Attend Event" form to DPC and if so, on what date; and
- (b) AFLW – Fremantle v Collingwood, 10 February 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an "Request to Attend Event" form to DPC and if so, on what date?

Mr R.R. Whitby replied:

- (a)–(b) No.

MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — OPTUS STADIUM

2495. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

Has the Minister accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Optus Stadium:

- (a) Gillette One-Day International, 28 January 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;

- (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer; and
- (b) AFLW – Fremantle v Collingwood, 10 February 2018 and if so:
- (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (i) Cricket Australia
 - (ii) Mr Mark Hodgson (partner)
 - (iii) \$290.00 pp
 - (iv) Yes.
- (b) Yes, represented Minister for Sport and Recreation
- (i) VenuesLive
 - (ii) Mr Mark Hodgson (partner)
 - (iii) \$150.00 pp
 - (iv) No, Minister travelled by train

MINISTER FOR SENIORS AND AGEING — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — OPTUS STADIUM

2501. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation:

Has the Minister accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Optus Stadium:

- (a) Gillette One-Day International, 28 January 2018 and if so:
- (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer; and
- (b) AFLW – Fremantle v Collingwood, 10 February 2018 and if so:
- (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer?

Mr M.P. Murray replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (i) Cricket Australia
 - (ii) Yes – wife, Anna Murray
 - (iii) \$319.00
 - (iv) No.
- (b) No.

ATTORNEY GENERAL — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — OPTUS STADIUM

2502. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Attorney General:

Has the Minister accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Optus Stadium:

- (a) Gillette One-Day International, 28 January 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer; and
- (b) AFLW – Fremantle v Collingwood, 10 February 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer?

Mr J.R. Quigley replied:

- (a)–(b) No, not applicable.

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — OPTUS STADIUM

2507. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment; Disability Services:

Has the Minister accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Optus Stadium:

- (a) Gillette One-Day International, 28 January 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer; and
- (b) AFLW – Fremantle v Collingwood, 10 February 2018 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer?

Mr R.R. Whitby replied:

- (a)–(b) No.

MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION — STAFF — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — PERTH ARENA

2512. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Child Protection; Women’s Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

Have any staff (above PSGA level 7 or equivalent) in the Minister’s office accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Perth Arena:

- (a) Seinfeld Live, 4 August 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;

- (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
- (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
- (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (b) Alice Cooper, 17 October 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (c) Shawn Mendes, 6 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (d) The Weeknd, 14 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (e) Mariah Carey, 5 February 2018:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date; and
- (f) Ultimate Fighting Championship, 11 February 2018:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

No.

(a)–(b) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR SENIORS AND AGEING — STAFF — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — PERTH ARENA

2518. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation:

Have any staff (above PSGA level 7 or equivalent) in the Minister’s office accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Perth Arena:

- (a) Seinfeld Live, 4 August 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (b) Alice Cooper, 17 October 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;

- (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
- (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
- (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (c) Shawn Mendes, 6 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (d) The Weeknd, 14 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (e) Mariah Carey, 5 February 2018:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date; and
- (f) Ultimate Fighting Championship, 11 February 2018:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date?

Mr M.P. Murray replied:

(a)–(f) No.

ATTORNEY GENERAL — STAFF — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — PERTH ARENA

2519. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Attorney General:

Have any staff (above PSGA level 7 or equivalent) in the Minister’s office accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Perth Arena:

- (a) Seinfeld Live, 4 August 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (b) Alice Cooper, 17 October 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (c) Shawn Mendes, 6 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;

- (d) The Weeknd, 14 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (e) Mariah Carey, 5 February 2018:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date; and
- (f) Ultimate Fighting Championship, 11 February 2018:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date?

Mr J.R. Quigley replied:

- (a)–(f) No, not applicable.

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT — STAFF — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — PERTH ARENA

2524. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment; Disability Services:

Have any staff (above PSGA level 7 or equivalent) in the Minister’s office accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Perth Arena:

- (a) Seinfeld Live, 4 August 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (b) Alice Cooper, 17 October 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (c) Shawn Mendes, 6 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;
- (d) The Weeknd, 14 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date;

- (e) Mariah Carey, 5 February 2018:
- (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date; and
- (f) Ultimate Fighting Championship, 11 February 2018:
- (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) What staffer attended and did they take any guests;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the staffer submit an “Request to Attend Event” form to DPC and if so, on what date?

Mr R.R. Whitby replied:

- (a)–(f) No.

MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — PERTH ARENA

2529. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Child Protection; Women’s Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

Has the Minister accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Perth Arena:

- (a) Seinfeld Live, 4 August 2017 and if so:
- (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (b) Alice Cooper, 17 October 2017 and if so:
- (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (c) Shawn Mendes, 6 December 2017:
- (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (d) The Weeknd, 14 December 2017:
- (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (e) Mariah Carey, 5 February 2018:
- (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;

- (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer; and
- (f) Ultimate Fighting Championship, 11 February 2018:
- (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

No.

- (a)–(f) Not applicable.

MINISTER FOR SENIORS AND AGEING — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — PERTH ARENA

2535. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation:

Has the Minister accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Perth Arena:

- (a) Seinfeld Live, 4 August 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (b) Alice Cooper, 17 October 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (c) Shawn Mendes, 6 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (d) The Weeknd, 14 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (e) Mariah Carey, 5 February 2018:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer; and

- (f) Ultimate Fighting Championship, 11 February 2018:
- (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer?

Mr M.P. Murray replied:

- (a)–(f) No.

ATTORNEY GENERAL — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — PERTH ARENA

2536. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the Attorney General:

Has the Minister accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Perth Arena:

- (a) Seinfeld Live, 4 August 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (b) Alice Cooper, 17 October 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (c) Shawn Mendes, 6 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (d) The Weeknd, 14 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (e) Mariah Carey, 5 February 2018:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer; and
- (f) Ultimate Fighting Championship, 11 February 2018:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer?

Mr J.R. Quigley replied:

(a)–(f) No, not applicable.

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT — THIRD-PARTY PROVIDED ADMISSION
AND HOSPITALITY — PERTH ARENA

2541. Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment; Disability Services:

Has the Minister accepted any free admission or corporate hospitality from any third party or organisations (including government departments, agencies or government trading enterprises) to any of the following events at Perth Arena:

- (a) Seinfeld Live, 4 August 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (b) Alice Cooper, 17 October 2017 and if so:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (c) Shawn Mendes, 6 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (d) The Weeknd, 14 December 2017:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer;
- (e) Mariah Carey, 5 February 2018:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer; and
- (f) Ultimate Fighting Championship, 11 February 2018:
 - (i) What was the third party or organisation which provided the hospitality or admission;
 - (ii) Did the Minister take guests and if so, who;
 - (iii) What was the estimated value of the hospitality/admission; and
 - (iv) Did the Minister attend or get picked up from this event by a government owned or leased vehicle driven by an Executive Transport Officer or staffer?

Mr R.R. Whitby replied:

(a)–(f) No.

