



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2023

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14 March 2023

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 14 March 2023

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) took the chair at 1.00 pm, acknowledged country and read prayers.

PAPERS TABLED

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

CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2021–22
COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WESTERN AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL REPORT 2021–22
WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE FORCE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Correction — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [1.02 pm]: Members, I have a number of corrections to annual reports.

On 13 March 2023, I received a letter from the Corruption and Crime Commissioner requesting that an erratum be added to the commissioner’s *Annual report 2021–22*, which was tabled on 15 February 2023. The erratum will add the percentage of culturally and linguistically diverse employees to page 16 of the report, which was omitted from the original tabled report. Under the provisions of standing order 156, I authorise the correction to be added as an erratum to the tabled paper.

On 13 March 2023, I received a letter from the Commissioner for Children and Young People requesting that an erratum be added to the commissioner’s *Annual report 2021–22*, which was tabled on 18 October 2022. The erratum will correct two figures contained in a table of key efficiency indicators on page 71 of the report. Under the provisions of standing order 156, I authorise the corrections to be attached as an erratum to the tabled paper.

On 13 March 2023, I received a letter from the Minister for Police requesting that an erratum be added to the *Western Australia Police Force 2021 annual report*, which was tabled on 16 September 2021. The erratum will correct five figures contained in the financial statements on pages 118, 145 and 146 of the report. Under the provisions of standing order 156, I authorise the corrections to be attached as an erratum to the tabled paper.

[See papers [1853](#) to [1855](#).]

PERTH CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL — AISHWARYA ASWATH

Notice of Motion

Ms L. Mettam (Leader of the Liberal Party) gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That the house condemns the McGowan government for its failure to implement key recommendations from the three different inquiries into Aishwarya Aswath’s death at Perth Children’s Hospital and its ongoing failure to understand, acknowledge and manage the challenges facing the health system, which is putting patients and staff at risk.

MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION — PERFORMANCE

Removal of Order — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [1.04 pm]: I inform members that in accordance with standing order 144A, private members’ business order of the day 1, “The International Education Sector”, has not been debated for more than 12 calendar months and has been removed from the notice paper.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER — PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE STAFF

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [1.05 pm]: Members, I have approved the presence of Parliamentary Education Office staff in the chamber periodically from now until August 2023. As part of their professional development, they will occasionally shadow our parliamentary officers to familiarise themselves with the business and procedures of the Legislative Assembly.

BILLS

Appropriations

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

1. Local Government Amendment Bill 2023.
2. Main Roads Amendment Bill 2023.
3. Workers Compensation and Injury Management Bill 2023.

Assent

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following bills —

1. Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Bill 2022.
2. Teacher Registration Amendment Bill 2022.

AUSBIOTECH 2022*Statement by Minister for Science*

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Science) [1.07 pm]: It is with great pleasure that I stand today to report on the positive impact that securing and hosting AusBiotech 2022 over three days in October last year had on the state. For the first time in 17 years, Australia's largest life sciences conference returned to Western Australia, with more than 60 life sciences stalls on display in the Exhibition Hall of the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The conference was well received, recording its highest ever attendance, with more than 1 300 local, national, and international delegates across both conferences inbound to our state. International delegates from 18 countries attended, including those emanating from the Asia-Pacific region, the United States and Europe. Hosting this event was a major profile boost for Western Australia's medtech and biotech industry at a regional, national and international level. Pre-conference events showcased and highlighted the growth of our local life sciences ecosystem, further providing opportunities for networking and new partnerships, and attracting investment into the state.

Western Australian delegates made up 31 per cent of registration, providing strong representation of the state's burgeoning life sciences ecosystem, but, equally, there was a significant influx of national and international representatives to WA. Promoting Perth and Western Australia as the premier place to do business, and a great place to relocate to and visit, was central to the decision to hold Australia's premier life sciences conferences in our state.

AusBioInvest 2022 was held concurrently for one day, attracting 339 delegates from 14 countries. AusBioInvest is a separate event from AusBiotech and has been traditionally held only in Victoria. Connecting capital with innovation, AusBioInvest remains the pre-eminent opportunity for Australian life sciences companies to present their technology and story to an international network of potential partners and investors. The one-day event generated 41 high-quality leads and potential partnerships, with individual business value leads estimated at between \$1 million and \$20 million. Seventy-eight per cent of surveyed delegates were able to secure follow-up meetings post-conference. Securing Australia's largest life sciences conference in Perth generated economic revenue of \$3.5 million from delegates alone, with 39 per cent of delegates extending their stay by between one and five days.

These pre-eminent events provide an excellent platform to showcase the state's health, medical and life sciences capabilities and expertise and exciting opportunities. I extend sincere thanks to the Minister for Medical Research for his extensive work in securing this event, as well as the department and event organisers for organising such a successful event.

WORLD INDIGENOUS TOURISM SUMMIT*Statement by Minister for Tourism*

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Tourism) [1.10 pm]: I am excited to inform the house that on Monday, I had the honour of welcoming 450 delegates from Australia and across the globe to the World Indigenous Tourism Summit. This is the first time the summit has been hosted in Australia and is being held in Perth from 13 to 16 March. The World Indigenous Tourism Alliance and the Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council are the joint convenors of this unique gathering in the country of the Whadjuk Noongar traditional owners.

The summit provides a platform for Indigenous nations from around the world to gather and explore opportunities for international leadership in the delivery of programs to promote Indigenous human rights in tourism, and aims to connect Indigenous cultures with the tourism industry. The summit brings together friends, including Indigenous and non-Indigenous tourism operators, academics, government representatives and youth. Speakers and delegates will discuss the role that Indigenous values and wisdom can play in building a kind of tourism better equipped to survive in the future, asserting Indigenous rights in home countries and nurturing a growing awareness of the need to unite and engage in the equitable development of Indigenous economies. The summit commenced on Monday, with three symposiums dedicated to research, youth and government leaders. I was privileged to participate and address a contingent of international ministers and government leaders, sharing insights on Indigenous tourism and the work being undertaken in this sector here in Western Australia. This morning I officiated at the opening of the three-day summit and I was delighted to see the strong contingent of local Aboriginal tourism operators in attendance.

The McGowan government is committed to growing a strong, resilient and sustainable Aboriginal tourism sector, which even through the pandemic saw 110 Aboriginal tourism businesses support over 510 jobs and contribute nearly \$64 million to the Western Australian economy. The McGowan government's \$12 million Jina plan continues to be the foundation stone guiding a whole-of-government approach to programs driving economic, job and social outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities through tourism. I congratulate WAITOC and WINTA on the exceptional opening of the World Indigenous Tourism Summit and I look forward to the upcoming program of events.

PERTH FESTIVAL AND FRINGE WORLD FESTIVAL

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [1.13 pm]: Summer festival season has wrapped up for another year, with Perth Festival and Fringe World Festival each delivering great programs and arts experiences for the people of Perth and Western Australia. Celebrating its seventieth year, Perth Festival delivered a program that referenced “djinda”, which means stars in Noongar language. This included a free opening weekend event at Lake Joondalup that told the Noongar story of *Djoondal* using lights, sound and drones.

Indeed, many stars came to Perth for the festival, with the program once again able to include international artists, musicians and creatives across the visual and performing arts. The program also drew in audiences and visitors to our state, with Iceland’s superstar Björk performing her only Australian shows in a purpose-built pavilion in Langley Park.

Some other highlights included performances from the West Australian Ballet, the Western Australian Youth Theatre Company and the West Australian Opera, which performed *Carmen* as a large-scale outdoor arena spectacular at the WACA. The Sydney Theatre Company presented *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* at His Majesty’s Theatre, where the restored balconies were unveiled. Importantly, the festival continued its tradition of supporting Western Australia’s independent artists, with several new works of scale commissioned just for the festival. In 2023, Perth Festival sold over 123 000 tickets, with a record box office revenue of \$8.5 million so far, with Lotterywest films still running until 9 April. The festival has featured 760 artists, with 420, or 55 per cent, from Western Australia, and has attracted 5 800 out-of-state visitors.

Fringe World, delivered by Artrage, has been recognised as the third largest Fringe festival in the world. It opened with the Lotterywest Fringe Sunday Funday, which was the return of a great event that gave families a taste of the festival program. More than 2 000 artists performed at 550 events across 115 venues all over the metropolitan area, and 51 per cent of the events were by Western Australian artists. The festival had over 300 000 ticketed attendances, with an overall attendance of more than 615 000, achieving a box office of more than \$8 700 000.

I would like to congratulate both our festivals on their resounding success and the artists and supporters who make these festivals happen.

I must make a personal acknowledgement of the outgoing CEO of Artrage, Ms Sharon Burgess. Sharon has successfully led the organisation since 2019 through the significant challenges of the pandemic. She leaves Artrage and Fringe World in a strong position. Sharon is returning to her home in Scotland. All Western Australians wish her the very best for the future and thank her for her stewardship of Fringe World over the last couple of years.

CAUSEWAY PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST BRIDGES

Statement by Minister for Transport

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport) [1.16 pm]: On 1 March, the Premier and I marked a major milestone for the new Causeway pedestrian and cyclist bridges project. Together with the members for Perth and Victoria Park, and the federal member for Swan, we officially turned the first sod on the project at McCallum Park. It marked the start of construction of two iconic cable bridges that will link the Victoria Park foreshore at McCallum Park with Heirisson Island and Perth’s CBD at Point Fraser. The Causeway is one of the busiest connections to central Perth and the current infrastructure is far too narrow to safely accommodate the demand from path users. The new bridges will be six metres wide, with dedicated pedestrian and cyclist lanes providing safer access for the more than 1 500 cyclists and 2 000 pedestrians who use the existing bridge path daily.

The design for these bridges is spectacular. They will not only provide better connectivity for people travelling into the CBD, but also become a major attraction and encourage more people to get out and visit Perth city. The design of the structural elements of the bridges takes into account the area’s significant cultural history, with inspiration from the stories of Balbuk and Yagan—two key figures associated with Heirisson Island. As with Matagarup Bridge, feature lighting will also be installed on the bridges’ pylons and cables and will be programmable for special events.

Also like Matagarup Bridge, these bridges are being built in Western Australia by Western Australians. Civmec, Seymour Whyte and WSP are delivering the design and construct alliance contract, with Civmec responsible for some of our iconic bridges, including Matagarup Bridge and the Kids’ Bridge at Perth Children’s Hospital. Around 700 direct and indirect jobs will be supported by this fantastic project. This federal and state government-funded project is a key part of the \$1.7 billion Perth City Deal initiative.

In addition to this project, we are investing record amounts in new riding and walking infrastructure over the next four years, supporting our community and the economy and creating more jobs. With site establishment recently completed, the next steps are for site ground improvement works to commence at McCallum Park, with the project expected to be completed at the end of 2024. I look forward to keeping the house posted on the progress of this significant project.

AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAIN IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Transport

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport) [1.18 pm]: I rise to inform the house that our program to get more grain moving on rail has reached a major milestone. The \$200 million agricultural supply chain improvement program is a joint federal and state government investment aimed at increasing the efficiency and capacity of our grain freight network. As part of the ASCI program, 11 rail sidings at major CBH grain bins are being upgraded across the wheatbelt, midwest, great southern and goldfields–Esperance regions.

On 24 February, we marked a major milestone, as works began on the first siding upgrade at Brookton, which is being constructed by Western Australian company Multiplant. The Brookton rail siding extension will allow 3 000-tonne grain trains to be loaded without interrupting traffic on the main line. The investment is backed by CBH Group, which is investing in rapid-loading bins and elevators. Once these works are complete, longer trains will be able to run more often right across our network. Rail siding upgrades are also set to begin this month at Broomehill, followed by Moora and Cranbrook.

With WA's recent run of record-breaking grain harvests, it is more important than ever to optimise the efficiency of our agricultural freight transport supply chains to manage the increase in product. These upgrades, in addition to a \$60 million upgrade of the Midland main line in the midwest region and \$72 million for investigation and recommissioning of tier 3 lines in the Narrogin–Wickepin–Kulin area, will help us move grain more efficiently. This will mean we will be able to get more grain to international markets when prices are at their highest.

As well as an economic boost, the ability to transport more grain by rail will improve community safety and decrease environmental emissions and road maintenance by reducing the need for road freight. I thank CBH and Arc Infrastructure for their collaboration on this transformational project and look forward to seeing it come to fruition.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

Fourth Report — Report of the inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities — Government Response — Statement by Minister for Health

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [1.20 pm]: I am pleased to table the government response to the Education and Health Standing Committee's *Report of the inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities*. The government welcomes the committee's report, tabled on 1 December 2022, and I thank the committee for the outstanding quality of its work. I am pleased to advise the house that the government supports in full or in principle all five recommendations outlined in the report.

Firstly, before going into the government response, I recognise the bravery and resilience of former residents of the Esther Foundation, their family members, staff and all those who shared their experiences with the committee. To these individuals, I say, "We hear you." We recognise the imperative to drive changes to prevent others from having similar experiences in the future and are strongly committed to providing safe, quality services to the Western Australian public.

The committee found that unacceptable practices occurred at the Esther Foundation that caused harm to many people. The committee also received submissions with complaints and allegations against other unregulated private health facilities that continue to operate in Western Australia. It is clear we need major change in how private health services are regulated in Western Australia to adequately protect vulnerable consumers, and today I am pleased to confirm that we are committed to doing that.

Three recommendations related to licensing and regulation of private health facilities. The government strongly supports the development of contemporary legislation to ensure the efficient and effective regulation of private health facilities, including mental health and alcohol and drug services. This important reform will be led by a statutory review of the Private Hospitals and Health Services Act. The Department of Health has already commenced work to understand what is required and will undertake further consultation with the sector and with consumers as part of the review.

The committee also recommended regulatory reform to ensure that in the future, affected people can have their complaints dealt with by a dedicated body that is positioned to deliver better outcomes for individual complainants. We have already progressed amendments to the Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act to implement the national code of conduct for healthcare workers in Western Australia who fall outside of existing regulatory arrangements.

I look forward to ongoing collaboration with the sector as we implement these recommendations to improve oversight of these important services for Western Australians.

[See paper [1856](#).]

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF WA HEALTH SYSTEM GOVERNANCE

Government Response — Statement by Minister for Health

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [1.23 pm]: I rise today to table the government response to the *Independent review of WA health system governance*. The WA Health Services Act 2016 was enacted almost seven years ago. The act delivered devolved governance in our health system, the establishment of the system manager and board-governed health service providers.

In January 2022, the McGowan government commissioned the independent review to examine the operational and practical effectiveness of the governance structures under the act to ensure that they were fit for purpose and operating to positively enhance patient experience and outcomes.

On 24 October last year, I tabled the final report, and further consultation was commenced. The panel found that the devolved governance model is maturing and should be maintained, and noted that key benefits of this model include more sustainable spending in health, with clearer accountability through health service provider boards. Fifty-five recommendations were made by the panel on strengthening accountability for patient outcomes, improving strategic alignment and driving delivery of strategic initiatives across the system.

On behalf of the McGowan government, I would like to acknowledge and thank the panel for its insights. I am pleased to advise the house that the government accepts in principle 49 of the 55 recommendations. Recommendations 14 and 15 propose significant changes to the public mental health system, shifting key responsibilities from the Mental Health Commission to the Department of Health. The panel found there is a need for stronger integration, collaboration and accountability and ensuring a joined up strategy in mental health planning. The government accepts these findings, but acknowledges that to get the governance arrangements right, more consideration is required and, consequently, at this time these recommendations are not accepted as written. I have established a time-limited working group tasked with listening to stakeholders, consumers and carers to work through how a best practice, collaborative model of governance can be established.

Recommendations on introducing a local commissioning model and on changes to the employing authority of chief executives are not supported at this time. Further consideration of local commissioning will be undertaken as part of the statutory review of the act.

Implementation of the recommendations accepted in principle will be led by the Department of Health in consultation with health service providers. Implementation will occur in alignment with the refocused priorities of the sustainable health review and, as always, with patient care and safety at the centre of the reforms. I table the report.

[See paper [1857](#).]

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES — PILBARA

Statement by Minister for Regional Development

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Regional Development) [1.25 pm]: I am very pleased to advise the house that on Wednesday, 1 March, I officially opened Jirinyjarri Maya in Newman, a new assisted living complex for Parnpajinya residents. I was joined by colleagues Hon Sabine Winton, MLA, Minister for Community Services, and the local member, Kevin Michel, member for Pilbara.

Nyiyaparli elder Mr Stanley Watson welcomed everyone to the event, which was hosted by the Pilbara Development Commission and East Pilbara Independence Support. Around 80 people attended, including the new residents and their families, project and community partners, and state and local government representatives. Jirinyjarri Maya was developed as part of the Parnpajinya transition plan under the Pilbara town-based reserves project, which is being delivered by the Pilbara Development Commission. It received \$4 million in funding from the state, including a Lotterywest grant, and involved the refurbishment of eight two-bedroom properties with a separate family gathering space to provide safe and culturally appropriate accommodation for residents relocating from the community.

I acknowledge and thank BHP, which gifted the complex to East Pilbara Independence Support. East Pilbara Independence Support has also been engaged to deliver wraparound services to support the residents. I also acknowledge the Fulcrum Agency, which made sure that the Parnpajinya residents had input into the design, and local Aboriginal building company CADD Building and Maintenance, not only for its workmanship, but for its empathetic approach to the delivery of the contract, which ensured that the residents were part of the process along the way.

I had the honour of meeting several residents on the day, who all played a part in the refurbishment design, from the internal colour selections to the layout of the courtyard areas. It was wonderful to hear how pleased they were with the facility and the services now available to them. Ms Violet Atkins, who occupies the only fully wheelchair accessible unit, was delighted to join me in cutting the ribbon to mark this auspicious occasion.

In closing, I acknowledge the significant effort of the Pilbara Development Commission and project partners, East Pilbara Independence Support, BHP and Lotterywest. This is an important initiative that is helping to improve the lives of Aboriginal people living in the Pilbara.

FOSTER CARE

Statement by Minister for Community Services

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Community Services) [1.28 pm]: Foster carers are often unsung community champions. They step forward to fulfil a critical role in the lives of vulnerable children and young people, providing support, guidance and love when it is very much needed. It gives me much pleasure to rise today to recognise the contributions of foster and family carers in Western Australia.

This week I will attend the 2023 Foster and Kinship Care Conference, which is themed “Fostering—You Don’t Know What You Don’t Know”, and is hosted by the Foster Care Association WA, in partnership with the Department of Communities. The conference is a significant gathering of foster and family carers, child and family welfare experts, and child protection advocates. I commend the association and its director, Fay Alford—who I am told has inducted several members before me—and its board for its commitment to building and sharing expertise to support carers to create the best possible home for children in care.

I want to acknowledge two outstanding foster carers Pat and Rhyce Hill, who embody what it is to be foster carers. Now both in their 70s, Pat and Rhyce have been foster carers with the Department of Communities since 1986. In that time, they have cared for nearly 100 different children and young people, which is an extraordinary achievement. Some of these children stayed with them long term and are part of the Hill family, with their own children considering Pat and Rhyce to be their grandparents. Pat and Rhyce also embraced the fostering community, making many positive connections and sharing their knowledge and skills with newer foster carers. Communities recently held a morning tea to thank them for the immeasurable impact they have had on the lives of so many young people. I, too, want to thank Pat and Rhyce for their commitment to caring, supporting and guiding so many children over decades. I wish them both the very best in their future endeavours.

Foster carers say that choosing to help vulnerable children and young people by providing them with a safe and loving home is one of the best decisions they have ever made. Members, if there are community members in your electorates who are interested in a fostering journey, I encourage them to visit the Communities website for more information or contact the Foster Care Association WA. I have so much respect and admiration for the care Pat, Rhyce and all our foster and family carers provide and the contribution they make. I pay tribute to them and look forward to an ongoing positive partnership with the Foster Care Association to support it in its most important work—advocating for carers.

GOVERNMENT TRADING ENTERPRISES BILL 2022

Second Reading

Resumed from 24 November 2022.

MR M. HUGHES (Kalamunda) [1.31 pm]: I remind members that debate on this bill concluded on 24 November. I just want to reiterate that the bill is an integral part of the important reform program embarked upon in the long-term interests of Western Australia. It has been systematically progressed by the McGowan Labor government since its election in March 2017.

This bill builds on the work already undertaken to construct an efficient, accountable and high-performing public sector. It will clarify and strengthen the governance and accountability arrangements of government trading enterprises. It will also consolidate the governance requirements of government trading enterprises, which are presently replicated across multiple establishing acts. In addition to transforming GTE governance, this bill will provide for a new transitional framework as part of the McGowan government’s overall public sector reform program. It is a fact that concerns about the governance of government trading enterprises have existed for some time. Most recently, they were raised by the McGowan government’s service priority review and by the *Special inquiry into government programs and projects: Final report*, the Langoulant report. The GTE reform program was established on 1 July 2018. It has involved shareholder consultation and collaboration across the enterprises and the Department of Treasury, which has been central to its success.

I am going to look in detail at some aspects of the Langoulant report that covered the issue of government trading enterprises. This is to point out to members how much this government stands in stark contrast to the way in which the previous government managed both the public sector and trading enterprises. I will also rove across royalties for regions a little bit, which received in the Langoulant report a particular level of scrutiny as one of the principal agencies, if you like, that was effectively destabilising the sensible management of finances. We had both the Liberals and Nationals operating, one would say, two quite separate budget processes and determining projects against quite different priorities. These were certainly not priorities in the interests of the state.

These reforms actually go to the issue of ensuring that there is a closer connection with government priorities and the way in which government trading enterprises go about their business. Again, I emphasise that we need to ensure that this is done at arm’s length—in an operational sense—from executive government.

In the list of recommendation themes in the Langoulant report, the need to reform royalties for regions was followed by recommendations regarding the need for well-thought-out and clearly communicated strategic planning, adherence to cabinet protocols at all times, sound business case submissions, and practices to ensure the availability of coordinated central agency resourcing to provide sound advice to government.

The fifth of the top 12 recommendation themes of the Langoulant report, following commentary on royalties for regions, dwells upon government trading enterprises and public corporations, which is the subject of this bill. The special inquirer found that the roles and responsibilities of government trading enterprises and public corporations was muddy.

Interestingly, in written evidence for the Langoulant review, as he did not appear before it, Hon Colin Barnett observed —

“Government Trading Enterprises sit in a no-man’s land between the government and private sectors. Their boards like to think of themselves as equivalent to private sector boards. That is not the case.”

Although government trading enterprises have been corporatised, they are still very much dependent on government funding. As it stands, essentially they have to respond neither to the accountability rigours of the corporate sector nor to the increasingly high standards imposed upon the public sector.

The statements of corporate intent and strategic development plans of the two major entities reviewed by the special inquirer—that is, Synergy and Western Power—provided little insight into the plans and intentions of either entity. The inquiry found that the regulatory framework through the Economic Regulation Authority and the Public Utilities Office was complicated. The inquiry also observed that government trading enterprises are not subject to the same standards of procurement, project management, transparency, reporting, budget preparation or record keeping as the rest of government.

In its submission to the inquiry, the Department of Treasury observed that the structures of government trading enterprises needed review and reform. Its submission is contained in appendix J of volume 1 of the final report. The advice that the Department of Treasury submitted to the incoming McGowan government recommended that the new government commit to a number of matters. The first matter was to undertake a review of the structure of the government’s commercial and quasi-commercial entities to identify appropriate governance arrangements. Secondly, it recommended the introduction of legislative reform to standardise and strengthen governance arrangements. Thirdly, it recommended the establishment of a government trading enterprise oversight and advisory unit within Treasury to implement the reform program and increase the effectiveness of ongoing performance monitoring of GTEs.

The background to these Treasury recommendations centred on the performance of a number of GTEs that raised concerns about existing governance arrangements and the adequacy of ensuring strong performance and the achievement of government objectives. In its submission to government, Treasury pointed to the key features of corporatisation—namely, for GTEs to operate at arm’s length from government. This bill provides for that. However, it noted that although the arm’s-length relationship is important in ensuring the transparent direction of policies to GTEs, it had failed to properly align the objectives and performances of GTEs with the objectives and expectations of government. Treasury also noted that the corporatisation model was intended to introduce private sector discipline to the activities of government trading enterprises. However, Treasury observed that private sector discipline is not achieved by simply introducing a profit objective and a limited number of statutory director responsibilities, noting that GTEs are protected against two major threats that are essential for encouraging sound management in the private sector—namely, takeover and bankruptcy—as well as the discipline derived from a complex interaction between the performance of listed share prices, the availability and cost of capital, performance-based contracts, reputation, annual general meetings and many other factors.

Failure of the governance framework was not the only issue identified by Treasury. Issues also arose because of the strong application of government trading enterprise management principles. Treasury analysis indicated that important matters to be resolved were the ambiguity of roles, a lack of capability and capacity to oversee GTEs, an avoidance of imposing sanctions on underperforming GTEs and a fall in the quality of GTE governance and reporting. The bill before us will address those concerns raised by Treasury. Treasury noted also that the need for comprehensive reform of GTE governance had been raised in a series of previous inquiries with limited appetite for broad reform, with previous governments committing only to agency-specific or sector-specific reform.

Western Australia is the only jurisdiction without overarching governance legislation that manages government trading enterprises. As mentioned at the beginning of my contribution to the debate, the legislative governance framework for Western Australian government commercial entities is set out in specific enabling acts for each of the individual entities. The 12 different enabling acts reflect the thinking at the time of their drafting over effectively a 10-year period. The proposed umbrella or overarching legislation contained within this bill details accountability, governance and financial provisions for all GTEs with the accompanying enabling acts for each GTE setting out provisions specific to each GTE’s particular circumstances. This bill will bring greater consistency to GTE governance and accountability provisions, fill gaps in the scrutiny of a government trading enterprise’s major transactions and deals, and better align a government trading enterprise’s strategic planning with state budget time lines.

I will bring my contribution to a conclusion. The Department of Treasury’s governance and enterprise resourcing directorate, through stakeholder consultation, has developed a governance framework to strengthen government trading enterprises’ connection with other areas of Western Australian government. The new framework requires a combination of legislative reform, administrative orders, ministerial responsibility and performance monitoring. The proposed overarching legislation will consolidate the governance requirements of GTEs that are presently contained in multiple instruments, while maintaining appropriate flexibility for practices to adapt to industry, market and government policy changes over time.

The first stage of the legislative reforms covers the 12 in-scope GTEs comprising the electricity corporations, Horizon Power, Synergy and Western Power; the water corporations, Bunbury Water Corporation, Busselton Water and the Water Corporation; each of the port authorities; and the Western Australian Land Authority, DevelopmentWA. The proposed legislation will ensure greater clarity in the relationship of GTEs with the government. The legislation will harmonise good governance and key financial arrangements across the enterprises referenced in the bill and support government trading enterprises in improving strategic documentation, quality information sharing and demonstration of outcomes they have agreed to deliver.

The legislation clarifies the purpose of government trading enterprises to ensure boards understand their role and government's expectation that government trading enterprises exist to advance the public benefit, including through the provision of financial and non-financial returns on the state's investment via the government trading enterprises. The bill clarifies the balance between commerciality and broader policy objectives, recognising that providing returns to the community is the paramount duty of a government trading enterprise. The bill provides a mechanism for the issuance of policy orders that allows government trading enterprises to contribute to the delivery of the policy outcomes of the government.

Notwithstanding the above, the proposed legislation, as mentioned previously, does not mandate how government trading enterprises will undertake day-to-day business activities in recognition of the principals of the corporatised model established more than 20 years ago acknowledging the skills and expertise of the boards of government trading enterprises, mostly, and their directors. However, the bill provides standardised provisions for ministerial approval of significant transactions with ongoing open consultation while retaining the ability of government trading enterprises to pursue their commercial interests. Continuing strong engagement with relevant stakeholders will be essential to the success of the reform measures that are to come and the delivery of a sustainable and appropriate governance framework.

As I understand the situation, non-legislative aspects of the framework have been implemented in parallel with the drafting of the legislation. In-scope GTEs now have full budget statements, introduced in the 2021–22 budget. Government guidance notes will be developed to support the implementation of both legislative and administrative features of the framework and provide clear guidance on the governance and performance expectations covered by the government trading enterprise legislation.

I commend the government for heeding the strong advice of Treasury and the findings of the Langoulant review for the need to reform the way we manage the relationship between government trading enterprises and government, and for the careful and deliberate approach that has been taken since coming to office in 2017 to consult and work with stakeholders to bring about substantial and meaningful reform that will ensure the successful application of the new framework.

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary) [1.46 pm]: I also rise to make a brief contribution on the Government Trading Enterprises Bill 2022. I thank the member for Kalamunda for his contribution that traversed a number of areas I was going to speak to. This is a very important bill that will consolidate and update the governance, strategic planning and financial management provisions in the establishing acts. The in-scope GTEs are those mentioned by the member for Kalamunda. In short, they are electricity corporations, water corporations, port authorities and the Western Australian Land Authority, DevelopmentWA.

GTEs are public entities that operate in a commercial business environment and in accordance with prudent commercial principles. Government trading enterprises' assets and investments significantly contribute to Western Australia's asset investment program and can impact on the legal, financial and economic standing of the state. Unfortunately, over time the concept of the GTEs operating at a distance from government has changed and there has been a divergence in their role and in the understanding of the role. These inconsistencies have the effect of inhibiting government's ability to manage the financial, legal and reputational risks effectively and efficiently, but it is hoped these changes will operate to ensure that GTEs' strategic and operational objectives are aligned with the expectations of government and of Western Australians. As the member for Kalamunda said, the importance of a clear relationship between GTEs and government to ensure well-informed decision-making and cohesive long-term planning has been highlighted by a number of inquiries. The two that were referenced by the member for Kalamunda were the *Special inquiry into government programs and projects: Final report* in 2018—in shorthand, the Langoulant inquiry—and the service priority review in 2017.

The purpose of GTEs has been clarified in the new legislation to ensure that boards responsible for the administration of GTEs understand their role more broadly and the government's expectations for GTEs to advance the public benefit, including through the provision of financial and non-financial returns on taxpayers' investment through GTEs. The bill will clarify the balance between pure commerciality and broader policy objectives, recognising that providing returns to the community is the paramount duty of a GTE. The bill meets the recommendations of the *Special inquiry into government programs and projects* headed by former Under Treasurer John Langoulant to strengthen the government's transparency and accountability arrangements that oversee state GTEs.

One of the things this bill will do that I think is very important is continue the McGowan government's strong tradition of avoiding privatisation and reversing the impacts of neoliberalism. When the McGowan government was

elected in 2017, it was elected on an unequivocal platform of not privatising Western Power. When I doorknocked through the Mount Lawley electorate in the lead-up to the 2017 election, that promise resonated clearly with the community.

The McGowan government has a track record of retaining in public ownership the essential services and using the levers of procurement to deliver a positive return for our community, be that through retaining Western Power in public ownership, the Western Australian Jobs Act or procurement policies—for example, to promote Aboriginal employment and education. We took our commitment to keep Western Power publicly owned to the 2017 election, and that commitment was roundly endorsed by the people of Western Australia when we were elected with a mandate.

The McGowan government’s position of keeping essential services and operations within public ownership stands in stark contrast to the attitude of the former Liberal government and its desire to edge towards neoliberalism and privatisation. I want to identify some of the problems with neoliberalism and some of the issues it has created for contemporary society. I refer to an article by the journalist George Monbiot in *The Guardian* of 15 April 2016 to provide some background because he provides a very good definition of neoliberalism. He wrote —

Neoliberalism sees competition as the defining characteristic of human relations. It redefines citizens as consumers, whose democratic choices are best exercised by buying and selling, a process that rewards merit and punishes inefficiency. It maintains that “the market” delivers benefits that could never be achieved by planning.

Attempts to limit competition are treated as inimical to liberty. Tax and regulation should be minimised, public services should be privatised. The organisation of labour and collective bargaining by trade unions are portrayed as market distortions that impede the formation of a natural hierarchy of winners and losers. Inequality is recast as virtuous: a reward for utility and a generator of wealth, which trickles down to enrich everyone ... The market ensures that everyone gets what they deserve.

The failure of this philosophy and this ideology has now been cast into stark relief, but that defines the term. This ideology took hold in the 1970s after the post–World War II consensus of John Maynard Keynes was pulled apart by hyperinflation and the OPEC oil price shocks. In the 1970s, Jim Callaghan in the United Kingdom and Jimmy Carter in the United States introduced a number of reforms. The election of Margaret Thatcher in the United Kingdom and Ronald Reagan in the United States turbocharged the implementation of neoliberalism, and the consequences are with us today. I refer again to *The Guardian* article —

The privatisation or marketisation of public services such as energy, water, trains, health, education, roads and prisons has enabled corporations to set up tollbooths in front of essential assets and charge rent, either to citizens or to government, for their use.

I quote again from the article —

Perhaps the most dangerous impact of neoliberalism is not the economic crises it has caused, but the political crisis. As the domain of the state is reduced, our ability —

As citizens —

to change the course of our lives through voting also contracts. Instead, neoliberal theory asserts, people can exercise choice through spending.

That is the problem created by neoliberalism as identified by George Monbiot.

The issue was taken up more recently by Dr Alison Pennington, who is an author for Crikey and about to release a new book, *Generation F’d: How neoliberalism consumed the future*. She provides this definition —

Neoliberalism is a term associated with 19th-century ideas centred around free-market capitalism. Commonly, it refers to market-oriented reform policies, like lowering trade barriers, deregulating capital markets and eliminating price controls. Especially, though, neoliberalism refers to policies that diminish government’s role in shaping the economy and delivering services.

In practice, neoliberalism has given untold powers to private enterprises, and in the process has eroded our access to good jobs, incomes, services and infrastructure.

Dr Pennington goes on to say later in the article —

Despite the damage wrought by neoliberalism, government—at federal, state and local levels—is still the biggest actor in the economy. It spends a whopping \$580 billion every year and employs 2.1 million people. Government once used its power to maximise human welfare, moulding private sector activity to complement its democratic vision. For instance, the post-war policy architecture up to Whitlam’s 1970s was all about “crowding in”, signalling what was important to the public through big public investment and planning in many areas including education, health care, infrastructure and the arts. Then, the private sector would be invited to come along for the ride.

But from the 1980s, government's critical role in leading economic activity began narrowing. Privatisation, outsourcing and marketisation handed the reins to private interests, undermining our collective long-term vision.

The point I want to make is that neoliberalism's hold on policymakers constrained the realm within which government could act, and this was identified by any number of reports, but, most particularly, I draw the Parliament's attention back to a report that I was privileged enough to participate in—the thirteenth report of the Public Accounts Committee. I am gratified that the former Minister for Finance and the former chair of the Public Accounts Committee is in the chamber to hear this part of my contribution because I am about to quote from his foreword to that report, *Knowing what good looks like: Challenges in managing major public sector contracts*. The chair, the honourable member for Armadale and now the Minister for Education, wrote —

Whenever one is dealing with the use of public funds, it is important to ensure that there is appropriate oversight and creditable, workable and effective regulation ...

Our report, though, remains timely as it deals with high-level preparedness for better management practices on major contracts and for improving control, oversight and transparency in pursuit of good public outcomes.

One of the things that the chair emphasised both throughout the inquiry and during his tabling contribution was that the era of being motivated only by the lowest cost and monetary reasons was over; now is the time for governments to use the expenditure at their disposal. Whether it is in the procurement of goods and services or in the construction of significant public infrastructure, it is important for government to apply its resources and financial capability to deliver positive outcomes and social value to the community. Social value was the phrase the member used. This runs directly contrary to the overarching philosophy of neoliberalism, but it is entirely consistent with the McGowan government's approach to making sure that government has an important role to play in people's lives.

This legislation picks up our underpinning philosophy of opposition to the privatisation of essential services like Western Power. It tackles the pernicious rise of the neoliberal ideology advanced by members opposite, and it uses the power of the government, which is still a significant player in the economy, to make sure it delivers tangible and beneficial outcomes to the wider community. It delivers those outcomes based on not only a purely monetary perspective, but also what is in the best interests of the whole community.

If members look at the organisations that this tranche of reforms applies to, including DevelopmentWA, Western Power and the port authorities, they can see that the potential for community benefits is significant. All these organisations need not merely look at returning the greatest profit to shareholders but can look at what they can do to serve the overall interests of the state of Western Australia. DevelopmentWA can release industrial lands or release lands to tackle the issue of housing and homelessness. If we look at Western Power investing in renewable energy or how the port authorities can promote export industries and greater trade, we see that all these government trading enterprises have a role to play that moves beyond just maximising profit for shareholders and into the realm of supporting and advancing the overall interests of the Western Australian community. That runs directly contrary to the Liberal Party's philosophy, which is all about outsourcing, privatising and undermining the role of these organisations to make sure that there is a public benefit.

One of the things that Hon Colin Barnett lost sight of when he made his submission to the Langouant inquiry was that for government trading enterprises, the hint is in the name; they are "government" trading enterprises. They belong to the people of Western Australia. They should be dealt with responsibly and professionally, and they should be governed by a modern and effective regulatory regime. I commend the Premier for bringing this legislation to this Parliament because it will establish, as was said by the member for Kalamunda, the necessary framework to clarify the purpose of government trading enterprises and ensure that their boards understand their roles more broadly within the government's expectations of government trading enterprises.

That role is about advancing the public benefit, including through the provision of both financial and non-financial returns. The bill clarifies the balance between commerciality and broader policy objectives, and recognises that providing returns to the community is the paramount duty of GTEs. By picking up the recommendations of not just the Langouant inquiry and the public sector review, but also great inquiries like the inquiry of the former Public Accounts Committee into the management of government contracts, and picking up those ideas for reform, this legislation will reset the way in which government trading enterprises can operate to make sure that they are appropriately accountable and transparent. It will also make sure that the investment for our collective future for the wellbeing of Western Australia is enhanced.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 864.]

PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [2.00 pm]: Members, you will have noticed a card on your desk that has a QR code on it. The member for Hillarys, as co-convenor of the Parliamentary Friends of Technology and

Innovation, requested, and I have approved, for this card to be placed on your desk. The Parliamentary Friends of Technology and Innovation is having its launch in the courtyard at 5.45 tonight, and you can RSVP to this function by scanning the QR code on the back of the card.

VISITORS — PARKERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [2.01 pm]: I acknowledge the special guests today of the member for Kalamunda. On behalf of the member for Kalamunda, please welcome the year 6 leaders of Parkerville Primary School visiting Parliament today, accompanied by their principal, Mrs Carolyn Nunn; teacher, Ms Maryann Taylor; and parent helper, Ms Kristina Vlahov. Welcome to you all.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

GOLD CORPORATION — GOLD BAR CONTENT

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

I refer to revelations exposed by *Four Corners* on Monday, 6 March regarding compliance failures at Gold Corporation and allegations of gold doping.

- (1) Does the Premier stand by his claims that he was not informed of gold doping failures at Gold Corporation until Monday, 6 March on the *Four Corners* show?
- (2) How is it acceptable that the Premier was not informed when the Minister for Mines and Petroleum was informed in January 2022, 14 months earlier?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) I watched the last half, perhaps, of the *Four Corners* program on the night that it was on. The next day I contacted the CEO of the Gold Corporation to get his advice on all the matters; I had a couple of phone conversations with him. He advised me that there had been a review of all the briefing notes and advice provided to government in relation to these issues, and that I had not been informed in relation to the matters in question. That is certainly my recollection.

In terms of the actual issue, I just want everyone to understand that Western Australia's gold that goes through the Perth Mint complies with international standards. It is 99.99 per cent gold. It is alloyed, as every gold bar in history has been, with other materials for the remaining 0.01 per cent of the gold bar. The alloying normally involves a combination of silver, lead and copper, I am advised. It is 99.99 per cent gold and the remaining 0.01 per cent is a combination of those three metals. The Shanghai Gold Exchange has a unique requirement—that it only likes half of that 0.01 per cent to be silver and it likes the other half of that 0.01 per cent to be either copper or lead. What happened in terms of some gold bars that went up there is that there was more than 0.005 per cent silver; in fact, it was 0.007 per cent silver, as opposed to 0.005 per cent silver. In other words, there was a tiny bit more silver than copper or lead, which was not in compliance with what it normally expects. I am advised that for other gold exchanges around the world, that amount of silver is fine. That is the issue that was identified. It is called alloying. I want to repeat: the gold that the Western Australian Perth Mint provides is 99.99 per cent gold. When the issue was identified of the amount of silver in the remaining 0.01 per cent in I think two, three or four gold bars, it was rectified. Therefore, all the gold sent to the Shanghai Gold Exchange—I am advised there has been tonnes since the events in question were identified back in 2021—has complied with the unique requirements of the Shanghai Gold Exchange.

GOLD CORPORATION — GOLD BAR CONTENT

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

I have a supplementary question. As the minister responsible for Gold Corporation at the time the doping took place, does the Premier take responsibility for the controversy that has now erupted?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

As I advised the Leader of the Opposition, my knowledge of the issues in question is that apparently they came to the attention of the administration, I think, in September 2021. The board was informed shortly thereafter, in October 2021, and the issue was rectified. To the best of my knowledge, and certainly in the advice I have and the full review of any of the briefing notes and so forth, I was not informed of the matters.

JOBS — HMAS *STIRLING*

103. Mr H.T. JONES to the Premier:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's ongoing campaign to diversify the Western Australian economy, including in the defence sector.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house the latest development in attracting new investment to Western Australia that will provide local jobs for decades to come?

(2) Can the Premier advise the house what this investment will mean for Western Australians?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Darling Range, a distinguished naval officer, for his question. He is very distinguished. He looks like a distinguished naval officer these days, with his beard! Technically, I should call him sir, because he is a lieutenant commander and I retired as a lieutenant, so he is actually my senior officer. Thank you for your question, sir!

(1)–(2) Today's announcement by the commonwealth government is worth billions of dollars to Western Australia. It means a significant investment in HMAS *Stirling* of around \$8 billion of capital works and so forth to expand the base and create around 3 000 jobs in construction, maintenance and so forth. That will include wharf upgrades, operational maintenance and logistics training, supporting infrastructure outside HMAS *Stirling*, and I suspect a fair amount at Henderson, at the Australian Marine Complex. There is a fair amount of work to be done there. Then, with what is called the rotational force, the expectation is there will be 500 jobs ongoing out of that. However, once the submarines are fully Australian flagged and based at HMAS *Stirling*, I suspect the job numbers will be in the thousands in Western Australia, because a great deal of the maintenance will be undertaken at the Australian Marine Complex and a lot of work will be done to ensure that maintenance can be undertaken there.

A great deal of training will also be put in place, particularly at South Metropolitan TAFE. At the moment, more than 16 300 students are studying defence-related qualifications and skills. There will be a great deal more of that as well. It is a significant investment in capital works, training skills and other matters for Western Australia. Obviously, provisioning and supply for all this new equipment will be a boost to local contractors and local suppliers to defence. It is obviously a major investment by the commonwealth government as well, so, in terms of the overall investment, I suppose we could say that Western Australia and South Australia are the big winners when it comes to jobs, skills and spend. Obviously, we will want to see that maximised here in Western Australia.

GOLD CORPORATION — TREASURY REPRESENTATIVE

104. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:

I refer to the fact that the Treasurer's department has a representative on the board of the Gold Corporation. Given the recent revelations of the doping program at the Perth Mint dating back to 2018 and the fact that the Treasurer has claimed not to know about these matters until 6 March, does the Treasurer see any point in having that representative on the board if they are not providing him with advice or information relevant to his risk and the governance of the organisation?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

As I understand it, there has always been a Treasury representative on the board of the Perth Mint; it may well be a requirement by law. That is to ensure that central government agencies have knowledge of the matters that the Mint is involved in.

As I explained to the Leader of the Opposition before, the issue identified by *Four Corners* was rectified as soon as it was brought to our attention. Essentially, there was two parts per 100 000 more silver in a gold bar than the Shanghai Gold Exchange would like, even though the amount of gold in the gold bar exceeded international standards. That is what it was; that was the issue. The two parts per 100 000 of silver would ordinarily be copper or lead in a bar of gold going to Shanghai. It was not actually a reduction in the amount of gold. Ordinarily, it would be copper or lead. Now, I was surprised, because I thought silver was of a higher value than copper or lead—I am pretty sure that is right—but that is the unique requirement of the Shanghai Gold Exchange. When it was identified that that needed to be fixed, the Perth Mint fixed it. Since then, the Shanghai Gold Exchange has bought tonnes of gold from the Perth Mint.

GOLD CORPORATION — GOLD BAR CONTENT

105. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:

I have a supplementary question. Given that the gold did not meet the specifications of the customer, does the Treasurer think it was acceptable that he was not informed of the gold doping earlier?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I think it was largely regarded as an operational matter that was dealt with immediately. As the Leader of the Opposition knows, the government of Western Australia deals with thousands of issues across government on a daily basis in relation to agencies—the 40 or 50 government trading enterprises and 25 government departments—the \$36 billion spend and multiple pieces of legislation. I think it was largely regarded as an operational issue that was fixed as soon as it was brought to our attention.

PERTH CONCERT HALL

106. Ms L.L. BAKER to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's continued support for the Western Australian arts and community industries. Can the minister please advise the house how the government's investment in redeveloping the Perth Concert Hall will benefit Western Australian performers, and can the minister outline what other initiatives we are taking to support these industries?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I thank the member for Maylands for her question. Her electorate is home, of course, to the West Australian Ballet Company, which is a magnificent, iconic cultural institution.

Ms L.L. Baker: And the WA Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Indeed; she has a couple there. It was a great day for the arts last Friday. I was very pleased to be with the Premier at the Perth Concert Hall last Friday night for an ensemble presentation by the wonderful West Australian Symphony Orchestra, conducted by the magnificent Asher Fisch, who of course is the conductor in residence. There was a significant announcement for the Perth Concert Hall. The 50-year-old building was opened in 1973 by the then Governor-General and, I think, the Prime Minister at the time. The total commitment of \$150 million will enhance, member for Maylands—look at me, look at me!

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: If you ask the question, you are going to get the answer now!

This was a magnificent and significant announcement, because unfortunately the building has been undermined as a result of some deterioration. The building was under the control of the City of Perth, which had responsibility for maintaining it. Although I acknowledge and thank the City of Perth for its \$4 million contribution to the \$150 million commitment, it is important to acknowledge that a lot of the maintenance work should have been done over time. That said, it is the McGowan government that has recognised very clearly that this is a magnificent, iconic institution. This commitment will do a number of things. First of all, it will deliver once and for all a home for WASO, which vacated the old ABC studios on St Georges Terrace just over 20 years ago and has been waiting for a new home to be delivered. The McGowan government is going to deliver it. But it is also going to deliver an enhanced Perth Concert Hall, with a range of measures that will enhance this magnificent building into the future. The world-renowned acoustic features will be preserved; essential structural maintenance will be done to make sure that the building complies; working areas used by WASO will be refurbished; venue access will be improved for users, including people with disability et cetera; and the forecourt will be transformed. Those members who have gone to the concert hall know that the forecourt is quite narrow. The forecourt will be expanded to enhance the capacity for patrons and activities so that we can have more gatherings and festivals.

The second part of the member's question asked how this relates to our investment in the arts over the last six years of the McGowan government. Over \$326 million of investment has been delivered or announced, and projects completed. We saw the rooftop of the Art Gallery of Western Australia enhanced; it is now a very well-utilised and exciting place in which to enjoy a rooftop experience. At His Majesty's Theatre, a beautiful \$15.3 million restoration was done of the balconies and the verandahs were returned under the McGowan government, on top of about \$6.5 million spent on internal changes, including works to the orchestra pit. The Perth Cultural Centre will be revamped and totally transformed with a \$25 million commitment. We already have the commitment to the Aboriginal cultural centre. The government also has the commitment to the screen production facility in Malaga, as well as the \$20 million screen investment. The arts are doing magnificently under the McGowan government because we recognise the importance of our creative industries and our creative people to the story that is Western Australia. We will keep on investing in our creatives—in our wonderful performers, musicians, producers and screen industry workers—because we recognise that the arts are an important part of our diverse economy. I am proud of that, and I know the member for Maylands is very proud as well. The \$150 million restoration and transformation of the Perth Concert Hall will be a magnificent achievement and a brilliant effort. I look forward to its opening in a couple of years' time.

GOLD CORPORATION — GOLD BAR CONTENT

107. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to the board chair of Gold Corporation, Mr Sam Walsh, and his refusal to answer questions put to him about the ongoing mismanagement of the Perth Mint.

- (1) Has the Premier sought a briefing from Mr Walsh to understand what he knew and when?
- (2) As Premier and leader of the WA government, which oversees the operations of Gold Corp, why will the Premier not demand that Mr Walsh front the media and clarify his involvement in or knowledge of the issues plaguing Gold Corp, including the money-laundering concerns and gold dilution?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

(1)–(2) Just so it is completely clear, there has been no dilution of gold in any gold bars from the Perth Mint—no dilution of gold.

Ms L. Mettam: There are concerns.

Mr M. McGOWAN: They are 99.99 per cent gold. I just want to be accurate in the Parliament. We are dealing with international gold exchanges that watch everything that is said. Every bar of gold is above international standards, which is 99.99 per cent gold. In fact, the Perth Mint is one of the most respected mints in the world because it meets those standards. I just think members need to be very careful with the language they use so that they do not send the wrong message to the international business community.

I think the second part of the question related to Mr Walsh. It will be up to Mr Walsh what media he undertakes. Obviously, I have answered every question put to me on multiple occasions by the Western Australian media. I probably do more press conferences than most people, and certainly more than most Premiers over their time, so I answer the questions as they are put to me. I will continue to do so about my knowledge and so forth of various matters.

In terms of the matters concerning the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, I am advised that the AUSTRAC legislation was put in place in 2006. The noncompliance by the Mint with those systems and processes was identified in 2021, and we invested \$34 million to repair that. In other words, over the last years of the then Labor government—in 2006, 2007 and 2008—for the entirety of the Barnett Liberal–National government and for the first five years of this government, the systems and processes used by the Mint were not compliant with the AUSTRAC laws. When it was identified, or brought to attention, I think it was last year, we announced a \$34 million investment in computer systems and staff to make sure that we do. I think there were an additional 50 staff or thereabouts employed. That issue has been in place over multiple Liberal and Labor governments. When it was brought to our attention, we invested the money to fix it.

GOLD CORPORATION — GOLD BAR CONTENT

108. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Is Mr Walsh's avoidance of media and scrutiny because he did in fact brief you as Premier; Treasurer and the responsible minister, and has he been gagged?

The SPEAKER: Member, you have asked two questions. I direct the Premier to answer the first one.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The answer is no and no. I urge everyone to use accurate language when dealing with this issue. It is a complex issue to understand—the amount of silver in a bar of gold is in parts per million. I urge the member to understand that so her language is correct and right. I urge everyone commenting on this issue to understand exactly what this is about and to use the correct terms. Just so all members know, alloying of gold has been around since Roman times.

Ms L. Mettam: Nothing to see.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am just explaining it so everyone understands. No gold bar is 100 per cent pure because the refining effort to get it to 100 per cent pure—if it actually can be done—is a cost far greater than having it at 99.99 per cent. That is why 99.99 per cent is the international standard, which every single gold bar ever produced by the Perth Mint meets—every single one has met that. It was just in that remaining component for the Shanghai Gold Exchange, for that minuscule amount, there was more silver than copper, and it likes an even distribution of silver, copper and lead. There is the issue. It was actually two parts per 100 000 more silver than it liked, because it likes that two parts to be copper not gold. That is the issue that we are dealing with here. It takes a while to understand because it is complex. I urge everyone, particularly the opposition, to consider that there are people around the world who watch all these issues and comment on them, and to make sure that whatever is said is accurate.

ELLENBROOK RAIL LINE

109. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the McGowan government's record investment in job-creating, economy-driving public transport infrastructure.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the progress of the Metronet Morley–Ellenbrook line, including works near Ellenbrook Christian College and at Broun Avenue?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether she is aware of anyone who opposes this transformational project?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for that question.

- (1)–(2) Yesterday, we saw another major milestone reached on the Morley–Ellenbrook rail line. The member for Bassendean, the federal member for Perth and I announced and celebrated the fact that the Broun Avenue

Bridge will open on Wednesday and traffic will be transferred from the temporary lines to the brand new bridge. This bridge is 60-metres wide, with two lanes of traffic and capacity for a 12-bus interchange. That bus interchange will feed the new Morley train station that we are developing as part of the Ellenbrook rail line. People can see the progress being made around the area. The new Morley station is being developed and work on the new Morley undercover multistorey car park is underway. At Ellenbrook Christian College, the underpass that connects the school to the oval has been completed, allowing students access to their playing ovals, and, of course, we are supporting them with a new playing pavilion.

Labor is delivering the Ellenbrook rail line. We know who did not deliver this rail line; of course, it was the Liberal Party. The Liberal and National Parties promised it twice. When we won government, they did not even have a plan drawn up. I am always surprised when opposition members want to have a go at Labor delivering a rail line. The opposition spokesperson for Metronet is not the Leader of the Opposition but Hon Tjorn Sibma in the other house who occasionally dances down the wicket to try to criticise the Ellenbrook rail line. As everyone knows, the Liberal Party has more front than Myers when criticising us on the Ellenbrook rail line! The people of Ellenbrook and the whole corridor know that it is the Labor Party delivering that commitment. It was a project they were denied by the opposition when in government, and it still would not have delivered the Ellenbrook rail line even if it were in government.

We are very, very proud of the progress. Everyone driving down that corridor would know that the Ellenbrook rail line is coming very soon and major milestones have been met up and down the corridor. The people of that corridor know that it is Labor that is investing in public transport.

GOLD CORPORATION — GOLD BAR CONTENT

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

I refer to revelations of at least 5 000 instances of Perth Mint's failure to register as a remittance provider international movements of money and of \$8.7 billion of gold bars produced that may not meet the standard of its customer.

- (1) Has the Premier sought or been provided with formal advice on what likely penalties and costs may be?
- (2) With Gold Corporation holding little or no contingency reserves, what is the government setting aside as contingency to cover possible fines or costs incurred?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) In terms of the issues outside the alloying issue that we dealt with earlier, the AUSTRAC audit, as I outlined to the member earlier, is around the systems and processes of the Perth Mint. The issue has been around since 2006. It was an issue for the final years of the Carpenter Labor government, the entirety of the Barnett Liberal government and the first few years of this government. When it was brought our attention and identified, we announced \$34 million last year to put in place the appropriate systems to ensure that it was compliant.

In terms of the other issue the Leader of the Opposition may have been referring to—I cannot quite understand from his question—the US model state commodity code prohibits the sale and offer of commodities to persons for investment or speculative purposes unless a relevant exemption applies. From 1998, the Perth Mint has been involved in the US gold market. Compliance with the model state commodity code should have therefore commenced in 1998. This government identified there was an issue, and, therefore, the Perth Mint has taken steps to comply with the US model state commodity code. The issue was around for the Court Liberal government, the Gallop and Carpenter Labor governments and the Barnett Liberal government. It came to notice during this government, and we put in place measures to ensure that it complies. The Perth Mint is confident no US investors have been harmed by this oversight.

In terms of the other issues the Leader of the Opposition identified with Shanghai, which I think is a different issue from those ones, the issue was identified by some customers of the Shanghai Gold Exchange that there was two parts per 100 000 more silver than they would like; therefore, the Perth Mint changed its practices and reduced that two parts per 100 000 of silver to the five parts per 100 000 or less that the Shanghai Gold Exchange expects. Since then, I am advised that many tonnes of gold have been sold to the Shanghai Gold Exchange. In other words, it was happy with the rectification measure and very happy with the gold that has been provided since then.

GOLD CORPORATION — GOLD BAR CONTENT

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

I have a supplementary question. Can the Premier guarantee that Gold Corporation will not have to recall some of that nearly \$8.7 billion of gold that was sold to the Shanghai Gold Exchange in the period 2018 to 2021?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I am advised it is extremely unlikely that that would occur. Just so members are aware, most of the gold that is sold to the Chinese market, the Shanghai Gold Exchange, is used. It is used in jewellery, industrial purposes and so

forth. The gold itself met international standards. It was 99.99 per cent gold. In fact, it was above that. The Perth Mint had two parts per 100 000 too much silver in the remaining 0.01 per cent. It was 0.002 per cent silver above what the Shanghai Gold Exchange would like, which in any other market would be acceptable. That is the issue.

REAL-TIME PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM

112. Ms E.L. HAMILTON to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to invest in modern health technologies to keep the community safe. Can the minister advise the house how the launch of the real-time prescription monitoring in WA will reduce harm caused by controlled prescription medication?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I thank the member for Joondalup for her question.

I was very pleased to announce that, from the end of this month, 28 March, WA Health will roll out our real-time prescription monitoring program for controlled drugs, with an early focus on opioids and stimulants. We all know that doctor shopping is not a new phenomenon and is also incredibly dangerous. People who are suffering from addiction to certain prescription medications are going from doctor to doctor to seek support. It also takes up an enormous amount of time for health services, particularly out-of-hours health services, that have to support people who present with obvious addiction issues and are seeking prescriptions.

This is a first for WA. It will support our clinicians, pharmacies and those who are seeking support or are struggling with addiction. ScriptCheckWA will be trialled for the use of controlled drugs, and a select number of doctors and pharmacists are now ready for the state rollout. It will allow 20 000 medical practitioners, pharmacists, nurse practitioners and dentists to monitor, in real time, the prescribing and dispensing of those schedule 8 drugs. The kinds of drugs that will be flagged are opioids, cannabis-based products and other controlled drugs that treat pain and anxiety conditions. The system will give practitioners seamless communication and will allow for pharmacists and doctors to offer support to those who are engaging in the practice of doctor shopping when seeking medications. We know that prescription overdose is real. We know that mixing prescription medications is dangerous. We are seeing an increase in doctor shopping across Australia, and over the years we are seeing an increase in prescription overdose not only in Australia, but also around the world. ScriptCheckWA will be one of the ways that we will support clinicians, pharmacists and our community when managing addictions.

GST DISTRIBUTION

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

I refer to reports that federal Labor Treasurer Jim Chalmers has launched a review into the Morrison government's GST deal, which saw WA finally get a fair deal with GST. Has the Premier received an unequivocal guarantee from Anthony Albanese that any future GST-sharing arrangement under his government will not reduce Western Australia's current share of the GST collected in our state?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Sadly, I was not at the press conference this morning with the federal Treasurer and the Minister for Defence Industry, but I addressed the issues surrounding the submarines outside Parliament this afternoon. However, this is what was tweeted by *The West Australian* in respect of what federal Treasurer Chalmers said —

Treasurer Jim Chalmers has categorically ruled out removing WA's GST floor—which is up for review ahead of 2027—while dodging questions about whether the Commonwealth was prepared to permanently make top-up payments to other States.

I regard that as good news.

It is a red line for us for any federal government. It is a red line, so I would say to any federal government, of any persuasion: do not cross that line. The floor is 70¢, climbing to 75¢. Today the relativities came out and they are \$1.10 for Queensland, around \$5 for the Northern Territory and dollar for dollar for New South Wales. It is 92¢ for Victoria. I think for Tasmania it is around \$2 for every dollar it puts in. South Australia is certainly about \$1.50 for every dollar it puts in. Next year, we will be at 75¢. That is the state of play.

Obviously, as a state, we have a lot of costs that other states do not have. We are the largest jurisdiction in the world. We have huge infrastructure requirements to support industry across the largest jurisdiction in the world. We have certain expectations of our people, considering the wealth that is produced here, and that is why we fund our health system, which is the best in Australia, and we fund our police, which are the best in Australia of all the states. We do those things because that is the expectation of the public of Western Australia.

I thought what the federal Treasurer had to say this morning was terrific news. I have advised my federal colleagues of our view on this issue. We will await with interest the reviews that take place, but our expectation—in fact, demand—is that the floor remains in place in perpetuity.

GST DISTRIBUTION

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

I have a supplementary question. Will the Premier obtain a written guarantee from the Prime Minister to guarantee our GST share, because that is not what the PM said?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

It was this government that secured it. I have been in the Parliament—I kid you not—for 26 years. I remember when the Liberal government signed up to the GST in 1998. I was sitting over there. Actually, I was sitting where the Leader of the Liberal Party now sits. That is where I was sitting. I remember that the then Premier—Premier Court—was arguing in favour of the GST arrangement. I remember that the shadow Treasurer Eric Ripper was standing there saying that we had no guarantee of how low our share would go. The thing about the GST is that it removed a range of state taxes. Therefore, because it removed those state taxes, GST became a bigger share of the state's revenue. When it became a bigger share of the state's revenue, it was subject to this rise and fall. By having that rise and fall in place, it jeopardised the state's revenue, even though if we were getting back a reasonable share of \$1 or so, our revenue would be stronger. Because it could literally go down, which it would but for this arrangement, to 10¢ in the dollar, we were vulnerable. That vulnerability has dramatic impacts on state finances because the revenues can go down and up. But who fixed it? We were elected in 2017, and what happened then? The commonwealth government worked with us to fix it.

I remember that Premier Barnett tried; he railed against it, talked and argued and went public, but nothing happened. Then Western Australians elected a new Labor government and that shocked the Liberal–National government members in Canberra. They could not believe it! Western Australia elected a Labor government and they thought that they had better work with us, and so we worked with them. We got huge amounts of money for transport—rail and roads. We got money for infrastructure and we got the GST fixed. That is what we did; we worked with them.

As I have said before, my predecessor, whom I hold absolutely no ill will against, did not want to talk to the commonwealth government. He had a policy. He used to stand there and say that he did not need to talk to the commonwealth government. However, I have a policy of talking to the commonwealth government. Within a week, I went and met with Malcolm Turnbull and I told him that he needed to fix this and that it was in his own interest to do so. To be fair to him—he is now the most hated man in the Liberal Party, or formerly in the Liberal Party, I suspect—he listened, and we worked together. I also worked with Scott Morrison, and, as I have said before, contrary to most people, I got on with him. I was actually grateful that he worked with us and we secured the outcome, so it was good for the state.

The member comes in here criticising us when he should be saying that the Western Australian Labor government secured a great arrangement from the commonwealth government, and we have now had a reassurance by federal Treasurer Chalmers. Long may that continue.

POLICE — RECRUITMENT — UK AND IRELAND

115. Ms C.M. TONKIN to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's efforts to attract skilled workers to Western Australia. Can the minister update the house on the outcome of his mission to the UK to attract skilled workers from the UK and Ireland to WA?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for her question and for her interest in the task of attracting skilled workers to Western Australia.

It was a successful mission. I will not go too deeply into it—people will probably be relieved that my answer will be quite brief—because we are still compiling the outcomes of the applications and the visits to the various sites and all the media cut-through that we had in the UK and Ireland. However, I will give a brief summary. We departed on 24 February and returned on 7 March. Essentially, every day we were moving from one city to another and in each city we took a team of people with us. The mission comprised a team from the Western Australia Police Force, including Deputy Commissioner Kylie Whiteley with a team of five other officers, four of whom were expatriate police officers who had come to Western Australia and had trodden the same path a decade or more ago. They were able to convey information directly to police officers who were applying to come to Western Australia. We also had Stephen Moir from the Motor Trade Association of Western Australia with us. He brought with him a migration agent, who was very helpful in advising people—mechanics and the like—who were applying to come to Australia to work in that industry. We had a representative of the Australian Hotels Association (WA) talking about the hospitality sector.

The trip was very successful. We held a range of fora. We also had the odd activation in sites like pubs to get attention and enable people to come. Those were incredibly successful in getting attention, so we cut through a lot of media. I will give members an indication of the response. When we went to Edinburgh to hold one of those little pub activations, two people—one had driven and one had caught a train—came from Newcastle to attend that pub activation and hear from us directly. When we think about the UK, it is not a great distance for us but for them,

that is a significant journey. It was replicated when we did one in London. People came from Liverpool. A pregnant woman and her partner drove from Liverpool to hear from us directly about coming to Western Australia. When we went to Dublin, people drove down from Belfast just to find out information at the event. That was a police information session. It was incredibly successful.

It is quite sobering. I have to say that when we go to the UK, it is sobering to see how comparatively well off and attractive Western Australia is. It is a little sad to witness what is happening in the UK and Ireland at the moment, particularly the UK. The cost of living is easily very much higher than we confront. Their energy bills are well and truly over double what we confront, and they are going up all the time. On the day I departed, public transport costs went up 5.8 per cent, and they were already expensive. We can get around our entire city for \$5 maximum with our two-zone fare. Over there, it is as much as £10 one way, and going north all the time. That is a really significant cost that they confront.

Western Australia is a very attractive place. Tens of thousands of applications have been made. I will talk more when I give a thorough report on the outcomes, which we should know shortly. Members can rest assured that Western Australia is an incredibly attractive place. The message we conveyed was very simple, not a hard sell: the cost of living is lower, wages are higher and the weather is magnificent! That was a pretty easy sell.

The SPEAKER: I give the call to the Leader of the Liberal Party with the last question.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT — RESUSCITATION TEAM

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

I refer to the minister's comments in this house in September last year, stating that the supernumerary resuscitation team had been delivered at Perth Children's Hospital when it clearly had not.

- (1) Will the minister provide a correction to the house for misleading it?
- (2) Can the minister confirm whether this critical recommendation for a dedicated resuscitation team is now in place on every roster above and beyond the normal rostered staff; and, if not, why not?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

- (1)–(2) The Australian Nursing Federation's 10-point plan was presented to the government in 2021 and contained 10 quite sensible recommendations around managing the workload for nursing staff in the wake of Aishwarya's death. Last year, the information that I had was that the Child and Adolescent Health Service and the government had accepted that 10-point plan, with the exception of the ratios, because the government did not have a position at that time around staff to patient ratios. Point 3 of that 10-point plan was that a supernumerary resuscitation team, which is four senior experienced nurses, would be available on every single roster to assist in other areas of patient support when not required for resuscitation. That is what is called a dedicated resuscitation team.

In 2021, the state government provided a significant funding uplift to CAHS. CAHS also reconfigured internal funding, which resulted in a very large uplift of staff for the emergency department. That was around 48 FTE nursing staff. There was an uplift of over 10 emergency department paediatric consultants, which is an increase, and an increase of 12 junior medical staff to a total of 58.25. That is an uplift of around 73 per cent of staffing for that emergency department, with that funding and the CAHS funding.

The information that I had was that the resuscitation team was in place and operating as per the ANF's 10-point plan. I have based my comments in this place and in public on that information. The advice was then confirmed to me in writing in response to the release of the coroner's report into Aishwarya's death. Shortly after receiving that advice, I then received further advice from CAHS that that was not the case. Although the team was dedicated to resuscitation, it was not supernumerary to the roster, and I immediately moved to correct the public record on that issue. Of course I regret that. It is disappointing and it is frustrating that that was the advice that I received.

I will be clear: there are always four dedicated resuscitation nurses on the roster at Perth Children's Hospital for morning, afternoon and night shifts. The chief executive has sent a directive to the emergency department clarifying the definition of supernumerary and made it very clear that there is to be significant recruitment of senior nurses into the roster to allow for those resuscitation nurses to be made supernumerary.

To provide some context, paediatric nursing is a specialty area, and all specialty nursing areas are under pressure. Nursing across the world is under pressure. Currently, around 11 per cent of the cohort in the emergency department have the skills for paediatric resuscitation. CAHS is working to rapidly recruit and upskill paediatric nurses to fill those roles. Currently, around 60 junior paediatric nurses are on various stages of that pathway. It takes about 18 months to two years to complete that particular competency. That is a very specific skill. I have asked CAHS to present me with a plan of rapidly upskilling those already on the pathway, providing them with more professional development to allow them to upskill quicker and to fill those supernumerary roles. I expect that plan to be with me very soon and for that to be put in place.

There has been a significant staffing uplift. Members will recall that we have had COVID in our community since January of last year, including the second wave, which took us right up to December. All last year we had high levels of furlough numbers across every single health service. That put a strain on staffing. Paediatric staffing is a specialty. We cannot just call on agency staff from anywhere and put too many general nurses into those roles because keeping that skills mix is central to the safety of the ward. That is why it has been challenging to fill those roles.

I will say that the government funded CAHS for an uplift. It was our expectation that they are supernumerary. I have a commitment from CAHS that they will be supernumerary. I assure the community that there are always four skilled resuscitation nurses on the roster every day.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT — RESUSCITATION TEAM

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

I have a supplementary question. Given the significance of this recommendation, why was the minister not across her brief and when will this critical recommendation be put in place?

The SPEAKER: Member, I just remind you that you again asked two questions as a supplementary when you are required to ask one.

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I think I just quite clearly outlined exactly what occurred and how it occurred to the chamber. If the member is not satisfied with that explanation, I am happy to meet with her and walk through it again.

I will say that since I have been minister, we have overseen a significant changeover of the board. The former minister appointed the very highly regarded Dr Rosanna Capolingua to lead the board. The current board has some of our best health leaders. There is so much firepower on that board that is working with the organisation to ensure it is doing everything it can to restore trust in our tertiary children's hospital. We have also overseen a significant changeover of the executive, including the chief executive. With the director general, we have seen the intervention that was implemented under the act, which had a range of recommendations and findings, and they are also being implemented. I have ongoing communication with the Aswath family around how those recommendations are being implemented.

I have worked diligently, as has the CAHS board and executive, to implement recommendations and ensure that we are providing the safest environment. We have all seen very reasonable challenges in the community, and that includes those staffing challenges around COVID. It is our expectation that they will be rapidly recruiting into those senior nursing roles. I also make the point that as well as those senior resuscitation nurses, we have put in place a senior triage nurse, so there are now two senior triage nurses; that was not in place in April 2021. There is also the waiting room nurse, which is in place in not only this emergency department, but also other emergency departments around the state, and Aishwarya's CARE Call. There is significant and lasting change across the system around this terrible incident, and no-one wants to see it happen again.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.

GOLD CORPORATION — ROYAL COMMISSION

Matter of Public Interest

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) informed the Assembly that she 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.]

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [2.50 pm]: I move —

That this house calls on the McGowan Labor government to establish a royal commission into Gold Corporation as a matter of urgency given revelations around governance and compliance failures, the potential liability to WA taxpayers and reputational damage to WA.

The SPEAKER: Members, those of you who are leaving, could you leave the chamber. We have a little too much noise at the moment for Hansard to hear and report.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Many Western Australians would have been shocked to see the revelations on Monday, 6 March in the *Four Corners* episode titled "Tainted Gold" regarding the Perth Mint and its parent organisation, Gold Corporation. I was not one of those so shocked because, sadly, I had known of many failings in the management and governance of the Perth Mint in recent times. But for most people, the revelations were gobsmacking. It was disturbing to see the allegations about Gold Corporation, a state government-owned organisation, particularly when the Premier was directly responsible for the corporation for much of that time. In the past 18 months, I have been raising questions about the governance and management of the organisation and of the Perth Mint, so it should come as no surprise to the Premier and Minister Bill Johnston that they will be called to account for what has been occurring at the Perth Mint and Gold Corporation.

The McGowan Labor government needs to come clean about the circumstances surrounding Gold Corporation, especially given that there is a representative of the Treasurer's own department, Treasury, on the board of Gold Corporation, and, as we were informed in question time, is able to provide that essential government viewpoint into the organisation. If the Premier cannot make a full explanation of all the issues surrounding Gold Corporation to Parliament, the Western Australian public deserves to have a royal commission look into the circumstances surrounding Gold Corporation.

I have here one example of what was aired on the ABC show that night. The person in the picture is a fairly well known person within Western Australia. I think members will have seen him on the news—Mr Dayne Brajkovich. The first revelation on the show was that Mr Brajkovich had been able to purchase \$27 000 worth of gold from the Perth Mint and all he had to do was show his driver's licence. I am not making any allegations about where the \$27 000 came from; it may have been quite legitimate. But he is a person of notoriety and someone about whom a red flag should have been raised and some inquiries made as part of the “know your customer” requirements under the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act that apply to organisations that trade in bullion, such as the Perth Mint.

Then came revelations that the Perth Mint had been dealing with the Bank of Cyprus. The Bank of Cyprus is known to have links to Russia and is known to have amongst its customers Russian oligarchs, including some under sanction. There is no evidence that the Perth Mint, when dealing with customers sent its way by the Bank of Cyprus, conducted its own “know your customer” inquiries. It simply relied upon the information that had been supplied to it by the Bank of Cyprus, which was of some interest as the organisation is considered to be at high risk of having a lax attitude and being open to dealing with oligarchs, terrorists and drug cartels, just to mention a few. For the Mint to hold gold on their behalf without undertaking all the due diligence of the “know your customer” requirements is quite shocking. We know that *Four Corners* claimed that as late as last year, the Mint was still holding gold for customers of that bank, even though I believe it ceased a relationship with the bank some time before.

Then it was revealed that the Euro Pacific Bank had made a \$US17 million—about \$A25 million—omnibus transaction through the Perth Mint. That meant that it put through a whole number of customers in one single transaction—bundled them up into one transaction—and transacted with the Perth Mint without the Perth Mint knowing who the customers were who underlay that omnibus transaction. It was a complete failure to understand the “know your customer” requirements by the Perth Mint. These transactions between the Euro Pacific Bank and the Perth Mint came to light due to the investigations of an international group of tax agents, the Joint Chiefs of Global Tax Enforcement, known as the J5, which includes Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and the Netherlands. The Euro Pacific Bank was being investigated on suspicion of being involved in tax evasion and money laundering and was believed to be being used to move money around the world, and the Perth Mint may well have been enabling this as a store of gold. On what was known globally as a coordinated international day of action—some discussion about this was quite well laid out in the press—raids were carried out on 24 January 2020. The Perth Mint was apparently raided and documentation was seized that provided this information. The Perth Mint told the ABC that the relationship with the Euro Pacific Bank was terminated in November 2020. Interestingly, a similarly named organisation, Euro Pacific Capital, was claiming to have a relationship with the Perth Mint as recently as May last year—a fact which I raised during the budget estimates hearing and which of course was batted away by the minister. However, I noted that the new CEO, Jason Waters, was furiously writing on a piece of paper, so I hope he took some note of that matter because I understand that it is a related organisation.

We know that the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre investigation has been spoken about in this place. I went through all the circumstances of that investigation in a matter of public interest debate in this place in November, just a few months ago. Suffice to say, since then we have been seeking through freedom of information applications further information about all the circumstances. As outlined in that MPI and also in the *Four Corners* report, documents obtained under freedom of information exhibited the extent of the failures of the One-Future program, a technological program to assist the Perth Mint to keep track of its customers and all the transactions and to make sure that it was compliant with the law. We know that that program ran into trouble. We know that the board and the CEO were aware that that meant that there was an increased risk that the organisation would not be able to meet its requirements under the law. We also know that at the time that this was known, the Premier was in fact the minister responsible.

The Premier has outlined that this all started in 2006 when the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act was introduced. I think at that stage the Carpenter government was in charge. The failure to be registered under that legislation took place right through until the caretaker period at the 2021 election. But four years of that were under this Premier's watch and it was during those four years that some of the more serious matters that have come to light took place.

Since we have been asking further questions and seeking other information through freedom of information requests, the screws have tightened somewhat. I have here an example of what I am now getting back from freedom of information requests. There is not very much information and there is not much freedom involved. They are black sheets with about two lines or four lines—that is it. That is a great deal of information! It is actually just the

name of the organisation I was trying to get information on. That is the level of the transparency we are getting through the parliamentary processes. That is one of the reasons we need a better way of interrogating this matter. Parliamentary processes are being frustrated. Freedom of information has been frustrated. I get continual demands for extensions, which in some circumstances have gone on for nearly two to three months, and still nothing has come from my freedom of information requests. I pay good money for these freedom of information requests and I expect to get some return, but it is not happening at the moment. It is an indication that the government, or perhaps some of the entities, are beginning to feel a little bit of heat and do not want to provide much information at all.

When the Premier was responsible for the Mint, there was a dramatic uplift in the operations and risk of the Mint due to its launch of mobile phone apps and its cryptocurrency, the Perth Mint gold tokens, and its launch into trading in the American market with these apps, and, in fact, in 130 nations across the world. Trading was done both in Australian and US dollars. What an ideal way to trade wealth: just create a number of Perth Mint tokens and they become as good as gold. Without the appropriate “know your customer” activities and appropriate registrations of transactions, there is a real risk that money laundering will be enabled. That is important because money laundering is the lifeblood of the underworld. It makes drugs flow around the world and makes the money of human traffickers flow around the world. It helps terrorists and the people supporting regimes launching war against the Ukraine at the moment. They are all supported by the lax money laundering practices of organisations.

As a result of those failures, the penalties could run into the billions. In recent times we have seen combined fines given to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and Westpac of around \$2 billion, and there have been at least 5 000 instances of failure to register as a remittance provider identified in an investigative window of only a few months. They could mount up and up and become a huge amount of money that the Western Australian taxpayer will have to foot the bill for because the Premier failed to outline any other source of funding today. When I asked him whether there were any contingencies put in place for the fines and costs of all these matters, he was unable to provide any. On 24 September 2021, three weeks after AUSTRAC announced its investigation, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum announced a root-and-branch review into the Gold Corporation. Outside of a brief mention in a media article, there are no terms of reference, so it is difficult to know what will be reviewed. It sounds good for a media grab, but it is akin to not taking much action at all, given that the CEO, Mr Waters, was asked to conduct the review only a few weeks, or a few months, after taking on the role without any level of corporate knowledge and, I am sure, with many other things on his plate at the time. How do we expect the new CEO to review an entity he has just been employed by? That does not make him independent of the entity. His future is bound up with that of the entity.

This again shows a level of misunderstanding of proper governance procedures, which seems to be at the heart of much of what has gone on at the Perth Mint. The product is great—\$20 billion. It is the world’s largest refinery of new gold. Much of Australia’s gold goes through it. It is a very fine institution, with 120 years or more of history, that plays a vital part in Western Australia. I am not here to drag down the Perth Mint. I want an investigation that will enhance its reputation, that will rip the bandaid off the wound, so we can heal the Mint and have an institution we can all be proud of, and that we should be proud of, because it basically represents one of the great industries of Western Australia, the gold industry. I think it is the third-largest export industry in Western Australia; it is something the state has been built on. To see the Mint being dragged down by such poor governance procedures is a crying shame. I believe we need a royal commission of inquiry to get to the bottom of the failures that have occurred so we can commence the process of putting in place the measures that will bring back the reputation of the Perth Mint.

I am at one with the Premier in not trying to bring down the value or the perception of the gold that is coming out of the Perth Mint. I would not like to see it spoken about in the media, but I cannot ignore the fact that the *Four Corners* report went into the issue of the “alloying”, as the Premier calls it, or “gold doping”, as others call it, which is the deliberate adding of a small amount of impurity to limit the give-away of gold that occurs. If gold is made at the standard required, anything over that standard is in fact being given away, so to speak. But let us get real about the amount of money involved here. There is \$20 billion of annual turnover, and the savings from the alloying total just over \$600 000 per annum. For such a comparatively minor amount of money—it is only two or three years of the Premier’s pension when he eventually retires—it is not worth putting at risk \$20 billion worth of product and industry. That shows a lack of proportion and a lack of understanding of the risk being taken at the Mint. It is another reason the whole episode needs to be fully investigated—who knew and why they engaged in the activity in the way they did. It is very worrying. It was not stopped until an issue was raised about two bars. They were retested and one was found to be compliant and the other was found not to be compliant and had, in fact, been red-flagged in the refinery itself. When we are faced with that situation, we can do one of two things. We can alert the customer, make good and do the right thing in that sense, but what it appears happened at the Perth Mint is that a decision was made not to tell the customer. Unless the customer asks or the gold is re-assayed —

Ms R. Saffioti: What are you referring to?

Mr R.S. LOVE: I am referring to what happened in the report on *Four Corners*. The member is welcome to watch the report. If she has not already, I would be very surprised.

To continue, the Mint, having made the decision not to tell the customer, apparently did not then tell the Premier. This practice was underway from 2018 to 2021. Once the practice had been found out by its customer, the Mint stopped, but did it ascertain the full damage? No. Did it tell the Premier? No. Apparently, someone told the minister a few months later. He found out in January after the revelation in September 2021. The minister responsible found out in January 2022. The Premier apparently found out on 6 March, which is surprising, because I would have thought the journalist asking the questions might have alerted him to the fact that something was going on. I asked questions in this place about the departure of the former CEO and was answered that he had just decided to go early, yet he departed very, very soon after allying by the Perth Mint was found out. Within a couple of weeks he was gone.

We now know that this three-year program of potentially tainted gold was undertaken for very little return. Over the three years, there was probably less than \$2 million return with \$60 billion worth of gold churned through the refinery. The Premier is right: only one customer will not allow that impurity level in its gold bars. I am sure the gold is what is called four-nine gold—99.99 per cent pure. That is the world standard. I am not saying that it is not that standard, but it did not meet the standard of the customer. That customer had a different standard, and knowing that it did not meet that standard, the Perth Mint did not alert the customer. That is not good business practice at all.

We know that the Treasurer and Treasury guaranteed the gold that the Perth Mint holds and its transactions. It does not get the Western Australian taxpayer off the hook at all. If something had to be done with that gold—if it had to be recast or re-refined—there would be a cost to the Perth Mint. The Premier pointed out that a lot of the gold has been used in jewellery et cetera. However, I am sure that some of it is still sitting in bullion; we just do not know what those costs are. That is why I asked today whether the Mint had taken any steps to quantify these costs from either the fines and penalties from the AUSTRAC inquiry or the other inquiry that the Premier mentioned relating to the US model code, which I will get to in a minute.

It is very worrying when the Perth Mint's troubles attract the attention of the LBMA, which is the independent authority for precious metals around the world. It used to be called the London Bullion Market Association, but it goes by just LBMA nowadays. It states that it maintains the highest standard for responsible sourcing and takes very seriously the allegations relating to the Perth Mint. It invoked an incident review process on 9 March. That process will run its due course. If the Perth Mint is found to have been trading in gold not of the correct standard, it could fall off what is known as the good delivery list. If you fall off the good delivery list, you get on the former delivery list, which means you will not be delivering much gold. That is a huge risk to a business with a \$20 billion turnover whose business is selling that gold. The amount of risk that has been taken on by this management team for the amount of return is stupendously out of whack. It shows the culture that has grown over the years. Perhaps it is because of the secrecy that surrounds the Perth Mint. We know that under sections of the Gold Corporation Act 1987, there are severe penalties for anyone who speaks out. Penalties range from imprisonment for one to five years, depending on which transgression of information flow it may be, and which class of person they may be when they do that. I think that is contributing to an organisation that has a very closed culture. It is not open to new ideas and it is not open to people airing complaints—that is, alerting the Premier; Treasurer when there is an issue that he should be alerted to. To have sat on that information for three years and not told the Premier is very worrying and I believe the Premier should be anxious to get to the bottom of it all so that he can be assured that the organisation he guarantees and that he as minister is in charge of is acting in the best interests of the state.

I am running out of time, but another matter I want to talk about briefly is the American situation. Twenty-three states have that particular model code. The Perth Mint could have done a number of things when it found that after 25 years it had failed to understand the requirement to give people gold when they bought it. Instead of keeping it in your own moneybox at home, you have to send it over there; that is what the code says. The Perth Mint could have applied for an exemption as a government organisation; that might have been granted in some of the states. It could have just traded in the 27 other states and not worried about those 23 or it could have made good the situation with the customers in those 23 states if nothing else could have been done. But it chose to ignore that it was contravening that code, that law, in the 23 states and just kept trading. An internal document spoken about on *ABC News* last night revealed that the Perth Mint made a conscious decision to accept advice that had been provided to it that one acceptable technique in this situation would be to continue trading as you were because you already have a historical legacy and it was not going to matter. Again, I think that shows a reckless disregard for the law and the regulations by which an organisation such as Perth Mint needs to abide when trading. If a business is trading in 130 countries \$20 billion worth of product and holding \$6 billion in reserve, it should have a pretty good idea of all the financial regulations around the world. If it is not able to do that, it should get out of that business and be more of a wholesaler instead of trying to retail to 27 000 people on a phone app and 60 000 customers around the world. Goodness knows how many transactions it is handling without the proper information flow.

There are good people who want to shine a light on this story and the governance breakdowns. As I said, there is draconian legislation around the Perth Mint. A royal commission would be a great way for people to come forward in safety and give their evidence about what they know. These people have been inside the organisation. I will finish with the words of one person I spoke to. After indicating the good insight that they had into the Gold Corporation and the Perth Mint, they said that they could not be quoted because they feared the legal ramifications under that law. They feared being detained for one to five years at His Majesty's pleasure. They finished by saying to me,

“Maybe the Premier could grant permission for us to speak up.” I will say that again: “Maybe the Premier could grant permission for us to speak up.” Maybe you could, Premier, by calling a royal commission into the goings-on at the Perth Mint.

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party) [3.17 pm]: I would also like to contribute briefly to this debate and thank the Leader of the Opposition for the work he has done over 18 months to try to raise this issue through freedom of information applications and in Parliament through matters of public interest motions and other debates. Very serious issues have been raised about customer management and the obligations of Perth Mint, a government trading enterprise that does business with over 130 countries. These are incredibly serious matters. According to financial crimes expert Nathan Lynch, the issue is about anti-money laundering compliance and, most significantly, the failure to register more than 5 000 transactions over a nine-month period, dealing with the banks of Cyprus and the Euro Pacific, and not performing basic checks on high-profile people. We saw the vision of former Perth bkie Dayne Brajkovich as well. The opposition urges the Premier and the government to illustrate a commitment to the gold standard of transparency that he promised. The government acted on the very real concerns by the public about potential money laundering associated with Crown Casino and responded with a royal commission to give confidence to the public—a royal commission with commissioners appointed based on their independence and qualifications and with greater investigative powers than politicians or bureaucrats to achieve an apolitical and transparent approach to that matter. We are seeing here some very real concerns and significant reputational risks. There are significant issues surrounding the anti-money laundering obligations. Some very serious commentary was made and concerns raised by not only the Shanghai Gold Exchange, but also the London Bullion Market Association. Warnings were raised last year by almost two dozen states in the United States as well.

We are asking for a royal commission to look into the Perth Mint, a similar approach to the process the McGowan government undertook for the Perth casino. The Mint is a state-owned asset and state-owned organisation that flouted the law, attempted to exploit loopholes in relation to gold doping and failed some basic tests when it came to the legitimacy of the people and organisations it was doing business with. These are very real concerns.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [3.21 pm]: At the outset, I say that the government will not be supporting the motion moved by the opposition. I will explain the reasons for that in a moment.

First, it has been brought to my attention that during question time, a private and confidential comment I made to the Deputy Premier was picked up by a microphone. I apologise if anyone was offended by my language. I want to make it clear that what I said was in the context of the issue being resolved in 2021 and tonnes of gold being sold to the Shanghai Gold Exchange since then.

The opposition has brought matters to our attention today and has called for a royal commission. Just so we understand, this is the fifth royal commission the opposition has called for—that we have knowledge of—over a period of time, including three calls for royal commissions in recent weeks. Each royal commission normally costs somewhere between \$50 million and \$100 million to undertake, and the opposition has called for five separate royal commissions into a range of issues, including the Kimberley floods. Floods have been around for thousands of years. Calling for a royal commission into things like that is a little bit of overkill by the opposition.

As I outlined to the house today, I will go through each of the issues. As far I can tell, there are three major issues. The first is the alloying of the gold, which took place for a period of time in the late 2010s and was brought to the attention of the administration. Sorry; I will put it this way. The gold has always been alloyed. That has never changed. What changed was the component of silver, versus copper and lead, in the gold sold to the Shanghai Gold Exchange. The gold that was sold was 99.992 per cent gold, which is above international standards. In the remaining 0.008 per cent of a gold bar, the majority was silver as opposed to lead and copper. The Shanghai Gold Exchange likes half of that amount to be silver and the other half to be copper and lead, and this is a unique requirement of the Shanghai Gold Exchange. It likes that. I am advised that others do not care whether silver, copper or lead is in the remaining part; they do not mind. It is a unique requirement of the Shanghai Gold Exchange that it likes only half to be silver. When that was brought to attention—when it was picked up in two gold bars that the two parts per 100 000 of silver exceeded its requirements or expectations—it was rectified. It was rectified as soon as it was brought to attention that that had occurred, but at no point in time was the gold below 99.99 per cent gold.

Many tonnes of gold are sold to the Shanghai Gold Exchange, and China has a huge appetite for Western Australian gold. The Perth Mint has a great reputation, and I am advised that that gold is regularly used. It is used in jewellery, in teeth, for industrial purposes and for all sorts of applications. As members can imagine, a country of 1.4 billion people has a huge demand for those sort of things. The gold is regularly used. I am advised that it is extremely unlikely—“extremely unlikely” were the words given to me by the Mint—that the gold will be sent back to Western Australia. I note that the Shanghai Gold Exchange’s commentary has not expressed concerns about the behaviour of the Mint or the Western Australian government; it has expressed some concerns, but not about the Mint or the Western Australian government. That is the issue of alloying.

If we have a look at history, we find that the alloying of gold—that is, it is not 100 per cent gold—has been around since Roman times. Gold was traded back in ancient times, and it was alloyed back then. That is natural. No bar of gold is ever 100 per cent gold, but our gold exceeds the international standards.

The second point is the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre audit that checks on customers. Apparently, the rules came in in 2006, and there are meant to be certain processes, checks and systems in place to comply with AUSTRAC. There were processes; I understand the Mint has certain processes in place, but they did not comply exactly with the AUSTRAC requirements. A requirement for those rules has been in place since 2006, but no government has implemented the systems and processes required since 2006. The last Labor government and the last Liberal–National government did not comply. It was brought to attention because someone at the Mint worked out that it was required. In March 2021, it was brought to our attention that it was required, and the government allocated money to fix the system.

During the eight and a half years of the last government, when I understand the former Premier was the minister responsible for the Mint, at no point in time were the systems and processes in exact compliance with what AUSTRAC requires. When we learnt about it, we fixed the issue. I have been talking to the minister here, and members might recall Mr Paul Whyte who was stealing from the department of housing. That occurred during the last government and part of this government. We learnt about it because we changed systems, and we fixed the system because it came to attention. I understand that the issues concerning AUSTRAC were never brought to the attention of the former government or the government before that. It was brought to our attention, and we fixed the system and put significant money behind it.

The US model state commodity code has been in place since 1985. When the Mint started selling into the US market in 1998, the requirement was for the model state commodity code to be adhered to. The matter was not complied with under the Liberal government of Richard Court, 1998–2001; the government of Geoff Gallop, 2001–2005; the government of Alan Carpenter, 2006–2008; the Liberal–National government of Colin Barnett, 2008–2017; and my government until it was brought to attention. The Perth Mint has been proactively engaging with the relevant regulators in the applicable US states to remedy any unintended breaches of the model state commodity code, and it is working through those issues now that it has been brought to its attention. The government was informed about those compliance issues in June 2022, after Minister Johnston had asked the Perth Mint’s CEO to conduct a thorough due diligence review of the Mint’s compliance obligations with laws and requirements around the world. That is what occurred. For 24 years under successive Liberal and Labor governments, that compliance had not taken place. It was brought to our attention and we are now working to comply with those matters. As I understand it, it is very confident that no US investors have been harmed by this oversight, which occurred for 24 years under successive governments. That is the situation with the three issues that have been brought to our attention.

In relation to Mr Brajkovich, I understand that the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre is informed of and investigates those matters. As I understand it, he stood in a queue at the Mint and bought some gold. AUSTRAC was informed of that matter, as required, and will undertake whatever investigations or inquiries it wishes to undertake. That is the situation with all those things. They are the facts around all those matters.

We expect the Mint to have the highest standards. It has had the highest standards. All of our gold has always complied with international standards. Our gold is highly respected. The gold produced by the goldfields and refined at the Perth Mint meets all international standards and is hotly sought after by purchasers around the world, and in particular the Shanghai Gold Exchange. It was hotly sought after before the issues with the two bars were identified and subsequent to those issues being identified.

The opposition has called for five royal commissions—into the Kimberley floods, Banksia Hill Detention Centre, the health system, gold and the COVID-19 response. It has now called for five! If the government actually agreed to hold a royal commission every time the opposition called for one when an issue came up, we would be spending hundreds of millions of dollars on these things. What I have identified for the opposition is that when issues are revealed, we move to fix them. The most significant issues existed under the last Liberal government. The AUSTRAC matter and the US code compliance existed under the last Liberal government. The opposition is requiring a royal commission that would call Colin Barnett, Brendon Grylls, Norman Moore, Richard Court and Hendy Cowan and ask them what they knew about those issues. That is what the opposition is asking for, because those matters existed under those governments. The only government that is taking action to resolve them is this government, because the matters were brought to our attention and we are allocating the money and the resources to fix them. In fact, one matter was brought to our attention because the minister asked for a review of those due diligence matters. Those are the facts; that is what occurred.

We cannot have a royal commission every day. That would be great for the lawyers, but it would not be a sensible way of doing things. The royal commission into Crown occurred because other states that had a Crown casino within their jurisdiction had done that, and it was thought appropriate that we have the same arrangements to investigate those issues. As I understand it, Crown has had to meet most, if not all, of the costs of that royal commission. That is what occurred. With an ordinary royal commission, you do not get much change from \$50 million or \$100 million, yet the opposition has called for five of them, including one into COVID. Western Australia had the best economic and health outcomes in the world during the COVID pandemic, yet the opposition wants a royal commission into it. What have we done? We have set up a committee of inquiry with a former Liberal health minister on it. That is how transparent and confident we are about our position—we put a former Liberal health minister on the inquiry into those matters! We are confident that Western Australia did the best it possibly could in the most difficult circumstances we have faced perhaps since the Second World War, yet the opposition called for a royal commission into it. Anyway, that is the situation we face, and that is what we have done. We are moving to fix any issues that were identified.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport) [3.34 pm]: As outlined by the Premier, this government takes this issue seriously. That is why we have acted on all the matters that have been raised. We can go through the history. I reiterate that many of the issues the Leader of the Opposition raised today existed under the previous government. We could call a royal commission, as the opposition wants, and bring in all those former Premiers. What did they know? What did they do? The reality is that it has been this government that has worked to improve the governance of the Perth Mint. It is as clear as that. When issues have been identified, changes have been implemented to rectify those issues. The Premier outlined that very clearly.

I want to start on the call for the royal commission. As the Premier outlined, this opposition calls for an inquiry or a royal commission every week. The last was for a royal commission into the Kimberley floods. I would hate to guess who would be the first person to be asked why those floods happened! The opposition has the idea that it should call for a royal commission or an inquiry into every issue—the health system, Banksia Hill Detention Centre, the Kimberley floods, the COVID response and this matter today. The opposition simply cannot ask for a royal commission every week, because that devalues the process and people get a bit tired of it.

I want to go through a couple of the issues. The first relates to the Shanghai Gold Exchange. Obviously, the opposition is very offended about what happened, but it is more offended than the gold exchange itself! As the Premier outlined, the Shanghai Gold Exchange bought gold from us before these issues were identified and it has been buying gold from us ever since. In fact, the Shanghai Gold Exchange made a public statement on 8 March, saying that it had recently noticed some media reports that Australia's Perth Mint had sold doped gold bars to the Shanghai Gold Exchange. The exchange said that after investigation, it found that the content of the report deviated from the truth and constituted a reputational infringement of the Shanghai Gold Exchange. It said the relevant media failed to fulfil their responsibility to review the content, resulting in decimation of inaccurate content information on the internet, causing serious damage to the reputation of the Shanghai Gold Exchange. Opposition members are offended on behalf of the Shanghai Gold Exchange, but it is offended by what they are saying in this place!

On that matter, as the Premier outlined—I will not go through the percentages because I cannot remember them all—an issue was identified and it was rectified in late 2021. The opposition asked why the Premier was not made aware of this. Well, no-one was aware of it until late 2021. The whole idea that the Premier needed to be aware of something when he was the minister responsible for the Mint when no-one was aware of the issue is quite ludicrous. The Premier was not responsible at the time the issue was raised. Another key point is that it was not actually raised until late 2021, and when it was raised, it was dealt with. As members opposite can see, the exchange has been buying gold ever since. I assume that if it was that offended by what had happened, it would not have kept buying our gold in record volumes. That is a key point.

Members opposite keep trying to allude to facts. They tried to bring the Premier's superannuation into the argument, which was pretty grubby, to be honest. They tried to imply that somehow there was all this information being circulated and no-one told the Premier or the Premier was not aware of it. It was not made clear until late 2021 and then the issue was rectified. The Leader of the Opposition also made another couple of points that I have been advised were completely wrong. He said that the Perth Mint was raided. My advice is that it was not raided. He went on to talk about the Bank of Cyprus. My understanding is that all those accounts have been closed and there is no longer an account with the Bank of Cyprus. He said that the US states raised the model state commodity code. My advice is that the Mint self-reported. A number of allegations were made. As I said, I am the acting minister so I do not have all the background knowledge about this, but I am advised that many of the points the Leader of the Opposition made were simply incorrect.

In relation to AUSTRAC, an inquiry is underway. If there are suspicious transactions, there is a process by which they can be reported, but we cannot outline who they involve or what they are because it may tip off other people. That process is underway, but I do not have the information in front of me to be able to stand and tell members who has or has not reported because that would tip off other people.

In relation to AUSTRAC, again, issues were identified about systems and processes that potentially needed to be improved. That is what was identified and that is the subject of the inquiry that is happening at the moment.

Members opposite have made a number of allegations, using words like "human traffickers" and bringing in the war in Ukraine. They have mentioned every potential worst-case scenario to sensationalise this issue. I do not know why they want to jeopardise the employees of and work done by the Perth Mint and all those workers in the gold industry.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I just do not understand. Issues have been identified and now they are being sorted. This is what happens: the issue has been identified and there has been a reaction. There were comments in the 2021–22 annual report that highlighted the reforms being undertaken. When the Shanghai Gold Exchange issue occurred in 2021, it was rectified. The Perth Mint was advised that its systems and processes needed to be reviewed and potentially improved to ensure that all AUSTRAC's requirements were complied with. That work is being undertaken now. Every time an issue has been raised, we have acted on it and the Mint has acted on it.

The American situation was highlighted. Again, it occurred many years ago. It rolled across many states of the US 25 years ago. It was self-reported and we are acting on it. It occurred under a Liberal–National government. Why did it not know? Why did that government not create a media release or put it in an annual report? I suspect that the Premier at the time was not advised.

These are serious issues that are being dealt with through the right mechanisms. Opposition members coming in here and trying to sensationalise the issue, putting the future of the Perth Mint, the workers and the gold industry itself in jeopardy, is not a smart thing to do. If we were not acting on it, if there was no AUSTRAC inquiry and the issues at the Gold Corporation had not been rectified, yes, it would be fair enough, but that is all happening.

The One-Future program is a significant program, with \$55 million allocated in the 2022–23 budget papers to ensure that we improve the system so that these things do not happen again in the future. It is a significant reform of the Perth Mint and the money has already been allocated. This is not a response to the *Four Corners* interview; this happened before that program. It was part of the 2022–23 budget process. When issues were identified, \$55 million was injected to ensure that the systems were improved.

International funds transfer instructions were raised as an issue. Further legal advice has been sought because it is a complex area of law and guidance is required on what types of international transactions result in an obligation to lodge an IFTI. The Perth Mint has been registered since 2021 and has been actively seeking advice on its obligations in relation to international funds transfers. Again, it is an issue that has been raised and that we are working through.

The government takes this issue seriously. The minister, who unfortunately is not here today, has answered questions from members opposite in this Parliament. In response to a matter of public interest motion, he discussed the action that has been taken. I find that sometimes in politics those who act to fix issues are blamed for the issues by those who ignore them. I think many of these issues were happening under previous Liberal–National administrations but no-one sought to be across them or try to fix them. This government is trying to fix it. The Perth Mint plays a very key role in the gold industry and as an employer in Western Australia. Members opposite may say that the return is not sufficient or belittle what it does, but the Perth Mint plays a key role. This government takes this issue seriously. All the issues that have been outlined are being worked on. If the exchange was so offended, it would not still be buying our gold. We hope to have some reports on the AUSTRAC investigation very, very soon. I do not like it when an opposition is wishing for a negative result and for bad things to happen and making allegations that will, or could, have an impact on the reputation and future of the Perth Mint. Members opposite do not need to go that far. They do not need to come in here and be grubby about the Premier’s superannuation. They do not need to do that.

Mr M. McGowan: Did they do that?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Yes, the Leader of the Opposition did that. I ignored it because it would be calling out his grubbiness.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: You did not have to do that.

Mr R.S. Love: Don’t make a storm in teacup.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Why did you do that? Why did you have to comment on his superannuation?

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.S. Love: I was illustrating that it was a small amount of money that has been returned to the Mint.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: You know it was a grubby act and you should not have done it. Let us go through your financial situation!

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Central Wheatbelt!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: If the key issue members opposite want to talk about is the Shanghai Gold Exchange, and they think that it has been offended, why is it still buying gold from us? Why did it put out a statement saying it does not want it talked about? Why would it do that? I do not know. If it was that offended, why did it do that and why is it still buying gold? If I were that offended, I would not be buying gold from us! Members opposite said that it was such a bad thing and the exchange was so offended, but it is still buying gold. It is actually offended by the commentary —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We take this issue seriously, unlike the previous government —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Oh my goodness! The previous government was so slow to act. It sacked hundreds of workers at the Water Corporation. As a minister, the member for Central Wheatbelt was appalling. You are appalling and you never worked hard at all! You never did anything in relation to the Water Corporation.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Central Wheatbelt!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Central Wheatbelt never did anything—nothing! Honestly, you guys were the laziest government I have ever seen. Ministers did not know about anything that was happening in their portfolios. The only thing they did was sack workers in regional WA.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Central Wheatbelt!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member for Central Wheatbelt disconnected residents' water supply.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Central Wheatbelt, you had the opportunity to have a say, but you did not participate. The opposition has put forward its case and the government is responding, so no more interjections, thanks.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The ministers in the previous government used to sleepwalk in their portfolios. They never took responsibility for anything. They never fixed anything. They outsourced the jobs of hundreds of workers. They made commitments but they never delivered them. They nearly bankrupted the state—I forgot that one! It was the most dysfunctional cabinet that we have seen. There were two groups —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: If the Leader of the Opposition keeps on interjecting, I will keep on highlighting his performance. If the person behind him keeps on interjecting, I will keep on outlining just how appalling they were.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Two parts of the former government used to spend money everywhere. They downgraded our credit rating and nearly bankrupted the state. They left us in enormous debt, but members opposite come here and lecture us about government responsibility. We had an entire inquiry about the former government's decision-making. As a cabinet, there was a lack of accountability, transparency and governance. Do members remember that it was the Nationals WA versus the Liberal Party? Spending was out of control. There was no responsibility for portfolios. I do not remember the Leader of the Opposition ever visiting my electorate in however many years he was a minister, because he did not care. He never cared about anything other than whatever delivered the National Party a good headline. That was the reality.

I turn back to this issue. We take it seriously, and we are working to rectify all the issues that have been outlined. Members opposite come in here, scaremongering and jeopardising the future of Perth Mint and its workers, and do not acknowledge the action that is being undertaken in any of the commentary. That is what they do. Members opposite come in here, ignore all the action that we are taking and do not acknowledge the work that is happening to rectify all these issues. Work is underway. We take this issue seriously. We will make sure that Perth Mint has a very, very prosperous future.

Division

Question put and a division taken, the Deputy Speaker casting his vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (6)

Ms M.J. Davies
Dr D.J. Honey

Mr R.S. Love
Ms L. Mettam

Mr P.J. Rundle
Ms M. Beard (*Teller*)

Noes (46)

Mr S.N. Aubrey
Mr G. Baker
Ms L.L. Baker
Ms H.M. Beazley
Dr A.D. Buti
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke
Ms C.M. Collins
Ms L. Dalton
Mr M.J. Folkard
Ms K.E. Giddens
Ms E.L. Hamilton
Ms M.J. Hammat

Ms J.L. Hanns
Mr T.J. Healy
Mr M. Hughes
Mr H.T. Jones
Mr D.J. Kelly
Ms E.J. Kelsbie
Ms A.E. Kent
Dr J. Krishnan
Mr P. Lilburne
Mr M. McGowan
Ms S.F. McGurk
Mr D.R. Michael

Mr K.J.J. Michel
Mr S.A. Millman
Mr Y. Mubarakai
Mrs L.M. O'Malley
Mr P. Papalia
Mr S.J. Price
Mr D.T. Punch
Mr J.R. Quigley
Ms M.M. Quirk
Ms R. Saffioti
Ms A. Sanderson
Mr D.A.E. Scaife

Ms J.J. Shaw
Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Dr K. Stratton
Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mr D.A. Templeman
Mr P.C. Tinley
Ms C.M. Tonkin
Mr R.R. Whitby
Ms S.E. Winton
Ms C.M. Rowe (*Teller*)

Question thus negatived.

GOVERNMENT TRADING ENTERPRISES BILL 2022*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.56 pm]: I do not propose to go on for too much longer. I will summarise some of the comments that I was making before question time, and I will then wrap up and conclude with my endorsement of the Government Trading Enterprises Bill.

Members will recall that I was contextualising my comments by talking about the dangers of neoliberalism and that privatisation was the manifestation of neoliberalism. In the 2017 state election, the McGowan Labor government was handed a ringing endorsement to preserve the public ownership of Western Power. It provided us with an opportunity to ensure that the social return to the community of Western Australia would be maintained instead of having this wonderful asset and public utility, which provides services to much of our community, flogged off as a temporary mechanism to try to place a fig leaf over the shocking economic mismanagement of the previous government.

The other point that I was making was that it appears as though privatisation is fundamental to the ethos of the Liberal Party. Whenever it sees an excellent piece of public infrastructure or a public asset, it has nowhere else to go. I thought that the Liberal Party would have learnt the lesson of the devastating losses of the last federal election and the 2017 state election in which it put forward a privatisation agenda.

I could not help but see the news reports today. Members will be aware that the wonderful Chris Minns, member for Kogarah, is running to be the Premier of New South Wales. I wish him and the New South Wales Labor Party all the very best. Dom Perrottet, the Liberal Premier of NSW, has his hands on Sydney Water, and he cannot wait to privatise it. Therefore, the thing to be aware of is that privatisation is fundamental to the Liberal Party's philosophy and it should be resisted. Privatisation is completely contrary to the interests of the community.

I will finish my contribution on this bill. The Government Trading Enterprises Bill will put a stop to the need for any more privatisation and will re-emphasise the important role that government plays in the oversight of these organisations. Government trading enterprises play an important commercial function for the state of Western Australia, but they cannot be motivated solely by profit; they must also act in the interests of the community as a whole.

With that, I commend the Treasurer and the Premier for bringing this reform forward. As I said in my contribution before question time, this bill is the function of a number of inquiries, not least of which are the Langoulant inquiry and the Public Accounts Committee inquiry, which I am fortunate enough to have been a part of. The bill will provide the regulatory framework for these government trading enterprises to succeed and for that I am incredibly grateful. I think this bill represents a great piece of work. I commend the Premier and the Treasurer for bringing it before the house, and I commend the bill to the house.

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.59 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the Government Trading Enterprises Bill 2022. It is timely to review the governance frameworks for government trading enterprises. I am sure others have touched on the service priority review and the special inquiry into government programs and projects conducted by John Langoulant. John Langoulant was my boss twice in my past life. He was my boss when he was the CEO of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia and I spent some time there, and he was my boss again when he was the independent chair of the board of the Dampier to Bunbury pipeline. In both instances, I have an incredible amount of respect for John Langoulant. I know that that respect extends across both sides of the chamber. That report was incredibly illuminating. Both reports highlighted the importance of the clear relationship between GTEs and the state government to ensure well-informed decision-making and cohesive long-term planning across government.

In response to those reports, the state government committed to introduce legislation to standardise and strengthen the governance and oversight of GTEs, to provide more explicit direction to the boards to adopt higher standards of accountability and reporting on the progress of major projects, to review the requirements on GTEs to produce annual statements of corporate intent and strategic development plans and the content of those statements, and to foster a more collaborative working relationship between central agencies that support line agencies and the GTEs to enhance their skills and capabilities. I think it is a two-way thing that really does need to work, from not only the agencies to the GTEs, but also back. One thing that I observed when I worked for GTEs—I have worked for GTEs, private equity-owned energy companies and companies that have listing structures—is the exchange of capacity and information back into government, particularly the drivers of the corporate sector and the way businesses prioritise and make decisions. There is a lot to be learnt from government agencies and the private sector and vice versa, so the private sector also understands what the government's drivers are. The GTEs provide a very interesting halfway house for that. That was an observation that I made in my previous career in the corporate sector. Finally, the government committed to introduce measures that would improve governance accountability and transparency for public sector entities more broadly. This legislation is part of that program of work.

The reform program itself aims to standardise governance and accountability and strengthen oversight of GTEs, addressing inconsistencies between the provisions of different establishing acts. There are differences between the

Water Corporations Act 1995 and the Electricity Corporations Act 2005. Just generally, as far as possible, corporate governance should be standardised, particularly across government trading enterprises. It really does help with expectations around public administration and what government entities are there to do. It clarifies it for government, board members, employers and the public. The reform program aims to clarify the relationship between GTEs and government to ensure well-informed decision-making and cohesive long-term planning. The program will also address issues raised by GTEs in navigating their relationship with government. Clarifying the relationship and decision-making is also important. One of the very interesting parts of the reform in the bill before us today is the requirement to bring to the government's notice very early on significant projects that might develop. One thing I observed in my past life was that very often companies could spend an inordinate amount of time working up a proposal and gating it through the internal approvals as some sort of commercial proposition, but when it got to board level or to the ministerial office, it was just a complete flat no. That was because sometimes the groundwork had not been done prior to understand what the government as the owner of these GTEs would countenance. Improving those relationships and those channels of communication is good in itself but it will also save a lot of inefficiency and waste within the entities themselves.

The government has adopted a tranche approach for this program of reform. The first tranche will capture the electricity corporations, the water corporations, the port authorities and the Western Australian Land Authority. Obviously, these reforms are necessary to respond to the priority service and the Langouant reviews. I think that post-COVID, we have never been so aware of the previously latent or unacknowledged capacity of public instrumentalities to address societal challenges. I do not think we have ever been as aware of the role and the power of subnational states in our commonwealth system. During COVID itself, we saw unprecedented actions being taken by subnational governments through their instrumentalities and their capacity to contribute to the pursuit of public value outcomes. If we are going to continue that, which I am quite sure we will, it is vital that the governance arrangements surrounding these instrumentalities are modern and fit for purpose.

This legislation introduces the concept of the purpose of a GTE, which reflects the government's expectations of GTEs to advance the public benefit through the performance of their functions. This highlights that the board should consider factors including, but not limited to, profit. It should have a mind to the delivery of government policy and the social licence to operate. That used to be part of the gating and business case development framework that I worked in when I worked for a government trading enterprise and, I might add, also the private sector companies that took their environmental, social and governance commitments very seriously as well, but it was not statutorily required. It is a significant step forward to have it enshrined in legislation that boards should now be considering these factors.

Pre-COVID, quite a bit of research was underway about the capacity of the state to pursue public benefit and public value. Quite a bit of academic work has been undertaken, reconceptualising the state and its core functions, and a growing recognition of the state's role as a facilitator and driver of innovation and economic growth and as a creator of public value. The first exponent of these concepts was Mark Moore. In 2009, he wrote a really important piece of work called *Creating Public Value: Strategic Management in Government*. His subsequent works over the following years have really created a framework for assessing and improving the effectiveness of public organisations in achieving these goals.

At its core, this public value concept emphasises the importance of creating positive outcomes for citizens and communities to demonstrate the value of public services and build public trust. It more basically states that public values are created when public organisations are able to address important social problems and improve quality of life for citizens. When we think that the government trading enterprises are basically public organisations, it is absolutely legitimate that the requirement to consider their purpose is incorporated or enshrined in legislation. It really does require public entities to consider results rather than just inputs. That is often a criticism levelled at the public sector. Having this purpose-oriented view of government trading enterprises instilled in its regulatory framework will really sharpen the GTE's mind, although I acknowledge that most GTEs that I have dealt with are really quite focused on what they are there to do for the people of Western Australia who own them.

In the USA and Europe more recently, a growing body of work has emerged around the concept of public value and acknowledging the role that states can play in fostering entrepreneurialism, innovation and economic growth, again towards the pursuit of broader public policy objectives. A lot of this is being driven from University College London by Mariana Mazzucato and Rainer Kattel, by Wolfgang Drechsler at Harvard University and by Erkki Karo from the Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance at TalTech. A really great emerging body of work is now challenging the traditional view that the private sector is the main driver of innovation. This work argues that the state has a crucial role to play in shaping and supporting innovation-led growth. Particularly in her very influential book, *The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Sector Myths*, Mazzucato demonstrates how public investments in research, education and infrastructure have played a critical role in fostering technological breakthroughs and driving economic growth. She has been actively championing a more active role for the state by promoting innovation and making sure that the benefits are returned and more widely shared throughout society. Her work is replete with many examples of instances of public sector investment and government trading enterprise activities spawning entire new industries and technologies, and I will quickly clip through a few of them.

NASA is an absolute prime example. It is one of the most successful examples of government-led innovation. Its investments in research and development have led to numerous technological advancements that have benefited the economy and society. Its research on materials science and remote sensing technologies has led to the development of new industries in fields like telecommunications, weather forecasting and agriculture. The research on space travel has spurred advancements in energy storage, robotics and virtual reality. The Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy is a United States government agency focused on promoting and funding advanced energy technologies. Again, the research and investments that have been made have basically provided very early stage funding for high-risk projects that the private sector may not necessarily be interested in. The investments that it made in battery technologies in particular has led to significant improvements in electric vehicles and renewable energy storage. Its investment in wind turbines has helped to make renewable energy far more cost-effective and that has, in turn, prompted a real escalation in investment from the private sector.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is a more recent example. It develops new technologies for national security purposes and invests in high-risk, high-reward projects that have significant potential benefits for society. Its investment in autonomous vehicles, cybersecurity and biotechnology has led to significant advances in those fields.

It is important to emphasise that much of Mazzucato’s research is in the United States, which is the bastion of free marketeer philosophy, but if we peel back the layer a little bit, we can see that so much private sector benefit has derived from public sector investment at a very early stage when it is difficult to get some sorts of innovation up off the ground, and it has generated invaluable intellectual property that has then been commercialised by the private sector and delivered society-wide benefits. That has happened through the work of government trading enterprises.

As well as all these examples, it is important to emphasise that the state is an actor in a much broader constellation of actors, but it has been working with the private sector, with each learning from and facilitating the other. However, it is public investment that moves the dial. It is the action of government trading enterprises that has spawned so much subsequent innovation and industry development. I have seen a growing appetite for this type of collaboration and activity by government trading enterprises in my time in Parliament. Very early on, I participated in the Deloitte Australia Shaping Future Cities project. The report on that project was released in November 2018. I was part of the advisory panel for it. I was the only politician on the panel. It had a whole range of government agency heads, but all the major companies in Perth were represented on that advisory committee. It really was a fantastic process to go through just to hear the appetite within the private sector for the government to play a more active role in this space. The report said that we should focus on nine key sectors: battery supply chains, hydrogen industries, Indigenous-owned businesses, biodiversity products, space industries, Indian Ocean defence, industry education, digital solutions and integrated energy solutions. It emphasised the importance of innovation and technology in driving economic growth. Deloitte suggested that the state government should invest in research and development, create innovation hubs and encourage entrepreneurship. I would argue that one of the prime ways in which that can occur in a practical sense is through the activities of government trading enterprises.

Indeed, one of the things that I started to think about during the microgrids inquiry—I will not go into too much detail about all the great energy innovations—was what is the role for government trading enterprises and what is the scope here, because it really is quite considerable. As part of writing the second report on that project, I shunted about 70 000 words off to the side. I had done some pretty extensive research into the concept of public value and the role of the state. Who knows? If the good people of Swan Hills kick me out, I might go and do a PhD and develop those ideas a little further. There are undoubtedly many ways in which governments can act to support innovation and entrepreneurialism. It can obviously do that by acting through government trading enterprises.

As the member for Mount Lawley pointed out, the energy utilities in Western Australia have not been privatised, and that is a major point of differentiation for us. It has meant that we have been able to pursue a whole range of public value outcomes through our ownership of GTEs, particularly aimed at effecting energy transition. It is seriously and practically addressing the challenges of climate change. The work that is undertaken in government trading enterprises is world leading. It will have a global impact in assisting us and other economies to transition. At the end of the day, these are the most profound and important challenges facing our society.

I will very briefly mention some of the projects that Horizon Power in particular has been pursuing. Last year, I presented at the World Renewable Energy Congress alongside Mike Houllahan from Horizon Power. He gave a fantastic presentation outlining the various projects that Horizon Power has been pursuing. I will say, with full disclosure, that I used to work for Horizon Power many years ago, so it is quite close to my heart. It is the last remaining vertically integrated state-owned energy utility. It has a full line of sight from molecule conversion to electron production to transition and distribution to the point of consumption. It also has direct relationships with the providers of both the fuels and generation capacity and also with the customers. It has done some absolutely incredible work piloting flywheel technology in Marble Bar, an incredibly orchestrated gas microgrid in Onslow and the first end-to-end demonstration plant in Denham incorporating green hydrogen into a microgrid that has a solar farm, an electrolyser, hydrogen compression and storage, and a fuel cell. It has also undertaken innovative work on standalone power systems, as has Western Power, another government trading enterprise.

These government trading enterprises are trialling new technologies. They are developing invaluable intellectual property. They have the ability to sandbox. They can partner with the private sector. Sometimes, these innovations are not profitable off the bat, but government can make the case for their pursuit because they deliver public value. They move innovation along. They develop capability. They prove technologies up to scale. They inform the development of projects that can go on and be commercial. They enable us to trial new technologies that will have significant future benefits. This is really exciting.

Ms M.M. Quirk: Do you want to ask for an extension?

Ms J.J. SHAW: Yes, I will. Could I have a brief extension, please?

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J.J. SHAW: Thank you, member for Landsdale. It is always good to have a wingman!

These government trading enterprises stand to deliver a lot of benefit to our society. They allow the sandboxing of a whole range of new technologies. They foster innovation when private investment may not necessarily be forthcoming. They allow capacity development within the instrumentalities of the state writ large. They promote entrepreneurial culture. They promote the understanding of the drivers of business that really helps foster collaboration. They allow the cross-fertilisation of ideas between the public and private sectors. They assist businesses to achieve scale. Boundary Power was formed by Horizon Power in a partnership with a private sector entity to upscale and then project into market these types of technologies. It is very hard for small businesses to do that alone. Sometimes they need a big partner, and government trading enterprises, by creating demand, can help a private industry to develop around it and then help it to achieve scale and project itself into new markets. When entities want to go into these new markets, government trading enterprises can also facilitate pathways, particularly outside of Australia where many of our potential counterparties, either states into which we may seek market entry or where private sector entities may seek market entry, prefer, off the bat, to deal with governments in the first instance. Government trading enterprises can help build the bridge that the private sector can then walk over into export markets. Obviously, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade, that is something I am particularly interested in—and indeed is something we recommended that the state government explore in the inquiry into microgrids.

In the pursuit of broader government objectives, its public value concept is very important. I have talked about its role in addressing energy transition and climate change, but we can see it inform the development of significant pieces of infrastructure. The Dampier–Bunbury natural gas pipeline was built by the public service, but expansions were subsequently funded by government trading enterprise users underwriting the expansion of that asset, which is very significant for state development. Gas storage facilities have had government trading enterprises as foundation customers, which helps shore up the security of gas supply in Western Australia. Our GTEs delivered cost-of-living relief through Synergy. Government trading enterprises can be employers of best regard in that they can incorporate participation targets for Aboriginal employees, as Horizon Power did. They can look at equal opportunities, equal pay in the workforce and flexible workplace arrangements. They can be model employers—this is an important point—in sectors in which there is competition for labour with the private sector. It lifts the standards for all. If people will choose a government trading enterprise because labour standards are higher, it will make the private sector lift its game if it wants to compete for that labour resource.

But it is important that these entities are well governed. For far too long, the contributions that state-owned enterprises can have to driving innovation and economic growth have been overlooked or understated. Governments can achieve great things for their societies through state-owned enterprises by investing in research and development and taking measured, appropriately assessed risks on commercial projects. Modernising corporate governance brings government trading enterprises up to standard with best practice, ensures clarity of purpose and acknowledges that the corporations have a key role to play in delivering public value and ensures an alignment between the activities of the GTEs and broader government objectives. These are exciting times. This legislation is an exciting and very significant step forward as we try to tackle some very profound changes.

Very briefly, I want to take a moment. I have discussed a lot of these concepts in quite some length with an employee of mine, a member of my team, called John Karoll. Today is his last day working in the Swan Hills office. His job interview with me was a two hour–long discussion of the concept of public value and how it is enshrined. So it was not about his capacity to do the job at all; it was a really weird interview! He has made a remarkable contribution to the Swan Hills state office. He goes out into the big wide world now he has finished his postgraduate studies, and he has told me he wants to pursue a career in which he will continue to develop these concepts. I want to wish you all the best, John; you have been great. Thank you very much.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Landsdale) [4.22 pm]: I am certainly enthusiastic about supporting the Government Trading Enterprises Bill 2022. Having some legislative prescription around state-owned enterprises or government trading enterprises or government business enterprises goes back to a period of macro-economic reform in the 1990s. Leading the way was New South Wales. I just quote from the foreword written by the former Premier of New South Wales Hon Nick Greiner to a book called *All Above Board* by Julie Garland McLellan.

It reads —

When I introduced the State Owned Corporations Act in 1989 in New South Wales, indeed when I first joined the boards of QBE and Stockland in 1992, the expression “corporate governance” was barely known, much less studied and the focus of massive political, regulatory and media attention.

These days, to paraphrase Paul Keating, every galah in every pet shop is talking about corporate governance.

Clearly, the origin of this focus in the last two decades lies in the many listed company failures and scandals that occurred in most western economies, and to which Australia was certainly not immune.

Governments and communities moved to develop and enforce new standards, structural and behavioural, to help protect the interests of shareholders and all stakeholders.

Groups representing investors and directors, among others, developed their own views and interpretations of best practice to go with a range of legislative and regulatory initiatives.

Naturally this has led to attention on governance practices at private companies, not-for-profit non-government organisations ... and of course, the public sector with its huge variety of institutional forms that often have boards.

The author goes on to say public sector directors need to ask and be able to provide answers to a number of simple but crucial questions —

Why are we here? How do we reconcile our role with expectations of shareholder, ministers, portfolio ministers and myriad stakeholder groups? What are our legal powers and responsibilities? To whom are we accountable? How do notions of best practice apply to the particular board on which I am invited to serve?

I think that is a good summary of the kinds of issues we have to address in this legislation.

It has probably been mentioned before—I have not heard all the speeches—but Western Australia has a plethora of government trading enterprises; I think the estimate is over 300. At a local level, the opinion has been expressed that government trading enterprises sit in a no-man’s-land between the government and private sectors. Their boards like to think of themselves as equivalent to private sector boards. That is not the case. That was the opinion of the former Premier in his submission to the *Special inquiry into government programs and projects final report: Final report: Volume 1—February 2018*, which is more affectionately known as the Langoulant report. I have to say that the former Premier’s views on a number of issues are somewhat jaundiced. He was notorious for not working well with others, and I suspect his opinions on government trading enterprises fall into that category.

GTEs are statutory authorities that operate in commercial business environments to deliver critical functions and services to the WA community. Historically, they have been established at arm’s length from government, usually each under their own enabling legislation to give the GTE the autonomy or independence to introduce private sector disciplines, incentives, sanctions and competition to facilitate operational efficiencies and ensure value-for-money service delivery relevant to its mandate. The scope and degree of the autonomy and independence and the risk of tensions with accountability for performance outcomes in the context of government’s overall strategic and longer term planning considerations was the subject of this Langoulant inquiry and also the service priority review in 2017. These reviews made a number of recommendations that have been accepted by the government and form the basis and the philosophy behind this bill we are debating today. Overall, it was found that there was a need for a more holistic and integrated whole-of-government approach across all public sector activities and agencies. I quote the former Premier in stating that GTEs currently sit in a no-man’s-land between the public and private sectors and are in need of substantive accountability and government reform. As I said, this bill is the government’s response to these reviews.

I will quote the Langoulant report. I think there are a number of observations that are instructive. Page 61 states —

Despite there being a significant reduction in the number of these entities in recent years, and while many have small impacts on aggregate financial targets, the variety of their governance, financial management and accountability arrangements is of concern to the Special Inquirer. This inconsistency in governance arrangements clouds accountability practices and confuses performance assessment—both absolutely and comparatively. The Special Inquirer notes that previous reviews have also called for more uniform practices to be adopted across these entities.

Further, at pages 119 and 120 it states —

Western Australia differs from other States in not having a Minister who oversees the commercial performance of Government Trading Enterprises. In other States these Ministers are known as Shareholder Ministers with the title reflecting their interest and responsibility. The Special Inquirer believes the oversight of Government Trading Enterprises needs to be enhanced and supports the establishment of a Shareholder Minister. The Treasury should be required to develop its capability in this area to ensure oversight of the Government Trading Enterprises is at the most capable level possible.

Just to demonstrate the bipartisan nature of the need for reform, the then Leader of the Nationals WA observed in her submission—or evidence, I am not sure which it was—to Langoulant —

“The challenge I found as a Minister was that arms-length process, and so ...having them (the GTE) in step with what Government policy or direction was—that’s an interesting dynamic between a Minister and a GTE.”

The report goes on to state —

She went on to note that the Minister may not necessarily have the level of information that a departmental representative might have.

The Minister’s concerns relate to the lack of awareness of demands on Ministers and their need for information by Government Trading Enterprises and indeed most public corporations.

The Special Inquirer notes that the interface between the Minister and the boards of the corporations which report to them is far too infrequent. While recognising that practices vary across Ministers, from the Special Inquiry’s review it was clear that many Ministers did not engage with their boards on a regular basis. When those engagements occurred they were said to be too frequently in the nature of meeting briefings. No records of these meetings appear to have been maintained. In instances of compliance ... the Special Inquirer was told often that while no documentation was available, these matters would have almost certainly been covered in those briefings.

Finally, in conclusion at page 125, the special inquirer Mr Langoulant stated —

The Special Inquirer believes that there is a need for a structured review of the governance and operating arrangements between Government Trading Enterprises and the Government. This would be focussed on introducing clearer protocols for the Government Trading Enterprises on providing information to government regarding their operations, how the Government Trading Enterprises keep their Minister informed of their activities and what information is provided to the public on the Government Trading Enterprises plans for a period longer than 12 months. The Government Trading Enterprises should be required to report to Treasury on a more timely and comprehensive basis on all aspects of their operations. And the legislation for Government Trading Enterprises should be standardised, especially in the treatment of non-commercial requirements imposed on Government Trading Enterprises by Ministers.

Reviewing these matters for the Government Trading Enterprises would be a first step. The even more complex labyrinth of legislative provisions and management practices which exists across the State public sector corporations is resulting in a framework that is difficult to oversee and which facilitates non-transparency.

The Department of Treasury has provided the Special Inquirer with a submission recommending governance reforms for Government Trading Enterprises. Over the period of this Special Inquiry ... there have been a number of reports that have highlighted problems associated with the framework in which the Government Trading Enterprises, particularly the energy corporations, work.

Members will note that this bill does not cover all GTEs, but to use the common expression, it is the first tranche. It is important to note that it will set out some standardised practices that then should be applicable through subsequent legislation to more GTEs.

Overriding this bill is the need for a more holistic and integrated whole-of-government approach across the public sector. As I have said, this goes back to principles from the 1980s and 1990s, which was a significant period of micro-economic reform under the Hawke and Keating governments, and in New South Wales under the Greiner government. The goals of reform at that stage were productivity efficiency—in other words, to produce optimal output with minimal input—and allocative efficiency, which produces the right mix of goods and services, optimising consumer need and satisfaction. That included the demonopolisation of supply, delivery and the choice of provider. The evils sought to be addressed by these goals and evident in the existing government business enterprises included public sector bureaucracy and managerial inexperience in commercial endeavours, confusion between commercial principles to optimise enterprise value and government expectations of GTEs also performing social non-business functions, and the lack of competitive market neutrality, with GTEs competing against private sector providers on other than a level playing field. A GTE may have special concessions for tax or regulatory compliance and so forth.

The other thing I need to say is that the commercialisation and corporatisation of GTEs whereby the ultimate control and benefit of the enterprise remains with government or the public sector needs to be distinguished from privatisation whereby the control and benefit of such an enterprise moves totally to the private sector by way of asset sale, with the benefit of proceeds of that sale passing into consolidated revenue for redeployment in other areas of public need.

There were five operating principles that underpinned the reform wave in the 90s. There needed to be clear and non-conflicting objectives, like commercial or business objectives, compared with the social and politically driven functions. Also, drivers were looking at managerial responsibility, authority and autonomy; independent external

performance monitoring and accountability; rewards and sanctions for performance or non-performance against a set of KPIs; and competitive neutrality in all markets such as stripping the enterprise of its legislative monopoly position and privileges, and subjecting it to market competition from private sector operators.

Although some of these principles already apply under existing legislation for specific GTEs in Western Australia, a more extensive list of principles will now apply generically to all GTEs. They will standardise the GTE governance, accountability and board performance under the common umbrella of a legislative framework whilst maintaining the existing legislation under which each GTE is formally constituted and operates. There will be a quasi-codification and a legislative prescription of fiduciary-style corporate duties for directors. These will be aligned with the expectations of directors as in the Corporations Act. There will be mandated annual board performance evaluations, reporting of outcomes and board skills matrix analysis that will assist with monitoring board performance, succession planning and identifying gaps in the board's skill set. The strategic objectives and performance of the government trading enterprises will be more closely aligned with government policy, and these may include the need for each GTE to meet community service obligations and statements of expectations, and provide annual performance statements linked to government budget papers.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.M. QUIRK: Then, of course, there will be accountability and control measures through annual financial and director reports and interim reports to the relevant minister, and GTEs' annual reports will be tabled in Parliament. GTEs will have enhanced obligations to consult with and provide information to the relevant minister, and to keep the relevant minister reasonably informed of operations, performance, assets, financial standing and prospects. The GTEs' accountability will be to both the functional portfolio minister and a shareholding minister, and GTEs will need to continue to consult and obtain relevant ministerial approval for the disposal of significant assets and entry into significant transactions. GTEs will need to comply with ministerial directions to perform or not to perform specified functions, and the text of those ministerial directions will need to be tabled in Parliament. Financial accountability and compliance covers such things as bank accounts, investments, borrowings, Treasury guarantees, risk management, dividend payments, record keeping and audits. This legislation will be extended to other GTEs.

I want to quickly go through the duties of the board and directors. The fiduciary duties of directors are analogous to those under corporations law, including the duties of acting with care and diligence, acting in good faith in the best interests of the GTE and for a proper purpose, acting with honesty, not misusing the position or information, not providing false or misleading information knowingly or without taking reasonable steps to determine that it is not false or misleading, disclosing material personal interests, and observing prudential conflict-of-interest protocols. It is notable that the bill will limit the ability of GTEs to indemnify or fund insurance for directors who breach their duties. In addition to the duties applying to ordinary board members, page 96 of the *All Above Board* book notes —

In a government-owned organisation the chairman has the added complexity of deciding whether the minister/department or the organisation will handle communications on a particular subject and whether to speak in person or to have the chief executive take on the role.

Again, it states that it is a complex and vexed issue.

Just as it appears in common law and corporations law, the business judgement rule applies to directors and officers. This means that if they take all due care and diligence in making their decisions, courts will find they should be excused from liability if they acted honestly, but it should be noted that the relief of liability provisions will only extend to the duties the directors owe under the Government Trading Enterprises Bill 2022 and will not relate to duties imposed on directors by other legislation—for example, the work health and safety laws.

The bill also sets out good governance requirements that are generally accepted as good governance principles, such as doing annual board and director performance evaluation reviews and using a board or director skills matrix to give guidance for the skills, qualifications and experience required of the GTE directors, individually and collectively. Although GTE board appointments are the province of the relevant minister, the board may make advisory recommendations. The structure and remit of board committees, including the audit and risk functions, are also part of good governance requirements.

I quickly trespass onto the issue of the Perth Mint and Gold Corporation in the context of changes to the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre law in 2007. The changes to the law and to Gold Corporation's and the Mint's obligations, as they applied in 2007, should have been picked up by the audit and/or risk committee as something that would have an impact on the organisation. They needed to implement policies and procedures to respond to those law changes when they were brought within the purview of the AUSTRAC legislation. That is still under investigation, so I will not make any firm conclusions about that.

The bill will enhance the governance-related obligations, duties and responsibilities of GTE boards and their directors, with consistency of application across all GTEs generally as a class of statutory authority. The bill will also provide for greater engagement and consultation between GTEs and their relevant minister. It will give the government an opportunity via the relevant minister to exert influence and control over GTEs' strategic objectives, operations and performance outcomes.

Finally, my timing is usually terrible, but I uphold my legal practising certificate. As members will be well aware, one has to do some training every year to keep one's skills up to speed or thereabouts, and I did a webinar last Friday on government trading enterprises. It was conducted by barrister Steven Cole, so my speech heavily relies on what he told us in that webinar. I would be accused of being a plagiarist if I did not mention that fact. I commend the bill to the house.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt) [4.47 pm]: I am the opposition spokesperson for the Government Trading Enterprises Bill 2022, albeit I came a little late to the party on this. I will not be taking the full amount of time. Members can expect the member for Cottesloe to contribute, and there will also be significant scrutiny by the responsible shadow minister in the Legislative Council.

I have some experience in this topic. As the previous member mentioned, I spoke to John Langoulant as part of the special inquiry instigated by the McGowan government at the beginning of its term. Our discussion was on a number of issues, predominantly dismantling royalties for regions, but there were conversations about government trading enterprises. As a former Minister for Water and former Minister for Forestry, I had responsibility for the Water Corporation, Aqwest, Busselton Water and the Forest Products Commission. Government has quite a significant breadth of GTEs with different levels of funding, capacity and responsibility. The previous speaker reminded me that I had observed and had the view that there needed to be some clarity about the responsibility and connection to government policy for these GTEs.

It was my experience that because of the powers that were imbued in the board and the director to act in a commercial manner, albeit that the single shareholder was the government and therefore the taxpayer, they sometimes did not pay as much attention to what the government of the day was seeking to achieve. If a government-owned entity operates in a commercial manner, in many cases—not all—it has no natural competition. In the case of the Water Corporation, I think there are organisations that would very much like to have a larger share of delivering water services, but that is not something that we ever contemplated because the delivery of water, particularly in a state the size, scale and geography of WA, is complex. That would be the same for the delivery of power. With the Forest Products Commission, we talk a lot about the native forest industry and the softwood industry, but sandalwood is actually an incredibly lucrative and very complex international area that the state deals in. In fact, it is the oldest export of the state, even predating our gold industry. They are complex regulatory environments. They do have boards. They are asked to act and behave not only commercially, but also in the best interests of the shareholder, which is the government of the day and the taxpayers of Western Australia; however, there can sometimes be a disconnect. Although there are mechanisms to flag longer term projects with the government to avoid some of the shocks that the member for Swan Hills spoke about—in the case of the Water Corporation, it was strategic development plans and statements of corporate intent—organisations can do a significant amount of due diligence only to bring it to government and find that it does not align and is not going to be supported for various reasons. Those SDPs and SCIs have not always served the best interests of the government of the day when decisions are made across the board.

I also observe that we worked very closely with the Treasurer—there was a requirement to do so under the legislation—in terms of expenditure, dividends or making sure that the organisations were closely aligned with the broader financial requirements of the state at the time. We regularly met with Treasury officials. I know that that was a requirement for the Water Corporation, Aqwest, Busselton Water and the Forest Products Commission to a lesser extent. There was a signing authority and a relationship. The legislation that we have in front of us today will formalise that, but I think it will probably give significantly more power to the shareholder minister who will sit across all those portfolios. There is already a role for the Treasurer, as there is across all portfolios, to have an understanding of what is happening within those organisations. The government purports that this legislation will make sure that there is alignment and consistency across government. It is going to be a significant undertaking, particularly when we think about the responsibility of the Treasurer already to ensure that that is done properly. We have already had a discussion at length in Parliament today about some of the challenges that can take place within government trading enterprises and with who knew what when, when it is appropriate for ministers to be advised and when it is appropriate for ministers to actually ask questions when they have concerns. When we were sitting on the other side of this chamber, it was regularly put to me by shadow ministers that the buck stopped with the minister, and that if we were not asking the appropriate questions to try to deal with some of the challenges that inevitably arise within portfolios, we were not doing our jobs properly. I observe that although the Premier has repeatedly said that issues with Gold Corporation and the Perth Mint were not raised with him so he could not possibly have been responsible for knowing or taking action, the challenge with that line of defence is that it means he was not asking questions, even though it was flagged publicly and concerns had been raised in the Parliament. I think there is more to come on that issue.

It is concerning to me that the first tranche of this legislation does not include the Gold Corporation and other corporations. We are starting with Horizon Power, Synergy, Western Power, Aqwest, Busselton Water, the Water Corporation, the port authorities and DevelopmentWA, but tranche 2 will deal with the FPC, Gold Corporation, the Insurance Commission of Western Australia and the Western Australian Treasury Corporation. The first three at least have international exposure and significantly complex regulatory regimes and are probably the ones that pose

the greatest risk, so it is interesting that they are not in the first tranche. The opposition will be seeking to understand why they have been split into two tranches. This government is now six years in. The Langouant report was done in the first few months of this government's term with a furious amount of focus because the government was very keen to make sure that royalties for regions in particular and our financial track record were well and truly demolished before it got on with delivering its own agenda. Why have we not seen some of those accountability mechanisms applied to those others in the tranche? I am sure the Treasurer can respond to that when we get to it.

From my perspective, we have gone through the legislation. There is the concept of having standardised requirements for directors. The explanatory memorandum speaks about the skill matrix that will be required. That is something that the Water Corporation board did as a matter of course. When board appointments were coming up, the chair of the organisation and the CEO would bring a list of the current members of the board and outline how each board member addressed the skills required for that particular organisation. We then went through the process of recruiting and recommendations were made by the board. That may not have been the case in other GTEs—I cannot speak about those for which I was not responsible—but certainly it was in the Water Corporation. To my recollection, we instigated it in the Forest Products Commission, Bunbury Water and Aqwest. They are much smaller organisations but they still operated in a very complex environment. They sought to deliver some significant projects and needed to maintain the trust of the public. We understand that. If an organisation is responsible for delivering safe and reliable water or power services or managing our very busy ports and the exposure of that, we can understand that it needs people who have an understanding of the sector, have good connections across the corporate world and have an understanding of government. I think everyone in this chamber understands that it is different when looking at things from a government perspective. I agreed with what the member for Swan Hills was saying about the fact that these organisations are mechanisms for innovation and that we can use government policy to utilise government trading enterprises to deliver outcomes that the government desires, but at the same time, the boards have a responsibility to maintain a commercial outcome and are held to that under the legislation, so if they fail to do that, there are serious repercussions for board members. That is a very interesting space for those who serve on a board, on the executive or as staff of those government trading enterprises.

Do I think that we got it right all the time? I think any government that says that is arrogant and being misleading. No, I do not think that every decision a government makes is right. Certainly, governments can do some amazing things when they try to deliver policy through organisations like the Water Corporation, but there are also some challenging aspects to that. I return to the fact that we need those organisations to be beyond reproach because if the private sector is sitting on our doorstep saying it can do it better, and it is testing agencies and finding that they are not keeping up with the latest or the best governance processes or their commercial realities, we are failing the taxpayer. I know that the Water Corporation made sure that it kept capacity within the organisation so that when it went to tender with major projects, it could be assured that it would not be undercut and was tendering appropriately. It is something that one would hope the board keeps a close eye to.

I found it interesting when we came to government that we had a standalone Department of Water, which was the regulatory agency for water and the policy arm. Given water is such a significant resource, I thought it was something worth protecting. This government has rolled it into one of its mega-departments. The former Department of Water sometimes found that it played second fiddle to the Water Corporation, which had the capacity to employ people on a significantly different pay scale, attracting employees from different backgrounds with perhaps a more corporate approach. Governments of both persuasions have very heavily relied on the Water Corporation's board and executive, even to the point of creating policy. If one looks at proper government structures, one sees that the former Department of Water was actually the policy arm for government and the regulatory agency, and the Water Corporation was the delivery agent, as was Aqwest, or the Bunbury Water Corporation. It was an interesting dynamic, to say the least. We had Treasury, the Water Corporation and the Department of Water. No doubt some of the tensions still exist. Again, that is why it is really important to have very clear boundaries on the responsibilities of each government entity, particularly when it comes to our government trading enterprises.

Two years ago, the Water Corporation was 20 years old and I am not sure that a significant review of that corporatised model was undertaken before its licence was rolled over. If we were in government, that would be an interesting process to go through before simply renewing the licence and going down that path. That is not to say that I would change it. I am not making policy on the fly. But 20 years is a significant milestone. We heard the member for Mount Lawley talk about the impact of different ideologies and why corporatised entities were introduced in the pursuit of privatisation. I do not believe that privatisation always delivers the outcomes that communities need or deserve, particularly in a state the size of Western Australia. My electorate would not fare well if the government did not have a responsibility through community service obligations to make organisations like the Water Corporation and Western Power whole and commercial. I think we would be the poorer for it. Painting members on this side of the chamber as supporting the relentless pursuit of privatisation suits an ideological argument in this place, but it is not true. If we look at the history of the decisions made by various governments, we see there is usually context around why they were made, and successful or otherwise—I am thinking of Telstra—we find that promises were extracted around what could be delivered for those who would be disadvantaged by an eventual sale. I am not a proponent of wholesale privatisation and never have been because I see the impact it has, particularly in regional

Western Australia, when people do not have the ability to hold government to account for the delivery of those services. Certainly, we are seeing the tail end of that with the Telstra sale, which was, of course, done under a federal government of our persuasion some years back. It is not always an easy argument.

I want to correct the record on some of the propositions that get put in this place that we are avidly pursuing privatisation at any cost. That is not true and certainly from a regional perspective it does not necessarily follow that the outcomes for our constituents are improved. We need to look at the context at the time in which governments of any persuasion make those decisions; we cannot simply look at them in a vacuum.

The umbrella legislation that is being introduced will essentially allow the government to introduce whole-of-government oversight and set policy for all the GTEs. The objective, as it was explained to us, is around standardising and strengthening that governance and accountability. I hope that that is what it will do because I suspect there is a certain amount of window-dressing in this bill. This government purports to hold itself to a gold standard of accountability and integrity, and this is an easy way to point to the introduction of a legislative framework, but proof of whether it actually delivers on that will be in how it is managed.

I spoke earlier about the skills matrix for appointments. I am interested to know which of the corporations do not already do that as a matter of practice, and do not have term limits for directors or the equivalent of a company secretary or probity auditors, and how that has operated for the last six years under this government, because that could be concerning. I hope the Premier can answer that question, if not in his second reading reply, during consideration in detail.

I would like some detail around the policy orders that come from the minister and the relationship between the new shareholder minister or the Treasurer, as will be appointed, and the portfolio minister. How will that relationship be managed and who will have priority in terms of reporting and responsibility? After the change of government, I remember at the first estimates hearings that it was very difficult for the opposition to ascertain which minister was responsible for which portfolio due to the change in portfolios and the creation of mega-departments. It would be unfortunate if we were unable to do our job as the opposition because the line of responsibility and who we should ask questions of is not clear. In fact, will we be able to ask question on matters specific to the Water Corporation to the Treasurer as the shareholder minister or will it be deflected to the Minister for Water? I would not like to think that we will set up a system whereby during question time or estimates or in this Parliament we have a circular argument between two ministers leaving the public none the wiser when there is a challenge, a question is asked or we are seeking clarity. I would appreciate getting a clear understanding of how that will actually work. It is not something that was covered in detail during the briefings provided to the opposition. Although I understand that the shareholder minister relationship is present in other states and is not something new that has come from nowhere, we in Western Australia sometimes have a tendency to make these things our own and we pride ourselves on doing that. For the purposes of *Hansard*, the debate and clarity, an answer outlining who will have responsibility and the final say when we have questions would be appreciated.

I compliment the government for the changes in the budget estimates reporting of the Water Corporation to make it more transparent. When we were in government, I found the then process to be a very strange way to report. Again, if we seek to improve accountability mechanisms, that is one thing this government can take credit for. In the estimates process, instead of just a one-line entry with very little detail, people will see more information in the budget papers and the information will be available through annual reports. I think that is a step towards good practice. I would not like anyone to say that when something positive has been done, we do not acknowledge that as part of our role in opposition.

I will leave it there and allow the member for Cottesloe to make a contribution. We will have a few questions during the consideration in detail stage. As I said at the outset, it is disappointing that we have not heard an explanation of why the Gold Corporation and those other entities have not been included or why it has been done in two tranches. I suspect there were some furious conversations behind the scenes today about whether to leave this legislation on the agenda for debate given the focus on Gold Corp and whether it would give the opposition free range to dip in and out of the issues covered in the matter of public interest debate. I am pleased that the bill remained on the agenda. It is certainly not lost on me that we are talking about improving the transparency and strengthening governance for GTEs, yet we have a parallel debate about some of the most important organisations in the state—the Perth Mint and Gold Corp—and the Premier; Treasurer has been in charge of both of those entities. By any assessment, there has not been a clean record under this government. Significant questions need to be answered. I do not think the response from the Premier or the acting minister today will knock that on the head. There is certainly more to be discovered in relation to the Perth Mint. When we talk about international reputational damage and the potential for huge financial exposure for the state and taxpayers, it is a little rich sitting here listening to government members talk about accountability, governance, royalties for regions and the Langoulant report when we have seen some serious failures in governance at the Gold Corp—and a large part of that has been while the Premier has been in charge. I look forward to the Premier's response. I look forward to making sure that this is not just window-dressing from the government and it points to its efforts to make good on the Premier's promise that he made at the beginning of the term that the Labor Party would deliver a government of gold-standard transparency and accountability, and

focus on key economic and social benefits of government decisions when dealing with taxpayers money, because, if anything, we have seen over the last six days a significant lack of attention to that detail for something that has the potential to put us on the map for all the wrong reasons in an international space.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party.

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [5.13 pm]: Not quite!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not anymore. The member for Cottesloe.

Dr D.J. HONEY: The ex-Leader of the Liberal Party.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Sorry, I forgot about that.

DR D.J. HONEY: I am only one step away!

As I think our lead speaker on this bill indicated, the opposition does not oppose the Government Trading Enterprises Bill 2022. There is much to like in it. Establishing a common framework for governance of government trading enterprises is of itself a noble objective. As was discussed by the member for Central Wheatbelt, a lot of the governance procedures in this bill clearly already exist within GTEs. If they did not exist, one would ask serious questions as to why they did not exist.

I will cover a couple of general topics before I get into the substance of the bill. The first is a general comment for us as a chamber: the governance of government and government business generally is decades behind the private sector, and this is to the detriment of the public sector. Considering the invidious position that the Premier; Treasurer and the Minister for Mines and Petroleum who has responsibility for the Perth Mint now find themselves in, I think it is very unlikely that that sort of problem would have arisen in the private sector simply because many checks and balances are in place to ensure that the senior manager—in this case, the CEO of the Western Australian government is the Premier—is aware of those problems because the system would have demanded that the information went to the senior manager, the Premier. I look at a number of aspects across government. For example, aspects of this bill cover accounting practices and the like. If we look at the big businesses on the Terrace such as Rio Tinto and BHP, they have about the same number of employees as the state government, but they have businesses right around the world. They have a chief financial officer and all businesses have a dotted-line report to the chief financial officer. There is never a situation in which any part of the business has a different financial reporting process, for example. Collectively between both sides, coalition and Labor governments, we must have invested billions of dollars on bespoke computing systems that have never worked or not delivered value. We heard that the government made an attempt to introduce new computer systems for the Perth Mint, and now there is a second attempt to do so. I am not criticising the Premier for that; I do not seek to do that here. I am saying that the private sector does not allow individual parts of its business to have bespoke systems. For example, if I asked the BHP CEO how many employees he or she had, he or she could literally tell me at the press of a button. They could tell me how many positions were filled, how many positions had been advertised, how many contractors BHP has and how many contractors are on site. Government cannot do that, and that is wrong. Those businesses could tell me their cash flow today. For all of the Premier; Treasurer's skill, I do not believe it is possible for government to do it. Government is decades behind the private sector. In the area of governance, all major businesses have separate independent audit arms to audit all aspects of a business that are covered by this bill. That is done separately. So, again, the issue we have seen with noncompliance at the Mint covering a number of years, as the Premier pointed out today, for a major requirement not being picked up, would not have occurred with those businesses. They would have been picked up in the private sector because it has a completely independent audit arm. One of the questions asked is: are you complying with all the laws and rules that govern your business? The business has to demonstrate that. Auditors with experts come and dig in and so on. For us all as parties responsible for government, I think public sector governance is in the 1980s or 1990s compared with the situation in the private sector. This bill is an attempt in reasonable part to give commonality to governance procedures around GTEs, and that is a good step forward. However, between us, we have a long way to go to ensure we have best practice governance. That would mean that ministers, the Premier and others ultimately do not get blindsided by issues that arise with noncompliance with important rules or laws.

The member for Central Wheatbelt commented on government philosophy. I thought there would be a spontaneous burst of the *Internationale* from the member for Mount Lawley after his contribution that everything that the government does is wonderful and the evil private sector is gouging innocent citizens. As was pointed out by the previous speaker, this is a very colourful yet inaccurate portrayal. The truth is that some things are best done by the government, some things are best done by the private sector, and sometimes things will be done by both in a healthy, competitive way.

This is not my original thought, I have heard others say it, but it is a good phrase: all monopolies are bad. Whether it is a government monopoly or a private monopoly, all monopolies are bad. However, if we have to have a monopoly, it is better to have a government monopoly than a private monopoly. We see this in a number of areas. The provision of water was discussed. It is interesting that sometimes we can look at the division in the way we provide that service; for example, I have said that I support the public ownership of Western Power. In fact, we went to the last

election with that policy. We said that Western Power should stay in public hands. The reason I support that is it provides a mechanism for the control of power across that network. In terms of the provision of power, we have now gone to the almost ultimate extent of privatising it. Around half our daily average power consumption is provided by rooftop solar, at least during the day on suitably sunny days. There is now a number of other private providers of power. It is not entirely clear to me, though. Over time—I think this will happen by attrition—the government will be in a position in which it does not provide power but will have a critical role in its regulation. As I say, that backbone of Western Power providing the distribution network, which gives us the engineering control over how power is distributed and input, will remain. Perhaps my view is not as jaundiced as the member for Mount Lawley's view in terms of private versus public ownership. But whatever we do, we should not have a public monopoly.

The previous contributor said that some decisions had been bad. I am not sure whether the wholesale privatisation of the rail network to a single provider worked out well for many customers on that network. It was clearly sold at a bargain basement price, I might say, because it was on sold for a substantially higher value a very short period after the government sold it. There is a whole heap of other issues with the way that was done. I worked for Alcoa and there was no proper delineation of what assets were in that sale. Subsequently, to this day, there are probably still arguments between the rail network owner and the customers of that network about who physically owns what actual pieces of land. Mistakes were made and we need to make sure we do not do that again. We can also do things in a clever way. I was talking to Richard Court once about the issue of private versus public monopolies. When the gas pipeline was privatised, it was sold to a private consortium of companies at the time, and the way that was done was a really clever piece of governance. Before the state government sold that pipeline, it created an easement for another pipeline, from the gas production through to Perth. It meant that whoever bought that pipeline had the constant threat that if they did not do the right thing, if they tried to gouge the users or customers of that pipeline, another operator could very quickly come in because another easement was already established. Of course, the Economic Regulation Authority was also given power over the increases in the prices charged to customers. Again, a government mechanism prevented a private monopoly from gouging customers. Therefore, there are many nuances in the way we can do this.

I will get into the substance of the bill. As I said, overall, the bill has a good framework for proper governance. I have concerns in some areas. I am a little concerned that this bill will give an enormous amount of power to the Treasurer. I am intrigued to see how the ministers in this room feel about this because, really, a lot of ministers' autonomy in managing government trading enterprises will be removed by this bill. We will have a bit of a chance to go through the clauses in consideration in detail. We will not drag it out, but there are some areas to explore. The minister for GTEs will have enormous power in this and at the moment we have a Premier who is the Treasurer as well. It will be a huge workload to take on all those other responsibilities with the requirements in this bill for the GTEs to refer to, and get approval from, the Treasurer. I would imagine that it would be almost impossible to be the Treasurer and Premier once this is enacted because of the workload that will come in.

In a normal governance situation in a normal company, the Premier would give directions to his ministers who would then carry out those directions. Under this bill, the Premier as the Treasurer will have a direct say on, direct access to and a direct veto on what happens within those government trading enterprises. Therefore, under this bill, we may have a situation in which—as the Premier pointed out, sometimes the Premier has been the Treasurer, but we may have a separate Treasurer—the Treasurer will have enormous power. Make no mistake, this bill will remove an enormous amount of authority from ministers.

I have said a number of times in this place that putting too much power in the hands of one minister can be a bad thing for governance. The discussion about this issue is cabinet-in-confidence, but I would be interested to know whether there were at least some forceful conversations around the table, I am hopeful there were, about how much power we want to take away from ministers or how much we want ministers to be subject to veto from the Treasurer.

I will go through and refer further to the second reading speech. Somehow there was a lack of transparency under the previous government. I might say that this government does not have a good track record on accountability or transparency in particular. I have spoken to a good number of people and I do not recollect a government that has been less transparent. Today, the Leader of the Opposition showed that transparency in the freedom of information documents that he got back with blanked-out pages. That is the norm. I do a reasonable number of FOI requests, and I can say that I typically do not get any information back or it is blanked out. It seems ridiculous because, in a lot of cases, the information is not politically damaging; it is just information that would be useful to understand an issue. For some ministers—I might say, some are better than others—it seems to be a game in that they will go out of their way not to disclose anything. But, more particularly, this government is not transparent. It will be interesting to see whether this bill improves accountability.

Perhaps I will leap ahead a little bit. One of the areas in the bill refers to transparency. In reading clause 78, "Varying annual performance statement", the government will, in effect, get the report from the board that it wants because if the report is not what it wants, it will send it back and require the GTE to change it. We are talking about an organisation that is supposed to be an independent group operating like a private company, yet its annual report will be subject to editing by the minister. I am not sure that that is very transparent. I will talk about transparency a little. The Minister for Transport is one minister who seems to enjoy, perhaps more so in the planning area, not

giving anything back. The Auditor General called for more accountability on major projects. What was the minister's response? She said that the Auditor General can waste her time informing the public about progress on major projects but she was not going to waste her agency's resources by being accountable to Parliament and the public. It is incredible that a minister would say that the Auditor General was wasting her time calling for more transparency.

I will go through some more aspects of the bill. In terms of integrity, the bill is about transparency.

[Member's time extended.]

Dr D.J. HONEY: In his second reading speech, the Treasurer stated that the bill will "provide clear expectations of what information should be shared with government". The government already has the right to see any information it wants. I appreciate that some clauses in this bill are effectively redundant. I should have said at the outset, with due regard to the good officers who have edited the bill, that it is a pleasure to read a bill that does not refer to 20 other bills in about 300 different places and give us no hope whatsoever of following it. It was good to see the bill rewritten. At the back, the bill has a few references to other legislation to make sure that it is consistent. I congratulate the Premier; Treasurer for that. As an opposition, it is a lot easier to follow than many of the bills we have seen of late. The government does have the right to see information. GTEs cannot hide information from the government.

The bill also seeks to ensure the use of strategic planning documentation. As has already been mentioned, if GTEs are not doing that already, perhaps the board should be sacked! That can be done. The bill puts that in there. I assume that is happening but the government wants to make sure it is happening to make it clear.

Furthermore, the Treasurer acknowledged the skills and expertise that the directors of GTE boards bring in managing the strategic direction of GTEs. In fact, the Treasurer will have complete control over the direction with those boards. At one level, we can understand that in the sense that these are government agencies and therefore should be carrying out the will of the government, but, equally, one of the reasons for having a government trading enterprise is that they can exercise some degree of independence. That level of independence is significantly reined in by this bill.

There also appears to be a significant increase in paperwork. It will be interesting to see how agencies handle that. When we look at the breadth of GTEs, I genuinely think the Treasurer will be overwhelmed by the number of things he is required to do under this bill. I hope that does not distract the Treasurer, whether it is the Premier or a separate Treasurer, from their other important work.

The GTE minister will still be responsible for board appointments. We see the skills matrix. The devil is always in the detail, is it not? If the skills matrix is generally about the capacity of someone to carry out a role, that is a good thing. If it is used for political purposes, if you like, to define skills matrixes that effectively result in political appointments, that will be a bad outcome. It will be interesting to see that skills matrix.

I might also say, just as an aside, that sometimes people who have no particular formal qualifications are outstanding board members. The reason they are outstanding board members is that they come from a very different background and see things very differently. We will see what this matrix comprises. For example, I have said in this place a number of times that I have a lot of regard for people who come up through the union movement. They are shop stewards and move further up in the organisation. People who may not have any formal qualifications because they mucked around at school or whatever can be extremely talented and able people. I have said this a number of times.

Mr R.R. Whitby: Not looking at anyone in particular.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I do not think I am allowed to address the Deputy Speaker directly in this capacity, but if the minister were to say that, I would agree with him!

Individuals do come up. I hope that we do not have a narrowing of diversity of people coming onto those boards. Yes, it is important to have people with business experience or perhaps people representing a particular group within the community that is under-represented, but, equally, there are some other very talented people who may not have formal qualifications. I hope that skills matrix does not see a narrowing to university trained, inner-city representatives who happen to have done all the right board of directors courses and whatever but do not reflect the diversity of the community at large and ultimately do not give good governance because of that.

I talked about the skills matrix. We were also informed that the GTE minister's role will extend to consideration of strategic documentation and material transactions. Again, that will intersect with the responsibilities and roles of the responsible minister. Ultimately, there could be some real issues with this if a minister wants to get on with things and things are constantly being second-guessed by the Treasurer of the day rather than just receiving clear direction from the Premier, "I want you to do this; you go away and do it", without having to come back every moment.

The second reading speech referred to providing returns to the community. We need to be careful that it is not simply about financial returns. Clause 7 of the bill states —

A GTE's purpose is to advance the public benefit through the performance of its functions.

That is a very clear way of putting it. I appreciate that "returns" is a term we could look at in a number of different ways, but if it is only about the financial returns back to the public purse, that is not an outcome we want. That view was reflected in a number of contributions already made in this chamber.

Some changes to the nature of information to be publicly disclosed by the GTEs is involved. Statements of expectation and annual performance statements will replace the current strategic development plan and statement of corporate intent. I would like to know how the proposal will improve where we are. Why has that change been foreshadowed? Those current corporate intent and strategic development plans serve a real purpose in the community to assist understanding where government is taking us with activities in GTEs. Will the annual performance statement tell us any more than we already know? I will be very direct. I have made this comment before, particularly in consideration in detail. If we are talking about KPIs, the good majority of the KPIs I see in estimates are a complete waste of time. They seem to be deliberately chosen to be KPIs that do not tell us anything about the performance of an organisation. For example, some organisations have a KPI around the number of communications with the community. I am very reliably informed that some organisations that are struggling on that will just send a mass mail-out or include a letter with the bill to all customers towards the end of the financial year. All of a sudden, that is an individual communication to every customer, so that KPI statistic goes up, but it will not give the customer useful information; it will simply meet a KPI that does not tell us a lot. If we are going to have that, there need to be KPIs that reflect the performance of that organisation as it affects the customers, and, by and large, the customers are the ordinary members of the public who are receiving the services of that organisation.

There are some things in the bill that will give the ministers a little bit more control. The bill will enable the government to set thresholds for transactions that can be approved by the minister, and larger transactions will require the approval of the Treasurer. That is obviously sensible. We cannot have agencies being profligate. Ultimately, we can say that they are government trading enterprises, but the sole shareholder is us, the public of Western Australia, and we need to have reasonable control.

The bill includes a proposal to enable prior year profits to be considered in the determination of a dividend payable. I am intrigued to see what that will really mean, because a dividend should be based on the current year's performance. Whatever happened in the previous year should not matter, because any debts or liabilities would be carried forward in normal accounting practice.

I think the overall intent of the bill is good. The bill has been well presented. The reason we do not oppose the bill is that we support the great majority of the parts in the bill that are about sensible reform. I am not sure that the removal of the autonomy of ministers will make government easy. I think that for ministers, there will be a real risk of the Treasurer, whoever they may be, constantly interfering in the actions or the running of the business, whereas the Premier of the day could just give the minister direction and they would have to do that without being second-guessed.

As I said right at the very start of my comments, members will find me to be an enthusiastic supporter of government modernising its practices. Although we like to think that everything we do is good, and I know we have many good public servants who do good work, there are major aspects of the way that government governs its business that are literally decades behind the private sector, and for the worse. There is not clarity. There is not transparency. There is not an ongoing sufficient level of audit so that ministers and Premiers do not get surprised.

MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham — Treasurer) [5.43 pm] — in reply: I thank members for their contributions on the Government Trading Enterprises Bill 2022. In light of the time, I will be brief because I know that members want to go into the consideration in detail stage. We are seeking to transform the governance of government trading enterprises and provide a much more accountable framework for GTEs across the public sector in Western Australia. I understand that other states have this regulatory regime; in fact, all other states have this regulatory regime in place, except for Western Australia. It was identified by the Langoullant review in 2017. A lot of work has been done since then to come up with this bill based on best practice across Australia. It will basically mean that GTEs will be accountable to government, which is their major shareholder. I would hope that most people agree with that. It will maximise the benefit to Western Australians of having state-owned GTEs.

I do not want to talk for long because I understand that members want to ask questions and there is some agreement about when the debate is going to conclude.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave denied to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3: Terms used —

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am looking at the terms used and the clause defines the corporations that this legislation will apply to. In the second reading debate, I went to the question about why it is being done in two tranches. My question is about an explanation of why there will be a division. Secondly, will we see an amendment to this piece of legislation when the other corporations come through or will there be an entirely new piece of legislation to deal with Gold Corporation, the Insurance Commission of Western Australia and the others that are not covered by this bill?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Thank you for the question; it is a good question. The staged inclusion of GTEs in the GTE bill reflects the current inconsistencies amongst GTE establishing acts and the subsequent undertaking required to achieve legislative uniformity for standardised governance of GTEs through legislative amendment. There are huge complexities associated with harmonising eight different establishing acts. As such, priority has been given to GTEs with core service delivery roles for government whose establishing acts are most consistent with the broader framework of the reform. The government intends to bring in the others in another tranche. The second tranche is expected to include the Forest Products Commission, Gold Corporation, the Insurance Commission of Western Australia and the Western Australian Treasury Corporation. I am advised that it will be just a regulation change. I am advised that the act will not change, but it will be a regulation to allow them to come under this bill.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I just want to clarify that last point. There will be a regulatory change to bring in Gold Corporation, ICWA, the Forest Products Commission and Treasury Corp, as opposed to amending the legislation. Will we not have any capacity to scrutinise those particular entities coming in? Will they come in under the exact same framework that we are talking about now?

Mr M. McGOWAN: It will be a regulation change. I am advised that in order to bring in new ones, it will be a regulation change. They are not in yet because of those reasons I outlined before.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Could the Premier give me an example of the complexities that he referred to that mean that Gold Corporation, ICWA and the others are not consistent or could not be brought in under this legislation? What needs to be done before the regulatory framework can be used to incorporate them?

Mr M. McGOWAN: There are complexities of the establishment legislation of those agencies that the member referred to in that it is not consistent with that of the ones coming in. The ones that are coming in are, up-front, GTEs with core service delivery roles whose establishment acts are most consistent with the broader framework of the reform. The intention is to bring in the others and make them more accountable—make sure they act with more accountability in their activities, their policies and so forth. That is because their establishment act does not allow them to come in as easily as the initial 12.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Is there a time frame for when we might see those entities brought in by regulation, presumably when this bill becomes legislation?

Mr M. McGOWAN: A review is being undertaken by Treasury to assess the suitability of those GTEs. As I said, there are obviously complexities around the legislation. The government will do it as soon as we are confident it can be done, or Treasury is confident it can be done, sensibly and expeditiously, and the complexities around their legislation are dealt with by transitional regulations or changing or removing their act in due course, which I thought would be a last resort. That is the methodology the government will use.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Is there a contemplation that the government might need to repeal some of those acts that established Gold Corporation or the Insurance Commission of Western Australia? That is a significant piece of work for Treasury and government, I presume. There is a shortage of drafters and a significant backlog already, so are we likely to see these changes introduced in the next two years or will Gold Corp, Treasury Corporation, ICWA and the Forest Products Commission remain under the older frameworks? Given there is a commitment to move towards greater accountability, I would have thought, particularly for those organisations, that would be a priority. I am just trying to understand when we might see some action on the next tranche.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The intention is that we want them under the standardised framework, and Treasury is very keen that they come in with their existing acts. The existing acts would be repealed only if it was required to bring them in, because of the complexities, and then put in new legislation governing the GTEs. I doubt it will happen, but we are trying to bring them under this regime as quickly as we can.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4 to 6 put and passed.

Clause 7: GTE's purpose —

Dr D.J. HONEY: In my second reading contribution I referred to something at the top of page 6 of the bill. It states —

A GTE's purpose is to advance the public benefit through the performance of its functions.

In the Treasurer's second reading speech he referred to the fact that GTEs needed to maximise return to the public. I appreciate that "return" could cover things other than finance, but could the Treasurer please clarify that comment?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The GTE's purpose is to advance the public benefit through the performance of its functions. The public benefit is to reflect the shareholders' interests in the absence of a GTE having a shareholder. The bill standardises the obligation to act in line with prudent commercial principles and to maintain the focus on sufficient service delivery. The board should consider the fact that it is including, but not limited to, profit, delivery of government policy objectives and the social licence to operate when determining how a GTE undertakes its functions.

The legislation standardises the obligation to act in line with prudent commercial principles, to maintain GTEs' focuses on efficiencies, act prudently, act within commercial principles and be aware of government priorities, whatever agency it might be. It might be DevelopmentWA making sure that there is some social housing or opportunities for public benefit in parks or whatever it might be. Those are the sorts of things that would be a public benefit through the performance of a GTE's functions.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Typically, many of the services, but not all of them, are government monopolies, and I would have thought it was a fair purpose that the role was to provide that service at the lowest economic cost, if you like—"economic" being that the agency is viable—but at cost to the consumers and the public.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is to act prudently in a commercial sense, but, obviously, a government trading enterprise is different from a private business that has the overriding and, perhaps, sole aim to maximise commercial benefit. Government has broader responsibilities than that. As to whether there is the cheapest price, for instance, consider that as part of this legislation, the port authorities are coming into it. The government obviously makes money out of port authorities, which then goes to fund health, education and so forth. Providing support and revenue to government through that source, particularly some of the higher volume ports that make a lot of money, is not a bad thing for governments. It is a broader obligation for government trading enterprises than it is for a commercial business. I suppose that is the point being made. If this was the articles of association, or whatever it might be, for a company, I suspect that clause would just say "maximise profit".

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 8 and 9 put and passed.

Clause 10: GTE may act at its discretion —

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The clause says that the GTE may act at its discretion, so it has a function given to it by its establishing act, which I presume does not change. Can the Premier explain the clause for me? It says it "does not impose a duty on it to do any particular thing." I presume that is a catch-all clause. I just wonder what it seeks to achieve.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The provision of a function to a GTE does not impose on the GTE an obligation or duty to do a particular thing. This discretion enables a board to exercise its powers to determine how and when to undertake performance of the GTE's functions. This discretion is subject to limitations set out in the clause.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 11 to 13 put and passed.

Clause 14: Directors' skills matrix —

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Clause 14(1) states —

A GTE's board and the Portfolio Minister must endeavour to agree a skills matrix for the board ...

I presume there will be a time frame, but what will happen if it fails to be achieved? Obviously, it is a desire, but "endeavour" is not a particularly strong word. If we were doing transparency, accountability and wanting all the GTEs to go down that path, I would have thought we would say "must". Why do we have the word "endeavour" included in that particular subclause?

Mr M. McGOWAN: We are not suggesting that the GTE bill is going to result in GTEs beginning to use skills matrixes and other governance tools for the first time. This is about standardising the requirements to ensure that good governance practices are front of mind for GTEs in their operations. I do not think it is going to be mandated, but it is encouraged.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Perhaps the Premier could share which of those GTEs do not currently use a skills matrix when appointing directors to a board?

Mr M. McGOWAN: They all do to varying degrees. It is just about the quality of the matrix; the bill is trying to make sure that the quality of the matrix is improved.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Who will have responsibility for providing best practice? Would that come from Treasury or from—what are we calling it—the portfolio minister?

Mr M. McGOWAN: There will be guidance notes on the best practices that agencies can use.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Will there be a measurement? I am struggling with this, because the whole purpose of this bill is that we are standardising, but it does not say that GTEs must use them. If it is best practice, why not just say that we must agree upon a skills matrix. If I understand correctly what the commercial sector does, is there a reason why we would not expect a GTE to go down that path?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Each GTE has to have a skills matrix with a minimum standard, but we are not standardising. It can be better than the minimum standard.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I understand that the Premier needs to go. Will the skills matrix be public information? Can they be tabled? Will they be part of annual reporting? Are they documents to be shared outside the board? Those are the kinds of transparency questions that we have.

Mr M. McGOWAN: They are not currently public documents, but we can consider that in the future.

Clause put and passed.

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

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF WA HEALTH SYSTEM GOVERNANCE

Government Response — Correction — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [6.03 pm]: I have received a letter dated 14 March 2023 from the Minister for Health advising that the government's response to the *Independent review of WA health system governance* tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the minister today contains a number of inconsistencies with the minister's brief ministerial statement. The letter attaches a revised report, version 2, that aligns with the content of the brief ministerial statement. Under the provisions of standing order 156, I authorise the revised report be attached to the original tabled report.

[See paper [1858](#).]

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Consideration

Resumed from 23 February on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

MR G. BAKER (South Perth) [6.04 pm]: I rise today to support the Premier's Statement. The Premier last month laid out the challenges that we have faced in recent years and the difficulty in preparing us for the challenges ahead. The McGowan government has a great record. We saw this with the world's best response to the pandemic. We delivered a pathway out of COVID and combined this with a strong economic performance, regaining the AAA credit rating. Our strong economic performance is delivering big projects for WA, like Metronet, and a record investment in the regions. I am proud to be part of this team.

When I listen to the people of South Perth talk about their concerns, the number one thing they talk about, expressed in different ways, is the economy. Household budgets are feeling the strain. Inflation is up, supply chain problems are biting and interest rates are increasing. The world has an uncertain economic future. The three big reasons for this are the lagging effect of COVID, the war in Ukraine and supply disruptions in China and international trade. These three issues have challenged global supply chains and increased energy prices, which pushes up the costs of goods and services here.

I have listened to many business owners in South Perth—namely, builders, antique dealers, pub owners, market stall operators at the Manning Road markets, and shop owners on Angelo Street, Welwyn Avenue and at Waterford Plaza—who are feeling the effects of the supply chain pressures and inflation in different ways. The Reserve Bank's answer to these growing problems is to raise interest rates. When I drafted this speech, it had been nine times in a row; it is now 10 times in a row. That has added thousands in repayments to already stretched family budgets. The people most exposed to the interest rate rises are recent homebuyers who are already stretching their budget. It is a puzzle to me how the Reserve Bank will curb spending by targeting the people who are already under the most financial pressure. The people of South Perth are smart, innovative and resilient, but the repeated interest rate rises are raising the bar very high for some people who are already doing a lot.

Now, at a state level, no state government has the big economic levers. State governments do not control interest rates or inflation. State governments have no control over international supply chain problems. What the McGowan government can do is things like keep household fees and charges low, support the small and medium enterprise sector, engage in stimulus spending and keep debt low to protect the WA taxpayer from interest rate rises. Things like the WA household electricity credit offset has saved families \$1 000 over the last two years, and the amount of fees and charges paid by WA households last year was lower than the case in previous years. No other state does this. No other state has a capital works program like that in WA or has state debt as low as WA. No other state has an electricity price as low as WA. All these options from the state government depend on a sound fiscal policy that keeps us safe and strong. We need to keep something in the tank that lets us take decisive action when it is really needed, and this is the challenge for the Western Australian budget.

Let us take a dive into the income and expenditure of the WA budget. Bear with me for a few minutes, members; I will just get through some basics first. The budget has income and expenditure. On the income side, our budget is very lumpy. It varies a lot year to year. In particular, royalty income varies a great deal year to year depending on the price of iron ore. Our overall income for the WA government is about \$40 billion. However, the royalty income can vary between \$6 billion and \$12 billion year to year in recent times. On page 76 of budget paper No 3 of the 2022–2023 budget, the royalty income can be seen going back over a decade. Sudden surges in royalty income can

be seen, with increases of 100 per cent and 200 per cent, followed by drops of 50 per cent or more. On the expenditure end of things, we have recurrent expenditure and capital expenditure. Recurrent expenditure is mostly service delivery, like schools and hospitals. Most of the recurrent budget is taken up by essential things like wages or the cost of delivering services.

Capital expenditure is building new stuff like rail lines and roads, new hospitals and schools. Recurrent expenditure is, generally, slowly increasing over the long term, and hard to change. We know it is hard to reduce recurrent expenditure without a lot of pain in the community. Capital expenditure is relatively easy to change. Some capital projects, like getting a bridge over the Fitzroy River, are very urgent, but most capital expenditure is more discretionary. For example, the Barnett government thought it could postpone the rail line to Ellenbrook indefinitely. A state government can postpone a new road construction from one year to the next in a way we just cannot do with a cohort of school children. Our key challenge in framing a budget is managing the recurrent spending with the lumpy royalty income. As we just saw, royalty income can vary by \$6 billion from one year to the next, or about 15 per cent of all government income. Royalty income goes up and down, while recurrent spending is more level.

Where should the government set its sights for recurrent spending? Should it aim for the high end of the income range, based on temporary high resources income, and bake the expenditure into the recurrent budget, or should it aim at the lower end of its royalty income with a lower recurrent expenditure? We can learn from history on this one. We can look back at the Barnett Liberal government. It rode a wave of mining royalties from 2008 to 2013 and baked those increased royalties into the recurrent budget. Then the international economy changed and demand for the mineral subsided. Our mining royalties fell by 50 per cent, but our recurrent budget was baked in and the Barnett Liberal government could not adapt fast enough. That is when state debt exploded, the debt monster emerged and we lost the AAA credit rating. I remember being a government staffer after the 2017 election looking at the budgets of individual agencies through the forward estimates and seeing the financial shell game that the Barnett government had been playing, trying to hide the recurrent spending problem that it had created. Where did we end up with the Barnett Liberal government? We ended up with record state debt and we lost the AAA credit rating. Let us contrast that with the approach of the McGowan government. When we were elected, there was a very conscious decision to align the recurrent spend with the lower end of the royalty projections. We planned for the lean years and ensured we had enough income to recover the recurrent spending. We were not planning for up here; we were planning for down here. This step was essential in ensuring the state could stop the increasing debt, regain the AAA credit rating and set the budget towards surplus again.

Let us look at another example of debt getting out of control: the Morrison Liberal government. It has left a record debt for the commonwealth government for all Australians. The debt is getting close to \$1 trillion—that is \$1 000 billion. The cost of servicing this debt alone is \$25 billion. That amount is comparable to the budget of Western Australia. Every year, the commonwealth government is spending, on servicing debt, more than it costs to run every hospital, school, police station, national park, courthouse, prison and then some. It is only going to get higher as interest rates increase. Every other state in Australia is also experiencing record debt. Every other state is condemning their future taxpayers to servicing this record debt. It is not something we in WA want to be exposed to. We do not want to see debt increase uncontrollably and we do not want to see a large portion of the state budget wasted on servicing debt. We are careful. In good years, like last year, we reap the rewards. We had a budget surplus of around \$6 billion last year and around \$2 billion this year. But as we know, this money is not sitting idle in a bank account. The surplus is hard at work. It is paying down the Barnett government debt, building capital works, helping the Kimberley recover from floods, rebuilding the midwest after cyclone Seroja and funding the clean energy transformation. It is also providing direct relief to households, with the WA household electricity credit offset. WA is the only state in Australia that is effectively reducing household fees and charges. It is even installing LED lights on the sporting grounds of South Perth. When the opposition asks, “Why is the Premier hanging onto the surplus?”, the answer is easy: we are not hanging onto it. We worked hard to get WA off the Barnett government’s addiction to debt. We had a world-leading pandemic response, we got back the AAA credit rating, and now we have a surplus to fund important projects around the state and in South Perth. I am very proud of these achievements.

When people in South Perth talk to me about the growing economic clouds, I can say that we are working hard, we have the capacity for decisive action, and I take heed of the Barnett Liberal government’s record of debt and deficit. I do not want to leave a massive deficit for my kids. I want to leave them with the benefits of our enormous natural wealth, without the burdens of a big interest bill. Our big economic story is a personal one for me, because if we get it wrong it will find a way of affecting us all. But a strong fiscal position takes a lot of fiscal discipline. This is the record of the McGowan government. When the government gets the fiscal setting right, it can deliver right down to the local level and in local projects for the neighbourhoods in South Perth in things that matter, like education, sport and recreation, transport and more. I am very proud of the McGowan government’s passion for public education. This has translated into many local projects. It has been a pleasure to work with schools such as Curtin Primary School, which transformed its old bitumen court into a playground and breakout space. I remember when I went to school back there in the 1970s. Those bitumen courts were like giant heat islands between classrooms. This grant will break it up a bit, and give the kids something that they can enjoy. I have also been working with Kensington Primary School to resurface its outdoor basketball courts and get a new roof for the oldest part of the

96-year-old school. It is great to see that the courts were finalised for the first day of school this year. I have been working with Collier Primary School on its nature playground, the next stage of its master plan that was opened nearly a year ago now. The Collier P&C association is a very organised bunch that makes the most of every opportunity to make its school feel like a little country town in the city.

I have been working on a range of improvements at Como Secondary College. I first rode my bike past Como Secondary College when I was five years old. It has not changed much. It is the victim of being a great public education institution in a safe Liberal seat, but we have made a solid start there. We have spent \$300 000 to extend and improve school car parks, which will reduce traffic hazards during the before and after school peak periods. We have also sent the school \$600 000 for a new STEM learning space as part of our investment in schools. Como Secondary College is very strong in STEM. In fact, 15 per cent of the school's students come from out of area intakes to be part of the specialist subjects. This new learning space will give the students even more to be pleased about. There was \$1 million to upgrade the cafeteria and multipurpose performance space at Como Secondary College, which the Premier opened about a year ago, and what an amazing reception he got. I have never seen anything like it in politics. It was a good day for the school and it was an especially good day for the principal, Digby Mercer. It must have been a good day, because he was smiling.

I will take a moment to thank Minister Hon Sue Ellery who has backed me and schools in South Perth. She came down to South Perth on many occasions and met with principals, other educators, students and parents, listened to their concerns and acted upon them. Her work was much appreciated.

I now switch from education to sport, and more local projects for South Perth. People in South Perth love their sport and recreation. I love listening to people with big dreams for sport in South Perth. We are pretty good. Last year, South Perth residents brought back a swag of gold and silver medals from the Commonwealth Games. No bronze—just gold and silver. We have been getting things done. At South Perth Cricket Club, we have replaced the practice nets with a moveable cage net system and canopy; at Como Croquet Club, we have reconstructed two croquet court lawns and it looks beautiful; and at Hensman Park Tennis Club, we have replaced the lighting for eight courts—member for Roe, do not say we do not do anything for you! At Manning Tennis Club, we have upgraded the lighting to 10 courts; at Bill Grayden Reserve in Como, we have upgraded the lighting for baseball and Aussie Rules; and South Perth Tennis Club will get its LED lighting next through the Club Night Lights small grants program.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Hear, hear!

Mr G. BAKER: That is a great program. It is really hard to get new grounds for sport and recreation in the middle of our inner-city suburbs, and LED lights are an amazingly cheap way to get more life out of existing recreational space.

Other sport and recreation projects from the McGowan government in South Perth include \$63 000 for the South Perth Bridge Club for accessible toilets, and \$17 000 for defibrillators for venues including South Perth Bowling Club, Como Bowling and Recreation Club, Manning Rippers Amateur Football Club, Trinity Aquinas Amateur Football Club and Moresby Street Hall.

Recently, we awarded an outdoor recreation participation program grant to the City of South Perth for a series of free outdoor recreation activities supported by local clubs. The first concert, Sounds in the Park, was held at Ryrie Avenue on Saturday, 25 February. I was down there with my daughters and it was a beautiful evening; I have never seen Ryrie Reserve look so beautiful. There was even a bossa nova version of *Love Will Tear Us Apart*, so it really made my night. I would like to thank the Minister for Sport and Recreation—both the previous one, the member for Armadale, and the current one, the member for Mandurah. You have always made yourselves available to me and local sporting clubs to listen to our concerns; thank you very much.

Now to transport. South Perth has the misfortune to have its streets on a grid design. That was a good idea 50 years or so ago; it is not such a good idea in the age of sat nav. Many quiet streets have been destroyed by becoming the computationally shortest distance between two main roads.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr G. BAKER: It is a source of great annoyance for local residents and it has changed traffic patterns forever. Our government is responding as best it can. We have upgraded many intersections, including the corner of Mill Point Road and Forrest Street in South Perth, by installing some median islands to break up the road for pedestrians and turning cars, and also line markings to protect turning vehicles. We have \$1.5 million in the pipeline to upgrade the intersection of Mill Point Road and Mends Street in South Perth for pedestrians, by installing a raised safety platform and modifying the traffic signal. We are closing the southern approach to Edgumbe Street at its intersection with Paterson Street in Manning. We are installing intersection safety improvements at Canning Highway and Berwick Street—that one is always a boon double. In transport, we have upgraded the Mends Street jetty so that all abilities can use the ferries. We had 8 500 boardings in the first 10 days since it was completed and patronage is way up.

There are a couple of big projects that I want to talk about. Perth Zoo holds a very special place in the heart of my neighbourhood. The passing last year of Tricia the elephant was a sad time for the Zoo and South Perth. I was

surprised at how many people contacted me just to express their feelings and talk about their memories of that old elephant. For the future of the Zoo, we have funded over \$40 million for its master plan, which will see the Zoo grow and adapt for the next generation. Just a few weeks ago, the Minister for Environment, the member for Baldvis, announced a new Aboriginal trainee program at the Zoo. Eight students from Clontarf Aboriginal College in Waterford will have the opportunity to take part in a two-year traineeship at Perth Zoo, which will see them gain a certificate II in conservation and ecosystems management. This work placement program will help students become job ready. I am looking forward to seeing the results of this program and meetings those kids; thank you very much, minister.

The last project I want to talk about is the Canning Bridge interchange project. Canning Highway is jammed as it passes over the freeway, with the bus station competing with highway traffic. The Canning Bridge interchange project will remove the buses from the bridge, moving them off to the side and allowing better pedestrian and cycling access to the station. My predecessor John McGrath was a keen advocate for this project. It will be of huge benefit to the area—not just South Perth, but also the whole southern transport corridor. There is \$200 million funding in the pipeline, and we are looking at a 2025 start. This was long talked about during the term of the Barnett government, but the McGowan government has found the funding and is getting on with it. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Minister for Transport, the member for West Swan, in securing the federal money and putting this package together.

To all those people who have come up to me and shared their thoughts, I have listened. In South Perth, Como, Karawara, Kensington, Manning, Salter Point and Waterford, there is a lot to do and we are getting on with it. Whether we have big needs for a transport system or things for one sporting club or one street, we are getting on with it.

Finally, I would like to thank my staff: Dragona, Erin and Kema, thank you very much for everything you do. Kema, I wish you all the best in your next endeavours.

MS C.M. TONKIN (Churchlands) [6.25 pm]: It is with great pleasure that I rise in support of the Premier's Statement. The McGowan Labor government demonstrates through its policy, legislation, priorities and budget the core Labor values of fairness, compassion, labour rights, individual freedom, responsibility, opportunity, sustainability, democracy, equality and respect for our Indigenous peoples. It is these values that are reflected in the aspirations and achievements of our government. As the Premier highlighted in his statement, we are here to make life better and fairer for Western Australians and to ensure that the next generations inherit a state where they can prosper and enjoy opportunities. This is the agenda for which I stand and one that resonates in my wonderful community.

In representing the people of the Churchlands electorate, I do so with the support of my very capable electorate officers. I am losing two wonderful electorate officers this month! Anna Churack is moving on to undertake community engagement work with the office of Patrick Gorman, the federal member for Perth, and Courtenay was given an offer she could not refuse as a senior production coordinator with a local film and television company that has ongoing projects, which is a rare thing in the film and television industry. I am losing them.

Mr G. Baker: I feel your pain.

Ms C.M. TONKIN: Yes. But they are being replaced by two wonderful people, Steve Paraskos and Lesley Maher, both of whom are very experienced and capable people with whom I am sure I will work effectively throughout the rest of this term.

If I had to characterise the members of our community, I would say that they are contributors—people who join in, volunteer and enjoy participating in sport and recreation, who revel in the beautiful natural places that we are surrounded by and who want to make life better for others. They are people who do not merely identify problems or express concern about issues, but also seek to contribute to finding solutions.

I never cease to be amazed at the magnificent people in my electorate. For instance, yesterday it was an enormous pleasure for me to deliver flowers to mark the seventieth wedding anniversary of Kay and Dennis Kemp of Wembley Downs. Kay and Dennis are long-term Labor supporters. Dennis's father, Arthur, was the president of the Wembley branch back in the day, and Dennis was the branch secretary at 16 years old. Kay and Dennis are quite the dynamic duo. Dennis actually stood for the seat of Floreat on two occasions. Unfortunately, he did not win—if he had, he would have been the first Labor member of my seat—but he did give it a really good try. Kay and Dennis were out there campaigning, doorknocking and delivering pamphlets. Dennis was a great local champion and certainly gave his all for Labor in the area. It is Dennis and Kay's anniversary today and it was so heartening for me to meet such wonderful supporters on the second anniversary of my election to WA Parliament. There is just one other fascinating fact about Dennis: he played hockey for Australia at the 1956 Olympics, and that was the year in which I was born! They are quite an amazing and happy couple who are obviously enjoying a long and loving life together.

It is truly a joy for me to serve the people of the Churchlands electorate and also an enormous pleasure to see my election commitments come to fruition. My commitment to fund a nature playground at Lake Monger Primary School has been delivered and the playground was opened by the Premier in August. The Premier's surprise visit

to the school made the day for the students. They could not believe that the Premier had come to their school to open the nature playground. The school community had worked hard to raise funds for a much-needed playground and acknowledged that my election commitment meant that that dream could be realised much earlier than would otherwise have been the case.

Recently, I attended the opening of a project of the Town of Cambridge to divert water from the Herdsman main drain to Perry Lakes. For those members who know Perry Lakes, they have been very dry for many years and the progressive drying of the lakes has changed the nature of the vegetation into varieties that are not suitable for the changed water levels. I was therefore pleased to see the results of my \$300 000 election promise to fund revegetation of the lakebed banks and riparian areas had been realised. Of course, this did not occur without some very hard graft on the part of the formidable Friends of Perry Lakes. I know firsthand how hard the Friends work for Perry Lakes because recently I shared some backbreaking weeding on the revegetated bank of the west lake with some other dedicated Friends members.

Work on my \$700 000 commitment to water quality improvements at Galup–Lake Monger is about to commence during this very dry season. The refurbishment and redesign of the swales at the lake is much needed because it is over 20 years since these nutrient-stripping channels for stormwater run-off were established. In that time, the swales have deepened and lost their water-filtering vegetation. When these swales are decontaminated, made shallower and planted with sedges, they will do what they were designed to do—that is, filter pollutants and nutrients out of the water that makes its way into the lake. I cannot wait to see how these improvements will better support the lake’s native flora and fauna. The Friends of Galup–Lake Monger, the formation of which I encouraged and supported, will play an important role in the monitoring and maintenance of the redesigned swales.

I am also delighted to hear that the Friends of Herdsman Lake is being re-established. A few weeks ago I joined interested members of the community in collecting rubbish around that lake as part of a Clean Up Australia initiative.

Recently, I enjoyed a sunny Sunday afternoon at the Leederville Sporting Club and Matt Johnstone Summers, the club’s secretary, showed me the progress that is being made to the upgrade of the club’s facilities, which is another of my local election commitments that is being delivered.

The Scarborough Sharks Cricket Club and the West Scarborough Rugby Union Club have benefited from another \$50 000 election commitment. This commitment by my good colleague Stuart Aubrey, the member for Scarborough, and I supported the fit-out of the new clubrooms at Dot Bennett Park.

The delivery of the new STEM classrooms at Churchlands Senior High School is in its early stages but this is a substantial election commitment of which I am very proud. Churchlands Senior High School offers excellent opportunities for STEM education augmented by a vibrant STEM club as part of its extracurricular activities. I know from a previous career in procurement at the International Atomic Energy Agency that building scientific laboratories or facilities is quite complex, especially because of the need for safety and air quality considerations. I am so pleased to see the new STEM classrooms at Churchlands Senior High School are well designed and will be well built.

Members of my community are certainly engaged in issues that are important to them and important to me and it is an enormous pleasure for me to work together with them for the betterment of our community. When campaigning for the election, my consultations with people in the community identified seven issues that would be the subject of my efforts during my term if elected. There are two issues on which I focus personally and invest a lot of time, including improving the quality of facilities and educational opportunities at our local schools and building constructive working relationships with both the Town of Cambridge and the City of Stirling. However, soon after I was elected, I invited members of our community to participate in some working groups addressing mental health and wellbeing, the quality of life for members of our ageing community, wetlands and bush habitats, green jobs, and traffic congestion and road safety. Many wonderful people signed up and have been doing much good in the Churchlands electorate through these working groups. The working group participants largely drive my agenda and for this reason about 80 per cent of my work is proactive with 20 per cent reactive to constituent inquiries and the like.

Arising from the activities of the working groups, I have been distributing quarterly themed newsletters to every household in the community. These newsletters are followed by a community event attended by a good minister to which the community is invited. The newsletters and associated events have covered greening our community, showcasing the work of our wonderful volunteer environmental groups. That was attended by Hon Reece Whitby as the Minister for Environment, who I think was suitably impressed with the work of those groups and what our community has to offer the natural environment. Electrifying our community was the focus of another event and a newsletter, and that focused on reducing household emissions through electrification. My good colleague Hon Bill Johnston, the Minister for Energy, attended that event and gave the attendees a masterclass in energy policy and in particular in renewable energy. That was very well received by the members of the community who attended. The circular economy in our community was the third event, through which discussion was facilitated about turning waste into something useful. Again, Minister Whitby attended and was treated to lots of good information on local innovation in the circular economy and how waste products are turned into useful things.

My latest newsletter and event focused on sport and recreation in our community. My good colleague Hon David Templeman, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, attended the sundowner at the Lake Monger Recreation Club and did the sporty things that sports ministers do so well. He had a go at everything.

Mr D.A. Templeman: I excelled!

Ms C.M. TONKIN: That is right; he excelled. He met some old friends and made many new ones at the event. People are still telling me how wonderful the minister is even a week later.

A number of clubs were on hand to share their fun and games and allow members of the community to try something new. They included Cycling Without Age Perth; Reabold Tennis Club plus Padel Perth Reabold; Cambridge Bowling Club; Lake Monger Rec Club; Floreat Athena Football Club, which my five-year-old grandson has just joined; Floreat Surf Life Saving Club; Cambridge Croquet Club; Wembley Lacrosse Club; Wembley Tee Ball Association; the Wolves Softball Club; as well as petanque and much more. We had a great evening.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It was fantastic.

Ms C.M. TONKIN: It was fantastic.

There is a plethora of sporting and recreation clubs and associations that not only provide opportunities for participating in sport and recreational pursuits, but also are places to make social connections. They therefore promote both physical health and mental health. Regardless of age or ability, there is something for everyone in our community to participate in. Cycling Without Age, for which I volunteer as a trishaw pilot, provides people with mobility limitations a chance to enjoy the wind in their hair. The Floreat Surf Life Saving Club, with which I am particularly enamoured, has opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to safely enjoy the beach, including people with disabilities. There is a fabulous silver salties cohort as well as support for people with disabilities to enjoy the surf.

Clubs that have traditionally attracted older participants are very keen to share their fun and games with younger members of the community. Sports such as croquet, bowls and petanque have a healthy mix of competitive skill and social fun for young and old. The strength of our sporting and recreational clubs is found in their volunteers. Without their support, the clubs would not be the vibrant community hubs that they are.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms C.M. TONKIN: If a person's hand-eye coordination is not the best or they have dodgy knees like I used to have, they can still participate in many behind-the-scenes activities that keep the clubs running.

My midyear newsletter will focus on empowering our community. This will help me to determine whether the issues I have focused on are still of concern to the community. Our associated sundowner will be an opportunity for members of the community to provide me with feedback and help me chart a path for the future.

In September, a newsletter and community event will focus on social connections in our community from the perspective of mental and physical health and wellbeing. The focus arose from the work of our wellbeing working group, chaired by Kanthi Perera, which is keen to support community-based approaches to improving mental health. We also have a larger agenda to address the social determinants of health and wellbeing in our community by drawing upon and connecting members with the rich array of community resources and assets that we have in our electorate. Our wellbeing working group has been exploring the potential of a community-based alliance against depression model, which was a recommendation from our parliamentary research student Curtis White based on his research.

Consistent with this agenda, Curtin University social work student Nasheta Irwan, who was placed in our office during the second semester of 2021, produced an annotated directory of mental health and wellbeing support services in and around the Churchlands electorate. To raise awareness of these resources, this directory has been distributed to GPs, community organisations and schools, and it has been very well received. Building on Nasheta's work, another Curtin social work student, Robyn Duncan, created an online community asset map. This map includes not only services and supports directly addressing mental health and wellbeing, but also community resources that promote social connection and healthy lifestyles. We will be rolling out that online map to the community over the coming months.

Our electorate is rich in these community assets, but the trick to improving quality of life across our community is to build the networks that deepen social connections and engage more people in activities that improve their health and wellbeing. Recently, I met with people who are keen to explore how we as a community could go about doing this. The group includes GPs and allied health professionals. Thank you Richard Yin, George Crisp, Glenn Ruscoe and Anne-Marie Hill for your passion. We focused our discussion on the social determinants of good health and wellbeing, and how we can leverage our community assets to promote healthy lifestyles. We do not yet know the "how" but we have agreed on the outcome: we want fewer people from our community presenting to GPs and emergency departments with preventable health and medical problems. To find out the "how" we are going to consult with local health professionals and with businesses and organisations that help people become healthier as well as with the range of community groups that make social connections and engage people in health-promoting activities.

I have learnt throughout my career that stakeholders who are informed, interested, influential and instrumental have the needed insights to help us formulate the “how” of our quest. All our working group members bring enormous energy to the issues they address across our community. Sometimes their agendas coincide; at other times they may have opposing agendas. My role is to represent the interests of our community to the best of my ability and I relish the robust community engagement that this involves. I am very proud to be the member for Churchlands in the McGowan Labor government and commend the Premier’s Statement to the house.

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

House adjourned at 6.48 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

HEALTH — NURSE RESIGNATIONS

631. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Health:

I refer to nurse resignations and I ask:

- (a) How many registered and enrolled nurses resigned from the Western Australian Department of Health in each quarter in:
- (i) 2021–2022; and
- (ii) 2022–date; and
- (b) For each of the above years, how many of the nurses were:
- (i) Full-time employees; and
- (ii) Part-time employees?

Ms A. Sanderson replied:

- (a)–(b) The Western Australian Department of Health does not directly employ registered and enrolled nurses. The following data is the full-time/part-time total where reason code for leaving WA Health was resigning from position.

Month-Year (Quarter)	Full-time	Part-time
Jul–Sep 21	65	217
Oct–Dec 21	97	272
Jan–Mar 22	94	312
Apr–Jun 22	90	285
Jul–Sep 22	82	281

HOSPITALS — ELECTIVE SURGERIES

632. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Health:

I refer to all public hospitals, including public hospitals with private operators, and I ask:

- (a) How many elective surgeries were cancelled in each month between:
- (i) 2021–2022; and
- (ii) 2022–date; and
- (b) For each month listed in (a) (i) and (ii), what was the total number of cancelled elective surgeries by area health service?

Ms A. Sanderson replied:

- (a)–(b) Please refer to Attachment 1.

Elective surgeries are cancelled for both patient-initiated reasons and hospital-initiated reasons. Patient safety is the priority and surgeries are often rescheduled within a matter of days. This data includes WA public hospitals only, and not data from Contracted Health Entities.

In 2022, WA public and private hospitals scaled down elective surgeries to help alleviate system pressure as the number of Omicron COVID-19 cases increased within the State.

This was a considered and planned approach made in advance to avoid having to make snap-decisions to cancel surgery on short notice – as was experienced in other States. During the scale down, there was no change to Category 1 bookings and those surgeries continued.

The temporary pause on bookings for non-urgent Category 2 and 3 elective surgery was necessary to ensure we had capacity in our system to respond to an expected increase in COVID-19 patients.

Attachment 1.

Month-Year	CAHS	EMHS	NMHS	SMHS	WACHS	Total
Jul-21	168	639	453	243	549	2052
Aug-21	176	616	399	342	607	2140

Sep-21	176	737	482	222	493	2110
Oct-21	162	605	388	229	532	1916
Nov-21	149	595	365	239	626	1974
Dec-21	120	410	248	239	415	1432
Jan-22	124	406	236	215	585	1566
Feb-22	169	529	333	206	547	1784
Mar-22	186	487	380	192	921	2166
Apr-22	102	332	260	143	267	1104
May-22	181	686	455	288	544	2154
Jun-22	176	566	438	261	592	2033
Jul-22	195	664	438	274	556	2127
Aug-22	198	670	471	363	685	2387
Sep-22	182	552	381	310	604	2029
Oct-22	197	606	394	340	554	2091
Nov-22	197	737	445	438	661	2478

HEALTH — STAFF

633. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Health:

- (1) I refer to frontline health staff and departmental staff and ask:
- (a) How many full-time equivalent (FTE) frontline health workers were employed in the WA health system in:
- (i) 2021–22; and
- (ii) 2022–date?
- (2) How many FTE Department of Health employees were employed in:
- (a) 2021–22; and
- (b) 2022–date?

Ms A. Sanderson replied:

(1)–(2)

Year	WA Health	Department of Health
2021–22	28,144	1,402
2022–date	28,975	1,359

HEALTH — STAFF

634. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) frontline health workers in the WA health system and ask:

- (a) How many FTE nurses were employed in each quarter in:
- (i) 2021–2022; and
- (ii) 2022–date;
- (b) How many FTE midwives were employed in each quarter in:
- (i) 2021–2022; and
- (ii) 2022–date;
- (c) How many FTE doctors were employed in each quarter in:
- (i) 2021–2022; and
- (ii) 2022–date; and
- (d) How many FTE paediatricians were employed in each quarter in:
- (i) 2021–2022; and
- (ii) 2022–date?

Ms A. Sanderson replied:

(a)–(d)

Month-Year (Quarter)	Nurses and Midwives	Doctors	Paediatricians
Jul–Sep 21	15,410	5,133	314
Oct–Dec 21	15,595	5,158	447
Jan–Mar 22	16,281	5,482	320
Apr–Jun 22	16,562	5,382	474
Jul–Sep 22	16,199	5,603	343
Oct 22–date	16,239	5,607	474

MENTAL HEALTH — PATIENTS — BUSSELTON HOSPITAL

657. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Mental Health:

- (1) How many mental health patients presented to Busselton Hospital for each month in the following periods:
 - (a) 2021–2022; and
 - (b) 2022–date?
- (2) For each of those months in (1) (a) and (b), how many patients were transferred to the Bunbury Acute Psychiatric Unit?
- (3) For each of those months in (2) (a) and (b), how many patients transferred to the Bunbury Acute Psychiatric Unit were under the age of 18 years?

Ms A. Sanderson replied:

- (1) (a)–(b) Figures represent the number of patients who presented to the Busselton emergency department with mental health as the primary purpose of care. The same patient may be represented more than once per month in the below table if they presented to the emergency department multiple times for mental health care.

Month-Year	Patients
Jul-21	90
Aug-21	94
Sep-21	91
Oct-21	101
Nov-21	125
Dec-21	114
Jan-22	90
Feb-22	72
Mar-22	93
Apr-22	82
May-22	83
Jun-22	91
Jul-22	87
Aug-22	105
Sep-22	102
Oct-22	95
Nov-22	119

- (2) Figures represent the number of patients admitted to the Bunbury Mental Health Unit from Busselton Hospital. The same patient may be represented more than once per month in the below table if they were admitted to the Bunbury Mental Health Unit from Busselton Hospital multiple times.

Month-Year	Patients
Jul-21	5
Aug-21	6

Sep-21	7
Oct-21	9
Nov-21	7
Dec-21	8
Jan-22	<5
Feb-22	<5
Mar-22	6
Apr-22	<5
May-22	5
Jun-22	<5
Jul-22	<5
Aug-22	5
Sep-22	5
Oct-22	7
Nov-22	6

(3) Nil.

FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL — CLADDING

664. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Health:

I refer to concerns raised with respect to flammable cladding on public and private buildings in Western Australia following the Grenfell Tower tragedy in 2017 and ask:

- (a) Has work commenced to replace cladding on Fiona Stanley Hospital:
 - (i) If not, why not; and
 - (ii) If yes, how much cladding has been replaced to date and when will the works be completed;
- (b) What other public buildings have been identified in this works program to have cladding replaced; and
- (c) For each of those buildings listed in (b), when will the work commence and when will it finish?

Ms A. Sanderson replied:

- (a)–(c) Remediation of the Susan Teather Early Learning Development Centre at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) has commenced. WA Health can only comment on public health facilities, which include Perth Children’s Hospital, the QEII Medical Centre and the Joondalup Health Campus. Timeframes will be confirmed through the finalisation of the results from the full façade burn tests and the tender processes.

TERTIARY HOSPITALS — STAFF — DOUBLE SHIFTS

666. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many double shifts were undertaken by nurses at tertiary hospitals in Western Australia for each month in:
 - (a) 2017–2018;
 - (b) 2018–2019;
 - (c) 2019–2020;
 - (d) 2020–2021;
 - (e) 2021–2022; and
 - (f) 2022–date?
- (2) How many double shifts were undertaken by midwives at tertiary hospitals in Western Australia for each month in:
 - (a) 2017–2018;
 - (b) 2018–2019;
 - (c) 2019–2020;
 - (d) 2020–2021;

- (e) 2021–2022; and
- (f) 2022–date?

Ms A. Sanderson replied:

This detailed information is not readily available and to collate this information would divert staff away from their normal duties, including the important job of supporting the community. Therefore, it is not considered to be a reasonable or appropriate use of government resources and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the Member has a particular question about a specific time period, I will endeavour to provide a response.

PUBLIC HOUSING — DONGARA AND PORT DENISON

667. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to constituent reports that Housing Authority properties in Dongara and Port Denison have been boarded up and left vacant, and I ask:

- (a) How many public housing properties are there in Dongara and Port Denison;
- (b) How many are currently vacant, and what is the reason for the vacancy; and
- (c) Will these properties be repaired and released for rental in the near future?

Mr J.N. Carey replied:

As at 31 January 2023:

- (a) The Department of Communities owns or manages 50 properties within the Dongara and Port Denison Zone
- (b)–(c) As part of the maintenance process, properties may have boards put up to protect the property from damage while work is being completed or during assessment of the long-term suitability of the property for reletting.

There are seven vacant properties in the Dongara and Port Denison Zone. Four properties are currently undergoing refurbishment prior to being re-let to another tenant.

The remaining properties include those that have reached their end of life or may have been damaged beyond repair and are under review for demolition and potential redevelopment.

DUMAS HOUSE — CYBERSECURITY OFFICE FIT-OUT

669. Mr R.S. Love to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy:

I refer to the Mid Year Review 2022–23 and on page 99 (page 107 of the digital version), under Major Spending Changes – Asset Investment: Cybersecurity Team Accommodation – Dumas House Fit-out:

- (a) Please detail the exact expenditure anticipated for the 2022–23 financial year;
- (b) Please detail what the \$2.9 million will be spent on;
- (c) Why was Dumas House chosen for the fit-out, when purpose built offices are being constructed on Harvest Terrace;
- (d) When was the need for this asset investment identified and what was the original request;
- (e) How many staff are impacted by the changes while the fit-out is occurring;
- (f) Are the cybersecurity team working remotely during the fit-out; and
- (g) Is the upgrade in relation to any attempt to illegally access the cybersecurity team's devices and if yes, please detail?

Ms H.M. Beazley replied:

- (a)–(b) Costs associated with preliminary work, anticipated to be less than \$40 000, will be incurred in the 2022–23 financial year. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Department of Finance are currently progressing planning for the fit-out of the Cyber Security Operations Centre, and consequential works associated with the relocation of people and fittings in Dumas House.
- (c) Dumas House was chosen as it is the existing location of the Office of Digital Government, which includes the Cyber Security Unit. The Parliamentary Precinct Building on Harvest Terrace is designated for Electorate Offices and Committee Hearing Rooms.
- (d) The need for this asset investment was identified as part of the decision to expand the Cyber Security Unit and establish a purpose-built Cyber Security Operations Centre. This decision was taken as part of the 2021–22 Mid-Year Review.

- (e)–(f) DPC in consultation with DoF, will consider a range of options to minimise the impact on staff while the fit-out is occurring. There are no plans for cybersecurity staff to work remotely during the fit-out. Consideration may need to be given to other Departmental staff working remotely if capacity constraints emerge.
- (g) No.

SERVICEWA APP

670. Mr R.S. Love to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy:

- (1) I refer to the Mid Year Review 2022–23 and the funding of \$2.9 million for the Department of Premier and Cabinet to invest, expand and improve the ServiceWA app and ask:
- (a) What services will the Department of Premier and Cabinet be adding to the application; and
- (b) What internal processes have determined these services should be added to the application?
- (2) Is the Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy still the lead Minister responsible for the development and implementation of the ServiceWA application:
- (a) If no, when did this change?
- (3) How many downloads have been reached?
- (4) Are there any plans to legislate any functions or responsibilities in relation to ServiceWA?
- (5) What is the estimated carbon footprint of ServiceWA?
- (6) Please detail any current licence or commission fees for development and/or ongoing costs for each of the contractors.?
- (7) Is the total estimated contract value still \$2,754,027.52 with ongoing costs to Amazon Web Services of \$20,000 per month? If no, please detail what the total estimated contract value currently is and the ongoing costs to Amazon Web Services?
- (8) Has the Office of Digital Government Cyber Security Team completed their investigation into the fake ServiceWA event, and will the Parliamentary Secretary please table any relevant findings?

Ms H.M. Beazley replied:

- (1) (a) The following services will be added to the ServiceWA App:
- Recreational fishing licence digital credential;
- Recreational skippers' ticket digital credential;
- Construction Induction Card Search.
- Occupational licence search;
- FuelWatch notifications.
- (b) The additional services were determined through consultation with the relevant Ministers and public sector agencies.
- (2) Yes.
- (a) Not applicable
- (3) 1,444,264 downloads as at 15 February 2023.
- (4) No.
- (5) Carbon emissions reporting is provided by Amazon Web Service (AWS) and there is a three-month delay. The ServiceWA App emissions to October 2022 is 3.4MTCO₂e.
- (6) Ongoing costs are:
- Genvis Pty Ltd: 24-month contract term expiring January 2024. Contract value \$5,002,868 (including GST).
- Queue-IT Pty Ltd: 12-month subscription expiring November 2023. Contract value \$37,984 (including GST).
- MongoDB: Monthly spend is approximately \$9,175.60 (including GST).
- AWS: Monthly spend is approximately \$6,200 (including GST).
- (7) No, \$2,753,027.52 was the total estimated contract value as at February 2022. The updated estimated total contract value is \$5,040,852. Both MongoDB and AWS are subscription services, with a combined monthly spend of approximately \$15,375.60 (including GST).

- (8) No investigation was undertaken as it was not required. The Office of Digital Government Cyber Security Team reported the fraudulent activity to the WA Police Force and Australian Cyber Security Centre. The fake ServiceWA event was a fraudulent website which mimicked the ServiceWA App. The ServiceWA App was not duplicated or compromised.

SERVICEWA APP

672. Mr R.S. Love to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Commerce:

I refer to the Mid Year Review 2022–23 and the funding of \$2.9 million for the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) to invest, expand and improve the ServiceWA app and ask for your portfolios:

- (a) What services will DMIRS be adding to the application (the module/s);
- (b) What internal processes have determined these services should be added to the application;
- (c) How many staff are working on the ServiceWA app module/s for DMIRS by Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) and headcount;
- (d) What is the timeline to implement the module/s, and will the Parliamentary Secretary please provide detail for each additional module;
- (e) Has the Minister asked any of the government trading entities or agencies under their remit (for example, Consumer Protection, Western Power, Synergy), to investigate how they can incorporate their services into ServiceWA; and
- (f) If yes to (e), please detail?

Dr J. Krishnan replied:

Answer

- (a) The following services will be added to the ServiceWA App:
 - Construction Induction card search;
 - Occupational licence search, and
 - FuelWatch notifications.
- (b) Services were determined through internal consultation with stakeholders and the Office of Digital Government.
- (c) The delivery of the ServiceWA program requires an effort of 10.8FTE. This is comprised of a 14 headcount who work across the program while also undertaking other duties within the Department.
- (d) It is anticipated that the services listed in (a) will be operational within the year.
- (e)–(f) The implementation of additional features and services into the ServiceWA app is considered on an ongoing basis.

MINES, INDUSTRY REGULATION AND SAFETY —
SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT REVIEW

677. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services; Industrial Relations:

- (1) I refer to the Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) independent review into the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's (DMIRS) protocols for responding to incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault in the mining industry and I ask:
 - (a) What was the final cost of this review; and
 - (b) Of the 225 DMIRS documents provided to Elizabeth Shaw as the lead reviewer, please detail:
 - (i) How many of the documents were created after the creation of DMIRS as a mega-department;
 - (ii) How many of the documents have since been revised since the report was released in December 2022;
 - (iii) Does DMIRS now have sufficient reporting software? If yes please detail; and
 - (iv) On what date did the Minister first seek advice from the independent WorkSafe Commissioner on the findings and recommendations?
- (2) Please detail all initiatives and associated funding currently associated with the Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety (MARS) program.:
 - (a) How many FTE are responsible for delivering MARS; and
 - (b) When is MARS funding due to expire?

Mr W.J. Johnston replied:

- (1)
 - (a) \$555,286.12 including GST.
 - (b)
 - (i) 130
 - (ii) 38
 - (iii) Yes. DMIRS' WorkSafe Mines Safety is using the existing Safety Regulation System. However, DMIRS has established a Program Board to oversee the development and introduction of a comprehensive data management system, known as the Compliance and Regulation System (CARS) Transformation Program.
 - (iv) 15 December 2022.
- (2) The funding for the Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety (MARS) program is:
 - 2021/2022 – \$1,917,000; and
 - 2022/2023 – \$6,500,000.

The following initiatives are funded through the MARS Program:

- Mining Industry Respect Infoline (Circle Green)
- Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC)
- MATES in Mining
- Resourceful Mind
- Thrive at Work in Mining Masterclass Series
- Psychosocial Risk Management
- Respect in Mining
- Thriving in Mining Training and Tools
- Specialist Investigations Training
- 24/7 Campaign
- Leadership Summit
- Landmark Study
- Regulatory Capability Review

- (2)
 - (a) There are 5 Full-time Equivalents (FTEs) funded through the MARS Program, three of whom are with DMIRS, and another two with the Mental Health Commission.
 - (b) The MARS Program is currently funded through to 30 June 2025.

HOUSING — RYAN'S COURT PROJECT — REDCLIFFE

678. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government:

- (1) Please provide an update on the Ryan's Court project, Redcliffe?
- (2) How many Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) are currently working on the Ryan's Court project?
- (3) If the project been cancelled, please detail:
 - (a) Reason(s) for cancellation;
 - (b) How many FTE were associated with the project;
 - (c) How much money was spent on consultants (such as 'element') for the project;
 - (d) Final costs associated with the project;
 - (e) Whether all costs have been settled;
 - (f) When community reference groups and stakeholders were notified and means of notification; and
 - (g) Can you confirm the last email sent to all interested parties was 28 February 2020 and if not, when was the last email update sent to all interested parties?
- (4) If the project has been postponed, please detail why and when the project is due to recommence consultation with the local community?
- (5) Given the recent WA Planning Commission local law for Redcliffe, and the 'activation of lazy land' at the former Brearley Avenue, why has the Ryan's Court site remained undeveloped considering the site's proximity to the Redcliffe Train Station and local schools?

Mr J.N. Carey replied:

(1)–(5) The State Government currently has significant landholdings in the suburb of Redcliffe noting that the construction market has significantly changed during and post the COVID pandemic. A number of sites are being progressed within the suburb close to the METRONET station.

DevelopmentWA are currently reviewing the most sustainable delivery approach for the project, as well as its other landholdings in Redcliffe to ensure the most appropriate development outcomes are achieved, considering the changed market conditions and the delivery of social and affordable housing.

HOUSING — TEACHERS — BIDYADANGA

679. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government:

I refer to the media statement ‘McGowan Government delivers three new locally-built homes for teachers in remote community of Bidyadanga’ on 8 December 2022 and ask:

- (a) What consultation occurred to determine the type of houses needed;
- (b) As a requirement of the contract, did the contractors have to log all hours worked by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island employees;
- (c) Were the easy-care gardens part of the entire housing contract; and
- (d) What is the contract cost for each individual home?

Mr J.N. Carey replied:

- (a) The Department of Communities consulted with the Department of Education around the design brief and configuration of the houses to ensure the homes were suitable for their staffing needs.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The landscaping works was separate from the building contract and was awarded to a local Broome landscaper for all three houses.
- (d) The three dwellings included two 4 bedroom x 2 bathroom homes worth \$751,893.75 each and a 3 bedroom x 2 bathroom worth \$737,829.92

CHILD PROTECTION — ADOPTION ACT — REVIEW

680. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Early Childhood Education; Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

Can the Minister advise if there is a timeline for the 2023 statutory review of the *Adoption Act 1994*:

- (a) If yes, please table the timeline; and
- (b) If no, when will one be available?

Ms S.E. Winton replied:

A 2023 statutory review is not provided for under the *Adoption Act 1994*.

LEGAL AFFAIRS — AGE OF MAJORITY ACT — REVIEW

681. Mr R.S. Love to the Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs:

Are there any plans to review the *Age of Majority Act 1972* and if yes, please detail when and what the review will entail?

Mr J.R. Quigley replied:

There are no plans to review this legislation.

INSURANCE COMMISSION — FINANCES

684. Mr R.S. Love to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal–State Relations:

I refer to the Insurance Commission of WA (ICWA):

- (a) What are the total monies currently sitting in ICWA accounts;
- (b) How many accounts do ICWA currently have:
 - (i) in total;
 - (ii) operational as day-to-day spending accounts; and
 - (iii) as term deposits or similar style holding accounts;

- (c) Please detail a breakdown of current projects funded through ICWA accounts;
- (d) Was ICWA considered as part of the recently introduced Government Trading Entity reforms for better transparency and accountability:
 - (i) If not, why not; and
- (e) When will all associated legislation relating to ICWA be next reviewed?

Mr M. McGowan replied:

- (a) At 31 January 2023, the Insurance Commission held assets worth over \$6.9 billion in its investment portfolio, including cash holdings.
- (b)
 - (i) Five accounts (outside of the accounts with the investment custodian for the investment portfolio).
 - (ii) One operating bank account
 - (iii) Four investment related bank accounts, including one term deposit.
- (c) The Insurance Commission's functions are all funded through the Insurance Commission accounts. Funding is used to cover operational costs and for insurance claim liabilities for claims against the following funds:
 - Third Party Insurance Fund – provides owners and drivers of WA registered vehicles with cover for the costs incurred in the event they cause a crash which results in an injury to another person.
 - Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Fund – provides lifetime treatment, care and support to all people if they are catastrophically injured in a crash in WA and are unable to claim against the CTP product.
 - RiskCover Fund – provides self-insurance cover to WA public agencies for a range of insurance types, including workers' compensation, property and general liability exposures.
 - Government Insurance Fund – The WA Government's historic self-insurance arrangements (the predecessor to the RiskCover Fund), which is now in run-off.
 - Compensation (Industrial Diseases) Fund – provides industrial diseases insurance policies to employers involved in the mining industry and pays claims made against these policies.
 - Insurance Commission General Fund – covers liabilities for policies in run-off.
- (d) The Department of Treasury has advised that the Insurance Commission may be involved in a Tranche 2 of GTE legislation.
- (e) The Insurance Commission is not aware of any plan to review Insurance Commission legislation, beyond the review currently underway of the operation and effectiveness of the motor vehicle catastrophic injuries scheme.

MINES AND PETROLEUM — COAL IMPORTS

685. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services; Industrial Relations:

- (1) I refer to imports of coal and ask for the period 2022–23:
 - (a) How many shipments occurred and on what dates;
 - (b) What was the spot price per shipment paid for coal imports for Government-run power stations; and
 - (c) How many tonnes of coal were imported per shipment?
- (2) In relation to Muja power station:
 - (a) Please detail the average amount of coal stockpiled at Muja for the months:
 - (i) September 2022;
 - (ii) October 2022;
 - (iii) November 2022;
 - (iv) December 2022; and
 - (v) January 2023; and
 - (b) Since 2017, what has been the lowest amount of coal stockpiled at Muja and on what date did this occur?

Mr W.J. Johnston replied:

- (1) (a) Two shipments, Shipment 1 arrived in Bunbury on 14 December 2022, Shipment 2 arrived in Bunbury on 27 December.
- (b) Synergy operates in a regulated competitive market with other market competitors. Sharing costs would likely have an impact on Synergy's ability to negotiate a future coal price and may adversely impact the supplier's ability to operate competitively in the global market. Due to this, the details of Synergy's contractual arrangements with coal suppliers are commercial in confidence.
- (c) Approximately 50,000 tonnes per shipment
- (2) (a) (i)–(v) See table below

Month Year	Average of Muja* Coal Stockpile
September 2022	95,606
October 2022	144,186
November 2022	204,161
December 2022	294,042
January 2023	335,020

*Note: figures do not include coal stockpile at Collie Power Station.

- (b) 79,914 tonnes on 16 September 2022.

KINGS PARK — LIGHTSCAPE EVENT

686. Ms M. Beard to the Minister for Environment; Climate Action; Racing and Gaming:

I refer to the media release 'Lightscape extravaganza will transform Kings Park' and ask:

- (a) When did the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority start working to bring this event to Perth;
- (b) Why was Kings Park chosen as the site compared to a regional site or other venues around Perth;
- (c) Were the following consulted in order to maximise the opportunities of this event and on what date were they first contacted:
- (i) City of Perth;
- (ii) Tourism WA;
- (iii) Tourism Council of WA;
- (iv) Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTISI);
- (v) Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER);
- (vi) Department of Biodiversity, Conservations and Attractions (DBCA);
- (vii) Minister for Tourism's office;
- (viii) Member for Perth and their office; and
- (ix) Member for Nedlands and their office;
- (d) Was any advice received relating to the impact/s of light pollution from this event, based on the proposed number of installations? If yes, who provided that advice, when was it received and what was the outcome;
- (e) Why was June 2023 chosen for the extravaganza, given it will be winter;
- (f) How was ticket pricing determined;
- (g) Why is there a \$19 mark up on anytime tickets (\$55) compared to specific time tickets (\$36);
- (h) Are all ticket buyers only allowed 15 minutes to experience the event and how strictly will this be managed;
- (i) How many tickets have sold to date? Please breakdown as anytime tickets and specific time tickets;
- (j) Why was Ticketek chosen as the ticketing authority;
- (k) Is the Minister aware that the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria are holding a Lightscape event from 16 June 2023 to 6 August 2023, which potentially limits the unique appeal of this event; and
- (l) Is the event self funded through ticket sales? If not, who is contributing to the cost of the event and how much are they contributing?

Mr R.R. Whitby replied:

- (a) In July 2022, Sony Music approached the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) with a market led proposal to bring Lightscape to Perth.
- (b) The Sony Lightscape concept is predominantly focused on internationally renowned botanic gardens around the world. Kings Park and Botanic Garden is one such botanic garden and is the only Botanic Garden in Western Australia that has such a profile. At the time BGPA was approached, Sony was also partnering with Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Chicago Botanic Garden, Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, San Antonio Botanical Garden, Houston Botanic Garden, Hillsborough Castle and Gardens.
- (c) Liaison and collaborative planning on ways to maximise the success of the event is ongoing with a range of relevant organisations appropriately placed to assist.
 - (i) City of Perth – Yes, BGPA engages frequently with the City of Perth on activation strategies and opportunities for cross promotion. The City of Perth is fully supportive of this event.
 - (ii) Tourism WA – Yes, 6 October 2022.
 - (iii) Tourism Council of WA – No.
 - (iv) JTSI – Yes, through Tourism WA – 6 October 2022.
 - (v) DWER – No.
 - (vi) DBCA – Yes, BGPA is part of DBCA.
 - (vii) Minister of Tourism’s office – No.
 - (viii) Member for Perth’s office – No.
 - (ix) Member for Nedlands – No.
- (d) Not as yet, the details of the trail route and plan for specific installations is still being developed. BGPA, through its own ecologist and environmental scientists and its relationship with Biodiversity and Conservation Science staff in DBCA have ample access to appropriately qualified and experienced officers to consider light impacts on biodiversity values in the WA Botanic Garden.
- (e) June was chosen for the Lightscape event because it coincides with winter. That time of year offers earlier sunsets and the cooler conditions support the desired ambience of the proposed event. Sony Lightscape events held around the world are winter events. This enables young families to access the event at a reasonable hour for young children, as it is dark by 6pm.
- (f) Ticket pricing is determined around known and anticipated event hosting costs, commercial drivers and risks, along with Sony’s experience in marketing similar events in other venues.
- (g) Anytime tickets provide additional flexibility for customers who are unable or unwilling to commit to a time. Their use requires additional event staffing to manage pedestrian flow through the trail at any time. The premium pricing is a price signal that assists to achieve a workable balance and optimise the visitor experience of the event.
- (h) The time estimated for a visitor to experience the event is expected to be around 90 minutes. Staggering commencement times for the trail in 15 minute blocks helps to reduce crowding of the trail. Event staff will exercise judgment in real time on any night to create a leisurely and engaging trail experience, while maintaining pedestrian flow and minimising congestion along points in the trail.
- (i) Tickets sold as at 14 February 2023 are 850 anytime tickets and 4113 specific time tickets. These numbers are slightly above the expected trajectory for this time.
- (j) Ticketek is the provider Sony engaged to support its market led proposal to the BGPA.
- (k) The Minister is aware that the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is holding a Lightscape event from 16 June 2023 to 6 August 2023. Organisers are also aware and have factored that event into their planning.
- (l) The event is self-funded through ticket sales.

SIR CHARLES GAIRDNER HOSPITAL — UROLOGY**690. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Health; Mental Health:**

I refer to Sir Charles Gardner Hospital (SCGH) Urology and ask:

- (a) How many complaints were received by the Health and Disabilities Complaints Office (HADSCO) relating to post-surgery urology issues in:
 - (i) 2020;
 - (ii) 2021; and
 - (iii) 2022;

- (b) How many patients required secondary operations, regardless of the cause in:
 - (i) 2020;
 - (ii) 2021; and
 - (iii) 2022;
- (c) How many trainee doctors were taught or trained through SCGH Urology in:
 - (i) 2020;
 - (ii) 2021; and
 - (iii) 2022;
- (d) Is this above or below the doctor–student threshold compared to jurisdictions;
- (e) Are trainee doctors required to be supervised for the entire length of an operation;
- (f) Are there any occasions in the following years where a trainee doctor was not supervised for the entire length of an operation:
 - (i) 2020;
 - (ii) 2021;
 - (iii) 2022; and
 - (iv) If yes to any occasion identified in (i)–(iii), please detail the reason the trainee doctor was not supervised; and
- (g) Are patients screened for risks of haematuria prior to operation? If not, does this follow best practice compared to other jurisdictions?

Ms A. Sanderson replied:

Health information is considered identifiable when it either directly or indirectly identifies an individual or has the potential to indirectly identify an individual based on a small number of complaints. Providing the requested information would disclose information that is protected by the statutory obligation in section 71 of the *Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995*. Complaint numbers are considered small if the value is less than five.

For the entire reporting period of the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 there were only small number of complaints made to the Health and Disability Complaints Office (HaDSCO) relating to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH) Urology Department post-surgery urology issues, therefore:

- (a)
 - (i) Nil.
 - (ii) <5
 - (iii) < 5
- (b)
 - (i) 6
 - (ii) 11
 - (iii) 9
- (c)
 - (i) 1
 - (ii) 1
 - (iii) 1
- (d) It is below other jurisdictions.
- (e) Yes.
- (f)
 - (i)–(iii) No.
 - (iv) Not applicable.
- (g) Yes. Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group follows National Guidelines on the clinical assessment and management of patients.

ENVIRONMENT — ASBESTOS — PENGUIN ISLAND

691. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Environment; Climate Action; Racing and Gaming:

I refer to media on 16 and 17 December 2019 relating to asbestos off the coast of Penguin Island, “roughly the size of half a footy oval”, and the promise from the Premier to clean up that asbestos:

- (a) How much asbestos was identified at the site;
- (b) Has all the asbestos been removed from the site:
 - (i) If no, how much remains;

- (c) Did the removal request go out to tender and who was the successful tender;
- (d) Has an audit been undertaken to see if there is other asbestos on Penguin Island:
 - (i) One what date(s) did the audit occur;
 - (ii) How much other asbestos was identified;
 - (iii) Please table the plan to remediate the asbestos located on Penguin Island; and
 - (iv) What is the expected cost to remediate any remaining asbestos on Penguin Island;
- (e) If minimal or no action has been taken since 2019:
 - (i) Has the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation undertaken or contracted for an environmental assessment to determine the impact the last 3 years of inaction;
 - (ii) Is there an action plan to remediate the site(s)? If yes please table;
 - (iii) When is a tender going to be made public; and
 - (iv) What is the expected cost of remediation; and
- (f) Has the State Government sought advice from the State Solicitor's Office on whether there is any liability due to any inaction around asbestos either on Penguin Island or off the coast of Penguin Island?

Mr R.R. Whitby replied:

- (a) A total of 232 pieces of asbestos were identified at the site, half was located in the water with the remainder on the beaches. The largest piece was 200mm x 100mm with the average piece being around 50mm square.
- (b) All identified asbestos was removed from the site; daily inspections of beaches continue during the visitor season (October to June) to identify any further asbestos that may be uncovered as a result of coastal processes.
- (c) No.
- (d) Yes.
 - (i) Between 17–31 December 2019. Daily inspections of beaches at Penguin Island continue during the visitor season (October to June) to identify any further asbestos that may be uncovered because of coastal processes.
 - (ii) Refer to the response to part (a).
 - (iii) Asbestos management on Penguin Island is guided by Department of Health guidelines.
 - (iv) The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions manages asbestos on Penguin Island as part of the overall management of the island. It is not possible to provide a specific cost in relation to asbestos removal.
- (e) Management actions remain ongoing. The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) continues to consult with the Department of Health in relation to asbestos management on and around Penguin Island and is guided by the *'Guidelines for the Assessment, Remediation and Management of Asbestos Contaminated Sites 2021'*. Consistent with these guidelines, the asbestos fragments that remain buried or submerged present little risk to the public if undisturbed.
- (f) No.

CORONAVIRUS — RECORDS MANAGEMENT

692. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; Heritage:

I refer to the State Records Office updated Records Management Advice: Retention and Disposal of COVID-19 Information (the policy):

- (a) Please list all types of documents that would be considered "Other COVID-19 information that has enduring value";
- (b) How many of the documents included in (a) have been charged with failing to dispose of COVID-19 information;
- (c) How does the policy interact with the 2021-010 Ad Hoc Disposal Authority;
- (d) What metadata is captured by the policy;
- (e) How many State government organisations are still required to collect COVID-19 declarations and report this to the State Records Office:
 - (i) Please detail the organisations and the time they are still required to collect COVID-19 declarations;

- (f) How many Freedom of Information requests relating to COVID-19 information will be impacted by the policy; and
- (g) Has the State Records Office been called before the Independent Expert Review of Western Australia's COVID-19 Management and Response?

Mr D.A. Templeman replied:

- (a) These are records described under Step 5 in the document 'Records Management Advice: Retention and Disposal of COVID-19 Information', which describes:
 - Records documenting decisions made to accommodate short-term changes required to manage COVID-19 in the organisation.
 - Lists and certificates of records destroyed with authorisation. For example: Signed and approved Disposal Authorisation.
 - State Archives.
- (b) None.
- (c) The document 'Records Management Advice: Retention and Disposal of COVID-19 Information' is not a policy. The document is guidance regarding the application of existing disposal authorities for State records. 2021-010 Ad Hoc Disposal Authority is a disposal authority and sets out minimum retention periods and disposal actions.
- (d) The document 'Records Management Advice: Retention and Disposal of COVID-19 Information' is not a policy. The document is guidance regarding the application of existing disposal authorities for State records. Metadata collected or created by State Government organisations under the jurisdiction of the *State Records Act 2000* is considered a State record and subject to the requirements of the Act.
- (e) (i) There are currently no mandatory requirements to collect COVID-19 related information under the *Public Health Act 2016*. However, the public are still encouraged to register positive COVID test results online and in some cases, evidence of health status may still be required e.g., applications for COVID-19 leave. These records must be managed according to requirements of the *State Records Act 2000*.
 - The types of information collected by government organisations under the jurisdiction of the *State Records Act 2000* are required to be described in their Record Keeping Plans.
- (f) The document 'Records Management Advice: Retention and Disposal of COVID-19 Information' is not a policy. The document is guidance regarding the application of existing disposal authorities for State records and does not change existing obligations under the *Freedom of Information Act 1993*.
- (g) No

LAW REFORM COMMISSION — FINAL REPORT PROJECT 106:
PROVISIONAL DAMAGES AND DAMAGES FOR GRATUITOUS SERVICES

693. Mr R.S. Love to the Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs:

I refer to Law Reform Commission of Western Australia Final Report Project 106: Provisional Damages and Damages for Gratuitous Services:

- (a) Has the Attorney General read the report;
- (b) Is the Government still considering legislation relating to the report:
 - (i) If yes, when can such legislation be expected; and
 - (ii) What consultation has been undertaken in relation to the legislation;
- (c) Will the Government seek to reintroduce the Asbestos Diseases Compensation Bill 2013, drafted by Hon Kate Doust MLC; and
- (d) Is the Attorney General aware of lawyers promising compensation to asbestosis victims if the legislation had passed between 2013–17:
 - (i) If yes, what actions have been taken to ensure asbestosis victims are aware they may have been misled and what support has been or will be provided?

Mr J.R. Quigley replied:

- (a)–(c) The McGowan Government recognises asbestos-related diseases as a significant issue in Western Australia and is profoundly sympathetic to those suffering such illnesses. The Government is committed to improving measures to keep the community safe from dust disease and to addressing the hardship experienced by asbestos disease sufferers and their families.

- (d) Anyone with concerns about their interaction with the legal profession should contact the Legal Services and Complaints Committee (LSCC). The LSCC, an independent statutory committee of the Legal Practice Board, is responsible for ensuring ethical conduct and professional behaviour in the legal profession.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — WANDOO REHABILITATION PRISON

694. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services; Industrial Relations:

- (1) I refer to Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison and ask for each of the financial years 2017–18, 2018–19, 2019–20, 2020–21 and 2021–22:
- (a) How many women were residents at Wandoo;
 - (b) The number of women referred to Wandoo, regardless of whether or not they became a resident;
 - (c) The recidivism rate;
 - (d) The number of women graduating Wandoo; and
 - (e) The number of beds?
- (2) Since the launch of the dental program at Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison:
- (a) How many prisoners have accessed the program;
 - (b) The total cost; and
 - (c) The number of repeat visits by prisoners?
- (3) Will there be a review of the dental program and if yes, when will this occur?
- (4) Does the Department of Justice track when residents at Wandoo request to be a part of rehabilitation programs? If yes, please detail the number of requests for each rehabilitation program?

Mr W.J. Johnston replied:

- (1) (a) Distinct female offenders for Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison for 2018–19 – 2021–22

2018–2019	2019–2020	2020–2021	2021–2022
107	173	141	128

- (b) Prior to 2021–22 the Department of Justice did not capture referral data in a way that allows for it to be broken down per financial year.

2017–21 – 977 distinct female offenders

2021–22 – 135 distinct female offenders

- (c)–(d) Standard recidivism rates cannot be provided at this time as the program duration and number of graduates are insufficient to allow the typical recidivism logic to be applied.

The following rates of graduation and returns to Corrective Services can be provided:

2018–2019: of 21 graduates, 21 have since been discharged, of which 5 returned to corrective services for a new offence (1 custody, 4 community corrections)

2019–2020: of 85 graduates, 85 have since been discharged, of which 18 returned to corrective services for a new offence (10 custody, 8 community corrections)

2020–2021: of 78 graduates, 74 have since been discharged, of which 9 returned to corrective services for a new offence (5 custody, 4 community corrections)

2021–2022: of 49 graduates, 40 have since been discharged, of which 1 returned to corrective services for a new offence (0 custody, 1 community corrections).

- (e) 77
- (2) (a) 186
- (b) \$183,308
- (c) 147
- (3) Yes, it is anticipated a review of dental services at Wandoo will be completed this calendar year.
- (4) No.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES — REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

695. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services; Industrial Relations:

- (1) I refer to rehabilitation programs in the Corrective Services system. For each corrective services site please detail the programs offered to individuals kept on remand, detailing:
- (a) The name of the program;
 - (b) Focus of the program;
 - (c) Number of applicants, total;
 - (d) Number of successful applicants;
 - (e) Whether individuals on remand have to be referred to the program; and
 - (f) Program capacity?
- (2) I refer to rehabilitation programs in the Corrective Services system. For each corrective services site please detail the programs offered to individuals serving a sentence, detailing:
- (a) The name of the program;
 - (b) Focus of the program;
 - (c) Number of applicants, total;
 - (d) Number of successful applicants;
 - (e) Whether individuals have to be referred to the program; and
 - (f) Program capacity?

Mr W.J. Johnston replied:

- (1) The Department of Justice, Corrective Services does not offer any rehabilitation (criminogenic) needs programs to individuals held in custody on remand. People on remand have entered pleas of innocence in court indicating that they do not accept charges related to alleged offending and they may be found innocent.
- (2) (a)–(d) and (f) The following rehabilitation (criminogenic) needs programs commenced for individuals serving a sentence during the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022:

Facility/Site	Program Name	Program Focus	Number of Participants (Total)	Number of Completers (Total)	Program Capacity (per Course)
Acacia Prison	Pathways Program	Addictions Offending	97	72	10
	Think First	Cognitive Skills	36	31	12
	Medium Intensity Program (MIP)	General Offending	37	36	10
	Intensive Program (SOINT)	Sex Offending	10	9	10
	Medium Program (SOMED)	Sex Offending	19	16	10
	Intensive Program (VOTP)	Violent Offending	29	21	10
	Violence Prevention Program (VPP)	Violent Offending	12	10	12
	Stopping Family Violence Program (SFV)	Violent Offending	20	18	10
Albany Regional Prison	Pathways Program	Addictions Offending	37	29	10
	SFV	Violent Offending	10	9	10

Bandyup Womens Prison	Pathways Program	Addictions Offending	15	10	10
	Think First	Cognitive Skills	8	7	10
	Choice Change & Consequences (CCC)	General Offending	38	31	10
Bunbury Regional Prison	Pathways Program	Addictions Offending	62	57	10
	MIP	General Offending	10	10	10
	SOINT	Sex Offending	10		10
	SOMED	Sex Offending	20	19	10
Casuarina Prison	Pathways Program	Addictions Offending	51	35	10
	MIP	General Offending	7	6	10
	VPP	Violent Offending	11	9	12
	SFV	Violent Offending	9	7	10
	Not Our Way (NOW)	Violent Offending	9	8	12
Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison	Pathways Program	Addictions Offending	10	10	10
	Connect & Respect (C&R)	Violent Offending	10	9	12
Greenough Regional Prison	Pathways Program	Addictions Offending	10	10	10
	C&R	Violent Offending	10	0	12
Karnet Prison Farm	Pathways Program	Addictions Offending	47	41	10
	MIP	General Offending	20	15	10
	SOMED	Sex Offending	20	20	10
Roebourne Regional Prison	Pathways Program	Addictions Offending	20	19	10
	C&R	Violent Offending	11	9	12
Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison	CCC	General Offending	8	7	10
West Kimberley Regional Prison	Pathways Program	Addictions Offending	20	16	10
	NOW	Violent Offending	18	14	10
Wooroloo Prison Farm	Pathways Program	Addictions Offending	49	45	10
	MIP	General Offending	19	17	10
	SFV	Violent Offending	8	7	10

- (e) Once sentenced, eligible prisoners are assessed for treatment requirements and based on those needs they are booked to participate in appropriate treatment programs.

